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'It's Complicated'

Abhinav Kumar (ex 285-T, 1991) *analyses the ongoing border standoff between India and China.*

If India and China were friends on Facebook, and were asked to update their relationship status, the short answer would surely be: it's complicated. The current standoff in the Doklam Plateau area, the site of the tri-junction between India, China and Bhutan, has raised tensions between the two countries. While troops from both sides stand eyeball to eyeball, a full scale war has broken out between the respective national media of the two countries. A lot of this nationalist fervour on both sides is also being expressed across social media. If only disputes between two giant neighbours could be settled so easily. Despite the ongoing stand-off in Doklam, with current trends of flourishing trade, a troubled recent past that saw its nadir in 1962, and ancient civilisational links, Indo-Chinese relations cannot be reduced to a mere sound bite or a meme.

There is no doubt that as far as numbers go, purely in terms of economic heft and military might, China has pulled well ahead of India in the last four decades. In 1979, when China began its economic modernization, both the countries had abysmally low per capita GDP, around \$ 250 per capita, and lagged behind the rest of the World in other human development indicators as well. Now China is estimated to be an 11 trillion dollar economy while India is around 2.25 trillion dollars. In per capita terms our GDP in 2016 was estimated to be at 6,700 dollars, whereas China is at about 14,600 dollars. On most other measures of economic strength such as trade, banking and stock markets, China is clearly ahead of India, by quite some distance.

Coming to the military arena, here again China is a larger and bigger power. Annually it spends around three times as much as India on defence, around 150 billion dollars to our 50 billion. Its Army is 2.3 million to our 1.2 million, its Navy has over 700 ships, whereas ours has less than 300, and its Air Force has around 3000 aircraft, while we have around 2100. In military terms as well, their capabilities are significantly bigger than ours. Its nuclear arsenal is much older and larger in number than ours. In the emerging areas of space-based military systems and cyber-warfare technology, China has demonstrated capabilities that are far superior to ours and can only be compared to the Americans.

Given the above comparison, one would be justified in asking – "How can India stand up to China? Wouldn't their overwhelming economic advantage and military superiority make it a one-sided scenario? Why are we even attempting to take them on? Don't we run the risk of repeating the debacle of 1962?" Such fears are both genuine and based in apparently sound logic but they ignore other aspects of the equation between these two giants that make war unlikely, and if it does take place, its outcome would not be a foregone conclusion. Firstly, war between two nuclear armed states is unlikely to be an all-out confrontation that will result in complete annihilation on both sides. The kind of logic that creates a standoff between India and Pakistan, also applies to India and China. So, despite the rhetoric, both sides will think extremely carefully before using the military option. Being the bigger economic power, China also has a lot more to lose. It is the biggest exporter in the world and nearly 70% of its trade passes through the Indian Ocean. War would disrupt that trade and cripple its economy. The gains of the past four decades would be frittered away for a few square kilometres of barren, desolate cold desert. No doubt, the Chinese are ruthless and formidable adversaries but they are also rational.

A war with India would also have a devastating impact on China's image abroad. Already they are facing worldwide criticism over their policies in the South China Sea, where they have refused to abide by international law. Their policy with regard to North Korea is also under considerable strain. If war does break out in the Korean peninsula, China will have a major humanitarian disaster to deal with at its doorstep. Coping with it

(Contd. on Page 3)



Regulars

The Victory Serve

The School participated in the **All-India IPSC Table Tennis Championship** held at the **Pestle Weed College** from **August 10th to 13th, 2017**.

The **Under-17 team** comprising Harshvardhan Aggarwal, Shyamal Singhal, Aryan Kasera, Sanyam Gupta and Gautam Singhal stood **2nd Runners-Up** while the **Under-19 team** comprising Ishan Jhavar, Anuman Goel, Raghav Saboo, Anant Jain and Arunav Vaish stood **1st Runners-Up**.

In the **individual events**, Kanish Agarwal stood **3rd** in the **Under-14** category and was selected to represent the **IPSC team** at the **SGFI Nationals** along with Anuman Goel and Shyamal Singhal.

