

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY



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From the Top

Vihaan Khanna interviews the newly-appointed School Captain, Abhimanyu Chandra

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): How did you feel once you had been nominated?

Abhimanyu Chandra (AC): I had ten people patting my back. I was on tenterhooks, yet excited and hopeful.

DSW: As School Captain, what concerns you the most?

AC: Well, what I'm most concerned about is my Founder's Day speech. I hope I can avoid any bloopers in the eyes of the public.

DSW: What do you think about the new prefectorial body?

AC: The best part about the prefectorial body is that they have common goals but diverse interests, which will be instrumental in leading the school holistically.

DSW: Do you wish to initiate any immediate changes?

AC: In the last few years, prefectorial bodies have initiated and followed up on urgent issues and concerns of the community. I think the conduct and achievements of DoscOs really set them apart from students of any other institution. The job of the prefectorial body is to continue and improve upon the brilliant work of our predecessors. While any major changes don't immediately come to mind, the improvement of sporting infrastructure, especially for the racquet sports, I feel, is important.

DSW: What did you learn from the School Captains of the past?

AC: The last couple of School Captains, who I interacted with, strengthened our systems and the vision of our alma mater. They have been wonderful friends and mentors.

DSW: How do you feel when you look up at the Honours Board?

AC: At first glance, it is definitely intimidating to be clubbed with such accomplished and fine DoscOs. It is an honour and definitely a challenge for me to live up to everything that this post requires.

DSW: What are the best and worst aspects of being School Captain?

AC: Having been voted in, I am assured that every action of mine will be supported by the majority of the school. Bridging the communication lane between the administration and the boys is, as you can imagine, a task that calls for maturity and sensitivity.

Salemspeak

Arnav Sahu, interviews Lukas Besorca-Gasendort, an exchange student from Schule Schloss Salem, Germany

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Tell us something about yourself.

Lukas Besorca-Gasendort (LBG): I come from Salem which is in South Germany. I have lived in Romania for five years with my parents who are from Romania. I was brought up in my home town, Saarbrücken. I enjoy playing a variety of sports such as football, tennis, hockey and swimming. I am the 'Wing Captain' of my Wing, which is very much like the Houses here.

DSW: Tell us about Salem and how it differs from Doon?

LBG: First of all, it is co-ed! There are two major sections of Salem, the senior and the medium. We have eight Houses which have two captains (House and Assistant) each, and we call our Housemasters 'Mentors'. We also have two school captains, one boy and one girl. There is no rigid structure for our days such as here; for example, all meals other than lunch are optional. In Salem too, there is a hierarchical system but there are no punishments for minor slip-ups. We have punishments for major offences such as smoking and over-consumption of alcohol, which is checked by breath analysers.

DSW: What activities does your school offer?

LBG: Most students are involved in a wide range of sporting activities. I am involved in swimming, tennis and football, which we play in their respective seasons or 'Epoch'. There are also many inter-house and individual competitions which are played with the same intensity as I hear they are in Doon.

DSW: How seriously are academics taken in your school?

LBG: Academics is not taken lightly, but I can't say it is given utmost importance. We have double lessons of each subject so that we can finish our course in half the year so that we have another half to cover other subjects. As a third language we are offered Spanish and French.

DSW: What do you think of Exchange programmes?

LBG: I feel it is very important as it provides a foundation for a cultural exchange. Personally, I am excited about learning about a culture which is very different from that of Germany. What I love about this school is that you accept change but retain your tradition.

News-in-Brief

WELCOME

We would like to welcome **Tom Lamont**, his wife, **Bobbie**, and son, **Johnny**, from Groton School, Massachusetts. Mr. Lamont will be teaching History while on exchange here. Also from Groton School is a gap year student, **Claiborne Thompson**, who is teaching English while she is here. We also welcome **Lukas Besorca-Gasendort**, an exchange student from Salem School, Germany. We wish them all a pleasant stay.

