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The Doon School WEEKLY

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The Polluted Capital

Zoraver Mehta writes about the recently tested 'Odd-Even' vehicle scheme in New Delhi

If the state dies, nobody survives.

Traffic was flowing smoothly on New Year's morning, when the roads, if not the air had cleared out. Outer Ring Road in South Delhi, usually jammed at that hour by metro construction and cars, was dotted with free parking spaces! The odd even scheme had begun. There was great enthusiasm, even greater commotion, and yet a peculiar confidence that something new was coming into being. An issue as grave as air pollution, is not some bureaucratic affair but one concerning the lives of our mothers and children.

The High Courts' apt description of Delhi being a 'gas chamber' was finally enough for Arvind Kejriwal's functional government to make some drastic changes to tackle the crucial issue of pollution in the capital. This was to be done by introducing a new scheme popularly known as the 'odd even rule.' While there has been much criticism over the past few months, emissions released by cars are a great source of air pollution and I believe that implementation of a scheme like this is essential.

With 7.5 million cars – many of which are running on old diesel engines – the pollution levels in Delhi are on an imperceptible crescendo. Our capital is quietly suffering from a dire paediatric respiratory crisis, with a recent study showing that half of the city's 4.4 million schoolchildren will grow up with irreversible lung damage from the poisonous air. Beijing has historically drawn international attention when it comes to poor air quality, but in reality, that city's air is nowhere near as dangerous as many of India's major cities. This peril sickens, disables and kills millions of Indians, making for one of the worst public health disasters globally.

The reasons behind the worsening air are manifold: the 8 million vehicles on the roads, the diesel-burning generators and the coal-burning factories around the region are the prime polluters. Most of the vehicles burn diesel and face relatively low emissions standards, consequently belching out tiny clouds of hazardous PM2.5 particles. Of the 4000 tonnes of daily construction debris, the sole processing plant can only process ten percent. The remainder is either littered, or thrown in the river.

Mr Kejriwal's government has declared that it will: shut down coal ash-spewing plants located on Delhi's fringes, crack down on the practice of burning garbage. From next spring it even plans to deploy powerful vacuum cleaners to rid Delhi's roads of dust. The Delhi government has even promised to buy 5,000 extra buses, further strengthening the public transport system. This scheme is to be back on Delhi roads again come 15th April and The Chief Minister said he was "seriously deliberating" on the idea of enforcing the scheme for a fortnight each month.

While these problems need to be solved, the question that rises is whether the Delhi government will be successful in implementing all these solutions? The only way any road rationing system will work is if Delhites allow it to. This would only be possible, if instead of finding loopholes and trying to hoodwink the law, the community thinks positively, and with a collective responsibility to curb pollution. It is this second insuperable obstacle that needs more attention.

This scheme showed over eighty percent compliance proving that the city responded to Kejriwal's "Save the future for our children" appeal. This was also a great experiment in the exercise of democracy. After AAP proposed this scheme, they were politically vulnerable but acted responsibly. Members of opposing parties did say that this scheme is unviable and how this would have a negligible impact on air pollution. The impact is yet unclear, but those fifteen days showed India, what Delhi and democracy is capable of doing together.

Organisations like the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research suggested a mid-week reprieve wherein, instead of commuting to work and school, employees and students could work and study from home for a day. The email set up by the government has also received some interesting suggestions: the permanent implementation of odd-even rationing scheme while exempting cars that have at least three passengers in them. This simple measure alone can promote car sharing, cutting traffic and bringing down both per capita and net pollution.

Much like asbestos dust and industrial air form the most toxic of mixtures; a nation's internal asymmetry and citizens' unwillingness diffuse to form something much worse. Overall, the direction is right, but the roadmap and timeline to getting there needs to be weighed properly.



Regulars

"Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it".
- Charles Swindoll

Cricket

The School **Seniors** and **Mediums** teams played fixtures against **Kasiga School**. The Senior Team played two matches. In the first match the Senior Team won by **eight wickets**. Siddharth Jain took **five wickets** and Viksit Verma took **three wickets**. In the second match, The Senior Team made a total of **139 runs** in **twenty overs**. Udaivir Jaijee made **50 runs** of **45 balls** and Ashwin Agarawal made **49 runs** of **33 balls**. Kabir Kochar took **five wickets**.

In the Mediums Team match, The Mediums Team scored **202 runs** in **30 overs**. Aditya Gupta made **89 runs** and Harshit Aggrawal scored **60 runs**. The Mediums Team won the match by **123 runs**.

Congratulations!

