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The Doon School WEEKLY

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The Rainbow Paradox

Chaitanya Kediya *argues for the acceptance of homosexuality in India.*

It is a moment of pride and awe to see the United States of America finally accept same-sex marriage. While same-sex marriage has been legal in various states for the past few years, after the ruling of the US Supreme Court, no state has the right to ban same-sex marriage. The decision was read on the 26th of June, 2015, a day that will be marked in history as one that represents tolerance and equality. President Obama, in an address from the White House said, "This ruling is a victory for America. This decision affirms what millions of Americans already believe in their hearts. When all Americans are treated as equal, we are all more free." While this is definitely an occasion to celebrate, not only for the LGBT community but all American citizens, we must remind ourselves that this isn't a victory for the entire world. Even today, there are millions of people around the world who do not enjoy the same quality of freedom as all Americans do now.

This is why I think it is futile and possibly pretentious for thousands of Indian teenagers and adults to adopt the rainbow-coloured profile picture on Facebook. While this may be called an act of appreciation, commending the USA for its accomplishment, we mustn't fool ourselves; we still live in a nation where homosexuality is a criminal offence. That rainbow-coloured picture is a sign of achievement after struggle, something that we didn't take part in, and cannot reap the benefits of. Hence, I don't see the purpose of adopting the picture, or vicariously reveling in their success. If anything, I believe this is a time of shame. We are living in a nation that does not accept its citizen's freedom of expression or right to equality. This is a time to protest, to demand change and to expect equality for all.

Our nation hasn't failed in surprising and surpassing numerous nations. However, one of the biggest issues in our nation is intolerance; whether it is for the LGBT community, for girls going out alone, or for comedians simply trying to entertain. We, as a people, have incessantly been unaccepting and often unwilling to change our attitude. Homosexuality in our nation is treated as a mental illness. There are reports of parents who have consulted doctors, asking the doctors to change their gay sons by therapy or electric shocks. What is even worse is that in some cases, the money-minded doctor has agreed and scarred the innocent child for life. In a more extreme case, 'corrective rape' is used to set 'right' a child's sexual orientation. In Telangana, over fifteen such cases have been reported, and it is estimated that hundreds of such cases go unreported, because the victim is afraid to report his or her own relative, who has 'treated' the child. In this scenario, the child's family selects a distant relative or friend to rape their child, and this is aimed at 'disciplining' the child. In a country where the family of a homosexual turns against him,

“ Even today, there are millions of people around the world who do not enjoy the same quality of freedom as all Americans do now. ”

what can be expected from the rest of the country?

Till date, homosexuality is an awkward topic of discussion, considered taboo, and this is precisely what needs to be changed. People need to become more accepting and tolerant to the cause of the LGBT community. They shouldn't be outcasts of our society; rather they should be at the same standing as heterosexuals. The first step to bring about this change is awareness. People need to be aware of homosexuality. Parents need to understand and accept their children for who they are, rather than trying to make them who they aren't. The second step is mobilization; people around the nation must stand behind the LGBT community. It is necessary that people from all walks of

(Contd. on Page 3)



Regulars

Renowned Shot

At the **24th Meeting of the Shooting Hopes**, held in the **Czech Republic** from **June 10 to June 16, 2015**, Samarjit Singh represented **India** and was ranked **5th** in the **Sports Pistol** category and won a **Team Gold** in the same event.

Following this competition, Samarjit represented **India** at the **ISSF Junior World Cup** held in **Germany** from **June 26 to July 1, 2015**. Participating in the same category, he was ranked **9th** overall and won a **Team Silver**.

Congratulations!

Checkmate

Raghav Bagri took part in the first **N.L. Pandiyar Memorial Rajasthan State FIDE-Rated Chess Tournament** held at **Udaipur** from **June 21 to June 24, 2015**. He was ranked **2nd** at the competition.

Congratulations!

Sharing the Cake

A group of **four students** escorted by PVD participated in the **Economics Summer Camp** held at **National University of Singapore** from **June 29 to July 3, 2015**. The camp was designed for students to enhance their understanding of the applications of economics and expose them to university-level studies in the field. During the competitive events, Madhav Agarwal won a **gold medal** in the **presentation event**.