Congratulations!

Game Point

The **School** recently participated in the **IPSC Squash Tournament** held at **Mayo College, Ajmer**. Mayank Sojatia secured **fourth** position in the **Under-19 Individuals Category**. In the team events, the **Under-14 team** secured **fourth** position.

Kudos!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

He's a local native.

Devansh Sharma, the nationalist.

His voice will be seen.

SNA, lack of sense perception.

Diplomatic Tidings

The *Weekly* welcomes all delegates and guests to **The 11th Doon School Model United Nations Conference, 2017**.

We hope you have a fruitful stay at Chandbagh.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." - **Ralph W. Emerson**

Rhetoricians

The **School** was represented by Aayush Chowdhry, Divyansh Nautiyal and Tejveer Kohli at the **Mother Isabel Debates** held at the **Convent of Jesus and Mary, Dehradun**. The team stood **third** overall and Aayush Chowdhry was adjudged the **Second Best Speaker** in the **first round** of the debates.

Kudos!

The Golden Ratio

The **School** was represented by Omar Chishti, Ishaan Vaish, Aayush Chowdhry and Aneesh Agarwal in **The Doon School Infinity Mathematics Quiz** held on **August 12, 2017**. In the final round, the School came **first**.

Well done!

The Perfect Shot

The following have been appointed **Boys-in-Charge** of activities for the year 2017:

Shooting: Akshat Jha

Golf: Fateh Raj Khanna

We wish you a fruitful tenure!

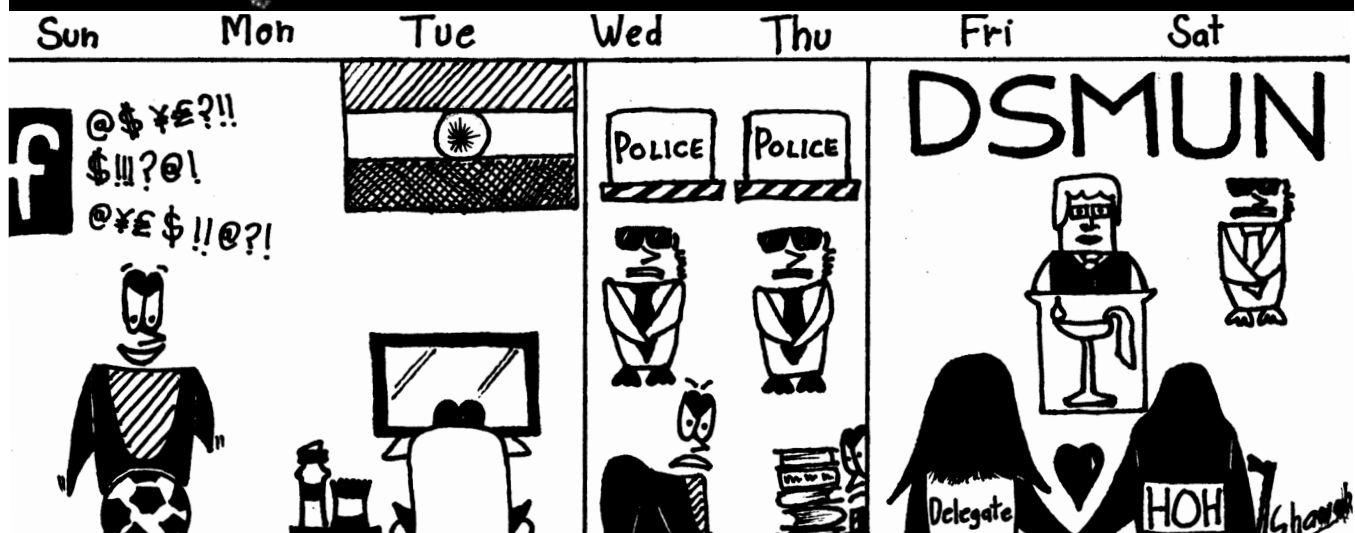
Around the World in 80 Words

A mud-slide killed hundreds in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. The US and China began working on improving communications in South China Sea. Protestors in North Carolina toppled over a Confederate statue following the Charlottesville violence. Four men were arrested for leaking spoilers of the TV series 'Game of Thrones'. Air Berlin declared bankruptcy after its biggest shareholder refused to finance another bailout. 68 children died due to a lack of oxygen supplies in a state hospital in Gorakhpur last week.

