

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." - Arthur Foot  
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## UNDER THE SCANNER

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## A Year in Darkness

**Aryan Bhattacharjee** examines the present standing of holding houses in our community.

Our community continually pursues excellence in all it does. We see exceptional people all around us who work tirelessly towards growth in their fields of interest. Perhaps what enables Doscos in putting in such effort is that they become entrenched in all they do. The cast of the Founder's Play virtually lives in the Rose Bowl for three months to pull off sterling performances. The boxing team begins practices early in the morning, despite the cold weather. I could go on and on about how boys immerse themselves completely into a multitude of activities. However, if involvement is at the essence of Doon, why do we adopt such caution when handling D-Formers? Why are they presented a picture of School that is so overly restrictive in their Holding Houses?

At the outset, I must clarify that I understand the need for an induction as one enters School.

I also agree with the concept of Holding Houses as a haven which mellows the turbulence of everyday life for new members of our community but doesn't shut it off completely. The danger with insulating every blow is that it is taken for granted that no knocks will ever come one's way. The danger with presenting a lifestyle that is organised to the very last detail is that there is no exposure to the omnipresent pangs of chaos. When these blows are then felt, and the chaos is unveiled, a sense of helplessness creeps in. Perhaps the reason why 'new C-formers' adjust much quicker is that they are tossed in, headfirst, from the very first day.

Moreover, factors that make the experiences in School special are absent completely from the lives of D-Formers. Constant interactions with our seniors, and the relationships formed with them are an integral part

of 'Dosco-ism'. Students in a boarding school -especially Doon- have timeless access to someone who understands them: their seniors. Older boys understand

### The Holding House is meant to mellow the turbulence of life in School, not shut it off completely.

their juniors because they too have been through similar problems. More importantly, often times they have solved these issues themselves. Their pragmatic advice is thus indispensable. Regrettably though, D-Form is deprived such aid in their formative phase which is filled with confusion. 'Footies' or 'Martinies' are confused about their pursuits and interests; perhaps this is the phase when a relationship with seniors is most perceptive. Alas, seniors, in Holding Houses, are viewed as 'favour' generating machines and considered threats to the well-being of a child- something that is far from true. Juniors are void of such friendships despite needing them because they are tucked away from the rest of the community. If they are encouraged to interact

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### The Concept of the 'Holding House' to you is...

To acclimatise students to boarding life and independent living.

-Ms. Stuti Kuthiala

To initiate boys into the life of a residential school.

-Mr. Debashish Chakrabarty

To give the children a soft launching pad into the hurly burly of School life.

-Ms. Priyanka Bhattacharya

Creating an environment that facilitates boys' transition to Doon.

-Ms. Purnima Dutta

## SMASHING SETS

Anuman Goel and Shyamal Singhal represented the **Dehradun District** in the **State Table Tennis Championship** held at Pauri-Garhwal from **November 3 to 5**.

In the **team event Junior** category, Anuman Goel was in the **Dehradun A-Team**, which won the **gold** medal while Shyamal Singhal, who was in the **Dehradun B-Team**, won the **silver** medal.

In the **individual** event, both Anuman Goel and Shyamal Singhal reached the **quarterfinal** round.

Well done!

## KNOWLEDGE OUR LIGHT

The following are the results of the Inter-House Quiz Competition, 2017:

**1st:** Oberoi                      **4th:** Tata  
**2nd:** Hyderabad              **5th:** Jaipur  
**3rd:** Kashmir

Kudos!

## Around the World in 80 Words

The Paradise Papers, a set of 13.4 million confidential documents, were leaked to German newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* and made public on Sunday. Eleven princes and four ministers were arrested in an anti-corruption raid in Saudi Arabia. In his trip to Japan, U.S. President Donald Trump had a meeting with Japanese pop singer Pikotaro when he was performing at his dinner with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Mary Kom won a gold medal at the Asian Women's Boxing Championship on Wednesday.

“

The most dangerous thing you can do in life is play it safe.

