

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

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Editorial: The Cycle Continues

Chaitanya Kediya

Not only is it an honour and a privilege to be at the helm of a publication that predates the creation of our own nation, but also a responsibility that bears with it a great need for circumspection. In the brief period that I have held the position of Editor-in-Chief, I have come to understand that it holds a great deal of power. There is a sense of awe I feel, as one is wont to do while following in the footsteps of Editors like Vikram Seth, Pranoy Roy and Karan Thapar, but that is overwhelmed with a determination to build upon this legacy and take the Weekly to greater heights in every way possible.

The Doon School Weekly is a dynamic institution and we seek to improve it with every passing year. The software on which the Weekly is made is being changed from Corel Draw to InDesign, and hopefully this will make the issue better-structured and aesthetically appealing. While the Weekly isn't a newspaper, it does strive to be a source of information for the entire School community. More often than not, the Weekly is just 'casually consumed' over a Saturday morning breakfast. To that end, we are reviving the 'Around the World in 80 Words' as a regular feature, as well as adding a new section 'Under the Scanner'. The primary aim of this component is to not just inform the School but to also develop an interest within DoscOs to want to know more about some contemporary issues. This week, for instance, the first issue that we have tackled is about the One Rank, One Pension policy. While many students may have heard of it around the time when the last session of Parliament was concluded, this week's issue of 'Under the Scanner' is aimed at informing the community about some recent developments that have taken place.

Those were largely the more structural issues compared to some of the other things that I would want to change in the coming year. Over the last four years in which I have been with the *Weekly*, I have noticed an issue that has only grown in size. With the passage of time, there is a perception that has been created about this publication - that the show is run by a few people, and that the job of the rest is to simply read. I want to bring to the attention of every individual that we want you to contribute, because without members of this community voicing their opinions, the *Weekly* will deteriorate into a shell of itself. While it would be idealistic to 'demand' that every member of the School contributes to the *Weekly* in some way or the other, something needs to change. On our side, we will try to make the *Weekly* as interesting as possible, but at the same time we need the common Dosco to engage with the *Weekly*. It doesn't matter whether it is a poem, a letter to the editor, a story or an article, what is necessary is the participation. So, continue to critique, question, read and write. Assume nothing. Nothing must be termed as the truth as long as any and all endeavours to prove it otherwise have failed.

The Weekly has rightly been called one of the defining and iconic institutions of The Doon School. It has come a long way in the past eighty years, but something that hasn't changed in all this time is its purpose: to serve as a platform to write, share ideas and engage in debate and discourse. It is our prerogative to ensure that this foundation, on which the *Weekly* has been built, only strengthens. In the end I hope you enjoy this issue, and those to come. Healthy criticism and ideas on what we can add to the *Weekly* are welcome, but I echo what my predecessor had written a year ago, "destructive criticism serves progress in no way!"

And so the cycle continues: another Editor-in-Chief, another Editorial Board, but the same black and white pages every Saturday.

“ I have noticed an issue that has only grown in size. With the passage of time, there is a perception that has been created about this publication - that the show is run by a few people, and that the job of the rest is to simply read. ”



Regulars

Appointments

The following appointments have been made for various activities for the forthcoming year:

The Doon School Weekly:

Editor-in-Chief: Chaitanya Kediya

Editor: Madhav Singhal

Senior Editors: Atrey Bhargava, CC Chengappa and Varun Sehgal

Doon School Information Review:

Editor-in-Chief: Dhruv Johri

Chief of Production: Sasyak Pattnaik

Editors: Madhav Singhal and Chaitanya Kediya

Circle:

Editors-in-Chief: Dhruv Kharbanda and Dhruv Johri

Chief-of-Production: Madhav Singhal

Editor: Sasyak Pattnaik

Senior Editor: Ananay Sethi

Boys-in-Charge:

Ham Radio: Tejit Pabari

Audio Visual Squad: Rishab Agarwal, Md. Zaid Bin Shamim and Kartavya Nagpal

Lost Property Office: Vivan Sharma

Robotics: Ananay Sethi

Motor Mechanics: Aditya Oberai

English Public Speaking Society: Atrey Bhargava

Entertainment Committee: Dhruv Ahuja

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

Bull's Eye

In the 13th Asian Shooting Championship held at Kuwait, Samarjit Singh won an Individual Bronze and the Team Gold for India in Air Pistol (Youth). He scored 566 out of 600 points and was ranked number one in the Qualification Round.