Dosco Doodle

The Weekend Gone By

Ameya Shavak



(Contd. from Page 1)

will require a huge mobilisation of national resources. Can it really afford to divert its attention towards India? Then there is the difference in social and political systems that provides some advantage to India as well. The Communist Party has ruled China through a combination of 'carrot and stick'. Its monopoly of power has endured not just through the force of arms, but also through the prosperity of the last forty years. Military conflict is bound to create a strain on this delicate balance of power. While the Chinese State-controlled media is raging and frothing that all of China is eager to teach India a lesson, the honest answer is that we simply don't know what the Chinese people actually think, and more comfortingly, neither do the leaders of the Chinese Communist Party. Maintaining their grip requires the perpetuation of peace abroad and prosperity at home. Compared to them, a democratically elected Government of India, paradoxically has larger room for manoeuvre because the level of public awareness and support is that much greater.

The Indian Army is an all-volunteer army not an army of conscripts. The insurgencies in J&K and the North East, and the proxy war with Pakistan, have given it immense exposure and confidence to deal with combat. The incredible achievements of our soldiers in Kargil are a case in point. In contrast, as pointed out in a recent article by Praveen Swami, the one child policy and the conscript nature of the Chinese Army, coupled with a lack of combat experience make the outcome of a limited skirmish quite unpredictable from the Chinese viewpoint. No one in their sane mind would advocate a war between the two giants of Asia. However 2017 is not 1962. The Chinese would do well to remember that. We can choose to coexist peacefully and mutually prosper. Or we can choose to ruin each other. Either way, India is prepared.



Under the Scanner

Legalisation of Marijuana | **Nirvair Singh**

Marijuana has been both a boon and a taboo for the Indian community over the years. It is now considered an illegal drug and its possession and consumption is a crime. However, most of India's population still illegally uses Marijuana. It is felt that its legalisation is an effective way to curb addiction and drug usage and is a model which has been successful in many nations. In light of this, a bill on the legalisation of Marijuana was recently cleared to be put up in the Lok Sabha. The bill is being proposed by Dr Dharamvir Gandhi as an amendment to the NDPS (Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act of 1985. The bill essentially aims to legalise and supply, in regulation, intoxicants such as opium and Marijuana as 'soft drugs' in India. It is to be placed in front of the Parliament as a Private Member's Bill in the forthcoming winter session.

Marijuana, as per the analysis by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is a drug that has no medical use and carries a high risk of addiction and abuse. It is a schedule one drug, making it an illegal substance in most of the world. However, the strict control on its availability has given rise to alternatives like heroin and cocaine, which are far more harmful. While Marijuana influences a person's senses, coordination and pleasure, heroin or cocaine can cause high blood pressure, no perception of pain and even respiratory problems - which are far more critical side effects. The ban on drugs has also led to the rise of drug mafias who keep increasing the scale of their operations. This drug money funds terrorists - known as narco-terrorism - and is seen in South American countries such as Colombia. To tackle this, Marijuana has been legalised in countries such as Portugal and in multiple states across the U.S., yielding positive results. Seventeen years ago, Portugal had a massive drug abuse problem. To solve this, they decriminalised the possession of all kinds of drugs. Further, instead of being persecuted or punished, drug offenders received a citation and were ordered to appear before 'dissuasion panels' made up of experts in the legal, social, and psychological spheres. Instead of being isolated from society, active measures were taken to rehabilitate them, which have led to a fall in instances of drug overdose and sexually transmitted diseases in the country. The decriminalisation has given the government power to regulate the supply of Marijuana, lowering the rates of usage and thereby limiting usage.