Congratulations!

Good Tidings

The *Weekly* wishes the entire School community a very Happy Independence Day!

"Citizenship consists in the service of the country."

Jawaharlal Nehru

The Winning Stroke

The School swimming team participated in the **30th All India IPSC Swimming Championship for Boys**, held at **Genesis Global School, Noida** from **July 7 to July 9, 2015**. They won prizes in the following categories:

Under 19:

Raghav Kumar won a **silver** in the **200m Butterfly**. Pratyaksh Parmar won a **bronze** in the **100m Breaststroke**.

Under 17:

Nehansh Saxena won a **silver** in **50 and 200m Backstroke** and a **bronze** in the **100m Backstroke**.

Shiven Dewan won a **gold** in **200m Breast Stroke** and **bronze** in the **50 and 100m Breast Stroke**. Tanay Gopal Agarwal won a **bronze** in the **50m Butterfly** and **50m Freestyle**.

The **Freestyle Relay Team** and the **Medley Relay Team** stood **second** in their respective events.

The entire **Under 17** team stood **second** in the category.

Congratulations!

The School Swimming Team participated in the **5th Skool Swim Ranking Meet** held in **Kolkata** on the **July 24th**. The team won the following prizes: Rishabh Goel won a **gold** in the **Backstroke** and **Breaststroke** events.

Kshitij Goel won a **gold** in the **Butterfly** event and a **silver** in the **Backstroke** event.

Yasharth Goel won a **silver** in the **Breaststroke** event.

Tanay Gopal Agarwal won a **gold** in the **50m Freestyle** and **Butterfly** events. He was adjudged the **Best Swimmer** in his category.

Well done!