Kudos!

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It is the life in your years."
-Abraham Lincoln

Musicians

Following are the **best musician award winners:**

D Form: Rushil Chaudhary

C Form: Pranav Goel and Kartik Subbiah

B Form: Harsh Dewan and Anirudh Shyam Bazari

A Form: Angad Singh Trehan

S Form: Anuvrat Chaudhary and Anant Mohan

Sc Form: Rishabh Agarwal

Congratulations!

Badminton

The results of the **Inter House Badminton Competition, 2015** are as follows:

Seniors:

1st: Kashmir

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Jaipur

4th: Tata

5th: Oberoi

Juniors:

1st: Kashmir

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Tata

4th: Oberoi

5th: Jaipur

Mediums:

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Oberoi

3rd: Jaipur

4th: Tata

5th: Kashmir

House Cup:

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Kashmir

3rd: Oberoi and Tata

5th: Jaipur

Well done!

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

Kurdish forces have launched an offensive to take back the Iraqi town of Sinjar. United Kingdom is to resettle up to 20,000 refugees from Syria. Putin orders doping investigation with as many as 99% of Russian athletes being guilty of the same. EU leaders attending EU-African summit have approved 1.8-billion-euro trust fund for Africa aimed at tackling the migrant crisis. In India, Maggi has finally returned to the markets, with 60,000 units being sold out in 5 minutes on Snapdeal.

Doosco Doodle

The Term-inator

Dhruv Pais



One-Child Policy: Vice or Virtue?

A debate on whether China should have left its one child policy

Point

Aryan Chhabra

Amidst allegations of China leading the world towards a global recession, the Chinese government finally ended its decades old 'One Child' policy. The end of this draconian system after what seemed like an eternity led many to heave a huge sigh of relief, believing it to be the start of the Chinese getting some of their freedoms back. While debates and deliberations are taking place, this piece attempts at providing a critical analysis of China's decision as well as arguments for the same. However, before I begin, I would like to clarify that by arguing for the removal of this system, I am by no means denying the cloud of overpopulation that still looms in China. On the contrary, I believe that as the most populous country in the world, China still has a long way to go with regards to this problem. All I am saying is that it is about time China does away with this policy and adopt other alternatives such as those I am about to propose.

China adopted the controversial one child policy in 1979. Its population was increasing at the rate of 1.9% and it held the distinction of housing 20% of the world's population. Given the alarming rise in population, it made sense for the government of that time to unleash such draconian regulations. However, the situation is much changed now. With an estimated growth level of 0.7%, China's population has achieved some sort of stability and its one-child policy has been responsible for stopping about 400 million births since it was first enforced. Ergo, this policy has achieved the desired result. Moreover, what this policy led to was a rapid decline when it comes to a working population. The working population of China has declined by 3.7 million to 916 million and according to the United Nations, the number of Chinese over the age of 15-64 will increase by a humongous 85% to 243 million till 2030. This also entails a major dip in the huge working force that China boasts of, thus taking away the economic advantage of cheap labour force, something that has given China an edge in global economics. In fact, China is already beginning to stagnate when it comes to being the manufacturing hub of the world. Apart from the economic implications, the one-child policy has also had ramifications when it comes to the social fabric. According to many human rights campaigners, women were forced to have abortions when they became pregnant for the second time. Moreover, the policy also led to desperation for male-child, thus invariably leading to female infanticide and a skewed sex ratio that threatens to spiral out of control. It is estimated that by 2020 there will be 30 million bachelors who will be forced to remain like that because there just aren't enough girls.

As I near the conclusion, I would like to thank the Chinese government for finally realizing the need to abandon such a system and implore them to continue taking such steps in the near future.

Counterpoint

Arjun Singh

Despite being vilified by the international community for several decades, the One-Child Policy adopted by China was one that carried with it several beneficial consequences for the nation. These included the intended purpose (population control) in addition to various others; which led to the policy receiving overwhelming public support as late as 2008. Before delving into these consequences, it should be established that they must be analysed from a 'Chinese' viewpoint – encompassing both its economic and social concerns.