Squash

The School participated in **12th Utrakhand State Squash Championship** held at **Haridwar** from February 13-14, 2016. The School secured the **runner-up** position in **mens' category**. Ishita Bhardwaj and Mayank Sojatia both secured **third position** in the womens' and mens' open category respectively.

Well done!

Appointments

The following boys have been appointed as **Boy-in-Charge** of various activities:

Round Square: Mayank Agarwal

Photography: Ashwath Madhok

English Dramatics: Smayan Sahnii

Student Study Council : Vihan Bhatnagar

Doon School Stock Exchange: Vishesh Khetan

Historical Circle: Vihan Bhatnagar

Congratulations!

Games Blazer

Samarjit Singh has been awarded the **Games Blazer**.

Kudos!

Dramatics Colours

Dramatic Colours have been awarded to Atrey Bhargava and Smayan Sahnii

Keep it up!

Around the World in 80 Words

The JNU protests have reached new levels with groups of lawyers clashing outside the Supreme Court. China has increased tensions in the South China Sea by placing surface-to-air missiles on disputed islands. The visit of the British Defense Secretary to the Falkland Islands is for many a signal for the thaw in near hostile relations with Argentina. Over 100 million people in Africa and Latin America are facing dire circumstances with one of the strongest El Niño weather events ever.

Opinion oll

Would you rather watch 'Dil Dhakne Do' or 'Brothers' ?

Dil Dhakne Do 54%

Brothers 46%

Dil Dhakne Do will be screened tonight.

(380 members of the school community were polled)

Dosco Doodle

Cricket Season

Anirudh Popli



The Sharif Conundrum

Does democracy actually exist in Pakistan?

Point

Arjun Singh

Though it has faced three previous military dictatorships (with suspicion of another *de facto* one currently), the claim that Pakistan's government is truly 'of, by and for the people' does hold ground. The evidence for this claim can be observed from the current political climate and constitutional structure of the country.

Shortly after the resignation of military dictator Pervez Musharraf as President in 2008, the country's legislators elected Asif Ali Zardari as their new head-of-state. It must be pointed out that Musharraf (who seized power through a coup) resigned after the directly-elected parliament initiated impeachment proceedings against him. The fact that a *democratically-elected* government could oust a military-backed dictator through *democratic* means clearly shows which entity reigns supreme in the country. The political system under which this took place remains operational today. Furthermore, Zardari's election as President was as symbolic as the election itself. He is the widower of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, a fierce anti-dictatorship advocate whose father Zulfikar (a former PM himself) was executed during General Zia-ul-Haq's military regime. These late icons were champions of democracy, and the coming of Zardari heralded the desire for the same in a new and liberated Pakistan.

Another point of evidence is the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which restructured the entire government. Passed in 2010, this measure replaced the country's semi-presidential system with a rigid parliamentary system of government (equivalent to India's) and transformed the Presidency into a ceremonial figurehead. The current Prime Minister of Pakistan (who is restricted to two-terms) enjoys greater powers than ever before, most notably that of making government appointments (among them General Raheel Sharif) and chairmanship of the National Security Council, which controls the country's nuclear arsenal and has operational command of the military. These reforms received overwhelming support across Pakistan.

While the country clearly entered a new phase of democracy in 2008, speculation of a '*de facto* military control' over the government surfaced after the popular Army Chief General Raheel Sharif visited the United States last year. Aside from the fact that military commanders of all nations routinely make trips to their counterparts, it must be known that this notion was a subject of 'speculation' by the media, whose record of accuracy and penchant for TRP ratings speak for themselves. The visit, which followed PM Nawaz Sharif's earlier US visit, consisted of meetings related to policy implementation. Meetings with high-ranking officials were short and as per diplomatic protocol. In addition, while the Prime Minister had discussed and approved of these policies at a higher level, it makes perfect sense to have the uniformed-commander return for a follow up visit to iron out the details.

Conclusively, we see that present-day Pakistan's governing structure was unilaterally changed by directly-elected governments with the people's support, a phenomenon that confirms a democracy. It is a young, imperfect yet growing reality. Whether Pakistan has the resolve to continue it and emerge from a tumultuous history is yet to be seen. As always, only time will tell.

Counterpoint

Aryan Chhabra

The recent Pathankot base attacks have left the Indian government with a question that remains unanswered: Whom to deal with in Pakistan. Through this piece I will recount the instances on which the military has wielded more power than Pakistan's democratic structure would allow. This only goes to Pakistan is not really what we call a 'democracy'. Moreover, this essay also gives reasons for the rise in military power which in due course of time overshadow democratic principles.

