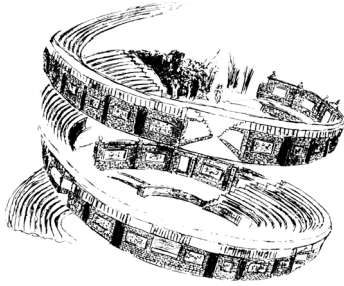


Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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THE OBSERVER REPORT

A growing rift in School, the lack of a Diwali break, and beating the heat.

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THE DOSCO DILEMMA

A wake-up call to act to reinvigorate School ethos.

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DARE TO CHANGE?

Can seemingly simple lyrics actually invoke ideas beyond themselves?

Page 6

The Fear of Being Storyless

Krishiv Jaiswal *reflects on balancing genuine self-discovery and societal pressures at School.*

I have always found myself pondering *why* we do what we do, why we even try in the first place. Even as a person in his penultimate year in School, I regrettably do not have an unequivocal answer to this, or the thousands of other questions thrown at me as a Dosco, both within and outside the walls that bind us. We find it hard to readjust our purpose in the face of the innumerable things that we often find ourselves doing. But, maybe this is how it was supposed to be; maybe we just 'do *what* we do' to have a story to tell, a voice to be heard, and the alienation from the true goal of our activities is just a result of this. Really, the dread of lacking a story is the greatest fear at the centre of our *fight* in School. We are driven by this fear to seek experiences that will make our lives appear intriguing and worthwhile to tell stories about.

Maybe Maya Angelou had it right first: "there is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." And, I am not here to stand on my soapbox and blatantly denounce this relentless quest. In fact, I too have become an accomplice to this seemingly tedious race. We have been inundated with narratives of success time after time, consciously or unconsciously setting an essayed and restrictively high bar for what

constitutes a 'worthy' School life. Accordingly (and expectedly), we begin to think, "Will I have a good story to tell if I choose this path or carry things out in a planned way?" These persistent, unrequited questions culminate into a pressure, rather a mentality to stand out, particularly palpable in the corridors of Chandbagh. This is not a quantifiably good or bad thing; it just exists, influencing the way we think, see, behave, act, and interact. However, in the thick of this struggle for compelling stories, we ultimately erode our integrity and lose out on our true sense of self: when the primary aim is to impress others through stories rather than seeking genuine satisfaction, the experiences themselves can become hollow and unsatisfying. This is the reason why we see only a few societies flourishing and select appointments being coveted, which has been exacerbated by the rampant use of social media.

As Doscos, we often forget who we were before the School taught us who we should be...

Moreover, this growing internalised expectation to have a story within us drives us to

pursue activities and paths we would not have envisioned earlier, leading to personal growth and a broader worldview. While this is not inherently negative, the underlying motivation is a fear — the fear of being storyless — that is concerning, and the extent we go to make this fear disappear is detrimental. As Doscos, we often forget who we were before the School taught us who we should be, for the disparity between the internal and external sense of growth within this paradigm is palpable. And, to me, the greatest way to break the chains from this dogmaview and rediscover would be to reflect on the aspects of our identity that exist independent of societal expectations, including one's moral values, interests and passions. In a world where perspectives about a person change faster than the people themselves do, peeling back the layers of forced narratives is of utmost importance.

Undeniably, it takes a lot of contemplation and fortitude to embark on paths that might not always fit conventional definitions of success — it can be as simple as pastimes that bring them joy and meaning but do not always make for a compelling narrative or pursuing a path that deviates from the 'herd mentality'. Such choices require bravery, but they

(Continued on Page 3)

BRUSHES WITH LEGACY

The *Weekly* presents a brief history of the annual Chuckerbutty Debates and the Doon School Quiz, through excerpts from the Himalyan Journal and records from the School Archives.