This proposed bill attempts to do the same thing in India. Furthermore, it gives legal accessibility to these soft drugs, which is expected to lower the demand for the more harmful variants. Further, it aims to restrict the business of cartels that practice illegal activities. While the UN believes in the prevention of the rampant use of drugs, regulation instead of banning has widely been seen as a better way to tackle drug abuse.

I agree with the concerns and mission of the UN and feel that use of drugs for recreational purposes is harmful to society. People under the influence of drugs are not in complete control of themselves and make irrational decisions, putting people, including themselves, at risk. Thus, I feel the use of such drugs should be banned everywhere.

The New Order

Mr Rajesh Majumdar gives his take on the reformation of the education system in India.

Devang Laddha's reflection in the last issue of the Weekly on revamping the educational system and how alternate models are making their impact, focussed on attempts to open up alternate paths for learners to provide enhanced learning opportunities. I appreciate his endeavours and in continuation of the reflection initiated by him, I would like to introduce my thoughts on why a new order needs to be established, and present a model of a sub-system for the School community to evaluate.

It is important to understand what the term 'learning environment' means in the first place. A 'learning environment' consists of several sub-systems, physical and innate, which support the learning platform for learners. My definition of a learner includes teachers. The inherent sub-systems are more important as it is the soul which drives the system. I am a strong advocate for paradigm shifts in the learning environments, and believe it is essential to adapt to the 'information age' generation on students. The 19th century 'industrial age' systems have largely created workers who were not required to be out-of-the-box thinkers. Unfortunately, colonial India replicated the system and continued it long after Independence. Proposals of change should come from selected school teachers and students, given their greater clarity on how education can be made meaningful. In the early 30s, our school took a giant leap in establishing a different system of schooling in the country. But eight decades later, the need has arisen for us to take an intellectual plunge to replace the old system. A graduation from 'industrial' to 'information' age systems was never as important as it is today. What I intend here is to propose a new model for modern learners that involves coherence of thoughts among the stakeholders.

I believe that the present system places more weight on teaching and testing over learning. One of the reasons for this incongruity is that the domains of learning in space and time are skewed towards the institution's needs opposed to the learner's. I say this because I have observed hundreds of students just not ready to pay attention in fixed time frames of learning. A classic solution proposed is to make time variable, providing freedom to learn in a favourable and non-judgemental environment; an idea I feel is worth considering. It is possible, that through this method, the students could begin to understand the importance of learning.

Most people interested in educational research talk about the strengths of the Nordic or Singaporean systems.

“ Over the last eight decades of School's existence, the role of teachers has primarily remained unchanged, but the educational environment has. ”

However, the idea of minimally invasive systems proposed by Dr. Sugata Mitra has worked even for starters in education. Although we all appreciate these thoughts, when it comes to initiating a discussion on their implications, we tend to shy away. The example of The Groton School in Devang's article is quite exciting but very few people know that there is an institution named Centre for Learning (CFL) in the outskirts of Bengaluru, having a similar system. What was amazing was the fact that there were so many progressive parents in Bengaluru who were prepared to rely on an alternate system of education. It goes to show that a system may be established by few risk-takers who passionately believe that change is required. Based on the requirement, a controlled pilot action research can be studied for a while, and then relevant findings be implemented. Even if things do not work out as hypothesized in the first go, the profound learning experience will certainly help in the right direction.