— C.S. Lewis

## CHARIOTS OF FIRE

The School participated in the **71st Annual District Athletics Meet** held at **RIMC** on **November 4 and 5**. The following are the results of the competition:

### Gold medal:

Anish Bhide in the **Under-20 Javelin Throw**  
Jaideep Gill in the **Under-20 High Jump**

### Silver medal:

Adhiraj Singh Palaitha in the **Under-20 Shot Put**  
Anish Bhide in the **Men's Javelin Throw**  
Jaideep Gill in the **Men's High Jump**  
Ram Vikas Attri in the **Under-20 Long Jump**

### Bronze medal:

Adhiraj Choudhary in the **Under-18 Long Jump**  
Adhiraj Singh Palaitha in the **Men's Shot Put**  
Ajatshatru Singh in the **Under-20 Long Jump**  
Anish Bhide in the **Under-20 Discus Throw**  
**4X100 relay team** comprising Nandil Sarma, Udaiveer Sekhon, Viksit Verma and Darsh Garg in the **Men's** category.

The School also emerged as the **winners** of the **Under-20** category.

Congratulations!

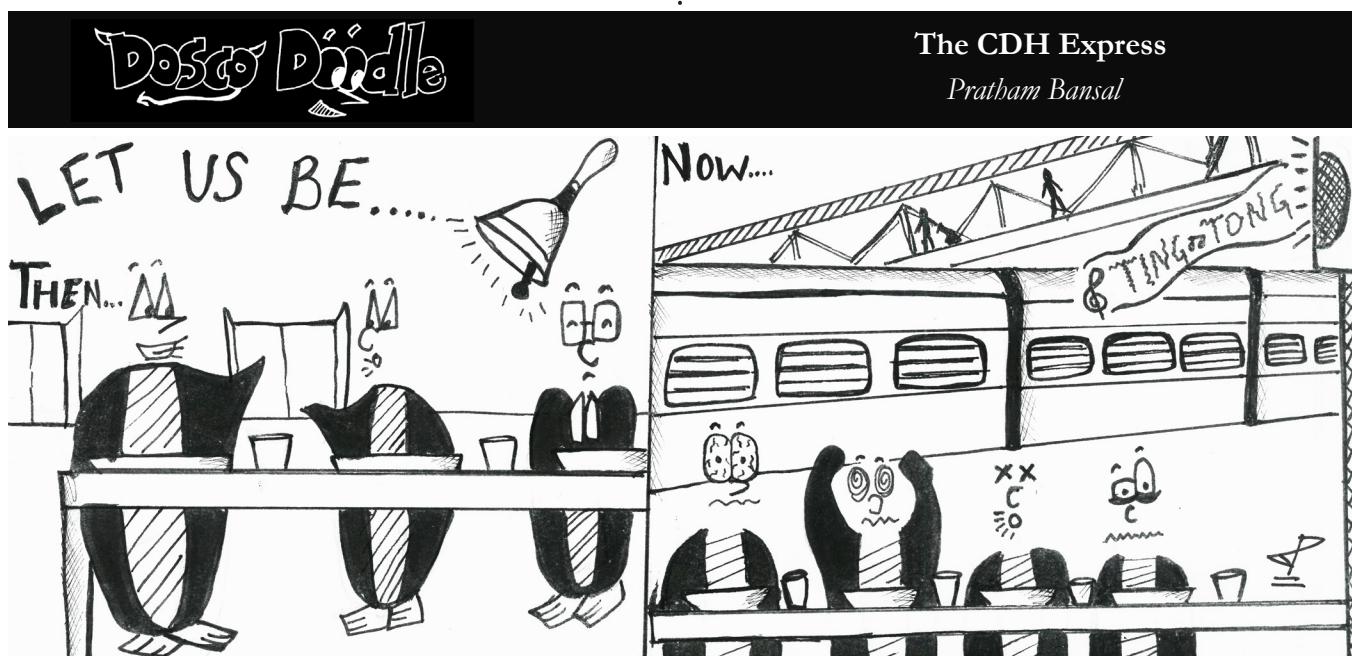
## EN PASSANT

The School hosted and participated in the **Doon School Chess Tournament, 2017**.