One of the foremost consequences of the One-Child Policy was a large reduction in the country's population. Even with its authoritative communist government, China's current population of 1.35 billion puts a tremendous strain on the state's ability to provide essential public infrastructure for its citizens. By lowering the average fertility rate to 1.7 births per woman, the policy was able to contain population growth to what it is now. Had the policy been absent, the fertility rate would've expanded giving the country an extra 300 million people – many of whom would suffer due to a lack of basic facilities. Rather than have the state default on its obligation to promote social welfare, the communist government created this policy along the lines of pragmatism, leaving room for resources to fuel the country's other interests. Additionally, British newspaper The Guardian reports that the 36 year long One-Child Policy reduced China's water pollution by 30.8% and saved the atmosphere of up to 200 million tons of Carbon Dioxide emissions. These environmental benefits of the policy were beneficial for not only China but also the entire world. These issues still persist today, and making way for a population increase will only aggravate the country's current predicament.

Seeing that the importance of the policy has been established, it now remains to refute the various misconceptions that surround China's former one-child policy. Often the policy is branded as a 'violation of human rights', for it 'forces' women to conduct abortions if a second child is conceived. This isn't true, the Chinese Government had outlawed the forcing of women to have abortions. If the policy was violated, the penalty was the child's confiscation, along with the removal of the working spouse from their government job. Any uses of force otherwise were unwarranted violations of the policy, which requires a crackdown on Local Family Planning Commissions and not a removal of the policy itself. Furthermore, one may argue that taking the child away is an equal violation of human rights. However, from the perspective of China that is a communist state the seizure of the child is a justified proposition, and applying our democratic models to it would decontextualise the issue. Conclusively, the One-Child policy's removal signifies increased problems for the country on various fronts, and it remains to be seen how China shall handle the predicament this carries in the future.

IPSC Social Service

Vishesh Khetan

A team comprising Tarang Garg, Vishesh Khetan, Zaid Bin Shameem and Saksham Goel was escorted by Mrs. Amrit Burrett to Scindia School, Gwalior for the the social service IPSC. This programme was conducted from the 23rd to the 29th of October.

The first leg of the social service IPSC began on 24th morning. It was a long day and we spent this day on the beautiful campus. The architectural splendor held us captive as we walked around the campus. The lush green and well curated fields were another feature that caught our eye.

On the 25th we ventured to a small village similar to Rasalpur. The interaction with the people of the village was a delightful one. We spent time building roads and lifting bricks as well as building houses. We also used this opportunity to share various ideas so that the village folk could sustain themselves.

What was very different in this IPSC programme was that it placed upon the team unfamiliar situations and challenged us to think beyond. As Doscocs we did not feel this was a challenge or a trying time, we were able to handle this unfamiliar experience and turned it into an opportunity to change mind-sets of the people in our IPSC team.

The impact of this IPSC on us was that we were able to share and learn several things from students across India.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Weekly,

Could you use your platform to raise the issue of casual misogyny, which pervades every walk of life? However, this becomes specially odious when platforms like assembly talks allow "funny" references to Desi Aunties as the purveyors of gossip, as a special category of individuals under the category of the "General Indian", and mysteriously, as individuals especially qualified as suitably unemployed. As someone who qualifies in every respect as both "Desi"(Indian, India-born, India raised, India (schooled/college/universitied/ careered) and Auntie (over the hill, fat, smug, only-a-schoolteacher), I can testify to having no time to poke my nose into other people's affairs. I am sure there must be at least a billion Desi Aunties like me! Could our speakers watch what they say? Could they desist from employing misogynistic references to women as stupid, unemployed, gossipy folk? You could be doing your own mothers, sisters, and future ex-wives and wives a huge favour!

Warmly,

Priyanka Bhattacharya,
Proud Desi Auntie

| Junior Poetry |

The Final Leap

Aayush Chowdhry

Helpless, hapless and without power,
I stand atop a high tower,
To take the final leap,
That puts me to eternal sleep.

I see the world below me,
With tormentors, narcissists and criminals free,
They all seem like indifferent cattle,
Galore, their endless prattle.

My heart gets its one last thump,
I, with my whole life, jump.
Life flashes before me, as they say,
With fragments of my happiness in the day.

