

The Doon School WEEKLY



"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
September 15, 2018 | Issue No. 2513

REGULARS

Recognising the achievements of
Doscocs in various fields.

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The Rainbow Reality

Aryaman Kakkar writes about the reception of the recent partial de-criminalisation of Section 377.

In a historic decision on September 6, 2018, the Supreme Court of India partially de-criminalised Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The unanimous decision taken by a Constitution bench comprising five judges which overturned the SC ruling of 2013, was met with great public acclaim. With homosexuality now legal, India has taken another step on the path to true social equality for minorities. With the Judges of the SC terming part of Section 377 as "irrational, indefensible, and manifestly arbitrary", the Court has done away with an obsolete colonial law which has been operational for 158 years. However, the central government's hostility to the idea of granting civil rights to the LGBTQ community is evident in the statements made by luminaries of the ruling party. The government counsel in July asked the Court to limit itself to Section 377 and not expand to civil rights because "The government would oppose any demand to legalise same-sex marriage." Such orthodox sentiments are obviously a legacy of the infamous "Buggery Act" passed during the regime of King Henry VIII about 158 years ago.

As outdated as these sentiments might appear, there are enough people who not only subscribe to such values, but go on to further enforce prevalent perceptions

by perpetuating stereotypes of homosexuality such as exaggerated feminine characteristics in gay men and a tom-boyish behaviour in lesbian women. As a result, many 'straight' individuals (albeit uninformed) find the LGBTQ community to be shrouded in misunderstanding and suspicion, culminating into hatred, leading to the community being reduced to a marginalised group outside 'mainstream' society. Thus the debate rages on between the proponents of homosexuality as 'unnatural lust' and those who disagree.

**...we shroud
homosexuality
with stigma,
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it into something
no one wants to be
associated with.**

Tradition is the one caveat that has, and always will have, a constant sway in this debate. What the proponents of the 'unnatural act' on the far-right refuse to understand even today is that sexual preference is a private concern. No one, not even the government, has the right

to interfere with or criminalise something that is integral to our personal preferences, and has a bearing on our Fundamental Rights, such as the Right to Equality before Law (Article 14). Yet, religious institutions and far-right political parties still uphold their statements about homosexuality being a mental and genetic disorder, despite the scientific evidence proving otherwise.

It is these far-right people who have carved gender-stereotypes and a rigid heterosexuality out of solid rock. The two genders that exist in the eyes of such traditional majority have very specific roles for each defining moment of their lives and there is no wiggle room left. This "traditional" thinking is normalised in our School community as well. We have established India's heteronormativity in our society, expecting boys and girls to behave in very specific ways. When we instinctively use defamatory terms in vernacular, we shroud homosexuality with stigma, stereotypes, and turn it into something no one wants to be associated with. In a way, we propagate homophobia by making "homosexual" characteristics undesirable and looked down upon. We, the future, are carrying that stigma, instilled phobia and

(Continued on Page 3)

SMASHING SUCCESS

The School participated in the **All India IPSC Table Tennis Championship** held at **Pestle Weed College** from **August 30** to **September 2, 2018**.

The results are as follows:

The **Under-14** team comprising Arjun Vaish, Arnav Malhotra, Raghav Sharma, Aryav Agarwal, and Ransher Singh Mann won the **Silver** medal. The **Under-17** team comprising Shyamal Singhal, Kanish Aggarwal, Aryan Kasera, Raghav Misra and Avi Soni won the **Gold** medal.

The **Under-19** team comprising Anuman Goel, Harshvardhan Agarwal, Sanyam Gupta, Anant Jain and Paarth Agarwal won the **Silver** medal.

In the individual category, Arjun Vaish won a **Bronze** in the **Under-14** category. Shyamal Singhal won a **Bronze**, while Kanish Aggarwal won the **Gold** in the **Under-17** category.

The School also won the **Overall Championship Trophy**.

Kanish Aggarwal, Arjun Vaish, Shyamal Singhal, Anuman Goel, Harshvardhan Agarwal and Anant Jain have been selected for the **SGFI Nationals**.