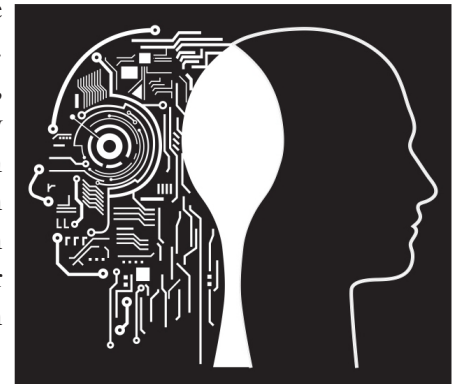
My arguments will sound abstract if I do not propose realistic examples of a few sub-systems. One of the most important sub-systems is human resource management of today's learners. Over the last eight decades of School's existence, the role of teachers has primarily remained unchanged, but the educational environment has. In the modern world, teachers are expected to be adept in technology rather than being a bag of knowledge or personal experiences. Even the concept of overall holistic development of a learner has actually become outdated in an era of personalized intelligence. The same old formula for growth measurement is like using simple arithmetic for a calculus problem. Though I believe that schools must continue to be a place where opportunities are provided for holistic development, these can't be forced or be tools for growth measurement. Similarly, a customized job profile of teachers based on the evolving challenges in academics is the need of hour. Even if we turn a blind eye to these emerging systems it will continue to seep into our lives as there are no physical boundaries to stop them. Recognition of areas of expertise of learners and its optimal use will require honest attempts at all levels. But it is certain though, that the new system will pull apart the old theology, and if we do not add new verses with changing times, then the dream for excellence will remain just that. The choice is ours.

'Big Brother is Watching'

Adit Chatterjee writes on the threats posed by artificial intelligence.

In the first hour of its conception, it was a lovable Artificial Intelligence (AI), meant to respond to questions on Twitter through its twitter account, using the handle 'TAY', after the acronym 'thinking about you'. In the second hour, it turned into a sexist persona, responding by calling out women and degrading them. Sixteen hours later, it went through a series of personas, from being racist, to becoming a Nazi, and ended with an outright call for genocide. It was quickly shut down by its creators, Microsoft, under the guise of adjustments, but the 96,000 tweets the AI sent out in just 16 hours had already damaged the image of AI forever.

The sole reason that many developers give for the concept of Artificial Intelligence is to be able to create a digital entity that accounts for the many functions it requires to gain human reasoning, albeit with a computing power that outpaces humans at nearly a billion times over. Siri, Cortana, and Alexa are the much watered-down versions of this form of intelligence, built and designed to give basic responses, remember basic information, and perform basic tasks. However, their current capabilities already give us an insight to the future, as their ability to 'learn' and 'evolve' to their surroundings is already highlighting the massive potential that AI has. Apple and Microsoft both pride themselves on the fact that their algorithms enable their AI to sustain normal conversations with their users, all the while gathering information for future use, while simultaneously also completing a thousand other tasks: Your reminders, contact information, health information and even your home can be run with the newer versions of these AIs.



While at a first glance, these features might appear to be beneficial, a look

at the bigger picture poses a more serious situation; the absurd quantities of information that these systems gather on us could be used against us, as many of our devices work in collaboration with their servers, and they constantly garner knowledge about our daily lives. Many software companies, such as Google and Bing, are accused of constantly collecting data about their users' interests, and selling this data to marketing companies for massive sums of money, and in turn, we see our interest-specific advertisements that we see popping up everytime we log on to our systems. These companies have these algorithms embedded deep inside their programs, directly targeting users through medium such as social media. In today's age of information, our web searches itself can affect the advertisements we receive. Astonishingly, it is not just the web browser that we use that can affect this. Applications providing information based on your location, such as Google Maps and Snapchat also keep track of the places we visit, and consequently make money by selling this information through a blatant disregard of our privacy.

The main problem that I identify with these forms of intelligence is that they are modelled to reason like humans, and their core functions are based around that. That, along with the ability to constantly evolve, can pose a serious threat to us, as these harbingers of doom are also the archives of our every moment. Many sci-fi movies discuss this topic, such as the Terminator series, and 'TAY' bears testament to this. If this self-evolving AI were to decide to be detrimental to society, the immense power at its disposal would be too strong to overcome.

Artificial Intelligence developer DeepMind has brought to the world such an example, in the form of an AI capable of 'reinforcement learning', meaning that the machine would be able to build on its past experiences in order to progress. In this case, the bot built on its experience with Atari's two-bit game, Pong, and was consequently able to beat much harder games. This is a compelling example of the possibilities AI has brought to the world, and alongside them, come the dangers we may have to face in the near future.