The increasing military power can be primarily attributed to the circumstances of the partition by the United Kingdom in 1947. Also, within the first decade of its independence, the authoritarian mould of Pakistan's political system was cast, and since then we have witnessed different forms of political and military aggression. Ergo, to understand the reason behind the military's power overruling its democratic structure, it is necessary to go back in history.

The Pakistani army was formed in 1947 – just after partition. There seemed to be certain paranoia within Pakistan regarding the threat from India, the number of soldiers employed was too large and Pakistan found it difficult to control them. What resulted after its creation was political turmoil, which resulted in power being handed to as many as four prime ministers in a period of two years. The quick succession of these ministers fostered the view within the army and public that Pakistani politicians were too weak, unstable and corrupt to govern efficiently. This gave rise to the Pakistani coup d'état in 1958. As a result of this coup, the president of Pakistan was deposed and Pakistan came to be ruled by General Ayub Khan. While this led to even more instability in the region, it established the army's supremacy in politics and matters relating to the government.

The resurgence of this paranoia with regard to India in Pakistan came just months after the end of military rule which led to a coup in 1977 by General Zia. The loss in Kargil war in 1999 caused a coup that gave rise to Pervez Musharraf because of which Nawaz Sharif was forced out of the country. Even now, Raheel Sharif's independent ways have established the army's supremacy in governance. Apart from this, another reason that Pakistan shaped the way for military is the legacy that impacted India and Pakistan. Legacies of the British army like professionalism and aid of civil authorities had a similar effect on both Indian and Pakistani army. However, the British insistence on clear separation of political and military domains was completely eluded by Pakistan.

Though officially Pakistan is a Democratic country, military sets the rules there and controls the government. In short, Pakistan has become easy for the army generals to dominate in the internal affairs, and thus rid Pakistan from a democratic set up leading it to being a *de jure* democracy.

Encomium on Keats

Arnav Bhavanani

1819, 1821

What kind of dreamer
 Envisioned a world
 In which a poet may cease to be,
 Destitute,
 And yet live forever
 Richer than the warmest chest in realms of gold
 The Calcite Sphinx of an age romantic
 The Olympian wight of wonder

Where yet the blood trembled in his chest
 Colder, sharper than the crystal swell
 Where he lay silent with wild, wintry passion
 Tracing the shadows on the shore of the world

Let it be said- he was the dreamer
 A Bold Lover, forever wrought in marble
 His name writ in water
 And his legacy writ in the stars

The Bard of a dying beauty
 Embalmed in lost, lost repose



Under the Scanner

The Arabian Kingpin | Kushagra Kar

In December 2015, Saudi Arabia, along with 34 Arab Nations, announced that they would be working together to establish heavy military presence in Syria. The purpose of the coalition was not only to eradicate ISIS, but also to bring Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, down from his position of power.

Last week, Saudi Arabian General Ahmed Asseri stated that the country was ready to provide any amount of ground troops and support it could provide in the quest to “rid the world of the infection that is Islamic Extremism”. Following this announcement, the coalition began conducting a greater amount of “joint operational military” exercises. The largest numbers of troops being deployed in this 35-nation operation are, from Saudi Arabia itself, despite their ongoing military involvement in Yemen against President Hadi.

So why is Saudi Arabia getting involved in so many crises in the Middle Eastern region?

The answer; Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East, the largest oil exporter in the world and it has the highest GDP in the region and it intends on bettering these statistics. It is speculated that Saudi Arabia intends to not only monopolize international oil trade by appearing to the world as a country worth trading with, hence boosting its economy, but also to replace the United States as the omnipresent military power and watchful 'big brother' in the Middle East.

Besides the surface level reasons for this, many believe that Saudi Arabia is setting up a contingency plan for its economy. Proof regarding this can be seen in the increasing rates of inflation and the dropping oil prices. With a monopoly over international oil trade, the Saudi Arabian economy would be

able to sustain itself with no problem, even while other countries would be suffering an economic crisis.

To conclude, regardless of the ulterior motives that I have alluded to over the course of this article, I find it appropriate that a Middle Eastern country is taking steps towards restoring order in the region. At the risk of sounding hypocritical, the Middle East has relied on the US for too long. Even if what Saudi Arabia is doing is for alternative purposes, at least it is relieving the region of its dependency on the super power.