The School's **A-Team**, comprising Devansh Sharma, Raghav Bagri, Yash Singh and Aryan Kasera, **won** the tournament, while the School's **B-Team**, comprising Amritansh Saraf, Shataayu Patil, Harshvardhan Agarwal and Tanmay Kuchhal stood the **Second Runners-Up**.

Raghav Bagri also won the **Board Prize** for winning all his matches on Board Four.

Kudos!



(Continued from page 1)

more with older boys, this vacuum would be filled.

The chaos racing through our minds in D-Form prevents us from prioritising and learning. An entire year is wasted doing nothing. Wouldn't it be wonderful if D-Form was spent identifying interests and concretely learning a variety of skills? Our community may argue that D-Formers don't get too many opportunities to participate in activities. However, one's first year in School is less about participating and more about developing skills. Their House's Junior Captains are quite

capable of teaching them the basics of an activity. All that needs to be done is to make the House more accessible to them. To have them interact more with seniors in their House so that they are identified having an interest. Even the snippets of practical advice and monitoring from older boys accelerates learning. From then on, it is only natural that they will gallop ahead in their development and increasingly participate in activities. This would be helpful especially now that competitions and activities are being set up exclusively for D-Form. A combination of increased exposure

and more avenues for expression would contribute immensely to their growth.

At the end of the day, no-one would want a precious year of their lives wasted; especially at a time that is perfect for learning and developing new skills. D-Form could be transformed into a period where boys constructively explore the various activities to be pursued in School. All that must be done is to open D-Form more to our community and allow free, yet guided, interactions with all sections of the School community.



## UNDER THE SCANNER

McDonald's Closure | Prithish Dugar

For numerous DoscOs, the crispy golden fries and the juicy burgers, topped with a large coke, continues to be the highlight of their outings. The ongoing feud between McDonald's and Connaught Plaza Restaurants Limited, the regional joint venture between McDonald's and Vikram Bakshi that operates the franchises in North and East India, if not resolved promptly, may put an end to the much anticipated Dosco rendezvous to Astley Hall on Sundays.

McDonald's entered the Indian food industry in 1995. The multinational divided the operational responsibility between Vikram Bakshi and Amit Jatia. The former began operating franchises

in Northern and Eastern states while the latter commenced operations in Southern and Western regions. In its 22 years of service in India, McDonald's has catered to the palates of people of all age groups; be it an elderly couple relishing a McFlurry or an IT worker grabbing a quick bite while juggling between various tasks.

Earlier this year, health and police licenses for 43 of McDonald's outlets in the National Capital Region (NCR) expired. Vikram Bakshi's efforts to renew these mandatory licenses were futile, which resulted in the permanent closure of select outlets. Weeks later, the American fast food chain

terminated its franchise license with Connaught Plaza Restaurants. As a part of the termination agreement, Connaught Plaza restaurants must cease using McDonald's name, trademark, system and design, amongst other features. The intense legal battle is still unfolding in Indian courts.

The rift between Vikram Bakshi and McDonald's began after McDonald's noticed the missing anti-corruption and anti-bribery clauses in joint venture contracts. This essentially enabled under-the-table transactions between the Indian counterpart and third-parties for contracts. The feud further intensified when more than Rs. Seven crore of McDonald's funds were transferred to a Bakshi Group company.

As for the present, the gradual shutting down of McDonald's outlets has stimulated a wave of anxiety and angst amongst DoscOs as well as fast food aficionados outside the walls of Chandbagh. Outlets will remain shut till the time McDonald's either decides to renew its license or finds a new partner willing to start from scratch. Until then, we DoscOs are forced to choose amongst the other fast food chains that are seizing this opportunity to attract a new customer base.



# Defining Discourse

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Mr. Jakob von Weizsäcker**, a Member of the European Parliament.