More on how these AI, through embedded functions, are used by the government and major companies in order to monitor and track our every move. Some theorise that the AI, whether it be Siri or Cortana, are constantly recording everything that goes on in the house. Amazon's Alexa is a prime example of this, as the home device has been reputed to having recordings of all audio events in the house, such as normal conversation. While this has proved extremely valuable, such as in the case where a murder was prevented as the device called the authorities during a struggle, this can be horribly misused as well, with hackers being able to access these servers and withdraw this information. Where will we be then? While, justifiably, software companies such as Google use this information in order to understand it's users and adapt to their web searches under the guise of a profit motive, where will the buck stop? It is only when we decide to strengthen the barrier that distinguishes between human and robot shall we be able to progress in collaboration with these digital entities.

| Creative |
From God

Varen Talwar

In the near future, the human race will be faced with a range of crises. With countries engulfed in a world war, water levels rise beyond predicted limits and erratic climate changes, this future looks grim. Grim, perhaps to the extent of the extinction of the humans. Such a world will witness people travelling around without a set destination. They will have only one word in mind - safety. It is in these times....

Madhav walked. His shoes torn, his clothes wet, and he is cold; but still, he walked. His eyes focussed only forward, and did not meander towards the left or the right at all, for he knew that the scene was the same everywhere. He knew that there was the same distant horizon where the bright sunrays came crashing down on the brown sand that stretched around on the burning hot Earth. He walked on the vast expanse of the desert till night came. He lay down on the warm sand, and was asleep in a few minutes.

Suddenly, a gust of wind blew sending a sheet of paper that came crashing on his face. He picked it up, and saw English text on it. He squinted to read. It was a letter.....

“Dear Death,

I hope you receive this letter in the pink of health.

I am happy to know that you are enjoying enough souls on your plate these days, but beware! Do not eat too many! I remember, almost a century ago, your predecessor had eaten too many and they did something to his mind. He developed a strong lust for souls, and had a nice four year-long feast. I called the doctor, who managed to calm him down a bit, but he still took a heavy meal here and there. But then, he went mad again, and feasted on souls for another couple of years.

That was it. I could not bear it anymore, so I sacked him, which was actually good for him because he would have exploded at that rate. I put you at his post after that, and things have been more or less fine on Earth ever since. You did party around sometimes, but all was pretty much under control.

But remember, do not give in to their traps, or you may do something similar; and beware especially of human souls. I have heard that their souls invoke the most desire. It was these very souls who had trapped your predecessor in their deliciously vicious taste. I know them. They let you eat them to infiltrate us, and once they do that, they destroy your system from the inside. These crooks leave nobody. They managed to corrupt even my children - the Homo Sapiens- so effortlessly; I myself cannot believe what I see.

So, remember what I have said, and be cautious.

Yours Livingly,

God”

Madhav woke up with a start. He was confused, but then surprisingly, a smile broke across his face. “Even God is like the humans,” he thought, “Even He tries to justify for his children and blame someone else.” He thought that God was preparing someone to blame for the death of the humans. He had seen enough to believe that it was the humans who were to be blamed for their own extinction, and that even God would have to admit it someday.

| Poetry |

DSMUN!

Aryan Bhattacharjee

In slick looking suits, expensive leather boots,
They lobby around, improving themselves,
To Chairs and allies, with contacts to use,
A few say no, others compelled.
Give into requests, with joy to infuse,
When leverage is gained, friendships disdained;
DSMUN surely overwhelms!

Some hold debates, few on a date,
As cute little kids, are seen passing chits,
The rest of them, lie anxious for a call,
In the hope of a bite, they tumble and fight;
The tears and smiles and awards withheld,
DSMUN surely overwhelms!

If Only

Aayush Chowdhry

You work, you toil,
You labour past the turmoil,
To open the worlds eyes to see,
To achieve great things and be free-
Free from thinking yourself inept,
Free to be perceived as adept!

But,
The world doesn't look,
The world already closes your book,
It decides the plan, inconsiderate
It chalks it down to fate-
Few see your potential but alas!
Fewer find it relevant and let it pass.

