

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

*"I sketch your world exactly as it goes."* -Arthur Foot  
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## Our School

*Mr Anjan Chaudhary analyses the importance of diversity and discourse in School.*

My article stems from reading the *Weekly* and the two views lately highlighted by Ansh and the Head Master, both extremely relevant, and my motivation to pen down my thoughts. The strength in the views was the question posed and as a member of the community, I am sharing my thoughts. All great schools like ours undergo periods of reflection — I would add refraction as well — where it shows our capacity and courage to bend and discover the learnings that bring out the true sense of character, resilience and essence of the school.

The strength of a democracy lies in a formidable opposition. School, as a miniature society, is no different. I was not fortunate to have experienced that when I was growing up in my home town. It was visible to me when I entered the gates of Chandbagh: opposition to ideas, views and often traditions. A strength of our School lies in its ability to embrace traditions and challenge. Challenge brings in critical reflection and I see it to be positive. Our School reflects on its practices and we rectify what we feel does not work here. Having said that, trying out the ideas that we all have collectively accepted takes time and energy and we need to be patient to see it till the end. The struggle lies in the fact that often status quo perpetuates tradition and holds us back where we are. It is detrimental to a

learning organisation. Any sort of polarisation between divergent opinions drives differences even deeper. None of us is bigger than the institution. It is only fair to comment when we have given our full strength and effort behind it.

Recently, we had Ambassador Nirupama Rao as our guest on Independence Day. In her interaction with the community, she focused on two essentials: the importance of *svachhata*, *swasthata*, but more importantly *sabbayata*. She focused on the importance of seeing things differently, often through the eyes of the other person, as it allows for empathy. The power of remaining hungry as an institution with time, the art of listening which allows light to pass through the window and look deeply at the questions raised, is something we must treasure.

The question raised by the Headmaster "*Same admission results..... different end results*" is a fair one and it requires our response through our identity and integrity. My reading suggests that identity and integrity are not only noble features or good deeds or brave faces that conceal our confusions and complexities. They reflect our shadow and limits, our wounds and fears, as well as our strength and potential. We must reflect upon the times we are now. Difficult questions considered deeply bring out intense analysis. Our School has the strength to

experience all of it, take bold steps and yet, preserve its uniqueness. As a learner in Mathematics, a solution to this effect would be to step into one's own controlled domain and see what is relevant at this hour.

**None of us is bigger than the institution. It is only fair to comment when we have given our full strength and effort behind it.**

Recently, I have been hearing about what all of us need to do to strengthen our motivation. I believe that status quo or looking at basics is not an option. Our response rather should be to step inward with confidence critically reflect on our practices, strengthen the power to keep sharing, and talking it out. The strength of our school lies in the forums of dialogue and discussion— we must voice our opinion and above all, remember that empathy is an integral part of the process of dialogue. School and the good of School is our common goal and dialogue allows enough space for disagreement. There is a relevant saying in this context "If you are doing what is right, everybody will

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**YEARS OF APPLAUSE**

The following members of the School faculty were awarded Longtime Special Service Awards for Exceptional Service to the School:

These individuals have played significant roles, across a wide variety of positions, for several years within the School community. Each of them have impacted generations of DoscOs in their own unique way. Their unquestionable loyalty towards this institution forms the bedrock of the familial ties that are developed here at Doon.

For all this and so much more, we thank you.

**5 years of service**

Madan Singh  
Srikanta Bannerjee  
Priyanka Majumdar

**10 years of service**

Ashish Jain  
Shivraj Singh  
Anupama Rawat  
Yudhvir Rawat  
Abia Qezilbash  
Hari Om

**30 years of service**

Saira Bano

**35 years of service**

Anand Mani  
Ram Gopal  
Anwar Khan  
Kailash Maurya  
Sagir Ahmed  
Dhiraj Kumar  
Siya Maurya  
Jaglal  
Furkan  
Yashpal

**UNQUOTABLE QUOTES**

*She is a female bride.*

**Rubin Rastogi**, gender fluid.

*I have one more work for you.*

**Ansh Raj**, the Editor.

**CONDOLENCES**

The *Weekly* regrets to announce the untimely demise of Mr. Satbir Singh, who had been working in the Chandan Kilachand Music School, in addition to previously serving with Oberoi House, the CDH, the Swimming Pool and the Main Field for a total of 29 years.