D-Sc Form

Aviral Kumar

The first day of D-Form Spring Term, for us was a day when the wonders of The Doon School campus were opened to us, but also the day of our first farewell. For us, it marks a day when we felt the absence of our parents for the first time, when we felt homesick and burst into tears, but for others, specifically for the SCs', it has become so much more. It has become the day that marks the starting point of the beautiful journey from D to SC, a transformation from a young seed ready to explore the world around him and into a great and majestic tree that can only grow taller and reach even greater heights. Because when you think about it, the D-Form first term is all about pushing yourself through those first few nights, to adapt to this new environment, and when that happens, the days fly by so fast that you don't even realize that you've become an SC. They say the grass is always greener on the other side, and that is exactly the case with us and the SC- Formers. It is quite ironic actually, we look up to the SC's in awe of their skills and the authority and respect they hold. In turn, the SC's look down on us, and see what they once were, carefree juniors enjoying their lives, with no worries about college applications or our place in the future. In my opinion, we are more lucky, because in our life there is no looking back, only the future, only the determination to become someone in this School and one day the world. There are no memories of School at that time, nothing to make you smile but just as easily bring a tear to your eye. If I were to ask people which SC batch they would consider the most important, many would say the batch one year senior to them, as it is them who pass down the mantle to their own batch, others would say their own SC batch, because obviously, it is your own. If someone would ask that question to me however, I would answer the SC batch when I was in D-Form. This is because they are the first, the first batch we see accomplishing those feats, the first batch we see as prefects and captains, and thus they are templates, templates on who we judge all the subsequent SC batches. That is why these *Doscos* will remain with me throughout my School life and even beyond, because they are the people with whom I will use to measure all those who succeed them, maybe someday even me.

I am excited to spend time with my parents once more, to return and live in my main house like my father before me, but that excitement comes with the sadness of watching the SC's leave, and the realization that one day, I will be in their place. For now, I can only feel disheartened at the departure of these *Doscos*, but perhaps when that day comes, I will look back to this article, and see whether I was right or wrong.

A Second Revolution

Devang Laddha, *drawing from China, writes on the need for Easternization in the world today*

For the past few decades the world as a whole has been swept through a phase of Westernization, a phase in which one culture has crept in and embedded itself in all cultures of the world. Western ideals have become something that every culture has started to look up to and incorporate within itself. However, while all that has happened, one culture in itself has been forgotten, a culture which has transformed an entire country into a superpower, a simply put formula for success; the culture of China.

China as a country has been able to outshine all the Western countries in the past few decades. It has been able to consistently progress at rates that have stunned everyone, and simultaneously create a great surplus of money, something even the United States of America has not been able to accomplish. However, what very few people understand and acknowledge is that one of the major reasons for China's economic success and supremacy has been something that lies at the fundamental core of its identity, its culture.



The Chinese culture has been able to achieve success and lead China and its people for largely three main reasons. The first has been the values it teaches its people, something that has long since been instilled in the people. The values of hard work and dedication which the culture teaches have helped make the environment in China economically conducive as it helps people focus on working. The people also focus on working not only due to their values but also in order to provide for their family, which is also considered very important by the society. The second reason which has helped fuel the growth of in China has surprisingly, been the authoritative regime. The authoritative regime has made the people learn to obey their superiors, which in turn has helped grow manufacturing industries around the country where a lot of manual labor and low skill work is required. Obeying superiors is something that is very important in these industries and the authoritative regime has helped fuel that. The third reason for the growth has been the motivation of the people to work. The people of China suffered through a lot of poverty and economic instability during the mid-20th century. Those circumstances have made people hold economic prosperity very high and have motivated people to promote growth rather than their liberty, the direct opposite of the United States, whose ideals we have begun to fThe biggest reason for the effectiveness of the Chinese culture has been its strength to extend to the most basic unit of society, the family. Beginning from the foundation has shaped the society has led to stability. Stability is the key result required. This has also led to the country depicting their cultural features, something we still haven't noticed. The Chinese's philosophy to provide for their own has also let the country make economically viable relationships in the global market, even between the countries with the most strained relationships. The United States has been China's largest importer while, the Russian Federation has shared its large borders with China. Hence, their values have made them work out things even in the toughest of situations.

However, despite the brutal efficiency and work ethic of the Chinese that has gotten them success, their culture also does have flaws. The authoritative culture of the country has taught people only to obey and thus the culture to innovate and thinking on your feet is something that the Chinese are not taught and lack in. This is something the West has been able to achieve and teach us. Also, the Chinese culture lays out a very high demand from every person which causes a lot of stress among the people. This high stress causing environment of China while helpful in certain aspects, as it economically drives people, also has a negative effect of people as it can break people and strain their interactions. Thereby affects the entire structure of the society.