THE CHUCKERBUTTY DEBATES

Mr. N. Chuckerbutty was an assistant Master who taught **Geography** at **The Doon School**. In **1956**, **Mr. Gurdial Singh** organised a team comprising N. Chuckerbutty, assistant Master at the Doon School, Mahinder Lall, his brother Roopinder Lall and Nalini Dhar Jayal — all three Old Boys of the Doon School, to attempt to scale virgin Mrigthuni, 6855 m, a peak on the outer rim of the **Nanda Devi Sanctuary**. Unfortunately, this expedition was cut short by tragedy with Chuckerbutty falling ill at **Dibrugheta**. Nalini Dhar Jayal rushed non-stop from Dibrugheta back to Joshimath, wiring the Air Force for medical help which was promptly given by air-dropping **oxygen and penicillin**. Chuckerbutty died of **pulmonary oedema** before these could be of any help. As a result, the expedition was abandoned. In his memory are the **Chuckerbutty Debates** held every year. The **first proud winner** of the Chuckerbutty debate was **Doon School** in **1956**.

THE DOON SCHOOL QUIZ

The **Dr. Dipali Banerji Memorial Trophy** for the **Doon School Quiz** was presented by her sons - Ajai Banerji, Sanjai Banerji and Udai Banerji. Mr Ajay Banerji taught **Physics** at **The Doon School**. The first proud recipient of the Quiz cup was **Rashtriya Indian Military College (R.I.M.C.)**, Dehradun in **1995**.

“

Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.

Henry David Thoreau

OBITUARY

It is with deep sorrow that the *Weekly* informs of the demise of Mr R. D. Singh in the morning of 27 August, 2024. Mr Singh served the School from 1959 to 1977. He served as a Master of History, Head of Humanities Department and the Housemaster of Hyderabad House during his tenure. On behalf of the School community, the *Weekly* offers its deepest condolences.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I land directly on CDH.

SRT, Top Gun can't compare.

I plucked the podba from the plant.

Maanat Bhadani, biology expertise.

Can you forge an extra PT?

Vedanshh Dewan, living on the edge.

Don't trust smiling teacher.

DKM, smiling buddha.

You need to unsee the things you weren't supposed to see.

Mehul Garg, government spy.

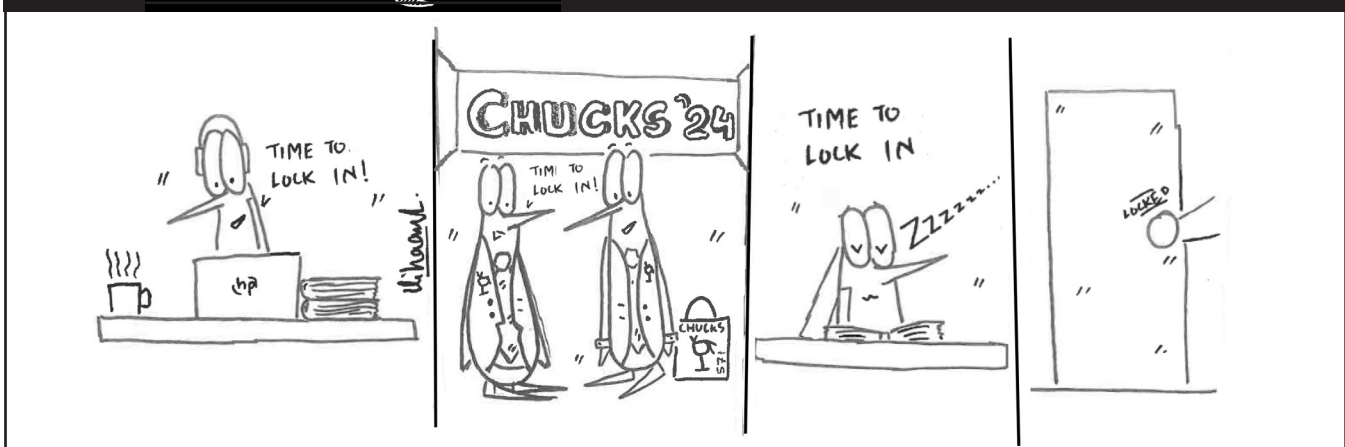
Around the World in 80 Words

Australia will accept only 2,70,000 overseas students in 2025, its education ministry announced Tuesday. SpaceX's Polaris Dawn was rescheduled to lift off on Wednesday, 28th August. Armand Duplantis broke his own pole vault world record for the 10th time as he cleared 6.26 metres at the Silesia Diamond League meeting, surpassing the 6.25 metres he cleared after retaining his Olympic gold medal at Paris 2024. Mark Zuckerberg alleges Biden-Harris administration 'pressured' Meta to censor COVID-related posts.

