

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, February 28 | Issue No. 2397



Is Knowledge
Our Light? 3

The Journey
To Happiness 4

Poetry 5

Crossword
Director's Cut 6

Editorial: On Moving On

Devansh Agarwal

Recently I had the honour of meeting the Board of Governors of The Doon School over the course of lunch. As per my initial understanding, a similar meeting has been convened each year with the School Captain and members of the prefectorial body and thus I was assured that this meeting was 'routine'. I had been informed that they wished to discuss pertinent issues in School and gain the student's perspective on various changes that had occurred on campus. Admittedly, I was excited for a farrago of reasons; and one of the more pertinent reasons was the better food. However, all jesting aside, the conversation that followed drove me to pen down my thoughts.

In exactly a year from now I will find myself in a peculiar position. I will be a retired member of a community that is in the centre of a massive and constant process of change; when I refer to change I speak not only of the physical connotations that the word bears but also of the intangible element that change entails. There will be various things that I would have done, a few others that I might not have been able to do, and both of these will comprise my legacy. Yet, regardless of the change I pursued or achieved, the one thing that I will always wish for is the best for this institution. However, the truth that I will have to come to grips with is that part of my legacy will be accepted, part of it will be changed and most importantly, part of it will be completely discarded.

It is every boy's hope that this institution that he has been a part of remembers what he leaves behind. If, fortunately, part of my legacy does beat the test of time (a rather short time I may add), I will feel a sense of peace knowing that the change I brought about for this institution still exists. However, what

“
...the truth that I will have to come to grips with is that part of my legacy will be accepted, part of it will be changed and most importantly, part of it will be completely discarded.”

if something that I held in high regard ceases to exist once I am on the other side of the gate? What if the reforms I had brought about had been undone? Then what? Well. I would try to accept.

Make no mistake, I do not associate acceptance it with a sense of defeat. Neither would I assume that just because things weren't the way I had left them as when I left School then the school community is no longer as prestigious as it was during 'my time'. I would simply acknowledge and accept the fact that with time change had been bought about. I would be no judge or jury. For that matter, even if I did try to be one I'd be a lousy one. I'm sure someone would catch me saying something like “if we did things the way we did back in my

time this institution would be making better progress”, but I'd be saying this because having been a part of this very institution I simply would not be able to look at things from an objective lens. I shall, hopefully, accept this truth.

The purpose of this editorial is not to pin down an individual or a group. If anything, most people would consider this the work of naivety coupled with the urge to rant. However, it is those few who I address directly. I hope that they are right and I hope that this is merely a figment of my imagination. For if in a couple of years I do indeed find myself in a similar position, I know that acceptance would not come easy. However, I will rest assured that change had been for the better.



Regulars

The 'Racqueteers'

The 11th Uttarakhand State Squash Championship was held at School on February 21 and 22, 2015. In the **Open Category**, Mayank Sojatia secured **3rd** position in the **Men's Division**, while Ishita Bhardwaj was declared **Runner Up** in the **Women's Division**. Sudhansh Agarwal and Nikhil Fatehpuria reached **Semi-Finals** and **Quarter Finals** respectively.

In the Team U-19 events, **The Doon School A- Team** was declared the **winner** while **The Doon School B-Team** secured the **3rd** position.

Congratulations!

Appointments

The following appointments have been for the forthcoming year:

Yuv Arpan

Editor-in-Chief: Parth Khanna
Senior Editor: Nikunj Agarwal

Computer Science STA

Boy-in-Charge: Sabharsh Singh Sidhu

Quiz Society

Boy-in-Charge: Aditya Vardhan Bhardwaj

Archives

Boy-in-Charge: Anvay Grover

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

A Gentleman's Win

The **School Junior Cricket Team** played a match against **Welham Boys' School** on **February 22, 2015**. The Doon School **won** the match by **twenty runs**. Eshaan Patel scored **54 runs** and Aaditya Gupta and Dhairya Rastogi took **two wickets** each.

Well done!

The Litterati

Aditya Bhattacharya has been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Congratulations!

Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.