I remember my parents, forcing me to stay strong,
I shall join them after so long.

Then, I see my precious daughter,
Jubilant with all smiles and laughter.

I extend a meager hand,
Bleakly wanting to hug her, but can't.
I see the whiskey-sodden idiot I had been,
And she still, a loving father, in me had seen.

I now realize my cowardice,
Standing tall over all of the other lies.

This was my biggest blunder,
To the truth I now surrender,
And as I fall from the tower high,
In the last second of my life, I don't want to die.

Insurmountable

Zoraver Mehta

He tread along that rocky road
To find what none had found,
His existence, as ubiquitous
To this day, he was unbound.

He gazed now, optimistically
Wondering what lay on the other side,
It was purportedly unfound
There were no rules to abide.

Was it curiosity that led him?
Or perhaps a heightened sense of things
He just wanted what none had had
When that final bell rings.

So he walked and so he ran
It didn't really make him happy nor sad
He had just disappeared, and not a soul could find
him
And had achieved what nobody had.

माँ

• शुभम धीमान

जब कभी रात काली डराती थी,
तो तू अपने आँचल में सुलाती थी।
दुनिया से जब भी दिल घबराता था,
तेरे साये में ही मैं छुप जाता था।
चल पड़ा मैं उस दुनिया में,
भूल गया मैं रास्ते पुराने,
बस तेरा चेहरा मुझे याद रहा।
यूँ तो ज़मानों तक बर्बाद रहा,
बस तुझे सोच कर मैं आबाद रहा,
माँ तेरा चेहरा मुझे याद रहा।
अनजान हैं रातें, कब से न सोया
किसी दुनिया, किसी भीड़ में खोया
यूँ तो मुक्कदर पर रोज़ रोया
पर आँसुओं में भी वो साथ रहा,
तेरा चेहरा मुझे याद रहा,
माँ तेरा चेहरा मुझे याद रहा।
बचपन क्या गया, नादानी खो गई,
बस सपनों में ही क्यों खुशियाँ सो गई?
भूला मैं जहाँ भूला हूँ कहाँ?
कोई तो राह अब दिखाये मुझे!
जब बात कोई मुझको सताती थी,
तो पल-पल तू भी घबराती थी,
जब गुस्से से तू कभी मुझे डाँट लगाती थी,
तो आँखें तेरी भी तो भर आती थीं।
कोसूँ खुद को, क्यों दूर हुआ मैं?
खुशियों के खातिर मजबूर हुआ मैं,
खुशियाँ तो मुझे वहीं मिल जाती थीं,
जब प्यार से तू मुझे गले लगाती थी।
छत पर बैठकर जब रातों को तू तारे गिनाती थी,
याद है वो कहानियाँ जो तू बचपन में सुनाती थी?
एक सपनों का जहाँ बादलों में उड़ता दिखाती थी,
फिर फ़रिश्ते ख़्वाबों में दिखाकर तू मुझे सुलाती थी
बड़ा बहुत मैं चमकता गया, पर तेरे बिना मैं भटकता गया
उस लोरी में कोई साज़ नहीं, जिसमें तेरी आवाज़ नहीं
वो बातें याद हैं मुझको
जब मेरी हँसी में तेरी खुशियाँ नज़र आती थी,
जब मेरी एक ज़िद पर तू अपने सपने भूल जाती थी,
जब मैं जी भरकर खाता था, तभी तू खाना खाती थी,
मेरी हर भूल को माफ़ कर तू ही सीने से लगाती थी।

बस इतना कहना है माँ, मैं जल्दी वापस आऊँगा,
तेरा आँचल में छिप चैन से सो जाऊँगा,
बस सीने से ना लगाना शायद मैं रो जाऊँगा,
फिर बातें तुझसे हज़ारों करता जाऊँगा,
सफर ज़िंदगी का तुझे फुरसत से सुनाऊँगा,
बस माँ अब मैं जल्द ही लौट आऊँगा।