Doon Doodle

Locked out?

Vibaan Lakhotia



(Continued from Page 1)

ultimately lead to a life that feels right for you, rather than one that just sounds right to others. The process will be gradual and it will take time for people to appreciate you for who *you* are, but trust me, the contentment you get from it is incomparable. While achievements and accolades are important, it should not come at the cost of individuality and personal fulfilment, especially in Chandbagh, where huge stress is placed on character. I think we need to emphasise more on what it means to lead a meaningful life — sinking in that lesson by a Senior, reflecting those values on to your Juniors, all while taking a moment

to vibe to *Kun Faya Kun* with your friends — something which we oftentimes forget while constantly seeking external validation.

But what if we do not have a story to tell or if it's not the best one? For one, trust me; you or others around you will always have a case to make about you. However, more critically, you are the only person who decides how your narrative should be heard and descended; one that is worth telling not because it conforms to societal expectations, but because it is a true reflection of who you are. The most important story is the one we believe holds true, the one we tell ourselves. For, our stories are not a constant

comparison where we measure our worth against the stories of others, but a unique reflection of the destiny we have created for ourselves, and hopefully something that we can cherish.

In the words of someone who repeatedly reminds me to “Trust in your efforts and your own judgement, and never lose sight of the desire to make an impact for the sake of making a difference,” living in the authentic manner in which you envisioned your School life to be when you first received the acceptance letter will far outweigh the enduring discomfort in conforming to the norms, and pursuing events simply for the sake of *claiming* them.

The Observer Report

Ayaan Mittal recounts the agenda discussed in the School Council meeting, held on August 24, 2024.

The first agenda presented before the School Council was ‘Suggestions for a more robust tutorial system.’ This agenda aimed towards strengthening the bond between a Tutor and their Tutees, and building a meaningful relationship between the two. It was decided that Tutorial Day Outs and Night Outs will be reintroduced in the next term since they act as a great medium for tutorial groups to bond with each other. It was also recognised that fortnightly tutorial meetings were not being held because of a lack of commitment on both sides, students and Masters alike. Meetings and preparations for School events were taking precedence over the fortnightly Saturday tutorial meetings. Due to low turnout, some Masters were not holding the meetings at all. As an alternative, it was proposed that one Saturday in each month within a term would be chosen to hold tutorial lunches at the Tutors’ houses, the food for which would be supplied by the CDH.

The second agenda was ‘The addition of an AC system in the gymnasium.’ This was first brought up in the Pastoral Council after there were reports that the gym became too humid and suffocating on some days because of the high footfall of students and the congested nature of the room itself. An AC will be installed to regulate the temperature and moisture, while an exhaust fan is being installed for better ventilation. Concurrent to this addition, a water point would be placed in the Sports Centre for proper hydration.

The third agenda discussed in the meeting was ‘The establishment of a longer Founder’s/Diwali break.’ Founder’s Day warrants a lot of work and effort by the

School community and with a majority of the parents in School for the event, an extension would not only help the students relax better but would also allow parents to spend more time with their children.

The agenda aimed towards strengthening the bond between a Tutor and their Tutees, and building a meaningful relationship between the two.

However, it was recognised that this would put a lot of pressure on parents as it is very difficult to get such a long leave from work and other commitments and that it would not be justified to ask them to do so. Diwali, on the other hand, was seen as a festival that often prompts students to travel back home, and so the establishment of a Diwali break would allow students to go back home and spend time with their families. However, it was recognised that flying students in and out of Dehradun would be a large financial burden on the parents, and such a break would also disrupt the flow of the ongoing term at a critical juncture when the November Trials would be approaching soon. Hence, the third agenda was rejected.