T.S. Eliot

DSMUN 2015

The following appointments have been made for DSMUN 2015

Secretary-General: Devansh Agarwal

President: Nikhil Saraf

Under-Secretary Generals: Jai Lanba and Siddhant Gupta

Chairpersons:

Security Council: Ahbayraj Jain

Historical Security Council: Daksh Bhatia

Human Rights Council: Aditya Bhardwaj

Special Convention on Religious and Universal Harmony: Sahir Choudhary

Economic and Financial Committee: Yash Dhandhan

Disarmament and International Security Committee: Karan Sethy

All India Political Parties Meet, 2015: Arth Gupta

International Court of Justice: Anvay Grover and Shlok Jain

International Press Corps: Arnav Bhavanani

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

Eight people were brutally killed in a restaurant in the Czech town of Uhersky by a lone gunman. A Venezuelan student was killed during a protest over the deepening economic crisis. Jamaica has decriminalized marijuana. Eddie Ray Routh, who killed Chris Kyle, the author of the book 'American Sniper', has been charged guilty by a Texas court. Ninety Assyrian Christians have been kidnapped by the IS. The movies 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' and 'Birdman' have taken home the most Oscars.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I woke up you.

Sudhanshu Agarwal, feeling groggy.

I does not do it!

Yuvan Jaidka, adamant.

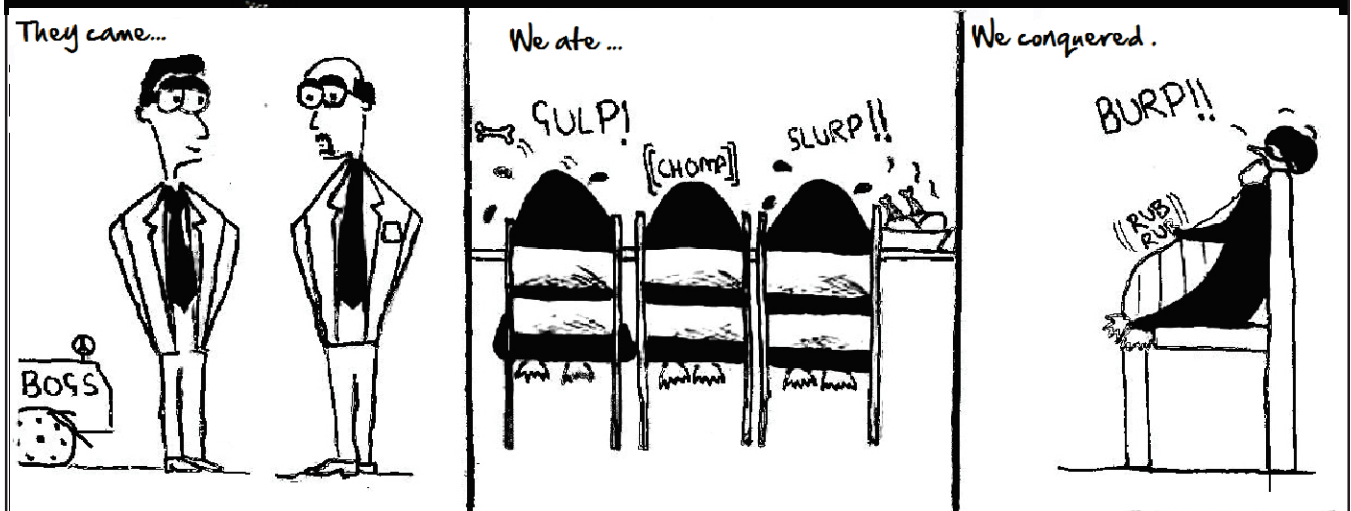
My pen is much more better than yours.

Paarth Agarwal, but not your dictionary.

Dosco Doodle

On Our 'Best' Behaviour

Dhruv Pais



Is Knowledge Our Light?

A debate on whether the School is laying enough emphasis on academics.

Point

Rishabh Agarwal

I would like to point out that we live in a world that does not value those who can correctly state all the Laws of Thermodynamics, but rather those who can successfully convince somebody to buy stocks that are bound to go downhill. We are living in a world where the wealthy people are the film stars, musicians and the lawyers. Granted that each of these fields requires a thorough background in theory, I believe that our School is devoting more than enough resources and time to ensure that we are given this essential training.