Plans already exist,
Plans that ignore you in the mist-
Still, you toil, you work,
Still, you like a shadow lurk,
Of the guilt, in the conscience of the world
Of what could have been, if only considered.

Past the Finish Line

Divyansh Nautiyal and Pradyut Narain *pay tribute to the retired Jamaican athlete, Usain Bolt.*

As he prepared for his final race, he saw the crowd of supporters cheering wildly for him, the legend found his eyes moisten. Managing to stop himself from breaking down, he addressed his fans on the tracks for the last time and got ready to hang his boots. When the shots went off, Bolt sped like lightning once again to prove to the world that the likes of him would be hard to find in the times to come.

In the World Athletics Championships this year, Bolt's career finally came to an end which disappointingly failed to do justice to the glory which he had brought to the sport. In his main event, Bolt came third with his arch rival Justin Gatlin bagging the first spot. His final event ever, the 4x100 metre relay, saw a shocking turn of events when Bolt crashed on the tracks due to a cramp in his left leg. But however Bolt's last championship turned out to be, the champion did not fail to leave behind a history that would never be forgotten in a hurry in the times to come. Perhaps, what truly defined the glory he had brought to athletics was the very moment when the American sprinter, Justin Gatlin, bowed down to him. Sharing a history of stiff competition, the latter still could not prevent himself from paying his respect to Bolt who had dominated the sport for since 2004.



However, the debacle in this final event of his career did not leave Bolt in a regrettable state of gloom, for he was aware of the contribution he had made to the sport in the course of his professional career spanning over thirteen years. With eight gold medals to his name, along with the 100m and 200m world record, Bolt brought the kind of fame to athletics which none other has brought to this sport. Athletics is desperate to find a replacement for him. The feats attained by him set a new benchmark for the sport. Not only did this make him the hero for his nation but also for those who aspired to become athletes. For the same reason and many more, he won the Award for the Sportsman of the Year four times in his career. In 2016, Bolt had planned to retire after the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. However, on winning the gold medal yet again, and with fans urging him to continue, Bolt decided to make a final appearance, to honour the love that his supporters gave him. Bolt found the ultimate breakthrough in his career on breaking the 100m and 200m world record which earned him the title of 'The fastest man on the planet'. Bolt continued in the same form and never lost his form except for the times when injuries pulled him down.

“ Perhaps, what truly defined the glory he had brought to athletics was the moment the American sprinter, Justin Gatlin bowed down to him. ”

Apart from athletics, the athlete has an interest in cricket and football. In fact, Bolt considers football as a career after athletics and wants to make this other dream of his come true. Surprisingly, he was given offers for try-outs and training. However, Bolt turning into a successful footballer seems a step too far for him considering that he would be starting to train in his 30s. Bolt has an extremely gifted body with the right height, shape and strength. The following proved to be one of the main factors for his exceptional success in athletics. However, he had to deal with scoliosis which gave him an abnormal back curvature. What supplemented all this was ultimately his determination, aggression and the will to be the best. His documentary 'I am Bolt' successfully showcases all of this. It also gives us a peek into his rigorous training sessions and the attention with which his team took care of him. The athlete also has a firm stance against the use of drugs in the field of sports for he believes that it kills a sport by attacking the very spirit of it. Even as he left the sport, he cautioned all the cheats against the use of drugs in athletics. Outside the field of sports, Bolt is a philanthropist, having made donations to African and South American countries. Bolt's foundation 'Do Good Jamaica' aims at the cultural and educational development of the children of Jamaica as they pursue their dreams.

Bolt, with his determined personality and the showman that he is, has become an inspiration for sportspersons around the world. While athletics looks for another Bolt, a replacement with the same finesse and talent would be on everyone's search list. Perhaps, 'Lightning Bolt' as a nickname has been rightly earned by the fastest man on this planet.