Congratulations!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I only make spelling mistakes when I speak.

Siddhant Agarwal, and stutter when you write?

Do you know something called full stops?!

Varen Talwar, editing himself.

“

Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.

Helen Keller

MAGICAL MELODIES

Following are the results for the **Inter-House Music Competition, 2018**:

Dance: Hyderabad

Band: Tata

Piano: Jaipur

Drums: Hyderabad

Instrumental: Hyderabad

Tabla: Tata

Light Vocal: Tata and Kashmir

Choir: Tata

House Cup

1st: Tata

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Jaipur

5th: Oberoi

Kudos!

FANCY FOOTWORK

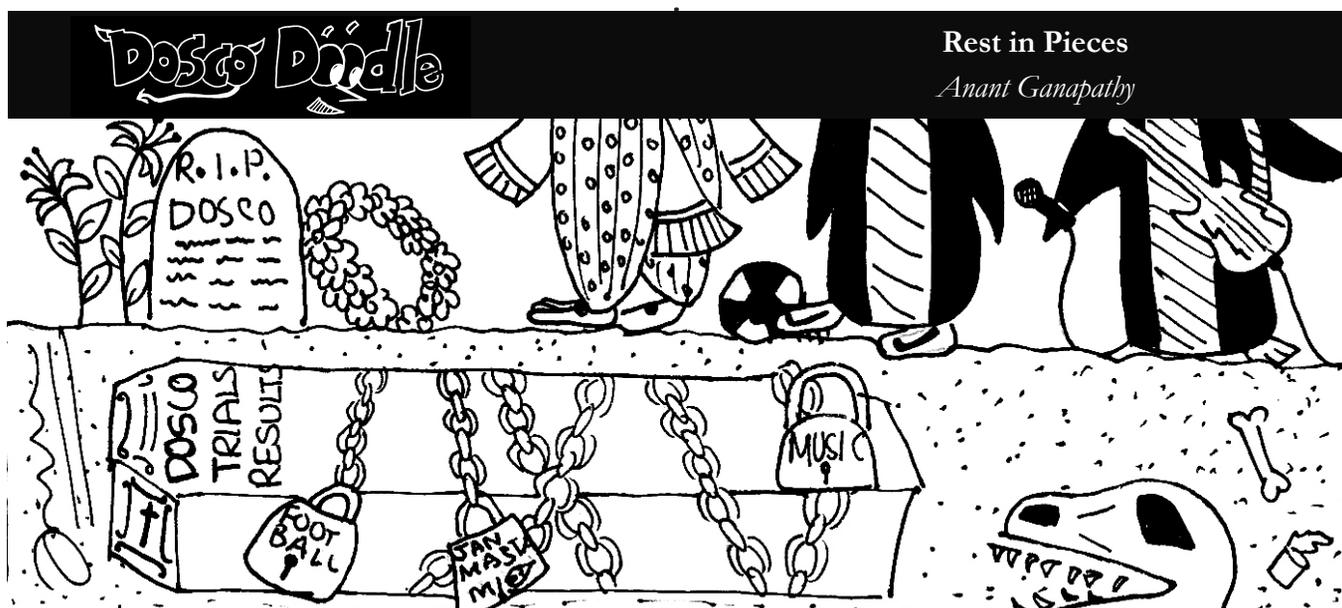
The School hosted the **Junior Inter-School Football Tournament** from **August 28** to **September 1, 2018**.

The School Team came **Runner-up**.

Well done!

Around the World in 80 Words

The Indian rupee plunged 1.3 percent as it hit a record low on Monday. Hurricane Florence, a possible Category 4 hurricane, approached closer to the Carolinas as millions were asked to evacuate. President Trump faced criticism after he hailed the US intervention in Hurricane Maria, which left more than 3,000 dead, as ‘incredibly successful’. Serena Williams accused tennis of being rampant with sexism after facing fines for verbal and racket abuse. Ranjan Gogoi was appointed the Chief Justice of India.