In recent years, the School has changed a 75 year old daily schedule to incorporate more teaching hours. We have incentives such as the Academic Cup and the Scholar's Blazer to motivate students to focus more on studies, and an increasing emphasis is being laid on academic points in the House Colours Schemes. With eight lessons a day and at least three hours of toye-time isn't the School overcooking the situation when it comes to academics.

Referring to what was stated earlier, I can see that the world today needs people who are not just good at studies, but also have a certain charisma, a certain personality to them; something to set them apart. I believe that our School gives us that extra training and the opportunities to find that 'something' in the six years that we live here, that something that sets us apart from the crowd. The various opportunities we get to organize events such as Round Square and the MUN are essentially training us to deal with the outside world once we step outside the walls of Chandbagh. These responsibility and extra-curricular activities, rather than distracting us from our studies, as some would like to believe, actually teach us a whole set of skills including multi-tasking organizing and managing our time. These are precisely the kind of skills that even colleges are looking for in students, which is why they truly ask for so much information regarding our involvement in extra-curricular activities. Granted, good grades are a must, but colleges also want their applicants to stand out from the usual day-schooled students who lack in themselves that certain 'edge'. Honestly, I believe that achieving those grades is a fairly simple as long as one learns to manage oneself and have a disciplined style of working.

To argue for those who want to see themselves at IIT Delhi or AIIMS; I don't know when the School has ever discouraged a student from taking that extra effort to prepare for such highly competitive entrance tests. It is a fact that School takes an extra effort to allow these students to take the necessary training required by them. It also takes immense pride in the academic achievements of these students.

To conclude, I believe that the School is putting all the effort it can to focus on at the expense of life outside the classroom, which is so important. We need to appreciate the all-round academic and intellectual development that School has to offer, which effectively sets it apart from other schools in our nation.

Counterpoint

Mr. Vinay Pande

Globally, changes in the approach to pedagogy are sweeping across all educational systems. The demands and expectations thrust upon young shoulders at present are far more than what we could have ever imagined. With this background, it is imperative that a good school places enough emphasis on the academic life of its students without ignoring other pursuits that result in an all round personality.

However, the question that begs to be answered today is "Are we striking the right balance between the academic demands and participation in other co-curricular activities?" As a custodian of pedagogical aspect of a Dosco's life here at the School, I have been raising this concern at various forums.

The truth is, the problem is not with the School's vision, or policies, which unequivocally lay a lot of emphasis on the importance of academics in a Doscos life. In terms of the IB Diploma Programme, the School is simply in the process of adapting to a system which undeniably places a lot of rigor on the lives of both students and teachers at School.

In my view, the reasons for the issue being debated here are many. Traditionally, the School has always been biased in glorifying laurels achieved on the field versus laurels won inside the classroom. Who can deny the fact that even today the intensity of clapping heard during an assembly for a Games Blazer is much more than that for a Scholar's Blazer? The Doon School Cup is another example to support my case. In its initial years, the Cup had almost a fifty percent weightage given to academics. After a few years it was felt that it was far too much in favor of academics. And what was the result of this protest? Today we have a House claiming ten points for winning the Academic Cup compared to twenty one other activities with an equal maximum claimable ten points each. The final score: academic: 10 points, versus sports and other activities: 210 points.

I think that what we need is a change in our mindset. Academics need to be given its due place in the list of priorities at School. I am a strong supporter of the positive role of co-curricular activities in molding an all round personality, but if extra-curricular activities start encroaching upon the effort, time and energy required to meet the demands of academics, the results may be a few cups, colours and blazers, but definitely not an all round personality. The competition in the world outside the walls of Chandbagh is fierce. We need the academic rigor and results to be able to stand any chance of succeeding.

Let us ask ourselves, "Are we in a position to keep pace with the fast changing and demanding academic challenges faced by our students?" I think it is high time we gave up our 'traditional' mind set and give academics an equal, if not a higher pedestal than co-curricular activities in School.

The Journey to Happiness

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, who recently addressed the School.

DSW(The Doon School Weekly): Could you tell us a bit about yourself and what really got you going on your path?