SCHOOL COLOURS

The following were awarded **School Colours** in the year 2007: Ashish Mitter, Shikhar Singh, Harsh Mall, Dhairy Khera, Suhaas Khullar, Pulkit Sharma, Eeshaan Tiwary and Eeshaan Puri. Well done!

NEW STAFF

We would like to welcome to The Doon School faculty **Sreemoyee Banerjee** (English Department) and **Tashi Tobgyal** (Library). We wish them both a fruitful tenure.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Dean of Activities: Gursharan Singh

Dean of Student Welfare: Ashad Qezilbash

Dean of Community & Social Service: Mohan Chandra Joshi

Director of Public Affairs & Head of Humanities: Piyush Malaviya

Tata House: Arvind Chalasani (Housemaster), Debashish Chakraborty (Asst. Housemaster).

Jaipur House: Sanjiv Bathla (Housemaster), Rashid Sharfuddin (Asst. Housemaster).

Kashmir House: Anjan Chaudhry (Asst. Housemaster). We wish them a fruitful tenure.

ASSEMBLY TALKS

Shikhar Singh was adjudged the Best Assembly Speaker for the year 2007. The **Shiv Mehta Memorial Best Assembly Speaker Award** has been newly instituted in memory of Shrivindu Mehta (65-J '74) and will be given each year to the best English and Hindi Assembly speakers. Shikhar Singh's award-winning speech will be carried in a forthcoming issue.

APPOINTMENTS

Angad Singh has been appointed **boy-in-charge of Design and Technology** for this year.

Rishabh Bir Singh has been appointed the **boy-in-charge of the Estate Care SUPW** for the forthcoming year.

The following are the **Music School appointments** for this year:

School Music Captain: Kushagra Aggarwal

School Orchestra Leader: Jaspreet Singh

School Popular Band Leader: Rishi Raj Neog

Secretary, Music Society: Abhaas Shah

We wish them a fruitful tenure.

LAMDA

The following have been awarded Distinction in the **LAMDA** examinations:

Gold: Shaurya Kuthiala, Akshat Khandelwal, Samkit Sethia, Akshit Batra, Salil Gupta.

Silver: Ayyappa Vemulkar, Ankur Saxena, Dilsher Dhillon, Abhaas Shah, Rishi Sood, K.P. Somaiah, Rachit Khaitan, Naveed Chaudhary. Well done!

PREFECTORIAL BODY

The following are the **newly-appointed prefects:**

School Captain: Abhimanyu Chandra

Hyderabad House: Akshit Batra (House Captain), Keshav Prasad, Vansh Nathani, Prateek Ghei.

Jaipur House: Ayyappa Vemulkar (House Captain), Shantanu Garg, Rishabh Bir Singh, Vishnukaant Pitty.

Kashmir House: Saket Mahajan (House Captain), Mehtab Chima, Hanumant Singh, Abhimanyu Malik.

Oberoi House: Pratham Mittal (House Captain), Chetan Kaul, Kshitij Paliwal, Mehul Mehrotra.

Tata House: Gurbaaz Sidhu (House Captain), Salil Gupta, Himmat Singh, Jaspreet Singh.

BRUSH STROKES

The following are the appointments for **The Art School** for the following year:

Art Secretary: Vishnukaant Pitty

Assistant Art Secretary: Angad Singh

SUPW-in-charge: Samkit Sethia, Arun Kothari

STA-in-charge: Shubhojit Chattopadhyaya, Armaan Malhotra.

Congratulations!

ACE

Abhimanyu Chandra represented the **IPSC** in the **SGFI National Tennis Games** held in Mumbai during December. The IPSC Tennis Team reached the quarter finals of the team event. Abhimanyu Chandra won all his matches. Well done!

CAREER CALL

The **Careers' Notice Board** will focus on details of forthcoming competitive examinations, the availability of forms and information about last dates.

Unquotable Quotes

I want to debate.

Aadhar Sharma, indeed!