Rest in Pieces

Anant Ganapathy

(Continued from Page 1)

stereotypical perspective forward with us into our homes, workplaces and relationships. Everywhere we go, we will continue to influence others with stigma and the continued marginalisation of a suppressed minority. This

is why it is necessary for us to change. We, having the privilege and opportunity to be exposed to liberal perspectives and become free thinkers, should dispel the stigma and stereotypes from our daily lives and ideologies.

If we do not change the way

we think, we cannot bring about the change we want to. If we stay heteronormative and stereotypical inside the walls of Chandbagh, how can we expect the people outside to be different? How can we become more than we already are?

‘Hospee’

Amal Bansode

Being admitted in the Hospital Wellness Centre is not a privilege that belongs to all, as I understand it. I know a handful of people who have not once in their school lives been sent off to this detention facility, and yes, I do feel bad for them. Of course, I do wish my immunity was as strong as theirs, but there are some aspects of being quarantined that are simply unrivalled anywhere else in School.

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Once you’re in a ward with fatigued peers and duotone furniture — blue and white — you turn blue too.

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Being from the South — and highly sensitive to weather changes — has meant that I usually pay a visit to the Wellness Centre at least once a term. So, you can definitely bank on my review of this place. This review, of course, assumes that you have gotten past the initial stage of your visit, viz. being considered ‘fit’ to be admitted.

To begin with, the building is a mix of both monotony and colour — representative of the emotions it evokes. At the outset, it is a miniature model of the Main Building with identical bricks,

arches, chimneys, and ivy. Upon entry is an array of colourful drugs—with the latest addition of colourful stools (no, not those ones) — supplemented with an unending cycle of quotes about friendship. Then, as you enter the detention wards, you notice that the colour in your surroundings — furniture, pictures, et al — progressively fades along with the smiles on people’s faces. No, you are not sick. Well, you are, it is not your sickness that make the colours around you do actually vanish, they are actually absent! Once you’re in a ward with fatigued peers and duotone furniture — blue and white — you turn blue too.

Besides the appearance of things, the amenities provided by the Wellness Centre are pretty impressive. You have a love-hate relationship with your oddly-shaped pillow. You are sick of lying in your bed 23 hours a day but also love the perfectly conditioned air. The clatter of the fans is half-exasperating and half-soothing. Then there’s the television too. Though I’ve never been a television enthusiast, I understand that this is one of three two-lettered reasons why people love dropping in the Wellness Centre — AC, WC, and TV. Most importantly though, I am glad that the School finally renovated the bathrooms in the Wellness Centre.

As for the food — you are usually stuffed with the same food that

is prepared by the CDH, except on one occasion: In the middle of the night, you are awoken by a steward to be pampered with some warm toast and chocolate flavoured milk. I don’t know what the Hospital’s secret sauce is, but it’s enough to make me crave something as simple as bread on butter for hours on end.

The state of being quarantined itself is a notable aspect of being admitted. The lone time lets you rethink and overthink about that one time you forgot to say thank you to the House Bearer. Depending on your social quotient, you may or may not be visited by peers who will offer some much-needed entertainment and updates on School gossip. Then you learn that time hasn’t actually frozen and that in your absence, your classes have read 31 books, completed sixteen worksheets, delivered seven presentations, and made contact with aliens. Nevertheless, for the brief time during which you are admitted, being oblivious to the rest of the world is hard to not enjoy.

So, while suffering from illness is certainly saddening, on the bright side, I can assure you that you can, indeed, recover seventeen years’ lost sleep during your stay at the Wellness Centre. In fact, being admitted might as well be on the list of quintessential experiences for the average Dosco.

The Week Gone By

Karan Sampath

Trials came as a shock to many DoscOs. Several boys faced difficulties in completing the voluminous syllabus. After the mindboggling pace at which activities took place concurrently, it was hardly surprising that many of us faced academic woes. With attentions across School pivoting from the fields to the classrooms this week, the panic observed on many faces was definitely a sight one is not likely to forget for some time.