Dosco Doodle

For the Love of Sports

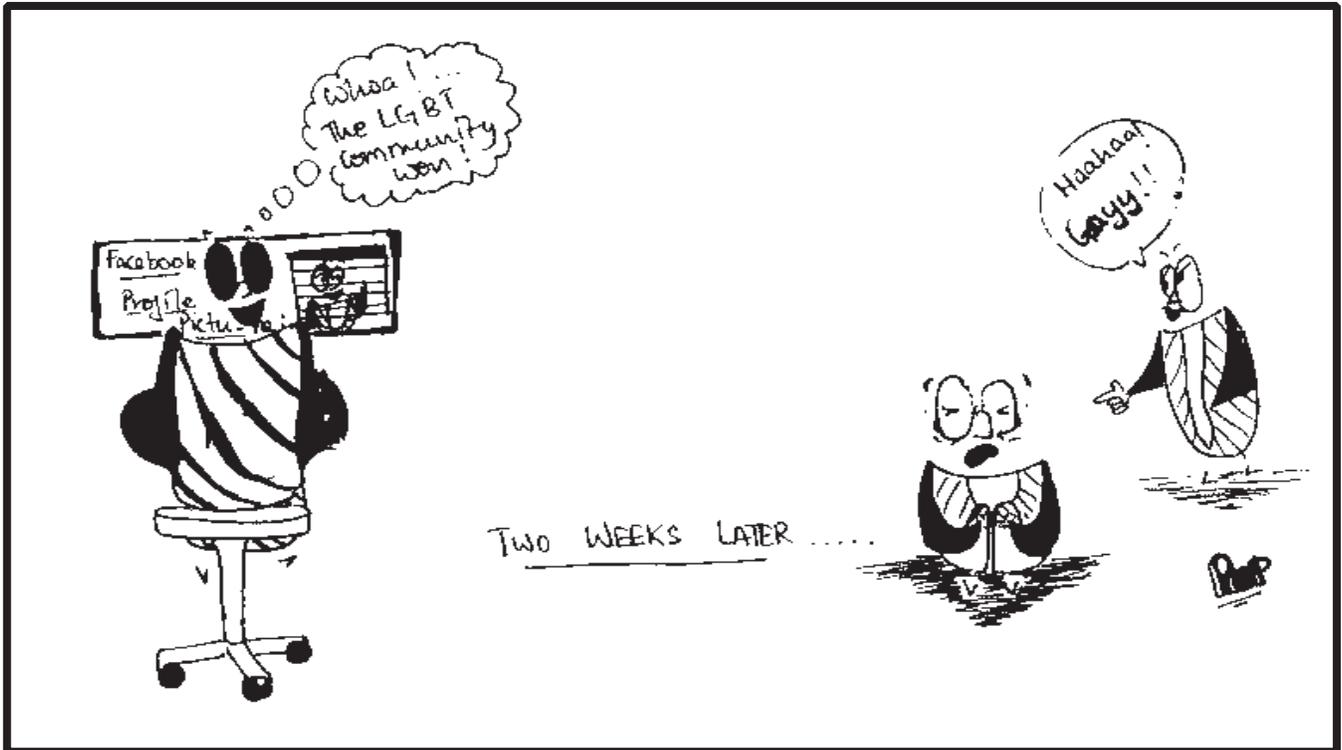
Dhruv Pais



(Contd. from Page 1)

life support the cause and demand equality for their fellow humans. The final step would be revoking Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Only then will homosexuality be truly accepted in our nation.

I know many people would love to argue how my aim is too idealistic or far-sighted, but what I actually believe is that it is necessary to at least try bringing the change. People in our nation tend to comment and say that nothing can ever happen, it has always been like this, but what they don't understand is that they are the medium of change. I hope that this message reaches you, so that you can ask yourself one question, "Am I going to stand in the way of equality and tolerance, or am I going to be the person that makes it possible?"



The Thespian

The Weekly interviewed Mr. Vikram Ghosh, who recently conducted a dramatics workshop in School.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): When and where did you start theatre and what motivated you to start it?

Vikram Ghosh (VKG): The first time I stepped onto a stage to act was when I was really young, before I even knew what theatre really meant. I've been doing plays since then. I only started working in theatre since 2007 and that is when I gained my real motivation. There are two things, one is that I've been plotting my way out of the 9 to 5 schedule since I was 16. I wanted to do

so many things. I wanted to travel, learn different skills and have all kinds of experiences. I did the math in my head about the hours. Like, in school, you get holidays. Once you start working, you don't get any holidays. I was interested in humanities, but I didn't know what the options for work were. I'd probably have had to do advertising, because I thought that was the kind of job I could do. My father worked in advertising, and I noted that he didn't have a great schedule. I did not want to be part of a rat race and compete all my life. I decided I didn't want to do that. I wanted to be a writer, but that too changed once I moved to Delhi and I got my



first role. The turning point was a workshop, a group came down from England and it really affected me. It showed me that there is more to theatre than just learning lines and doing blocking, that there is a world of meaning that you draw upon. I realised that I was beginning to explain a universe to myself through this work. I do theatre, I act because it explains the universe to me, and it explains life to me. Theater allows me to get away

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from the 9-5 life, which by the way has not really worked out, theatre life is like 8-12, but it makes you happy, and that makes a difference, so you don't mind. The other thing is that it just keeps me sane, it keeps me settled, and

it keeps me happy to be alive. And given the state of the country, somebody should be happy to be alive.

“ In theatre you are trying to portray a sense of truth and the first truth is that you are on a stage and that people are watching you do something artificial. ”

DSW: What has been the real crux of the workshop you conducted here in School?

VKG: I had a plan, I wanted to talk to the group about the rituals and preparing yourself for theatre, things like your imagination and your emotions. I wanted to talk about actions and clear voice meaning. Every production, we begin by saying that we know nothing, so let's find out. There is a part of theatre that does not rely on skill or talent. If you have talent - good. But there are themes that you can practice. I wanted to share with the boys of Doon a sense of that practice which is the reason why we play games during workshops. Another