...but it is not my optional sport.

Aadhar Sharma, we can guess why.

Listen me out first.

Keshav Prasad, please hear him out.

I'm a one-man woman.

Siddhant Gupta, confused.

As it is for you, so do for us.

PKN, similarly for him.

I play soccer the whole week for five days.

Ishaan Nagpal, the soccer stud.

I think there are no eggs because of chicken flu.

Ashvath Kunadi, paranoid.

OLD BOYS' NEWS

Meghna Painuli (ex-536 TA '95), daughter of NP Painuli (ex-Housemaster, Martyn House) was blessed with a daughter on January 8, 2008. Our heartiest congratulations!

Justin Burrett (ex-60 JA '02) has been selected to represent Delhi University at the Inter-University Cross-Country Championship to be held at Calicut, Kerala. We wish him good luck!

The Future of the Past

Rohit Handa (ex-22 J '53) talks about the eco-friendliness of the new structures in Chandbagh

How are estates that are over a hundred years old to be brought into the 21st century, a century that also marks the beginning of a new millennium? What is the set of aesthetic, scientific and civic values that should guide us?

These are difficult questions.

“Any general theory of art must begin with this supposition: that man responds to the shape [and] surface and mass presented to his senses, and that certain arrangements in the proportion of the shape and surface of things results in a pleasurable sensation whilst the lack of such arrangements leads to indifference or even to positive discomfort and revulsion. The sense of pleasurable relations is the sense of beauty; the opposite is the sense of ugliness.”

I start with this quote from Herbert Read's *The Meaning of Art* as it offers the base for an explanation of the principle underlying the change that has taken place on three sides of the Main Field, and elsewhere, in the past four years. The hope is that it will create a pleasurable sensation. The latest row of buildings that consist of the new pavilion (with a cantilevered roof) and six masters' houses to the south completes the four-sided frame for the play ground, with the heritage buildings of FRI's students' hostel (K&H Houses) to the west, the heritage Old Masters' Common Room and the newly brick-clad Central Dining Hall (CDH) to the north and Foot House to the East.

While the masters' houses may look like routine brick structures with styli in the zed elevations, they are in fact unique in Dehra Dun – and perhaps in North India- as they are “green” rated. This means that their insulated double-walls and roof and double-glass glazing, together with their orientation, should ensure a comfortable temperature indoors with minimal intervention of cooling or heating devices when ambient temperatures are 2° C and 38° C. The same comfort level will be available in the houses that have gone up in Hathikhana (a new and suitably period name for the area where a heritage bungalow – known in my school days as Ab-Jb's- of the Skinner's estate stood behind the swimming pool). These houses are also fitted with energy efficient CFL bulbs and tubes and, to begin with on an experimental basis, two will have solar heating for water. The results will point the way to future expansion in the use of non-conventional energy for this use. We hope that energy-saving in these will be as high as 50% when compared to conventional buildings.

The Art School that is going up will also be a green rated building: its lighting, skylights and struc-

ture having been computer modelled to meet thermal, lighting and other green parameters. The lighting design will ensure that 75 % of the luminosity will be derived from daylight even on an overcast day. The retrofitting of the library also aims to achieve these goals with the added condition of conforming to the boundary conditions of sound for bibliotheca.

The Master Plan for 2007-2012 requires that all future construction conform to the highest green standards.

These are the first of our efforts to introduce the kind of technology that will place the school among the top-rated green heritage estates that have low carbon emissions. In fact with the implementation of recommendations made by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on energy efficient lighting we would be able to reduce carbon emission by 221 tonnes per annum. Proposals for efficiencies in pumping, distributing and recycling water and generating back-up electricity would add to this count.

If water recycling is financially viable we could exploit the potential of reusing 110 kl of the 170 kl of water pumped from our tube wells every day. With more efficient fittings, as in the refurbished Jaipur House, the consumption of water would also decrease by 10%-15 %.