चाँदनी रात में नौका विहार

• समर्थ मेहरा

चारु चन्द्र की चंचल किरणों, खेल रही हैं जलथल में।
स्वच्छ चाँदनी बिछी हुई थी, अवनि और अम्बरतल में।
प्रकृति के सौंदर्य ने मनुष्य को सदैव अपनी ओर आकर्षित किया है। इसी आकर्षण से मनुष्य अपने जीवन में सुख की कल्पना करता है। अपने जीवन की नीरसता को मिटाने के लिए मनुष्य ऐसे कार्यक्रम आयोजित करता है जिससे उसे खुशी मिले।
ऐसे ही मैं भी प्रकृति के सौंदर्य का आनंद लेने अपने ग्रीष्मावकाश में हरिद्वार गया था। मेरा मन, वहाँ पहुँचते ही गंगा के दर्शन के लिए लालायित हो रहा था। वहाँ पहुँचते ही मुझे माँ मन्दाकिनी की आरती की ध्वनि सुनाई दे रही थी। मंद- मंद बहती हवा और कल-कल बहता जल, इनकी आवाज़ें उस आरती के साथ, एक मिश्रण बनकर मुझे सुनाई दे रहीं थीं। वहाँ एक मल्लाह से बात करकर हमने उसकी गंगाजी में नौकाविहार करने की बात की।
हम धीरे-धीरे छोर से दूर जा रहे थे। माँ मन्दाकिनी के आरती के स्वर अब मुझे मंद मंद ही सुनाई दे रहे थे। पीछे मुड़कर देखा, तो केवल हज़ारों की भीड़ एवं हज़ारों दीप ही दिख रहे थे। लग रहा था की प्रकृति ने अपना खज़ाना लुटाने में अधिक उदारता दिखाई थी। नीचे पानी में देखकर ऐसा लग रहा था कि चाँद की किरणों जल के साथ खेल रही हैं। वैसे ही वह इतना अनोखा दृश्य था और पूर्णिमा की रात ने उसमें चार चाँद लगा दिए। इतना सुन्दर दृश्य देखकर मेरे मन को संतुष्टि मिली।
ज़्यादा रात हो रही थी इसलिए मल्लाह ने हम सबसे वापिस चलने के लिए कहा। अधिक संकोच के साथ मैंने हामी भरी और एक कविता याद आ गयी -
ले चल मुझे कहीं बुलावा देकर, मेरे नाविक धीरे-धीरे।
जिस निर्जन में सागर लहरा, अम्बर के कानों में गहरा।
मनुष्य की जिज्ञासा ने प्रकृति के अनेक अनबूझ रहस्यों पर से पर्दा उठाया है , परन्तु आज भी इसका मूक सौंदर्य हमें आकर्षित करता है। प्रकृति और मानव एक दूसरे के पूरक हैं। मानव सौंदर्य का उपासक है , तो प्रकृति अनंत सौंदर्य भंडारों की स्वामिनी है। आज भी मेरी आँखों के समक्ष वे दृश्य साकार हो उठते हैं।

एक आरजू

• अभ्यांशु उत्कर्ष

ऐ खुदा मुझे इतनी हिम्मत देना,
ये दिल में जो शब्द है, दिल में रहे ना,
ये मन की चाहते, मन में ही ना मरे,
ले जाना है तो ले जा मुझे,
पर जाने से पहले,
एक ऐसी आग भड़का जाऊँ,
एक ऐसी आरजू जगा जाऊँ,
जो कभी भी बुझे ना,
जो कभी भी रुके ना!

‘ब्रांड एम्बेसडर’

• अरविन्दनाभ शुक्ल

दोपहर तक बिक गया बाजार का हर एक झूठ

और मैं एक सच लेकर शाम तक बैठा रहा

बाज़ार का ज़माना है। कमाने और खर्चने की महिमा का चारों ओर बखान चल रहा है। खरीददार हैं, दुकानें हैं, और हैं ब्रांड जो पैसे बनाने का जांचा-परखा ज़रिया हैं। ब्रांडिंग का जलसा गली-गली मनाया जा रहा है। चैनल, अखबार वाले चांदी के जूतों की मार खा-खा कर इस जलसे को महिमा-मंडित करने में लगे हुए हैं।

सच में, अब गलियों और चबूतरों पर ‘इक्कल – दुक्कल’ का खेल नहीं खेला जाता। ‘पोशम्पा भई पोशम्पा’ के डाकिये ने क्या किया, इससे किसी को सरोकार नहीं है। मछली से पानी की गहराई नहीं पूछी जाती। ‘अक्कड़ बक्कड़ बम्बे बो’ में अस्सी, नब्बे या पूरे सौ हैं कि नहीं इससे किसी को कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता। सारा मामला आकर बैलेंसशीट पर सिमट जाता है।