विकास बनाम पर्यावरण

महेक कुमार

विकास और पर्यावरण के बीच संतुलन बनाना आज के समय की एक बड़ी चुनौती है। एक ओर, आर्थिक और सामाजिक प्रगति के लिए उद्योगों और रोजगार के अवसरों की आवश्यकता होती है, वहीं दूसरी ओर स्वच्छ हवा, पानी, और स्वस्थ रहने के लिए पर्यावरण की सुरक्षा अनिवार्य है।

विकास का अर्थ है प्रगति, जो किसी भी राष्ट्र के लिए आवश्यक है। यह नागरिकों के जीवन स्तर को सुधारता है, रोजगार के नए अवसर पैदा करता है और समग्र देश और दुनिया में समृद्धि लाता है। विकास के प्रमुख संकेतकों में सड़कें, पुल, उद्योग, और शहरीकरण शामिल हैं। बिना विकास के कोई भी देश वैश्वीकरण के युग में अन्य देशों से पीछे रह सकता है और ऐसे में उस देश के नागरिकों की बुनियादी ज़रूरतें पूरी नहीं हो पातीं।

पर्यावरण का संरक्षण हमारे अस्तित्व के लिए बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है। स्वच्छ हवा, पानी और स्वस्थ पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र मानव जीवन के लिए आवश्यक हैं। वनों की कटाई, प्रदूषण, और जलवायु परिवर्तन जैसी समस्याएं पर्यावरण को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित कर रही हैं। यदि पर्यावरण की अनदेखी की गई, तो यह हमारी आनेवाली पीढ़ियों के लिए विनाशकारी सिद्ध हो सकता है। विकास और पर्यावरण के बीच संतुलन बनाने के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण समझौते विकसित करता है और उन्हें अमल में लाने का प्रयास करता है। यह संगठन पर्यावरण विज्ञान को महत्व देते हुए राष्ट्रीय सरकारों को पर्यावरणीय लक्ष्य हासिल करने में मदद करता है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (UNEP) का लक्ष्य संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास समूह के सदस्यों को प्रस्तावित सतत् विकास लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने में मदद करना है।

विकास और पर्यावरण के बीच संघर्ष तब उत्पन्न होता है जब औद्योगिक परियोजनाओं और शहरीकरण के लिए वन क्षेत्रों का अतिक्रमण होता है। बड़े बांध, खदानें, और फैक्ट्रियाँ अक्सर पर्यावरण को नुकसान पहुँचाती हैं, जिससे पर्यावरण को बहुत हानि पहुँचती है और स्थानीय समुदायों के जीवन पर प्रभाव पड़ता है। दूसरी ओर, सख्त पर्यावरणीय नियम और कानून विकास परियोजनाओं को धीमा कर सकते हैं और आर्थिक प्रगति में बाधा डाल सकते हैं।

विकास और पर्यावरण के बीच संतुलन बनाना आवश्यक है ताकि दोनों का लाभ समाज को मिल सके। इसके लिए कुछ प्रमुख उपाय अपनाए जा सकते हैं। इसके लिए जनता और उद्योगों को पर्यावरणीय संरक्षण के महत्व के बारे में जागरूक करना आवश्यक है। शिक्षा के माध्यम से लोग पर्यावरण के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील बन सकते हैं और सतत् विकास की दिशा में काम कर सकते हैं। इसके लिए सरकार को सभी शहर और गाँव में जागरूकता अभियान चलाने चाहिए। साथ ही पर्यावरण की सुरक्षा के लिए कठोर नियम और कानून लागू करना और उनका कड़ाई से पालन सुनिश्चित करना आवश्यक है। इससे विकासवात्मक गतिविधियों के दौरान पर्यावरण को होने वाले नुकसान को कम किया जा सकता है।

यहाँ पर एक अहम सवाल और भी उठता है कि इस पर्यावरणीय त्रासदी में क्या सभी की भागीदारी एक समान है? कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि दुनिया के कुछ प्रतिशत लोगों की करनी का भुगतान पूरी मानव जाति को करना पड़ रहा है? कुछ स्वार्थी तत्त्वों की क्षुधा को शांत करने के लिए पूरे

पर्यावरण को दाँव पर लगा दिया गया और दोष सम्पूर्ण मानव जाति पर चस्था कर दिया गया। इस पूरे घटनाक्रम को समझने की आवश्यकता है।