This twin saving should make us the model citizens of Dehra Dun as there will be practically no carbon emission into the atmosphere or effluent let into the city's sewerage system or This model would give the town and the country something to emulate – thus making our present the community's future.

Let me at this point hasten to add that the programme of greening is not a kow-tow to, what some think is, the latest fad (even mania) of containing unsubstantiated “climate change”, to grip the world – it is in fact firmly based on a financial analysis of the payback period. According to TERI, the money invested in switching to efficient lighting fixtures should be recovered in around three years. With a combination of tube well and recycled water we would be able to keep about 65 % of our area, in particular our playing fields and main gardens, in A-class green cover almost through the year. Irrigation could be extended to almost the entire estate in phases. The aim is to have those who live

on the estate do it justice by keeping fine gardens in the tradition of the masters of earlier days.

While I have no information on the efforts being made by other institutions with respect to participating in the world-wide movement to contain global warming and tame environmental degradation, I believe the school can say with confidence that we are leaders in this field in so far that we are voluntarily imposing a model code of conduct on ourselves.

All works of art, landscaping and architecture are hemmed within a certain frame. In the case of educational institutions, physical assets are created to achieve the pedagogical and civic aims that a society has set for itself. As the school's community is aware, the upgradation of the physical assets of the school is one measure in the three-pronged drive – the other

Our efforts are to introduce the kind of technology that will place the school among the top-rated green heritage estates that have low carbon emissions.

(contd. from page 3)

prongs being human resources (the improved selection, well being and development of faculty/ students) and the improvement in the curriculum e.g. the introduction of the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the arts in pursuit of the vision that “ The Doon School aims to be an institution of excellence, rated among the ten best schools in the world, dedicated to producing leaders of the future.”

This article is limited to the physical frame of the school's estates of 29 hectares – Chandbagh and Skinner's- and its place in Dehra Dun, in the Doon and its perceived links to the world beyond. Although students of the school are expected to stay within the bounds of our walls, they are, at the same time, taught to engage with the world beyond.

The line between the outside world of uncontrolled development of urban space and the careful enhancement of the aesthetic attributes of our campus is sharp. For instance, while we are working out a management plan for preserving and regenerating our 100-year old arboretum, others look on trees not as something that contributes to physical well being and to an ambience that revs up an enthusiasm for life and work, but as so many tonnes of firewood.

We know from a section of the Press and general political comment that those caught in the decline of living conditions view estates such as ours with *lazy* envy as gardens of privilege that have *unfairly* organised themselves at the *expense* of the masses to an orderly life in terms of utilities.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Little does such politics stop to think that such order could be its manifesto as well, if it supported ways to maintain an equilibrium for the common good. As an example, the solution to the precipitous fall of the availability of fresh water in India from 5000 cu mts per capita in 1950 to 1800 cu mts (and declining) in 2005 is directly attributable to the disequilibrium caused by the more than three fold increase in population from 1947 to 2008; add to this the meltdown of glaciers and shift in rainfall patterns owing to climate change – and the call for and a solution to the rationalisation of the pressure on resources becomes self-evident. The school is engaging with these issues – giving physical shape to the subject of environmental studies.

The message that a school like ours has to send out is one of hope- the capacity to organise- and show leadership by example. All accusations of privilege will be exposed as false as our currently impressive accomplishment of giving financial aid to 25% (and aiming for 50%) of our students becomes common knowledge. Thus the purposeful application of funds in well- planned asset building and sustainable use of resources will be a (secondary) support to our goals of social responsibility. There is no evil, much less the evil of living at another's expense, in the application of science to better life- in updating the past to achieve a better future. The careful use of resources is something as beautiful as a pleasing form, which is what the second part of this writing deals with.

(To be continued next week)

Kenya Service Trip

Dilsher Dhillon reports on his Round Square International Service experience in Kenya

When Anindya and I were selected to go for RSIS Kenya 2007, we faced the thought of this trip with a large amount of apprehension, as it would be the first time the School would be sending students for this project.