कौन, क्या और कितना बेच सकता है, इस आधार पर लोगों की कीमत तय होती है। हर व्यक्ति अपने आप को सबसे बड़ा बेचू साबित करने की दौड़ में लगा हुआ है। अभिनेता फिल्म-नगरी के, खिलाड़ी बगल की दुर्गन्ध हटाने वाले सुगन्धित तरल पदार्थों के, लेखक और चिन्तक विचारों और वादों के ‘ब्रांड एम्बेसडर’ बन गए हैं। कच्छे-बनियान, जूते-मौजे, बाल उगाने के तेल और बालसफा साबुन, दवा-दारू, सेहत बढ़ाने वाले घी और कोलेस्ट्रॉल घटाने वाली व्यायाम की मशीनें; सब धड़ाधड़ बेचा जा रहा है। बेचने वाले चतुर हों तो खरीदने वाले मूढ़ तो मिल ही जाते हैं। बड़े बाप का बेटा बढ़ कर हाथ मारता है और जुम्मन मियाँ ढड़ू का पाड़ा बने हाथ झुलाते घर की तरफ लौट पड़ते हैं।

यह सारी कसरत है किस के लिए! रुपये के लिए। वही रुपया जिस पर गांधी बाबा की तस्वीर छपी होती है; चश्मा लगाए विचारमग्न

मुद्रा में। स्वाभाविक ही है कि वे विचारमग्न मुद्रा में नोट पर बैठे हैं। जो आदमी सारी ज़िंदगी मितव्ययिता की बात करता रहा, सादा जीवन उच्च विचार का नारा लगाता रहा, स्वावलंबन का विचार दुनिया को देता रहा; वही अचानक मक्कारी, बेईमानी और लालच के प्रसार में भागीदार हो गया।

उनकी टोपी अब जादूगर का हैट बन गयी है। पर, फर्क यह है कि उसमें से अब कबूतर और खरगोश नहीं निकलते। निकलते हैं तो विदेशी बैंकों के खाते, बड़े - बड़े ठेके और दलाली के समाचार। खद्दर भी उन्होंने ही दे थी। अब उस खद्दर का प्रयोग घूसखोरी और भ्रष्टाचार के मामलों की गठरी बनाकर जनता की नज़रों से बचाने में किया जाता है। उसका प्रयोग चेहरों पर ही नहीं बल्कि आत्मा पर लगे दागों को पोंछने में और और काले को सफ़ेद बनाने में किया जाता है। उनकी लाठी अब हथियार की तरह काम करती है। वह गरीब की पीठ पर पड़ती है तो कमर तोड़ ही देती है। उसकी मूठ भी अब खुरदुरी नहीं रही। उसपर सोना मढ़ कर हीरे - जवाहरात जड़ दिए गए हैं। वह अब उसी के पास रह सकती है जिसमें उसे खरीदने की ताब हो।

याद आया, उसने एक और भी चीज़ दी थी – ‘सत्य’! काफी खोजबीन की तो पता चला कि सत्य काफी दिन तक टोपी, खद्दर और डंडे के कब्जे में रहा था। उन तीनों ने मिल कर उसमें संशोधन, परिवर्धन और मिलावट करने के बाद उसे हरे नोटों पर तस्वीर के रूप में छाप दिया और अपनी जेबों में छिपा कर रख लिया ...और इतनी ऊँची आवाज़ में “सत्यमेव जयते” का नारा लगाया कि सत्य के अपने ही कान के परदे फट गए और वह बहरा और भ्रमित होकर जेबों के अंदर और भी ज़्यादा सिमट और दुबक कर बैठ गया।

आजकल सुनने में आया है कि टोपी, खद्दर और लाठी तीनों मिलकर ‘सत्य’ के ‘ब्रांड एम्बेसडर’ बने हुए हैं।

(<http://arvinnanabha.blogspot.in/> से साभार)

A Dark Damp World

Samarvir Mundi

I woke with a jolt and sprang out of bed. Instantly, I felt dizzy and sat back down. My head was throbbing. I wondered at what made it hurt so terribly. I stood up and poured myself a cup of coffee. As I sipped it, I looked out the window. It was a pleasant morning, the kind that lightens one's mood. A woman walked her dog as the gardeners attended to the flowerbeds in the public park. Everyone was seeing to their own business. I finished my coffee and dressed for work. I left the apartment and placed the keys in the flowerpot outside. I hopped into my car and drove to the office where I worked.