**The Doon School Weekly(DSW): Please identify a few of the structural problems in Europe which your political group plans on solving?**

**Mr. Jakob von Weizsäcker(JVW):**

We have two key structural problems in Europe – the first being the introduction of the common currency, which makes us wealthier and binds us more closely together. The flaw being, if an economic shock hits one part of Europe, can we make certain that this shock doesn't cause devastating effects in that particular part of Europe? The second challenge has to do with another excellent European project, which was the removal of our internal borders. But that raises the question, as to how do we make certain our refugee policy takes care of them well, and in a way that every country does its fair part in looking after them. Similarly, there's a question of how do we make sure that we have reliable external border control, since people who get within the Union can travel freely within it. We have many people who try to enter the EU illegally out of desperation which makes them inherently dangerous, but there are also people trying to enter the Union for reasons which are harmful to us. Both these problems, of the single currency and free internal borders, can be solved. It's not difficult, technically, to solve them, but it's difficult to get countries to agree, because when it comes to Europe, it goes to the heart of sovereignty. If you have to relinquish your sovereignty in matters of control over external borders, that's a big step. So these are the two key areas we need to come to grips with. Perhaps a third, which isn't internal and one we haven't focused on, is how we

make certain that the EU is better represented with respect to the rest of the world, and that we really need to construct a common foreign policy and security policy, something we are only starting to do.

**DSW: Being a German national, how do you view the rise of nationalism and intolerance being built up in India? Is it a barrier for foreign investment?**

**JVW:** I would firstly like to say that I'm convinced, and everybody in India is convinced, that economic growth is a key part of the agenda for this generation. I think in particular, when you aim for rapid growth, it can be corrosive if you don't take very good care of the societal tensions that exist in large places with diverse cultural heritages and religions, among others. In most countries in Europe, we're immigrant societies: ten percent of our populations are immigrants, and to pretend that they're not there would be a huge mistake. So managing an open, liberal and democratic society is a very important part of the agenda. So it's not only a question that pertains to India, and I can't speak for India but I can speak for Europe: I am worried about some of the nationalist divisive tendencies that we've seen recently.

**DSW: What do you think are things going to be like moving forward, considering the Catalanian referendum?**

**JVW:** A part of the beauty of Europe is that traditionally, Europe and the European unification processes have made it easier to deal with regional independence movements. For example, it was felt in Ireland that if Britain and Ireland are parts of the United Kingdom and the European Union, then while there are some people in Northern Ireland who'd



*Mr. Jakob Weizsäcker is a member of the European Parliament. He is also a leading member of the Democratic Socialist Party of Germany.*

have the entire island of Ireland united in the republic of Ireland, while others prefer to stay with the United Kingdom, it did not matter, since they're both part of a united Europe. Another example is Northern Italy, where there was a German speaking part in South Tyrol, and when I was a boy, it was a relatively benign kind of terrorism, and there were young people bringing down high-power voltage lines in protest. Today, South Tyrol has a little more regional independence and, because of the European Union, they're happy to be part of Italy. So it has defused these tensions, and that's another reason why these nationalist tendencies are so corrosive. If you go down that route and become too nationalist, and if you try to re-nationalise your politics, you risk having all these old regional tensions flare up. There are people say from Hungary, living in Romania, and people with a Slavic language living in Germany. They're all minorities, and if we organise, and well, take good care of our diversity, we can live together very peacefully, but if we have nationalist tensions flaring up, it's going to create a mess which will be very difficult to clear up.

# The Frontline Comedians

Divyansh Nautiyal writes about the rise of new-age comedy shows around the nation.

*“The world is a tragedy to those who feel, but a comedy to those who think.”*

— Horace Walpole.

Comedy as a form of entertainment has constantly evolved around the globe and, of late, has radically changed in our country. Today, one would not be surprised to notice newer television comedy shows or clubs sprouting across the country. The phenomenon of stand-up, dark and satirical comedy has swept the nation. Shows like AIB, The Viral Fever, and East India Comedy (EIC) have risen to prominence and managed to carve a niche for themselves in popular culture.

However, what exactly has led to the rise of such comedy shows? For the followers of AIB, for example, ‘Honest Indian Weddings’ or the Dhoom 3 parody are an appropriate form of comedy to entertain themselves with. Since its modest inception, AIB has strategically used the Internet to reach out to millions of users, making it one of the most widely watched YouTube channels in India. Their comments on issues resonate with their followers, even though, at times, they could be labelled as crass. Their ability to ridicule serious issues, ranging from deteriorating India-Pakistan bi-lateral ties to demonetisation, demonstrates their versatility.