reason for playing games is that they are enjoyable and you don't have to get very intellectual when you work with me because the reality is right in front of you. The first reality of theatre is that you are standing on a platform and that there are people watching you. In theatre you are trying to portray a sense of truth and the first truth is that you are on a stage and that people are watching you do something artificial. Some days you're inspired, some days you are not, sometimes you feel like acting, sometimes you don't. But what you can practise is training your body and mind, approaching theatre, choreographing things and deciding what looks good, imagistically, something you can practice without relying on those things. You can make a formation by just looking at physical positions, so that is what I wanted to share with you guys. The practice of theatre may lead you to other things, it may lead you to discovering something else and that is great, and that should be your aim, to find another level of truth. But begin from zero. Generally, you start off with an emotion that is already at another level altogether and you tend to get lost. Being in a theatre group, none of us are trained, many of us have been acting for a long time but, we have trained our self on the job. And that is perfectly fine, you don't need a stamp on a certificate to tell you that you can act. If you practice acting, practice directing, practice writing, then you are good. I saw in your magazine, the editor had written that there are film critics, that there are music lovers, that there are people who write in the magazine, and the fact that you don't shy away from calling yourself writers is good, as you are practicing that work.

DSW: What were your expectations from 'Doscos'? How has your perception changed over the course of the two-day workshop?

VKG: I didn't come to Doon with any preconceived notions. I have heard of the many plays and musicals that have been put up. I wanted to spend time interacting with all the theater enthusiasts in your School. To fulfil this I decided to introduce more group activities. My observations while working with various groups is that students should set time boundaries for better productions. To build good theater and knowledge or to get into character, it is important for actors and production to engage in discussion and indulge in creative thinking. The two groups today, who worked out the formation game, the first two groups who worked out their stuff the quickest, they spent more time building. The other two groups spent more time arguing and planning. I was very impressed by your thinking. I found that you were a very mature group in terms of performance, body language and in team work. The fact that you organise well, listen and respond to each other, that is the kind of respect that is needed. And that at some level is the bone of what you are trying to do. If you can talk, listen and work with each other, after that, its smooth sailing, and the fact that you can do that is great. You may lose your way now and then, but that's fine. If you lose your way, that just means that you are approaching something unfamiliar and that you are trying to move to the next level and the truths you knew were not working anymore and you have to find more truths. That is kind of an exciting phase to be in. And you are proficient to do it.

“ What one can practice is training one's body and mind, approaching theatre, choreographing things and deciding what looks good, imagistically. ”

¡Bienvenida!

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Ms. Mercedes Alonso Garcia, who recently joined the School as a Spanish master.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Please tell us a little bit about yourself and your teaching background.

Mercedes Alonso Garcia (MAG): I'm Spanish, and since 2009, I've been living in Dehradun. Before joining here, I was working at Doon University as a Spanish teacher of M.A Integrated Spanish.

DSW: What prompted you to join The Doon School?

MAG: Honestly, I was searching for a change. Since I shifted to India, I've been doing lots of courses on teaching in schools, especially in international boards such as the University of Cambridge's IGCSE, on which I've done a lot of research. My emphasis is on these kinds of schools and boards, and how to teach Spanish there. So I was searching for this change, and when the opportunity for joining the Doon School came up, I gladly took it.

DSW: What are your hobbies and interests? How do you plan to contribute to School in those areas?

MAG: Well, personally, I love music and reading. I live with music 24/7 but was never able to find the time to learn how to play an instrument, so I don't feel I'll be able to contribute in that field. Reading, I love to read, but there are English teachers here. I will do my best to contribute to whatever is required, and in the Foreign Languages Department. I will also try to contribute to cultural events, holding cultural activities and things like that.

DSW: What is your opinion on the importance of learning foreign languages, especially in a globalized world?

MAG: I think it's very important for the future. Different cultures need to communicate. We all live in one world. The present is very different from the past, when travelling to other countries was less common. There is a phrase in Spanish that says 'The world is like a handkerchief', which means that it is a small world. So nowadays, even in business, we need to communicate. English may be a

common language for many people across the globe, but we need to know the culture of the people we are dealing with. So, from an international relations viewpoint, I think it's very important. In my case, if my parents hadn't made me learn to speak English, I wouldn't have been able to maximize my professional life. I studied my M.B.A from a Welsh university, in English. And then I traveled around a bit, but if I hadn't been given the opportunity to learn English, I wouldn't be here. Knowing someone's language and hence someone's culture is the key to understanding.

DSW: What made you want to teach Spanish in India?