On December 10, Anindya and I arrived in Nairobi without the slightest idea that we would have the time of our lives. After being picked up at the airport we were transported to Starehe Boys School in the heart of Nairobi, where we met the leaders of the project, Pierina Redler and Peter Ndungu. The first few days were meant for acclimatisation and for interaction with the other international students. Overall, there were 23 students-8 boys and 15 girls, from schools in India (Doon and Mayo), Germany (Salem), Canada (BVG, Collingwood, St. Clements and Lakefield), Australia (St. Philip's, Ballarat), England (Abbotsholme, Westfield) and Scotland (Gordonstoun). Inevitably, the first few days were awkward as people got to know each other. During the first two days, we were taken to a Giraffe Sanctuary and for a nature walk. We also got to see the actual city of Nairobi, bustling with exotic colours.

We left for the project site, Ibissil on December 12, a four-hour drive from Nairobi. Our primary objective was to finish building a science laboratory for the local girl's school, Ibissil Girls Secondary School. Apparently, 85% of the girls enrolled in the school were of the Masai tribe, an indication of the sound education policy of the government. Over the course of the project we would work with students from Starehe and Ibissil Girls School and the whole student contingent was divided into four groups of 15-16 students each. Each group had a Swahili name, for example, the name of my group was *Tenebo* meaning 'working together'. People from the same school and in some cases, similar countries could not be in the same group, except of course, for the Kenyan students who were in relatively large numbers.

The system of work was pretty organised. Each day one group would work on domestic duty doing a variety of chores such as cooking, cleaning the dorms and toilets, serving food, washing dishes etc. while the other three groups would work on the project, where division of labour prevailed. Each group did a certain task like metal-work or bricklaying, and after a specific amount of time, they would exchange with another group. There were many tasks on the project site, apart from those mentioned above, such as the mixing of the cement, ballast and mortar, water-retrieving, shovelling sand and stones and transporting bricks and stone slabs. The site also offered a breathtaking view of the mountains and countryside, including Mt. Kilimanjaro, which was over the border in Tanzania. On Sundays we would visit the town area and the countryside. My group visited a Catholic church in the village. It was a lovely experience. The Pastor's sermon was deeply moving and evocative. A visit to a church on Sunday is almost an a tradition for every African. The people in the church were devout Christians and after the sermon they all got up and danced to a gospel song.

We also visited the parents of the girls in the school and we gave them gifts and sat down and conversed with

them. A defining trait of Africans is their amiable and gregarious nature. They are very welcoming people and these visits were very educational and enlightening as they offered an in-depth look into their lives and culture. The poverty prevalent in these areas wasn't very different from the state that Indian villages are in. There was a lack of basic amenities like drinking water, wholesome food and there were children running around cheerfully everywhere, seemingly oblivious to their bad conditions. We also gave gifts to the children in these villages and conversed with the elders of the village.

In Ilbissil, we stayed in the dormitories of the girl's school. We shared our dormitories with Kenyans and in effect, learned a lot about them and their backgrounds. Apparently, 70% of the students in Starehe School were on a scholarship. So lack of money was never a deterrent in sending these bright and ebullient young men to school. One of the main cultural exchanges occurred on the dining table. We had many African dishes like *Mandazi* and *Ugali*, the former being a type of scented bread dish and the latter being a dish comprising maize and mashed potatoes. In turn, Anindya and I cooked *dal* for everyone.

The cultural night was one of the highlights of the trip. The Kenyan students did tribal dances and sang a few Swahili songs while the Canadians, Australians and British sang their own 'national' songs. For example, one of the songs sung by the Australians was a tribute to *Vegemite*, an Ozzie favourite and the Canadians sang a song about ice-hockey, their national sport. The Germans did a break-dance, full of twists and turns. We first did a Punjabi dance, choreographed by the two of us, who were complete novices at dancing. The song which we jived to was *Mast Kalandhar*. It was appreciated immensely by the audience. After our dance, we also sang on of our assembly songs, *Chisti*, which received enthusiastic applause from the audience.