वर्तमान समय में इस धरा और वायुमंडल की ऐसी स्थिति बिलकुल नहीं है कि अनियंत्रित आर्थिक रफ़्तार और औद्योगिक विस्तार किया जा सके। लोगों की आवश्यकताओं को कुछ इस तरह से पूरा किया जाए कि प्रकृति और पर्यावरण के साथ अन्याय न हो और यह तभी संभव है, जब समाज में भोग और विलासिता को नियंत्रित किया जाए। एक बार गांधी जी ने कहा था कि प्रकृति के पास सब लोगों की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिए पर्याप्त साधन हैं, मगर यह सभी लोगों के लालच को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है। इसे अगर और सरल शब्दों में कहा जाए तो जब तक हम धरती से केवल अपनी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने का प्रयास करेंगे, तब तक धरती को कोई तकलीफ़ नहीं है लेकिन अगर आवश्यकताएँ अंतहीन लालच का रूप ले लेंगी तो उसका दबाव धरती सह नहीं पाएगी और गंभीर समस्याएँ उत्पन्न हो जाएँगी। मगर समस्या यहीं पर है, विकसित और शक्तिशाली, जो सभी विकास नीतियों के साथ पर्यावरण पर भी कब्ज़ा जमाये बैठे हैं, वे पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर दुनिया भर की बातें करने को तैयार हैं मगर वे अपने भोग-विलास और लालच को छोड़ने को तैयार नहीं हैं।

करीब 20-22 प्रतिशत लोग ही विकसित या अमीर देशों में रहते हैं फिर भी औद्योगिक कचरे में उनकी हिस्सेदारी 70 प्रतिशत तक है और वो भी तब जब वो कई हानिकारक उद्योगों को काफी पहले अपने देश से बाहर निकाल चुके हैं। समय-समय पर कई खबरें सुर्खियों में रहती हैं कि इन देशों के औद्योगिक कचरे को किसी न किसी माध्यम से अविकसित व विकासशील देशों में पहुँचाया जाता है। यदि केवल वस्तुओं को पैक करने वाली सामग्री का ही आकलन किया जाए तो केवल इस पैकिंग सामग्री से बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर और अलग-अलग तरीके से पर्यावरण का विनाश हो रहा है।

आज ज़रूरत इस बात की है कि पर्यावरण संकट से निपटने के लिए समाज के सबसे सम्पन्न और भोग विलास का जीवन व्यतीत करने वाले लोग अपनी जीवनशैली में बदलाव लायें और अपनी ज़िम्मेदारी को स्वीकार करें। आज आवश्यकता इस बात की भी है कि पर्यावरण की चर्चा को उन वातानुकूलित कमरों व भवनों से बाहर लाया जाए, जहाँ ज़मीन की, माटी की सुगंध पहुँच ही नहीं रही है ताकि हकीकत के धरातल पर पर्यावरण संरक्षण की चर्चा हो।

आज विकास और पर्यावरण के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करना अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। केवल विकास पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने से पर्यावरण को गंभीर नुकसान हो सकता है, वहीं दूसरी ओर केवल पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर ध्यान देने से विकास की गति धीमी हो सकती है। इसलिए, समाज को मिलकर काम करना होगा ताकि एक संतुलित और टिकाऊ भविष्य सुनिश्चित किया जा सके। पर्यावरण शिक्षा और जागरूकता जैसे उपाय अपनाकर ही हम विकास और पर्यावरण के बीच इस संघर्ष को समाप्त कर सकते हैं और आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए एक स्वस्थ और समृद्ध भविष्य का निर्माण कर सकते हैं जहाँ सभी को आवश्यकता के अनुरूप सब कुछ उपलब्ध हो पायेगा।

The Dosco Dilemma

Jansher Grewal *explores the fading sense of loyalty towards School and the value of being a Dosco.*

School has long stood as a beacon of excellence, not just in terms of academic and extracurricular achievements but also in cultivating a strong, unified identity among its students. The Doscos have, for years on end, taken great pride in carrying the name of School, an institution famous for the infallible character it inculcates in us. However, in recent times, this once-cherished identity appears to be fading. Owing to the great rise in frequency of various indiscretions that have become a recurrent occurrence pertaining to indiscipline within the students, it raises the pertinent question — are the values of the Doscos of today in alignment with the Doscos of the past?