The *Weekly* regrets to announce the passing of Ms. Uma Singh, wife of Umender Singh, Physics Teacher and Housemaster of Martyn House. She was the Dame of Martyn and Hydeabad House

We extend our condolences to their families.



**It's easier to fool people than to convince them they have been fooled.**

**Mark Twain**

**HAWKEYE**

A team comprising 13 students represented the School at the **16th State Inter-School Shooting Championship**. In the **25m Standard Pistol Category**, the team comprising Shourya Agarwal, Sudhir Chowdhry, and Bir Singh Uppal were **Runners-Up**. In the **25m Sports Pistol Category**, Shourya Agarwal, Sudhir Chowdhry and Sudhanshu Chowdhry came **Runners-Up**.

Congratulations!

**Around the World in 80 Words**

A group of Yemeni separatists regained control of Aden, the capital of Yemen. Meanwhile, an alarming screen of black smoke cloaked the Amazon rainforest as fires burnt a huge chunk of the forest. The annual G7 Summit was held in France. P. Chidambaram, senior Congress leader and member of the Rajya Sabha, was arrested by the CBI over the charges of corruption and money laundering. Arun Jaitley, the former Indian Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, passed away on Saturday



**Record High**

*Anant Ganpathy*



(Continued from Page 1)  
not like you.”

In Mathematics, there are always a few givens on which blocks are established. So it is in our system. We have to give time to see where we reach. Our School is like a

Moebius strip where the inner and outer reality follows endlessly, co-creating all of us with time. At the end of the day, it is the love that unites us in the place we dwell and the differences that bring out a convergent idea in a fast-paced

divergent world.

We need to understand that we are being watched all the time. We must therefore do what is right by School, sometimes letting go of what is populist or convenient for what is right.



## UNDER THE SCANNER

Amazon Fires | Adit Chatterjee



“The Lungs of The World.” This phrase, as dramatic it may seem for describing the Amazon Rainforest, couldn’t have been more apt. The Amazon Rainforest is an ecological gem: it absorbs nearly a fifth of the world’s carbon emissions, is home to the most diverse ecosystem on the planet, and is the largest repository of natural services to local tribes and the global community alike. This green tapestry, spanning nearly five and a half million square kilometres, also happens to be one of the largest guarantees against climate change. Proof of the importance of the Amazon is clear and irrefutable; without the world’s lungs, humanity would be choking on far greater crises than it already is. Yet, everyday, acres of forest and tropical green are razed by the entirely illegal slash-and-burn tactics that farmers, loggers and land-developers use to clear land quickly and efficiently. As a result, the rainforest has been burning for nearly two weeks endlessly, with no signs of stopping soon; nobody is any hurry to extinguish

the fire, eager instead to satiate their own agenda, be it cultivation, production or development.

What is worse, those who are most responsible aren’t careless farmers or loggers. Instead, these fires are caused by a series of actions by an irresponsible and reckless authoritarian regime that created the conditions, politically and rhetorically, for this severe abuse of the Amazon, namely, the government under Jair Bolsonaro. Many world leaders have laid blame on Bolsonaro for not implementing strong-enough legislation that could have prevented the fires, including French President Emmanuel Macron, who even labeled the blazes an international crisis. Bolsonaro has deflected all accountability, instead blaming human rights and environmental organisations for starting the fires after his government cut funding to them. He went on to ignite a personal feud with Macron by insulting his wife, which escalated tensions and led to a back-and-forth Twitter war between the two leaders. Until a few days ago, he

even rejected numerous financial aid packages that were designated toward curbing the crisis, and only chose to reconcile after international pressures mounted upon him.

The effect of this crisis isn’t restricted to irrevocably crippling our climate. Increasingly, the health of indigenous tribes is becoming vulnerable to the toxic smoke that is spreading rapidly, even as far as Sao Paulo, nearly 400 kilometres away. Inhumanely, criminal arson is being committed as well, with an indigenous village having been burned already in order to force them off their land. Bolsonaro has routinely spoken out against the indigenous populace, constantly using racist and discriminatory language against them. This is an example of his rhetoric that takes concrete form through violence and environmental destruction.

The main focus of environmental groups across the globe is to provide to the world credible information to combat the misinformation campaign that Bolsonaro is propagating. At the present moment, nearly 25 million dollars have been put forward by the G7 and Earth Alliance, an organisation founded by actor Leonardo DiCaprio and philanthropist Laurene Powell Jobs. With such action in place, as well as pledges to create long-term forest protection plans, perhaps it isn’t unrealistic to hope that this crisis may be doused soon. The outcome of the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly next month, where the plan is due to be presented, will determine the health of the planet.