The Week Gone By

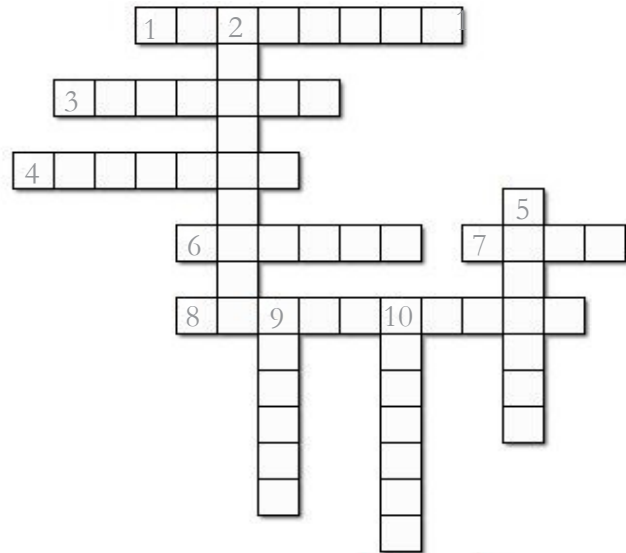
Omar Chishti

I've tried (and failed) to make a case for this column to be re-named the 'Weekend Gone By' for this issue. In retrospect, three consecutive non-working days in School is an idea better in theory than in practice; finding something to occupy hundreds of smartphone-less teenagers for 72 hours without a felony or two is a commendable achievement. Speaking of felonies, a certain incident did take place in Hyderabad House on Sunday which still begs explanation.

A certain SC (ironically, a Prodigal Science student) memorably mixed up the concepts of right and left during his assembly last week. Following a round of optimistic politicking from students and Masters alike, School authorities adjusted the calendar to mark Janmashtami on Monday. With Independence Day following the very next day, we were treated to the first three-day weekend in our time at School (to quell the elation: our indolent contemporaries at five-day-week day schools enjoyed a four-day long weekend). With the DSMUN'17 countdown steadily ticking down to zero, an invitation for SC form Socials at Welham Girls was declined for the first time in living memory. It's hoped that a follow up invitation will arrive soon to soothe the inevitable DSMUN hangover. The relaxation of our cyberwall for the extended weekend had some interesting consequences on Monday night, with a particular post on our School page gathering intense engagement from the community at large. Following this display of school spirit, Doscocs tidied up their rooms for the Independence Day cleanliness drive. If Big Brother is reading this (and if lessons from these walls can be extrapolated outside), the promise of a cake to the 'Cleanest City' might help speed up the 'Swachh Bharat' drive. Preparations for our ongoing mammoth conference reached fever pitch over the past week. The Executive Board gathered daily to compare notes on their planned attires for briefings. This year's edition of the conference reached new pinnacles of ingenuity in other aspects too, as sources at the Wellness Centre tell tales of long overdue appointments with the dentist suddenly being booked to attain winning smiles. Quite unfortunately for those concerned, years of poor brushing hygiene cannot be reversed by a session or two of scaling. Tonight being the Delegate Dance, I wish everyone all the very best. May the odds (helped along by facials, intensive work out sessions, and exactly tailored suits) ever be in your favour.

Crossword

Political Scandals



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

Across

1. Woman infamous for having extramarital affairs with ex-President Bill Clinton.
3. Former FIFA President currently serving a 6-year ban for the 2015 FIFA corruption case.
4. Dutch politician; compared the Quran to 'Meim Kampf'.
6. The ____ papers are 11 million leaked documents from the law firm Mossack Fonseca.
7. Former mayor of Toronto who was arrested when a video of him smoking marijuana went viral.
8. Italy's ex-Prime Minister; sentenced to jail for inciting child prostitution.

Down

2. This scam is the first of the many '-gate' scams.
5. The current British Foreign secretary; wrote an insulting limerick about the Turkish President.
9. This US president took on the quest to free American hostages in Lebanon.
10. Former Governor of New York who allegedly spent over 80,000 dollars on prostitutes.

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 6. Panama | 1. Lewinsky |
| 4. Wilders | 7. Ford |
| 3. Blatter | 8. Berlusconi |
| 9. Reagan | 5. Johnson |
| 10. Spitzer | 2. Watergate |

Answers to This Week's Crossword

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

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