I toiled monotonously until three in afternoon. All my colleagues were sick of being there. Our boss alone was enough to discourage us from working properly. When I was finally free from work, I left the office and headed back home. As I drove, I saw a billboard promoting the new government hospital in our city. Distracted, not having seen the minivan speeding toward me from the opposite direction, I swerved to the left and hit the sidewalk. The vehicle almost toppled, and with the shock that followed, before I could begin to comprehend what was happening, I found myself in a hospital ward.

I was not injured. I was perplexed. I felt as if I had just woken up from a trance and fallen into the tangled web of another incomprehensible dream. Then I recognized the doctor and the nurse and the janitor. In a flash, it all came rushing back to me. The night of the tragedy, and the little boy and the murder; bit by bit, in fragments, I recalled the pain and suffering I had caused. My school days came back to me, the day that the voices drove me to beat my only friend bloody. The voices... they never stopped whispering, clouding my judgment, polluting my mind... I could only do as they said; it was the only viable option, the only way I could go on without letting them drive me mad. I never wanted to hurt my friends; I never wanted to kill the boy, the innocent little boy whose mother screamed at me as I was sent to the psychiatric ward. I was forced to do it. I was forced to take the life of one who was a glowing beacon of light in this dark, damp world with no room for emotion or sympathy.

I begin to shake. I do not belong here. I must escape this asylum with the white walls and white uniforms and white beds and white lies. I stand up and begin to run. I knock aside an orderly with my elbow and move into the hallway. They begin to chase me. I am helpless, lost and alone. I have nowhere to run. They grab hold of me and put me back in the bed. I have been restrained. I remember the boy and his mother, and try to break free, but am injected with a sedative.

My vision grows dim, I begin to lose consciousness, and gradually fall into a long and perturbing sleep...

I wake with a jolt and spring out of bed. Instantly, I feel dizzy and sit down again. My head is throbbing. I wonder at what makes it hurt so terribly. I get up and pour myself a cup of coffee. As I sip it, I look out the window. I finish my coffee, get dressed, and fall into the humdrums of daily life.



Under the Scanner

'One Rank, One Pension' Policy

The 'One Rank, One Pension' (OROP) policy is one that has been fiercely contested since its removal by the government in 1973. Its removal has led several soldiers to even give back medals they had been awarded by the army for their service to the country. The policy had been very beneficial to soldiers who had to retire early, as the country needed to maintain a young army. Also, the fact that these retired soldiers never found jobs after leaving the army, mainly due to their age was a grave issue solved by the policy. This policy gave a ranked soldier in the army 50 percent of the salary of the person who currently held the same rank. Today, though, the policy has been removed and the retired soldier gets the pension he originally got, with an increment according to inflation rates. The problem, however, is that these inflation rates have risen slower than the salaries of soldiers in the army. Hence, a soldier who served as a 'Colonel' and retired in 1985, today, gets a lower pension than the soldier who retired as a 'Colonel' in 2014.

The army in India is a very prestigious institution and people take great pride in calling themselves 'soldiers'. Therefore, today, when soldiers who had held the same rank get paid differently, it hurts these soldiers' pride. To address this issue, the UPA government introduced a special OROP scheme. However, this only gave OROP to all people who retired at the apex pay scale, the majority being Civil Servants. In the army, this only applies to a select few. The NDA Government renewed hope amongst the army veterans when during its campaign for the General Elections it announced to restart the policy for the veterans. However, no action was taken and only empty words and promises were given. On June 15, frustrated and angry, the veterans started protesting for the policy to be implemented.