House loyalties often overshadow School spirit, and lead to a fragmented student body.

We understand that this is due to a myriad of factors that reflect on the generation as a whole — a precarious ideological world scape, the impact of helicopter parenting which leads to reciprocative rebellion and a pervasive erosion of morals and values across the board. However, as a community responsible for the well-being of our denizens, we must address and resolve the issue in the context of School.

These recent acts of delinquency signal a troubling shift in School's spirit, wherein they are not just isolated acts of rebellion; they reflect a deeper erosion of the values that have traditionally been upheld by Doscos. Respect for authority, integrity, and a commitment to the greater good are qualities that once defined our Dosco identity. Today, however, there seems to be a growing disregard for these principles, as students struggle to find a sense of belonging and purpose within the School community, perhaps due to a shift in attitudes since COVID-19. This rampant erosion of School spirit not only tarnishes the reputation and sense of identity of the individual, but also threatens the collective identity that has been the cornerstone of The Doon School for decades. No matter how many Inter-School competitions or contests we do win, a malignant thought remains in the back of our minds — was the victory worth more than the sense of community we lost to get there?

But, it is noteworthy that this withering purity of Dosco qualities is not unifactorial. Recently,

the perspectives of most students have been tinted, with their House-level priorities often taking precedence over their School events. Though some of this propagandistic steering of students is extrinsic, one must ponder on why it emerges in the first place. House loyalties often overshadow School spirit, and lead to a fragmented student body. The Dosco identity should not be sacrificed for an overpowering House spirit.

Inter-House rivalry, which once used to be healthy and motivating, has started to devolve into a source of division, with students more concerned about the achievements of their House than the well-being of the School at large. This greatly weakened the imperative sense of unity that may be crucial for the sustenance of a strong identity among Doscos, since students identify more with their House than with School itself. So much so, in fact, that we were compelled to host a pan-School 'cheering pracs' in order to bring a broken community together to better cheer the School on. What is posed to us now is a challenge: arriving at a balance between developing House spirit and instilling a common pride in being part of The Doon School.

The Dosco identity had gone beyond mere nomenclature; it had shone and showed the way to students, over generations, to be successful leaders. It also oriented a Dosco towards character, which meant he learned the invaluable qualities of discipline, resilience, and empathy. It has brought with it a sense of responsibility to one's self, to the community, and to the world at large. The dimming of such an identity is not therefore a loss to the school alone but represents a loss to a greater society that has gone on to benefit from the leadership and vision provided by such alumni. The strong alumni network that it can pride itself on and conjure up could weaken because the future Doscos might not be able to identify with that level of attachment and connectedness to School. This would in turn lead to a decline in it being a home and in the sense of pride which had traditionally characterised the making of a Dosco.

We are at a crossroads at this point in time. In its current state, there are multiple permutations of what shape the School could take in the future. If we reinvigorate the sense of pride in the Dosco identity through a concerted effort by the School community, we could, at last, see ourselves returning to the fraternity and legacy we built for ourselves in the decades past.

Dare To Change?

Arav Khanal discusses facing one's fears and changing the world through a different lens.

"Everybody wants to change the world but no one, no one wants to die" - Gerard Way

This article initially came from one of our Editorial Board meetings (to which I say thank you to everyone involved in the discussions for breaking my writers' block). The point was to find a song lyric with deeper implications, analyse it, but also leave it upto your interpretation — so, dear readers, please do think along as you read.

The same way we learn during Midterms or otherwise; to calculate the risk of every (literal) step, we must do so here.

Although, while the idea was all well and good, I wanted to find something just right to talk about — both within the context of the world and of School. Sure, I could have been cheap and just copied a section off my IB Extended Essay in English, but instead I embraced the *emo* side of me and just booked it into the lyrics of *My Chemical Romance* (MCR). Ergo, we reach here. Not really the *Goldilocks* I was hoping I'd find but something to pass the time with, nevertheless.