# Emissary Exchange

*A few excerpts from the interaction between the Executive Board of the Doon School MUN with Mr. Y.K. Sinha, former High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom and current Central Information Commissioner, and the Chief Guest of the DSMUN Conference 2019.*



**Executive Board (EB):** As a diplomat, do you represent the ruling government or the state? If their interests were to clash, what would you prioritise, and what happens if the government suddenly changes?

**Mr. Y.K. Sinha (YKS):** As an Ambassador or High Commissioner, you represent the President of India, but you are also supposed to report to the government of the day. You have the responsibility to follow and defend the government's ideas. For instance, when NRC in Assam was passed in Parliament, there was a lot of public uproar and we were supposed to defend the government. I was also called up on one of the BBC's shows where I was attacked about the same issue and I defended the government and put their point of view across. So we support the government, but we represent the Union of India. As far as India's foreign policy is concerned, there have only been minor changes in the policy; as far as domestic policy is concerned, we have to defend it wherever we go, in India as well as outside India; we are supposed to affiliate to any political parties and are supposed to keep our personal views aside.

**EB:** What are the key differences you experienced after working with the Congress party and the BJP?

**YKS:** I've worked in the Foreign Service agency for quite some time now, and yes, each government has its own set of priorities. Once, I was assigned as the Joint Secretary for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran in 2009. This was soon after the Mumbai attacks and Dr. Manmohan Singh alongside his Pakistani counterpart issued a joint statement regarding Balochistan. Personally, I was aghast that the government would agree to something like that, but professionally it

was my job to see how we were going to restart the dialogue with Pakistan. At that time Pakistan was allegedly promoting terrorism not just in Kashmir but all over the world and no dialogue really carried any head weight. I did write notes though about engaging Pakistan. So yes, it differs from situation to situation about how a government handles things. While I may have not agreed with many of UPA's policies, the Manmohan Singh government admittedly did some fantastic stuff, with Afghanistan in particular.

**EB:** How much power does an individual representative have in determining the development in international relations within the same meeting?

**YKS:** It actually depends on where you are. For instance, if you are in Islamabad, and you are a High Commissioner there, or even someone else, you are an expert in whatever is happening at a strategically important place. When the High Commissioner in Pakistan, or even an ambassador there, comes to Delhi to meet the Prime Minister, he or she plays a very critical role in the formation of relationships between both parties. Their inputs are also very important, because they are basically the men on the ground. Not only do they play a critical role in the formation of the policy, but also in the protection of it.

**EB:** One qualm that has been expressed is that the government is trying to be more bureaucratic and slowing the processes of giving out information sought through the RTI. Is this a problem you have faced, and how are you dealing with it?

**YKS:** Yes and no. One, the Act is very specific, you have to reply within 30 days, or you have to give a reason why you didn't. The first appeal has to be responded within 90 days, so there is a time bound

**What happened after Pulwama was the attack on Balakot, and what followed that was that the UN didn't condemn India's actions, but in fact published a statement that supported India's attempts to condemn terrorism.**

response you need to give, and if you don't, there are penalties. You can be fined; the person, based on the information denied, can get compensation, and in very rare cases, where the government servant is very obviously obstructing, you can institute a departmental inquiry against the person. So, the Act is very specific, and yes there is a delay because so many people are filing RTIs now. Most of them are about land records being fudged. Actually, by intervening, you can help a common citizen. At the same time there are people who misuse it, by filing multiple RTIs. Some even use the information to blackmail. So, you have to be very careful when dealing with it, read up the details properly before the hearing, listen to the two parties, and you're able to decide.

**EB: The Pulwama attack was responded to by an air strike in Balakot, without even going through talks with Pakistan, who hadn't accepted the blame. Don't you think it was rather reckless to**

**do so?**

**YKS:** The United Nations doesn't really need to declare a state to be sponsoring terrorism for a country to defend its own interests. Now what we did in Balakot, I don't think it was reckless at all. It was completely different from what previous Indian governments had done before. There have been so many terrorist attacks in recent history, starting from 2001, all the way up to 2014, that there was no doubt in anybody's mind that Pakistan, the terrorists, and ISI had been involved. What happened after Pulwama was the attack on Balakot, and what followed that was that the UN didn't condemn India's actions, but in fact published a statement that supported India's attempts to condemn terrorism. In my opinion, the UN are actually endorsing our actions in the fight against terrorism. This attack sent a very clear notion that this government is not going to tolerate acts of terrorism.

| Poetry |

## Unfortunate

Yash Adalti

The dead aren't the weak.  
Simply the unfortunate.  
But our fortune lies  
Heavier still, with no end in sight,  
To bear the pain of  
Living in Hell, Earth.  
It may be too much for us.