SBS(Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati): It's an interesting question. The question would mean that you were asking me about the lower case as self or the capital as self. I will tell you about the lower case as self, because chances are that is what you are asking. Nonetheless we should all be aware that what I am talking about is not the same as my true self because otherwise my true self is the same as your true self. We are all one. We are all reflections and embodiments of the same divinity. It doesn't matter whether you worship the divinity by the same name. So the answer to your question is the lower case as self. I was born and raised in America, I am from Los Angeles, and I graduated from Stanford University with a degree in Psychology. I then travelled to India, and I had an experience on the banks of the Ganga that was so profound, so deep and so awakening that I knew I had to stay here. It was like I had a veil over my eyes and it had just been lifted after 25 years. And when you ask what brought me here, I would say it was by grace. I did not do any *sadna*, I wasn't religious at all, I did not know there was anything else. I was raised in an American family where sadly, as is slowly seeping into the Indian culture, we are told, if you want to have a good life then you need to have good education and have a good job and have the right things, and nobody actually says, "by the way these things have nothing to do with happiness." It is not that it cannot coexist with happiness but it has nothing to do with happiness. So I didn't know that there was something else to search for. If I had I would have searched night and day. I was brought by grace and I had that amazing experience and I stayed.

DSW: What is your opinion of people using religion for one's personal gain?

SBS: Human psychology is an interesting subject. The human mind can be either our greatest tool or our greatest enemy, and one thing it does as our enemy is that it tells us that what is wrong is good. This is because no one likes to think they are doing something wrong. When I was young and when I was getting interested in psychology, I often wondered what answers I would get if I were to ask the likes of Hitler or Charles Manson, "Why did you do what you did?" We could very easily say that they were crazy or they were sociopaths. But if you asked Charles Manson he certainly would not say, "Oh, because I am a sociopath." The reason that this fascinated me was because of their responses. The reason I say this is because religion is just another excuse to justify our behavior. What tends to drive most human behavior is fear and desire. A lot of the things we do to get what we want are not necessarily right. In our own way, all of us hurt people. Maybe not at the level of Charles Manson, but we do. In our own minds, it is just as important to think that we are good people in their minds. So we concoct our own rationalizations. "I am doing it for god." We could come up with so many explanations. Religion is just another justification. Of course it is wrong. Religion is now being us as a way to justify others in their wrong actions, as there are very few other forms of justification that we could get the susceptible to believe. If I told you to kill someone because my parents split when I was young, then you will probably say that I should go to therapy. But if I could convince you that 'God' wants you to do it, you are now a pawn in my hands. It has essentially been co-opted. But, if you look at what people are fighting over the name of religion nowadays, then it is not actually religion. We are fighting over power, land and resources but since it is easier to get someone to strap a stick of dynamite on themselves and claim that it is 'God's will', people are now using religion to convince others of their supposed righteousness. You will not give up your life for my want of land, but you might just if I said it was for God.

“ We are fighting over power, land and resources but since it is easier to get someone to strap a stick of dynamite on themselves and claim that it is 'God's will', people are now using religion to convince others of their supposed righteousness. ”

DSW: What are your views on religious superstition and dogma?

SBS: Dogma in itself is not an evil. It is not that dogma cannot coexist with progress. If our dogma is non-violence, like Gandhi preached, then it is good. In fact, this dogma was what led to India's independence. You certainly couldn't say it was anti-progress. It becomes a problem when we lose what it was put there for. We have religious dogma, it is written in our scriptures, but there is a spirit with that letter as well, sometimes what happens is that we lose the spirit of the law for the letter of the law. We convince ourselves that we are right simply because we are adhering to the letter of the law even though we have completely forgotten its true purpose. The text of a law, even though it might be irrelevant to modern society, sometimes may have served as an injunction to project a certain message. When we do this, then dogma becomes a problem. In terms of it affecting modern society, an example would be how much milk we use during our *pujas*. On the other hand this was written when India didn't have hundreds of millions of people starving. You could look at this situation and state that 'Well, maybe the letter of the law says a certain amount of ghee, milk, and rice in a certain number of days should be used to please god. But maybe god would probably be happier if all of these resources were used to feed people instead. There are definitely examples in which that dogma, that letter of the law is not beneficial. However, dogma shouldn't be misinterpreted.

| Poetry |

The Phantasm

Raghav Kapur

As I walk along the cooling sand
Of the brightest orange beach
At the mouth of the water I stand
And towards the clouds I reach

The twilight peaks over the water
The moon reaches over the clouds
Milky white light does scatter
And fish swim back in crowds

The beauty of the scene cannot be told
For it is far too much to behold
For all the world to wonder
And for them to sit and ponder

'What can be so special about a beach at twilight?'
They ask; not knowing the end of the skylight
But I will remember this for the rest of my days
When the phantasm is gone, imagination yet stays.