Thus, today the Chinese culture too, is not perfect. However, despite all its faults, the Chinese have been doing something that has been getting them success for the past few decades. Thus, their ideals of efficiency have paid off. Therefore today, when we have been so accepting to the western cultures and have incorporated them in our culture to the extent of even celebrating their festivals, we might as well look at our neighbors, who are beating the West, and incorporate some of their beneficial ideals. The ideals of efficiency and motivation are certainly required in our country, and even in the world. Today although we look to the West as our guide to success we should consider looking towards East and start a new phase of development and progress. The phase of Easternization

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

There were certain changes noticed this week in our classrooms. Boys found themselves paying more attention and were actively involved during classes they dreaded, as there was no time to breathe. As for our teachers, there was a sudden change in the way classes were conducted, something that is bound to have impressed the observers. The dirt was dusted of the projectors, and all tools and methods of education were utilised this past week.

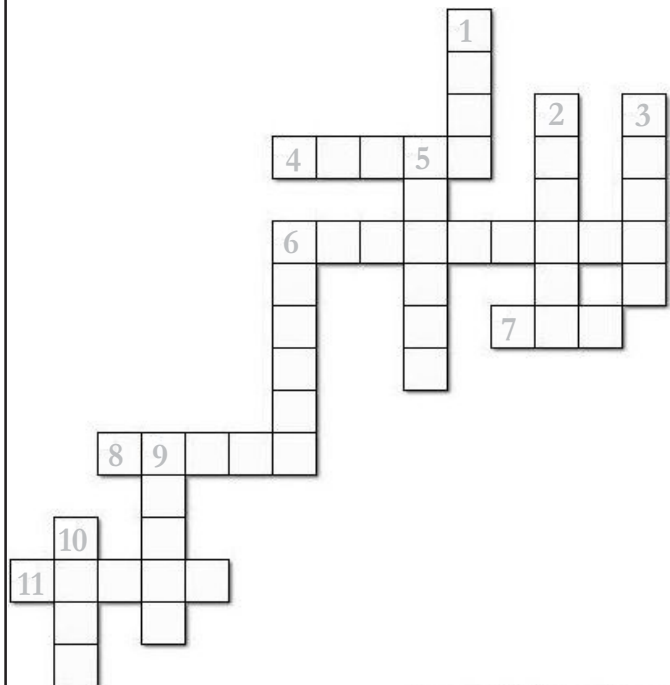
The first half of the Inter House Cricket Competition kicked off this week. The field was dotted with senior players, all in their whites, all ready to take on the challenges of the game and bring out the "gentleman" in cricket as a mark of sportsmanship. Although the teams get very little time to practice the boys never fail to entertain us with a good standard of cricket. One can only wait and see what the rest of the competition has in store for us.

Assembly talks that took place mid-week reminded us to maintain strict dietary plans and to be aware of what we eat. One of the things that we have learnt through our years in School is that wherever we go, there will be people who remind everyone about the detrimental effects of eating 'animals'. We can only listen to them and think of the lucky majority of us who enjoy the 'better side of life', when it comes to food. House Feasts are always a time for us to celebrate and rejoice. The first House Feast of the year, however is a sentimental one as the SC leavers bid farewell to the school and house after 6 long years. There is something that brings the House alive during the long winter that wears us out right from the very first day.

The weather has taken a turn. Many have been coughing and complaints of sore throats and the flu. Several unfortunate individuals turn up under dressed for the early morning PT: keep calm and stay warm. The library is frequently visited during the day not only for the peace and quiet or for the joys of reading but also for the warmth that they feel within its walls. Looking forward to the next week and wishing all the ISC students good luck as they start their exams.

Crossword

Mythology



Across:

- 4. He betrayed Jesus to Sanhedrin for thirty silver coins.
- 6. Greek God Hephaestus' wife.
- 7. Wife of Thor in Norse mythology.
- 8. God of doorways and transitions in Greek mythology.
- 11. Patron of Rome and Goddess of home and hearth in Roman mythology.

Down:

- 1. The belligerent God who is the patron of Amazons in Greek mythology.
- 2. The only woman incarnation of Vishnu in Indian mythology.
- 3. A creature made out of clay in Jewish mythology in which life has been injected with magical means.
- 5. Islamic angel of death.
- 6. Egyptian God of death
- 9. Mother of Devas in Indian Mythology
- 10. Egyptian God of chaos.

Answers to This Week's Crossword:	Across:
4. Judas	1. Ares
6. Aphrodite	2. Mohini
7. Sif	3. Golem
8. Janus	5. Azrael
11. Vesta	6. Anubis
Down:	9. Aditi
1. Ares	10. Seth

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

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