MAG: I have wanted to teach since I was a child. The thing is that the teaching sector in Spain is completely different from that of India. So, until my parent's generation retired, my generation wouldn't get the possibility to teach. Of course, everyone needs to work. By the time that I had to choose my career, I was confused and not sure of what I wanted to do. But I have been teaching in NGOs since the age of 17, so I have been teaching quite a lot. I have always loved the Spanish language in all its aspects, linguistics, aural, grammar, writing, so I started to learn a lot about that, and when I was living in Dublin, I got my first opportunity to teach. Then I got another position at the Instituto Cervantes in Dublin. And then I moved, and started learning Hindi in an academy, and the person told me "Oh, I need a Spanish teacher. Would you like to try?" I jumped at the chance. And then I started teaching at the Instituto Cervantes in Delhi, then later in schools and international boards and now, I'm here with you guys.

| Poetry |

An Insult

Aayush Chowdhry

Waiting for a bus delayed,
The minds of twenty men were frayed.

In came a crippled, aged beggar,
His shirt was torn, eyes hard as cedar

Each gave the man a measly dollar,
Shrewdly, he tugged his collar,

Then wisely smiled at the men, unblinking
Hailed a cab, left them, winking.

A Skewed Morality

Ritvik Khare evaluates both sides of the argument on death penalty.

The ensuing debate over abolishing the death penalty is the liveliest one currently enveloping the Indian polity. The execution of Yakub Memon, a man who was found guilty of providing financial assistance to the perpetrators of the 1993 Mumbai blasts that claimed 350 lives has ignited discussion over the moral justification of death penalty and the old call for its abolishment. In this response, I have reasoned my support for the death penalty and its significance in the modern judicial system.

It is important to note that in India, if not in all countries, the Constitution calls for capital punishment in case of a 'murder', not 'killing' and that too 'in the rarest of cases'. 'Murder' is defined as 'the unlawful and malicious or premeditated killing of one human being by another', whereas 'killing' means to cause death which can be justified in the case of self-defense, and 'execution' which is lawful in nature and not malicious. These terms are not interchangeable, as some abolitionists would claim. Convergence of two actions in their results does not make the actions morally equivalent; if it did, legal imprisonment would find its synonym in kidnapping.

We, for the sake of moving towards a constructive conflict of ideas must realize that a discussion about capital punishment entails the discussion about punishments themselves. Hence, before questioning the point of capital punishment, we must question the point of punishment itself. The philosophy of punishment is categorized into three parts: Retribution, Deterrence and Reform.

Many people who voice their opinions against the death penalty assert that it does not weigh equally on the justice scales and can very well be put under the ambit of revenge. These abolitionists forget that the way to exact 'revenge' would be for the family of the victim to slay one of the family members of the murderer in an attempt to draw a parallel of suffering of a personal loss or executed by the judiciary in the same way that they murdered their victim. The legal system ensures the usage of the quickest and least painful method of execution (Hanging in India, Lethal Injection in USA) as the point of the death penalty is to bring the murderer to justice rather than to re-enact the suffering.

When one dismisses capital punishment as ineffective in deterring future crimes, one questions the concept of punishment itself. Any punishment whatsoever fails to deter future offenders from committing crimes. Death penalty, on the other hand, provides a guarantee that the same criminal would not commit any future crimes. It is illogical to remove capital punishment because it fails to deter murderers just as it would be illogical to remove legal imprisonment just because it fails to deter robbers and thieves. Anyhow, it is impossible to determine the success rate of the detrimental effect of the death penalty (the number of criminals who refrained from committing a murder) but one can assume it's a reasonable amount.

Some abolitionists oppose death penalty on the grounds that legal incarceration allows the criminal to rehabilitate and reform whereas the death penalty does not. Such an argument is a slap on the face of morality that hitherto abolitionists have so zealously claimed to defend. Thieves and robbers cannot be pitted with a murderer in regards of the punishment, simply because a human life is worth much more than a material item. Murderers, if not executed, serve a life imprisonment without the possibility of parole which ensures that they cannot use their reformed self as a constructive element in society. Moreover, the expenses of an incarcerated murderer are paid by the taxpayers' money which could very well be the victim's family's itself, thus skewing its morality.