Such groups of young comedians also realise the need to adapt to changing circumstances. The issues they address are the ones that are usually trending on social media and are closely followed by diverse age groups.

Increasingly, such comedy shows are becoming the face of freedom and tolerance in a democratic country like ours. In the past, they have also attempted



to break prevalent stereotypes and misconceptions. While homosexuality or rape might be sensitive subjects for discussion, these shows have discussed them with dignity. Such subjects, when discussed, have also managed to captivate the audience. If not only for comedy, such shows have also played their role in bringing about the right message in society. Perhaps not surprisingly, a poll conducted by Pew Internet and

**Increasingly, such comedy shows are becoming the face of freedom and tolerance in a democratic country like ours.**

American Life Project a few years ago concluded that individuals in the United States got more information from such comedy shows than from conventional news media. The episode – ‘Rape: It’s Your Fault’ starring Kalki Koechlin by AIB talked about the issue of victim-blaming in our country. While it brought forth the sensitive issue, it also did not fail in

entertaining its viewers.

However, while these shows have done a fair job, they have also re-interpreted the perception of comedy. Pure comedy and witty humour are a rare treat these days. The Founders’ Day English Play Production was probably a rare occasion where the entire School laughed their hearts out. It was replete with irony and delivered comedy in a refined manner and style. The popular ‘Comedy Nights with Kapil’ has, in the past, made tangential references to misogyny and sexism. While humour helps to draw attention to the gravity of a topic, its frequent use dampens the standard of humour.

Notwithstanding, many shows and channels in India, have certainly reached a new standard in delivering comedy. While the ‘Golmaal’ series and others continue to serve us poor quality of humour, the prominence of such shows in India has created a new benchmark. Comedy, considered to be one of the toughest arts to deliver, has found a new direction and is safe in the capable hands of such comedy shows and the creative young minds working diligently behind them.

# The Final Stretch

**Stanzin Namgyal** recounts his expedition to Stok Kangri.

The end of the climbing season marked the dismantling of the Base Camp, an unavailability of ponies and extremely dry and cold conditions, which resulted in the trek being more than just a challenging experience. Standing at an altitude of 6,153m (20,187ft.) above sea level, *Stok Kangri* (also known as *Kanglachen*) is the highest peak in the *Stok* range of mountains.

On October 19, 2017 we drove to *Stok* village, the starting point of the trek. A guide, a helper and I loaded our backs and set off along the *Stok* rivulet towards the *Stok Kangri* Base Camp, the destination for the day. The trekkers who were heading back down warned us of the severe cold at the Base Camp and beyond, all of which made it all the more intriguing.



The thought of pushing for the summit from the so called 'Winter Base Camp' was unnerving but we unhesitatingly trekked on and safely made it to the camps. Upon reaching the destination, we discovered that the *Pullus* (Stone huts) were unoccupied and decided to spend the night in one of those. In the evening, the climbing guide shared tales of his previous climbs, especially of being a part of the first successful expedition to Mount Changuch.

After an early dinner by 7:00 pm, we crept into our sleeping bags in order to wake up in time for our 1:00 am summit push. When I next opened my eyes, it was 1:30 in the morning. We managed to leave the camps by 3:00 am and started along the trail yet again. The constellations and the Milky Way lit up the sky and

gazing up with the headlamps off left me spellbound. By the time we reached the *Stok* glacier, the sun was already visible, and it was from here that the final push began.

By noon, we were atop *Stok Kangri*, and as I looked around, I was stunned. A 360 degree view of the Karakoram Range to the North and the Great Himalayan to the South came as a reward. Breathtaking views of peaks such as the "Savage Mountain" - K2 (8611m) - could be seen in the Karakoram alongside Gasherbrum I (8080m), Gasherbrum II (8035m) and the Broad Peak (8051m).