The Nobody

Agastya Khanna

There she stood,
Crying in the rain
All the lost happiness,
And newfound pain.

The leaves brushed against her,
In the dead of night.
Making it sound like
Nothing would ever be right.

She longed for someone,
Who could bind her wounded soul.
Someone who would make her happy again,
But she knew no matter what, she would never be
whole.

There she wept,
Hoping she was somebody.
But deep down she knew,
She was finally a nobody.

New Beginnings

Krishna Lohiya

A clean slate,
A chance to start afresh.
For better or for worse,
Only Time will tell.
Sometimes, a blank page, a blank screen scares me
And I wonder what to do, what to write next.
Then I understand and hope,
Whatever happens, should be for the best.

Two Thousand and 13

Armaan Verma *writes on the selectivity of the news media.*

On 7th January, 2015, France was said to have had its worst moment in decades. Thirteen people were killed and the attack was followed by a string of hostage-taking and terror crises that glued people to the news for days. We all agree that the terrorist attack was barbaric (like any other) and it sparked controversy, causing a chain of outburst to follow in later months in the country.

What had started as a terrifying spectacle in a small café in Sydney, where hostages were kept by an IS supporter, escalated into an outrageous nightmare in Paris. Slogans like 'Je Suis Charlie' and 'All is Forgiven' were not uncommon and masses mourned for weeks. A few days prior to the incident, sixteen villages in Nigeria were pillaged and over two thousand men, women, and children were presumed dead. This event was only reported the day after. It was supposedly the terrorist group's 'deadliest massacre' till date, yet it received a fraction of the coverage in Paris.

Why are twenty thousand African lives given less attention than thirteen European lives in terms of newsworthiness? We cannot just fault the media in this regard and place the burden of ownership on the media alone, but also the view the political figures of Africa. They were hesitant in every way possible to react or say anything on the matter. In fact, the Nigerian President even mourned the deaths of the French victims, but remained silent throughout the Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria.

In this case, the information was not at our fingertips as students are often told. But not everyone is to be blamed for it. Many journalists who were reporting in the area were hundreds of kilometers away and struggled to gain access to valuable information.

But the point really is that news today can be flooded with celebrity pictures, fashion statements, or chillingly fascinating stories of talking cats, which catch the eye more than an article about an IS beheading, because there seems to be "nothing new these days". These reports, when made are usually propagating a one-point agenda and most people know that there is no truth in the articles, Yet, no one stops this form of media reportage.

In many cases, the freedom of speech and free press is absent, such as innumerable countries in the Middle East as well as North Korea. Although so many instances demonstrate media bias, the truth is that it was just easier for news networks to provide a detailed analysis of the Charlie Hebdo massacre, rather than zoom in on the devastation in Nigeria. But this event aside, news on sports and the field of entertainment is deemed worthier than killings and robberies. This has led Al-Qaeda to have the informal status of 'craving attention', which explains why they immediately took credit for the attack in Paris and the several hostage crises afterwards.

The Week Gone By

Rishabh Agarwal

From the Saturday night music performance to two good meals in the CDH on the same day, this week has been quite eventful. The strong smell of coffee has replaced the aroma of grilled cheese and popcorn in the houses, and the SCE's and AT's are finally facing the long feared examinations. For them, it's all heads down from now while the seniors have also started gearing up for the upcoming test-week. As an IB final year student it's unnerving and rather amusing at the same time to watch the SCE's running from master to master, struggling with their various internal assessment submissions. This feeling, however, is coupled with the realization that we will be in the same position in a year from now.