Several activities tried their level best to come to a close before the guillotine of Trials dropped. Regrettably, there were a few

casualties which failed to wrap up in time; the most notable one being Inter-House Football. The School Football Team's glorious performance helped them secure the top position in the Councils tournament with a comfortable margin. With the remaining activities pushed till after Trials, one can only imagine what concoction will be served up when Founder's practices also begin at the same time.

The long weekend leading up to Trials was for many, the first time they were able to truly explore the depth of their curriculum. This was obviously not the case with the SC Form as they had already started preparations well before time in view of predicted grades. Several SC Formers were also observed walking around in unfamiliar dress combinations and they appeared

more aloof; only to be found sitting at their study unit. The S Form, on the other hand, were pleasantly surprised by the fact that perhaps these trials placed a far lower academic burden on them than their previous examination, and hence devoted more time to 'extra-curricular' activities. The A Form became a near replica of the SC Form, with many finally realising that perhaps the next examination they would attempt would be an external one.

As we gear up for another week of this arduous exercise, let us hope that much like the weather, it turns out to be far less gloomy than before. In the end, remember that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and slowly but surely, we shall be there to see it.

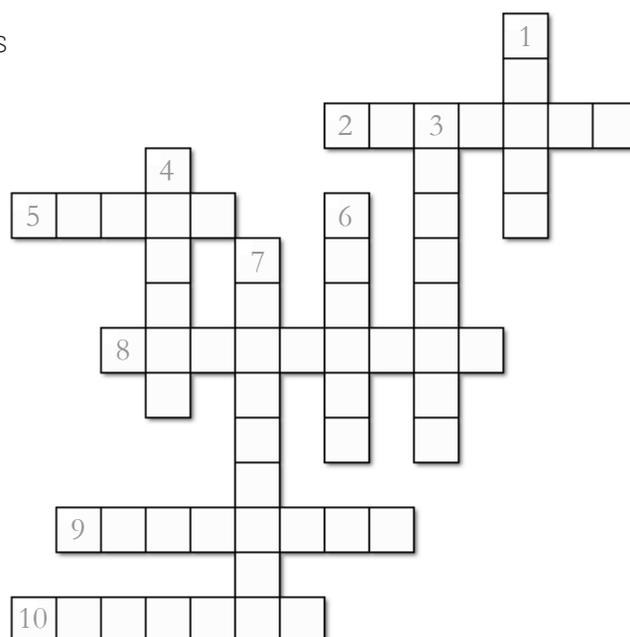
Crossword | Iconic Movie Vehicles

Across

- The Mystery _____ first appeared in 1969, in the cartoon series 'Scooby Doo' as the van used by the detective team Mystery Inc.
- In a book and movie of the same name, 'The _____ Express' takes children on a journey to the North Pole to meet Santa.
- A wealthy DC superhero uses this heavily armoured and weaponised vehicle as a tool to fight crime instead of inherent superhuman powers.
- This broom stick replaced Harry Potter's Nimbus 2000 after it was destroyed by the Whomping Willow.
- Animators drew 43,000 sketches of this protagonist car during the visual development of the movie 'Cars'.

Down

- This giant robot can turn into a truck and features as the leader of the Autobots in the movie 'Transformers'.
- In the 1984 film 'Ghostbusters', the protagonists drive around the streets of New York in a converted 1959 _____ Ecto-1 hearse while fighting the supernatural.
- This solid black motorcycle belongs to the Ghost Rider and possesses flaming wheels and the Medallion of Power.
- The 'Love Bug', a Volkswagen Beetle, plays the starring role in the movie '_____?'
- This yellow and black '77 Camaro has become famous for using a radio to talk and has an upcoming movie to its name.



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

| Answers to This Week's Crossword | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Across | Down |
| 2. Mache | 1. Prime |
| 3. Cadillac | 6. Herbie |
| 4. Gascap | 7. Bumblebee |
| 5. Polar | 10. McQueen |
| 8. Barmobile | |

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

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