Some abolitionists claim that killing, in any form, is always wrong. They must also admit, then, that killing in self-defense is wrong and the victim must be punished. Furthermore, they argue that state must not kill; they must also feel that a police officer must be punished for saving a victim's life in an attempted murder. Those who disagree now realize that the question is not if the state is justified but rather when.

One of the main reasons for the opposition of the death penalty is the skewed legal system. Legal justice suffers because of bad precedents, ambiguous legal procedure and legal terminology, and judicial procedure suffers from the politicizing of the issue which presupposes communalization of the same. Volatile sentiments hinge upon the court verdicts that result in the use of demagogue terminology such as "in order to create a Ram Rajya society" and "in consideration of the sentiments of the majority". In such cases, it is not death penalty at fault, but rather the legal system that is in place. Recently, the verdict that acquitted Sreesanth in the spot-fixing scandal stated, "Cricket as a game of skill requires hand-eye coordination for throwing, catching and hitting... The game of cricket, therefore, cannot be held as a game of chance, but as a game of skill which is exempted under Section 12 of Public Gambling Act, from the definition of Gambling". After close scrutiny, one realizes that this verdict has unwittingly legalized gambling in Cricket.

Many a times, incidents such as these fail to invoke a reaction more serious than a post on social networking sites. As future citizens, it becomes our prerogative to stay informed and formulate informed opinions about issues that invariably concern us and affect our very being.

To Leave or Not to Leave

Varun Sehgal writes on the fall of the Greek economy.

When football players begin gifting their agents wedding presents in the form of islands, you can tell that something is wrong. Well, that's exactly what's happening in Greece. Greek islands are now purchasable for as little as 3 million euros. The nearly bankrupt Greek government is so desperate to increase capital inflows that the Greek islands are being sold for the same price as Hollywood houses. And now Greece is in a situation where the so-called Grexit, or leaving the Euro Zone, may just be in everyone's best interests.

Greece had been badly affected when Wall Street crashed back in 2008. A year later, they announced that they had been devaluing their deficit statistics. In 2010, Greece was heading towards bankruptcy. The Troika, comprising the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission then produced the first bailout, totaling nearly 240 billion euros, under the conditions that Greece would increase its taxes and reduce government expenditure. However, the majority of the bailout went into paying loans rather than being put into the economy to increase the money supply. As a result, foreign debt is now at 180% of Greece's GDP and unemployment has risen above 25%.

Economists have been debating over the effect the Greek debt crisis will have on other nations. Most feel that it would adversely affect foreign investors. Since the crisis began, however, most foreign investors have sold their holdings they had in Greece, separating themselves from any possible consequences of the debt situation. This has just further caused deterioration in the money supply within Greece. This has led to much debate about whether Greece should leave the euro zone or not. The argument for them to leave is that they would then have their own monetary policy, and consequently their own currency, which they could devalue in order to increase their exports, thereby diminishing dependence on their imports. This would undoubtedly lead to large amounts of capital flow into the economy, partially solving their problems. This would probably be beneficial for the rest of Europe as well, since they are cutting loose dead weight in a sense.

Even though Grexit seems like the best option for Greece, many feel that they shouldn't leave the Eurozone simply because something like that has never been witnessed before and nobody knows what might happen. It would indeed be highly consequential in the short term. Greece would have to establish a central bank and a currency, most likely the Drachma, deal with the problem of emigration of countless productive Greek citizens who have lost confidence in their government and be spectators to a rapidly rising unemployment rate. But, in the long term the economy would eventually recover.

“ The nearly bankrupt Greek government is so desperate to increase capital inflows that Greek islands are being sold for the same price as Hollywood houses. ”



Around two-thirds of Greece's foreign debt is owed to countries in the euro zone and the euro zone bailout fund, but no payments need to be made on that account until 2023. There have even been talks about extending those deadlines to the middle of this century in order to give Greece the required time to build their economy. However, Greece seems to be in a sticky situation since it has already missed some of the previous deadlines. It is highly unlikely that Greece's creditors, such as the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank would extend their upcoming deadlines which span from now to 2018, requiring a payment of more than 24 billion euros.