With increasing pressure, the country's Defense Minister, Manohar Parrikar announced on September 5th the new OROP scheme, under which many widows and officers will get paid. However, another clause that the government imposed was that anyone who had chosen to retire from the army prematurely was not going to be part of the OROP scheme. Also, the OROP scheme would be revised every five years by the government, not every year as demanded by the

(Contd. on page 8)

(Contd. from page 7)

veterans. This meant that the OROP scheme would only be brought up to the present salary of soldiers, every five years. For this too, several protests have been staged, the latest one coinciding with Diwali. Several veterans assembled on Diwali and marched to Rashtrapathi Bhavan, calling the day a 'Black Diwali'. As said by the General Secretary of the Indian Ex-Servicemen Movement, Group Captain VK Gandhi, the One Rank One Pension policy is 'a volcano getting ready to erupt'.

Today, with the new scheme in place, few issues have been addressed and solved. However, the fiscal burden that the government has taken is also a large one. Hence, all that remains to be seen in this matter is the fact that can our government deliver on its promise to the Indian soldiers, and can it give more to these people who have sacrificed so much for our nation, or will it lean towards financial prudence?

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

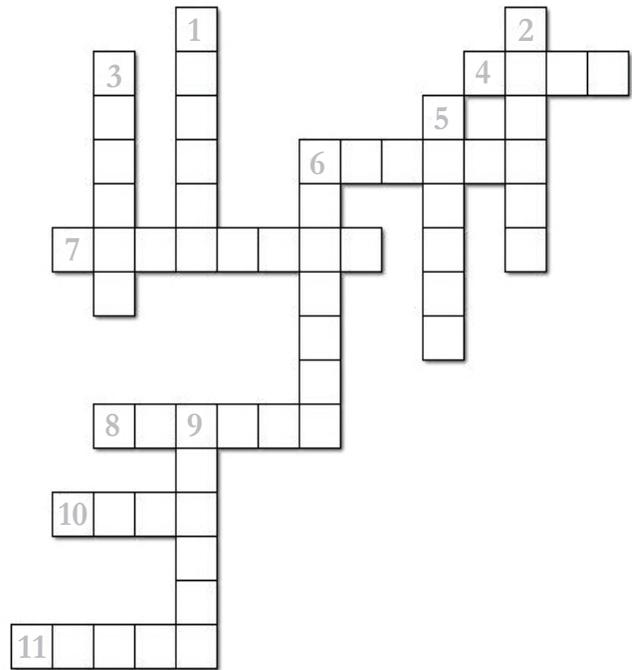
Diwali was celebrated at school and many DoscOs had mixed feelings. For most it was their Diwali with their form mates. This is also the last time the School will host a Diwali Dinner and fireworks display as next academic year onwards we will all be home for Diwali. For many the barbeque and savouries were the best they had ever had. I for one will miss the Diwali celebrations at School. We DoscOs would like to thank the masters for making many of our Diwalis so special.

Boxing marked the close of the season for sport as we get our heads down and wake to meet our predicted. This year boxing showcased many a Mohammed Ali's in the making. The true grit and grace as well as sportsman spirit gave the game the glory it stands for.

Trials is the next big thing. A majority of DoscOs are busy cramming and there are some who struggle to even begin. We have the planners and the schedule of study all chalked out and all that is left is for us to study. The senti change at break was quite a sight. The air was filled with mixed emotions. Many showed up in their creative best and the scribbling and doodling, the good byes and good luck wishes from juniors and seniors alike marked this tradition that every Dosco waits for.

As the week comes to a close, many of us realized that the term went by quite similarly and we manage to live up to expectations and the Dosco spirit. We do it every year, but the toughest part about doing well is sustaining it. But we did.

Crossword Anagrams



Note: Scramble the letters given in the clues to obtain the correct answer.

Across

4. afri; synonym of unbiased
6. corcad; synonym of agreement
7. dilulcpe; synonym of clear
8. cdeeer; antonym of approach
10. ipla; synonym for bucket
11. smier; antonym for spendthrift

Down

1. nkrel; synonym of centre
2. dacndi; synonym of frank or straightforward.
3. drineh; antonym of aid
5. brostu; antonym of fragile
6. aaiemlb; antonym for unfriendly
9. rallec; antonym of attic

Answers to This Week's Crossword:
 Across
 4. fair
 6. accord
 7. pellucid
 8. recede
 10. pall
 11. miser
 Down
 1. kernel
 2. candid
 3. hinder
 5. robust
 6. amiable
 9. cellar

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

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weekly@doonschool.com



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