After completing the building on an action-packed, but tiring final day, we left for Nairobi on December 23. We spent a night at Starehe School. Then, the twenty-three of us, with our leaders, left for the Masai Game Reserve for what would be an exhilarating last five days of the trip. While we were in the Reserve, we also visited a Masai village. We interacted with the tribal warriors and their wives. According to their culture, a boy can only become a man and a true warrior if he slays a lion by himself. Honour means a lot to the Masai.

We left for home on the scheduled date, December 28; thankfully, missing the post-election riots very narrowly. We undoubtedly had the most amazing and unforgettable three weeks of our entire lives.



Letter To The Editor

Due Apologies

In my tribute to my teachers, in the course of my Founder's Day Address, I had included Shri O.P. Malhotra in the list of those who are no more with us. I am delighted to receive a letter from him, now aged eighty-six, saying, "I am still alive...I could not attend Founder's Day as I have been on oxygen since September 2004." I have replied to him directly, but I seek the hospitality of your columns to reach the good news to a wider audience.

(Mani Shankar Aiyar)

Broken, but not torn

(NAPU Strikes Back)

The following is an insight into the aftershocks felt after the fateful first of February

The Non-Appointed Prefects Union (NAPU) is perhaps, the largest body at the top of the boys' hierarchy. But, unfortunately, the smallest body in terms of authority. When the Headmaster was announcing certain key appointments, NAPU was on its toes to look out for the *scopats*. The first one spotted was the chicken from Tata House, who had his *lenny* hairstyle at hand and had already practised his walk down the steps. So, when Tata's turn came, he was already up, but KP's pronouncement caused a wide array of expletives to erupt from the chicken's beak (pakak!pak! pak). We were also informed that our *honorary* editor had practised a wave and a flying kiss beforehand. All we can say is that you can wave all day long to your *Weekly* pals.

Waves of sorrow *swept* the House of the Leaf the day the announcements came crashing down. A certain Kashmiri was very sure of carrying forward the Kanpur legacy on his toughened shoulders, but all his *mazdoori* went in vain as finally his name was not included. The insect is still hovering around the yellow leaf, which is, evidently, around the Housemasters study. Is he hoping to do a *Maheshvari*? The news floated in the air that he was so depressed that he was looking for a deep hole to sequester himself. But fortunately, he found another member to fit in his gang. Shyamu was so red-faced that even the red bricks of the Rose Bowl turned green with envy. He thought his chances were very ripe, but as destiny had its way, they were squashed to a pulp.

A certain Swan, who couldn't take flight because of the crushing weight that was tied to him, went on record to say that intellectual stability (ie. not being dumb) should be no criteria for being appointed prefect. We are of the opinion that he was shattered on different grounds. It was, sources reveal, the result of the displacement of water caused by his heroic plunge into the depths of the pool. He was one of the first to arrive to the NAPU meeting. Another NAPU member had to be restrained in order to avoid damage to school property. Let's just say the frustration is getting to him. That is generally a bad thing considering his muscle-mass.

Believe it or not, even the movie star Adam was scoping. Don't worry mate, you have our vote for cleaning(the bogs) -in- charge(maybe then you'll get closer to a shower). The consolation to the biggest boy of Hyderabad House is that the ball may still be in his court. We will refrain from further comment for fear of being blasted into oblivion by his hairy highness.

The wings of some of the Eagles who were hoping to soar high were clipped, but not quite well enough to prevent them from flapping to NAPU. A certain *kaine* was left without a bark (though we think it is because of the problem in his throat. Let's not go there!) We also think that the hairy scary of this House was noticed socializing too much with the Thai crowd. Learn to control, *jaar*.

All we can say is better luck next time folks (sorry, next year.). Breaking News: The first NAPU meeting was headed by two members of the prefectorial body. Guess who?