All implications of the lyric above stems from the artist's play on words, replacing the word 'try' with 'die'. To quote Steve Jobs, "We're here to put a dent in this universe. Otherwise, why even be here?" We see being change-makers as necessary, especially in School where we are raised to be leaders, pioneers, and those who seek to serve a meritocratic India through an aristocracy of service. In essence, we are here to change the world, or at the very least the communities we hail from. Everybody wants to try, and everybody, undoubtedly, will try — regardless of what their end goal is. Changing the world for the better has been morally instilled in us as being the right thing to do. So, then we must ask, why do we not? If everybody was here to change the world, surely something would have happened by now? Set in a dystopian future, the song details the life of teen rebels battling against a corporatocracy, and while it seems to be a far cry from reality, it is not. With this we understand that there must be something that does stop us from fully trying to bring about change.

We see perhaps most obviously that change-makers, regardless of the good they do, have considerable opposition, and people fear that.

While we praise the acts of Bhagat Singh or Mahatma Gandhi in the country, idolising their bravery and nature, we do not see enough of such people. It is a given that we do not live oppressed under colonial rule thanks to those mentioned above, therefore not necessitating that such action is taken. However, neither is our world perfect. People are willing to speak out, as is evident by protests, but not steadfast to the point where necessary change is brought about. To reiterate, such a roadblock comes from only one place — fear. We must now understand where this fear might stem from. What seems to me to be the bigger implication of this is oppression by the ruling class.

Taking into context the entire song and the album (set in a dystopian future, as mentioned) it becomes apparent that the fear of death is the fear of being executed by the powerful. It is hence implied that the systems in place in the world resist change — or are, at the very least, hesitant to embrace it, and will violently oppose it, instead of calling for change. This very nature is prominent to the point that those who seek to propose change, fear for their own lives. While there are many examples of this I could cite from both the modern world and days of the past, I feel this is an exercise best left for the reader.

In essence, we are here to change the world, or at the very least the communities we hail from.

Once again, I close this off by saying: think, think, and think. If you are given one chance anyway, it must be used best. The same way we learn, during Midterms or otherwise, to calculate the risk of every (literal) step, we must do so here. Change your own world to your liking, but not by compromising those you live with. Seek to serve and find strength in that matter. But regardless of where you take it, remember, we are here to sketch it all *exactly as it goes*, and perhaps cause you to think about your part in it all. The rest is up to you...

DSMUN'15: Diplomatic Dialogue

At the conclusion of DSMUN '24 last week, the Weekly recaps the DSMUN from nine years ago.

Flags raised full mast, the *Shamiana* in all its grandeur and the multitude of blue posters set up around School. DSMUN from the outset looked as though it were a replication, a repetition of history, but in its entirety it was far from it. I echo Devansh's closing speech when I say that no amount of introspection will provide me an answer as to what this difference was, but to all those who experienced it, this disparity was evident. Perhaps it was the people, perhaps the execution, the solitary fact that holds true is that this MUN has endeared itself in the heart of every participating soul.

Months of blood, sweat and tears all boiling down to just three days. Three eventful days, replete with enthralling debates, engaging agendas and a plethora of interesting individuals. The sheer magnitude of the organisation team behind this event may just provide a brief insight as to how difficult a task this was. Four hundred and twenty delegates from forty-five schools from across and outside the country all converged in Chandbagh for these three days. All four hundred and twenty sat in twelve committees, ranging in function from a crisis simulation of 2030 to a Lok Sabha of the present.

Over the course of the weekend, delegates discussed agendas of significant global importance such as the ISIL, Black sites and Freedom of expression. No matter what the agenda or committee, the quality of debate and discussion maintained a high standard throughout the MUN. As intended we managed to pull off a rather accurate and plausible replication of reality in all committees. Committee sizes varied from a

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mere eighteen delegates to large committees with eighty delegates crammed in a room. Committees were set up the day before the MUN, the evening when one could see several officials and seniors scurrying around the main building transporting posters, placards and flags. As the chairpersons and deputy chairpersons retired for the night after placing finishing touches on their respective committees, a general atmosphere of anticipation enveloped Chandbagh.