To put it simply, Greece is stuck between a rock and a hard place. If the Greeks choose to stay in the euro zone, they aren't going to improve the situation, whereas if they choose to leave, they will enter a period of great economic instability. Clearly, the latter seems to be a better option, even if it means jumping out of the frying pan to enter the fire.

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

"Work that will tax us and strain us, work that will stretch our muscles and engross our minds". Heading into the third week at Chandbagh, many regard the next two months as pure torture, especially for those involved in Founders Day Productions. For some, this is just the beginning, others have lived through the misery. But for all those with such thoughts, there will always be light at the end of the tunnel.

The rain came down heavily this week and many of our lads were seen splashing and sliding about the main field. The hospital staff was not too pleased upon hearing this and luckily our School has not undergone a flu epidemic. Some masters even took it upon themselves to appear on the main field, at the right time, thereby making it all the more memorable for the boys. Let's hope to keep it that way.

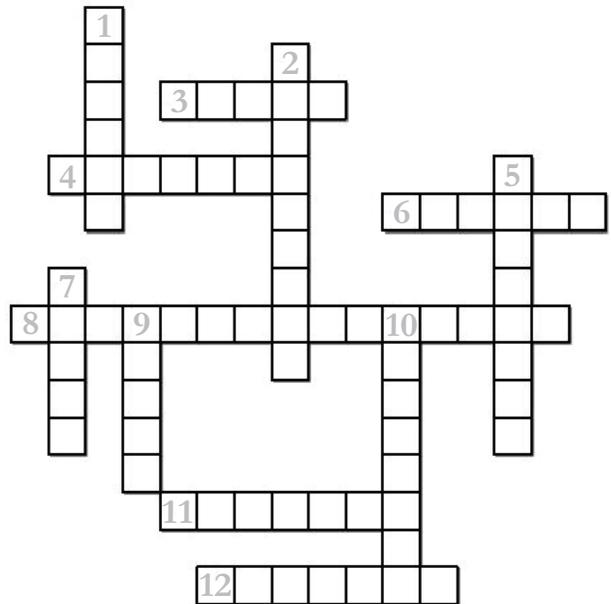
A complete washout was witnessed at the recently concluded WELMUN conference this past week. Every delegate who attended this conference received an award, and our School ultimately took away the Best Delegation trophy. This will certainly be a major boost for us in the run up to our very own conference. As for DSMUN, prior planning and preparation will surely help our Executive Board pull off a successful conference.

Independence Day has a special place in our hearts, and for some reason this holiday has never gone down well with DoscOs. However, this year's community service program will entail cleaning up large parts of the Rose Bowl and the surrounding area, thereby making it all the more interesting for those of us who have never stepped into that area of School.

Our football team heads into its final week before the all important IPSC tournament. A lot of hard work and effort has been put into the training sessions, something that is bound to pay off. We wish the team the best of luck.

Whether it be the inconsistent rain or the 'enlightening' assembly talks, this week has truly shown us the meaning of a complete washout. As the week comes to a close, it only remains for me to wish everyone a very Happy Independence Day.

Crossword



Across

3. He was the first Non-Congress Prime Minister of India.
4. The author of 'Midnight's Children'.
6. This fighter jet was recently purchased by India.
8. He was the last Governor-General of India.
11. This was India's first indigenous nuclear submarine.
12. This was the location of India's first nuclear weapons test.

Down

1. The Revolt of 1857 began in this city.
2. He was the first Indian Officer to be promoted to a five star rank.
5. He was the first President of the Indian National Congress
7. The Special Forces Unit maintained by the Indian Air Force.
9. This is the Indian Army's main battle tank
10. This is where Mahatma Gandhi fasted while boycotting Independence Day celebrations.

Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword:	
Across	Down
1. Desai	1. Meerut
2. Manekshaw	2. Manekshaw
3. Rajagopalachari	3. Banerjee
4. Rafale	4. Garud
5. Arifant	5. Arjun
6. Pokhran	6. Pokhran
7. Garud	7. Garud
8. Arifant	8. Arifant
9. Arjun	9. Arjun
10. Calcutta	10. Calcutta
11. Arifant	11. Arifant
12. Pokhran	12. Pokhran

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