Any doubts on whether the climb was worthwhile were dispelled once we were on the peak. Escaping into the mountains and being disconnected from the world really allows you to reconnect with yourself. Self possessed and care-free, it is easy to let go of all worldly worries and clear your head. Clearly, the hardships were worth it.

| POETRY |

## Afterlife

**Abhiraj Lamba**

He didn't know what was to come  
He didn't know why  
All he knew was that  
He was about to die

Poor kid! So young  
And yet he had to deal with this  
Not far was he from the afterlife  
Maybe there he'd attain bliss

He wasn't looking forward to it  
But what choice had he  
All he could wonder now was  
How afterlife was going to be

He didn't care how unrealistic it seemed  
It was his only hope left  
He dreamt about the afterlife  
To get rid of this huge heft

Death scared the poor lad  
But he knew it was true  
He thought about the afterlife  
His anxiety grew

It was not long before  
The poor kid was no more  
He closed his eyes on earth to see  
The afterlife open its door

# Predicting the Future

Mr. Pankaj Joshi writes about the importance of Predicted Grades in the International Baccalaureate.

Being associated with the IB world for a while now, we have often heard about predicted grades in discussions involving teachers and/or students. These discussions often give rise to a lot of anxiety, especially at this time of the year. The first question that arises is, what is a predicted grade, and the next: why is it needed in the first place? The predicted grade is the teacher's prediction of the grade the candidate is expected to achieve in the subject, based on all the evidence of the candidate's work and the teacher's knowledge of IB standards at a given point of time. Predicted grades are also required for Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay.<sup>1</sup>

There are two main areas where the predicted scores are needed and decisions about the students' future academic path are taken. The first are universities - referred to as Higher Education Institutions (HEI) that one applies to for admission, the second being the IBO.

HEIs ask for predicted grades from teachers and

**A large gap in the grade predicted and the achieved actual grade may not be a situation one would want to be in – it is a clear indicator of students' underperformance.**

these are submitted along with the applications for consideration - along with other information - while making offers for admission. Needless to reiterate, this data is extremely important, since these institutions use it to look into the student they will be making the offer to. Most of the universities nowadays use the best-fit approach and hence all information about the candidate is considered very seriously. It then becomes the schools' and the teachers' responsibility to see that the predicted grades are as accurate as possible. A large gap in the grade predicted and the achieved actual grade may not be a situation one would want to be in – it is a clear indicator of students' underperformance. In such cases, universities often write back to students and sometimes even to the schools seeking an explanation for this difference. As a consequence, the conditions for the offer already made may be subject to reconsideration, or if the university is not satisfied, it might take a decision to rescind the offer. Such consequences are not uncommon and interactions with colleagues around

the world stand testimony to this.

The IBO also collects predicted grades for subjects

**Most of the universities nowadays use the best-fit approach and information about the candidate is considered very seriously.**

from teachers, albeit for a different purpose. This data is kept as a back-up and can be used in adverse circumstances such as 'at-risk' remarking, examination not conducted due to natural calamities, or an individual circumstance reported for a candidate, to name a few. At risk remarking is an extra check after the final grade is awarded. This is carried out for candidates who are identified as being at risk of their subject grade being incorrectly low. Some "at risk" re-marking concentrates on candidates who are two or more grades below predicted and require one or two scaled marks to obtain a higher grade. Other "at risk" re-marking concentrates on the work of examiners whose marking has been identified as potentially problematic. "At risk" re-marking is carried out not to identify whether extra marks can be found, but rather as a check that the current mark is appropriate to ensure candidates receive the correct grades.<sup>2</sup>

In light of these factors, we can safely say that the predicted grade is humane; among other things, it is also meant to give the benefit of doubt during adverse circumstances. It is not meant to be public knowledge and cannot be calculated exactly but needs to be extremely accurate. The best way to achieve this is a series of predictions over a period of two years. At the end of two years, the predictor and others involved will see a continuum of student performance and would be able to fix a predicted grade that conveys a realistic picture of candidate performance. It is important that each prediction is made as accurately as possible, without much under-predicting or over-predicting of the grade. The IB takes measures to work with schools that consistently under- or over-predict student grades.