This anticipation metamorphosed into excitement and nervous tension as all involved donned their suits the following day. The conference opened with a rather fitting speech by Mrs Sujata Singh, who shared her experience as a member of the Indian Foreign Services and gave us a brief glimpse into the life of a foreign diplomat. Following the opening ceremony all Chairpersons took to their committees and initiated proceedings. As committee progressed, debate heated up and more and more people got involved in the proceedings. At the end of the day, delegates marched to the MPH with a feeling of general accomplishment and tiredness, only to discover that their day was far from over. The general crisis, which involved a kidnapping by *Jihadi John*, saw everyone return to their committees and try to solve the crisis while gorging on their pizzas.

Committees on day two reached climactic clefts as some managed to find premature resolutions while a lack of agreement in others saw delegates making desperate compromises in the name of diplomacy. The highlight for most on day two was the delegate dance and the performance by the western band in the evening. The final day had two committee sessions, a final three hours for everyone to conclude and resolve all issues at hand. When I quantify the MUN in this manner, it seems small and insignificant, but at that time it had seemed as though it had gone on forever. We concluded this year's MUN in the characteristic GA crisis, where our special effects team introduced the mysterious organisation called the "Anonymous". The highly stimulating conference finally drew to a close at night with several tear-filled farewells made at the dinner that followed the awards ceremony. Looking back on that night, I can confidently say that this MUN did more than just simulated the UN, we managed to touch the hearts of all those present and make an impact. The teary dinner assured us that people really did have a good time and will look back on this time with fond memories. Credit need to be given to Rahul Agarwal's secretariat and all those involved, especially the President, Secretary General and the entire executive board along with their officials. This experience was truly one of a kind and one which all of us would gladly relive. As the flags are taken down, posters folded, we return to the daily grind of School, but this memory is one we will all look back to fondly in the years to come, because it is memories like this that are worth living.

The Week Gone By

Zubin Dhar

Readers! You who are reading this right now are from one of two groups: you are either a Dosco who has dragged himself out of bed for this meal after spending the day scrolling YouTube shorts and eating *takatak*, or you're a participant of the holiday-causing mega event that thus far has been thoroughly enjoyable (for some more than others?) So participants, welcome to the Week Gone By, a staple of the Weekly, our flagship publication. Every three weeks, they begrudgingly (and also somewhat fearfully) allow me to be your guide for the events of the past week, none of which you will have any context

about, (trust me, it's better this way). Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to finish reading my Week Gone By without doing any of the following; getting distracted by dessert, someone's terrible hair (it's not their fault), or losing focus as a result of the negative attention span our generation boasts of.

Speaking of not being able to do things, several outing goers this Sunday were sorely disappointed when they were called back to School within a few hours due to apprehensions regarding a call for public protests in town against certain recent incidents in the area. Arnold Schwarznegger would be proud of the justice the School did to Total Recall (look it up). A very special group, however, did get their fill of an outing, as the School's 21 Pilots jetted off to have a treat for... doing their job.

The School's Football teams,

similarly, have seen their fair share of success, as reports of double-digit thrashings reach us from sunny Ajmer. Certainly, we will not hear the last of such stories. On campus, competition has been no less fierce, with a commendable performance shown by our Junior Football team, giving us hope for the future as well.

Funnily enough, the DSMUN now seems like a pleasant dream or a past life, as the switch to what I like to think is this year's largest concentration of extra-talking youth assemblies inside the walls of Chandbagh. Doscos, I'm sure, are overjoyed for another three days off this month, but the senior batches will definitely face their doom when September test week rolls around, and I don't mean Robert Downey Jr.

Speaking of epic returns, here's wishing all teams a manifestation of their (impending) victories.

Right!

Sudoku

		8						4
7	6	2	4		1			8
			3				9	
	7		1	4		6		
2								7
		5			8		1	
	1				3			
3			6		4	7	8	1
5						3		

Key:

2	4	3	6	1	7	9	8	5
1	8	7	4	5	9	6	2	3
5	9	6	3	2	8	1	7	4
3	1	4	8	7	2	5	9	6
7	5	8	6	3	9	1	4	2
9	2	6	5	4	1	3	7	8
6	9	2	7	8	3	4	5	1
8	3	8	1	9	4	2	6	7
4	7	1	2	5	6	8	3	9

Source: <https://www.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku>

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