Cruciverbalist's Corner

Vishnukaant Pitty

All entries are to be put into the Weekly boxes. The winner, decided by a lottery, will receive a treat.

Please remember to write your name on your entry.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12
13									14				
15							16						
17			18	19									
		20					21	22		23		24	
25	26			27		28							
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38						39							40
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43	44	45		46			47				48		
	49					50		51				52	
53		54					55				56		
57	58						59	60		61		62	
63										64			

Across: 1. Virgin Atlantic head honcho (7,7) 13. Capital of Hawaii (8) 14. A classical Japanese music drama (3) 15. An active volcano (4) 16. Participant (7) 17. Thank you - abbr. (2) 18. A famous outlaw (5) 20. Found in temples (4) 21. Taxing (7) 25. Use Me (3) 27. Free time is spent in this (7) 29. Unique Selling Proposition (3) 30. Not Applicable 31. Roman Clothing – slang (3) 32. Believe (5) 34. An artificial reservoir (7) 38. A candy company (5) 39. A unit of the circulatory system (6) 41. Not genuine (6) 42. A size of batteries 43. _____ coaster (6) 47. Sneering (5) 49. Indian antelope (6) 51. A protective covering on the toe end of a boot (6) 54. An unconventional source of energy (6) 56. Graphical User Interface (3) 57. A currency (4) 59. German chemical company (4) 62. Doctor – abbr. (2) 63. A breed of dog 64. A lake in USA

Down: 1. Protagonist in 'Gone with the Wind' (5,6) 2. Small amount (4) 3. News channel (3) 4. Secret store (5) 5. Aluminium (2) 6. A low, rolling noise (6) 7. One tenth of a litre (2) 8. Capital of Argentina (6,5) 9. Head gear of male deer (6) 10. Neither this _____ that (3) 11. A British military hat 12. _____ from the underground (5) 19. Sedimentary rock (6) 20. The 'I' in BIOS stands for this (5) 22. National University – Abbr. (2) 23. A prefix (2) 24. Stratford - _____ - Avon (4) 26. Organisation for Indian space research (4) 28. A South American Tribe (5) 31. If at once you don't succeed ... (3) 33. Rocky's nickname (8) 35. Retard; A dangerous feat (5) 36. Irritatingly difficult (7) 37. Abrase (5) 40. Garlic can repel it (7) 41. Capital of Czech Republic (6) 44. Antonym of off (2) 45. Zodiac sign (5) 46. id, ____, and superego (3) 48. Electrocardiogram (3) 50. A state in Midwestern USA (2) 52. Car company (4) 53. A gaming console (3) 55. Antimony (2) 58. Abbr. for earlier name of Uttar Pradesh (2) 60. A preposition (2) 61. Iron (2)

* * *

Showbiz

The world today is nothing but performance,
Where almost everything reflects an unreality.
Where the identity of man has to adapt,
Not to let the world see what lies
Behind the disguise.
Where almost every creature has to act
According to others
Where the entire society
Lives according to the social norms,
Unfortunately, not truly as it truly is.
Truth, is therefore somewhere lost in this phony world.
Reality, is somewhere diminished in the sweet smelling fortune,
That is not truly sweet as it is not man who owns it.
It is owned by his fakeness
The real soul is flattened by the bogus identity
Just to burst out one day when it realizes
That this entire real world of falsehood,
Can be called nothing but
Showbiz.

Secret

You cannot store the pain of your past in me,
Release me from your mind and let me be known
By others, and then you shall see
That you will no more be doomed or cursed
By your own identity to live
With fear and guilt.

To suspect that one day, someone from somewhere,
At some point of time in your life, may discover me.
And then you shall be held to blame.
You shall be the prey of your own predator,
Which is none else but your own identity.

So, this is a warning for you to let go of me,
Restricting my freedom can be awful for you,
Because I am hazardous and injurious.
I am no one else but your own,
Old, unforgettable, undesirable secret.
(Vatsal Khandelwal)

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