## Genius

Aryan Bhattacharjee

The morning sweeps beside a melting moor  
Of leaves, a rose pale pink and mild and cool.

It blooms anew amidst the heath – yet pure  
To clasp unrobed a nymph, but she was tulle.

Yet when all moor, all bricks, have dripped away,  
A rose, alone beneath the stars, shall stay.

## Season of Haikus For You, We Fear

Vir Patwalia

Snow falls on the grass  
A white snowflake can be seen  
It twists in the air  
And slowly settles on the grass  
Melting slowly to water

A small seed in soil  
Indifferent to the world  
Makes the difference

An ant in water  
Trying to survive It  
Does not stay alive

A bird on the branch  
Lets out a soft chirping noise  
To be heard by none.

Yash Adalti

Beg for forgiveness,  
For your words inspire  
No fear in me

Your actions are timid,  
And your bravado, transparent.

When mercy is begged for,  
I will not beg of you to spare our souls,  
But, for you, to not suffer,  
Eternal damnation. Instead to  
Bear the pain  
Of our thousand sorrows.

# The Week Gone By

**Divyansh Nautiyal**

The words ‘Aristocracy of Service’ truly found their meaning once again, at Monday’s Assembly, as the School community recognised and applauded the services of those who have helped in making our home here at Chandbagh a better place. It was a heart-warming moment when the tireless service of the CDH bearers, ground *malis*, *safai karmacharis*, administration staff, and our teachers were given due recognition by every member of the community assembled in the MPH that morning.

Speaking of service, we bade farewell to VKL — an individual who, during his many years of service at Doon, has left a lasting

impression, on Masters and Students alike, in the activities that he has contributed to. Meanwhile, our Yearbook counterparts are providing the finishing touches to the mammoth magazine with final edits being made, skins being sent, and pictures of the finest quality being carefully handpicked. We wish them the best of luck with the final stage of their journey!

Inter-House Football has also kicked off with a lot of talent being showcased on the field. The matches have been fought fiercely till now, and one can only expect the intensity to grow with every match. The House that manages to strike the right balance between their Seniors and Juniors will clinch the trophy in view of the increased standard of competition this year. The Doon School Junior Football Tournament also runs simultaneously, and the teams

have put up a splendid show of sportsmanship and skill.

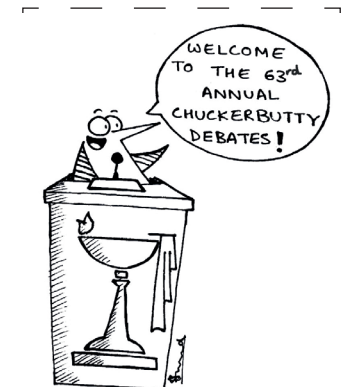
Meanwhile, many have decided, willy-nilly, to take a break from such hectic times in School as they recover, in the luxury of their homes, from a fever that seems to be waiting to catch us unawares. We wish them a speedy recovery! As they read this, we at Chandbagh will be enjoying one (more) day of break from classes, thanks to the Chuckerbutty Debates having already entered their second day. Like always, the event will enjoy a high standard of debate this year as well.

The draft schedule for the Mid-Year Trials is also out and has been a cause of much worry for the ISC Sciences students and many in the IB programme. Only timely preparation can save one from any unforeseen disaster. Till then, best of luck for the next trial!

## Sudoku

		1						
7				2		1	6	
			7					
8		6		9				
					7			
		9			2		8	
				8	3			9
			1		4			
	4	3						

Source: <https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/>  
**Key**



7	1	8	5	9	6	3	4	2
9	3	6	4	7	1	8	5	2
6	9	5	2	8	3	7	1	4
3	8	4	2	5	9	6	7	1
1	6	9	7	3	8	5	2	4
4	2	5	8	3	7	6	9	1
5	7	2	1	9	4	6	3	8
4	5	6	8	1	7	2	9	3
8	1	6	9	3	2	4	5	7
2	3	7	6	4	5	8	1	9

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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