1. <http://www.ibo.org/university-admission/recognition-of-the-ib-diploma-by-countries-and-universities/faqs/> (accessed 05 Nov 2017)

2. <http://www.ibo.org/contentassets/4d92e48d38a4415a87e11555e143a39f/assessment-guide-for-examiners-en.pdf> (accessed 05 Nov 2017)

# The Week Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry

The week saw Inter-House competitions of the racket sports nearing their conclusion while fervent preparations for Athletics, Boxing and Basketball began. Our 'future leaders' took charge as marching was shifted up to four in the evening while the School Basketball team practiced to maintain their form in the upcoming Win Mumby, especially, after the 'B Team' lost to the Afzal Khan champions by merely two points last term.

Saturday evening provided for an entertaining Quiz but our senior boys had an even more enjoyable Sunday with Ragnarok and Manchester United versus Chelsea's suspense (and humour). On Sunday, a few members of our Community heard eleven eminent speakers in School's first ever TEDx Youth Event.

Preparations were also seen in the co-curricular spectrum as Chuckerbutty debates commenced this week with some unexpected members representing Doon. The newly appointed Editors-in-Chief of 'The Yearbook' had to postpone their plans as 'No Shave November' trampled over their hopes of clean elegant pictures. Many activities

still face stagnation due to the further delay in announcements; however, MUNing in school added another feather to its cap with the best delegation trophy of Pathways MUN. After what seemed an eternity to the concerned trirumvirate, the *Weekly* finally managed to find some clarity on its future leadership.

In other news, the CDH introduced a new doorbell sound to its cacophony, the purpose of which is still unclear. Whatever may be the case, let's hope the school community maintains its momentum in the coming week.

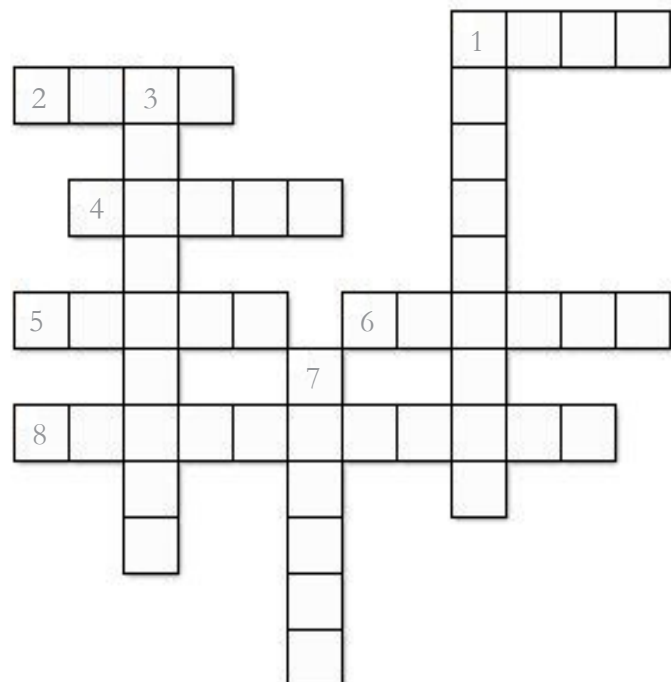
## Crossword | Gaffes

### Across

1. The 'Father of Our Nation' was accidentally called as Mohanlal Karamchand Gandhi by this Indian Prime Minister.
2. Which US president raised eyebrows when he gave German Chancellor Merkel an uninvited neck rub in the 2006 G-8 Summit?
4. The line 'This morning, I got up at night' comes from \_\_\_\_ Gandhi.
5. This Bollywood actress called Prithviraj Chauhan the President of India on the show 'Koffee with Karan'.
6. Which company tweeted out, 'Congrats, you survived the Boston Marathon!?', inadvertently recalling imagery of the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing?
8. This news channel fired its employee after she referred to the Chinese President as 'Eleven' Jinping.

### Down

1. This movie won the Best Picture award at the 89th Oscar awards, after 'La La Land' was accidentally given the award.
3. Maria \_\_\_\_ (female Russian tennis player) was trolled heavily on social media for not knowing who Sachin Tendulkar was.
7. The 2015 Miss Universe was incorrectly announced by this host.



Note: All answers to this crossword are the concerned persons' surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	1. Modi
	2. Bush
	3. Sharapova
	4. Rahul
	5. Bhatt
Down	1. Moonlight
	3. Dooradarshan
	6. Adidas
	7. Harvey

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

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