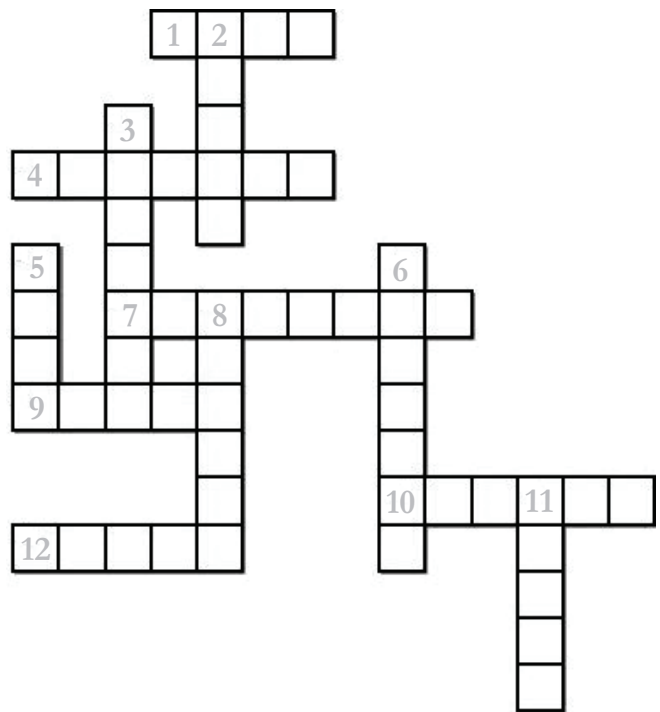
The Main Field is a spectacular sight in the evenings, with all three major sports being played simultaneously. What makes it even more dazzling is the unusual setting against the backdrop of the strangely colored skies due to the weather conditions over the past week. The evening winds have been signaling towards a storm, but the prayers of the seniors studying till late at night are never answered with them having to attend P.T. the next morning. The School did, however, manage to host a few interesting cricket matches on the weekend, and we witnessed brilliant performances by our cricketers on the pitch.

In other news, the visit by the Board of Governors was made quite apparent to the entire school community; the prefects certainly enjoyed meeting them and more importantly dining with them! There were various sessions of intense discussion and brainstorming and we shall certainly see the results in the time to come. Final speeches have been made and awards have been made at assembly, to let the boys take pride in their ties and blazers in their final school days.

Conclusively, the air is rife with a sense of nostalgia with the various *Autos* being circulated among the juniors and the *sentì* house-feasts of various houses around the corner; we certainly do look forward to the speeches! Various people are busy preparing for the very emotional traditional farewell that we give to the entire batch that is passing out, with many already reminiscing their time in school. Be it the school captain(s) clueless about what to say, or the musicians struggling to squeeze in practice hours in our tight schedule, all are trying their best to make those “*auld lang syne's*” resonate in their minds whenever they look back in time.

The Crossword

Director's Cut



Across

1. he has hosted the most Oscars
4. the only musical to win Best Picture since 1969
7. first African American to win an Academy Award
9. this film won the first Oscar for Best Picture
10. first Indian to win two Oscars
12. this country's movies have won the most Oscars for the Best Foreign Language Film

Down

2. youngest Oscar winner
3. won the Best Picture at the 2015 Oscars
5. only person to win an Oscar and a Nobel Prize
6. she has won the most 'Acting' Academy Awards
8. winner of most individual Oscars
11. won the best actress at the 2015 Oscars

Note: All answers involving individual persons in this crosswords are with respect to their surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword:

1. Hope	12. Italy
2. O'neal	10. Rahman
3. Birdman	9. Wings
4. Chicago	7. McDaniel
5. Shaw	6. Hepburn
6. Daniel	8. Disney
7. McDaniel	11. Moore
8. Daniel	

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>

weekly@doonschool.com



©IPSS: All rights reserved. **Printed by:** The English Book Depot, 16 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand- 248009, India. **Published by:** PK Nair, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Arnaav Bhavanani **Editor:** Devansh Agarwal **Senior Editors:** Anvay Grover, Rishabh Agarwal

Associate Editors: CC Chengappa, Chaitanya Kediya, Madhav Singhal, Varun Sehgal **Hindi Editor:** Vallavi Shukla

Special Correspondents: Arjun Singh, Aryan Chhabra **Correspondents:** Armaan Verma, Devang Laddha, Kushagra

Kar **Cartoonists:** Anirudh Popli, Dhruv Pais **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Assistant Managers:** Shrey Nagalia,

Anamika Ghose, Arvindanabha Shukla, Umung D Varma **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya