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The Doon School WEEKLY

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An Annual Affair

Arjun Singh reports on the recently concluded J.T.M Gibson Memorial debates held at Mayo College, Ajmer.

Having retained the trophy for the past two years, and with a strong hope of continuing the streak, a team comprising Atrey Bharghava, Devang Laddha, Vedant Mehra and I spent our mid-terms in Ajmer to participate in the 22nd Annual Padmashree JTM Gibson Memorial English Debates hosted by Mayo College. Being well practiced after several prior tournaments, we plunged ourselves into two more days of debates after an arduous mid-year Trials; mustering all the energy we could to secure victory once again.

After an interminable train journey, we arrived at Mayo's gargantuan campus a day prior to the event that fortunately allowed us to recuperate. However, the thought of being in Ajmer proved irresistible, and to satisfy our adventurous spirits we left the campus to visit the city's world-renowned *Dargah Sharif*, a Sufi shrine and place of pilgrimage. With elevated spirits, we then travelled to the locally renowned Mango Masala restaurant with the added motive of respecting a tradition set by Doscocs on their frequent 'visits' to the city. A final walk through the bazaars brought us back to the school; satiated by our experiences and ready to begin with the real purpose of our trip.



Having received our motion the night before, we were content with our preparation for the first Preliminary round, debating the motion 'This House would award votes to citizens based on their performance in a current affairs test'. As the opposing side up against the Vasant Valley School, we proved that such tests would further wedge inequalities of opportunity, and established the sacred nature of every individual's vote. Our efforts proved worthwhile as we clinched our first victory, with Devang being adjudged the Best Speaker. A short break ensued before our second round against Mayo College Girls' School. Opposing the now politically-relevant motion 'This House would ban surrogate motherhood in India', our case iterated how the motion would discriminate against competent parents, and suggested a model for improving surrogacy standards. Once again we emerged triumphant; winning the debate as well as a Best Speaker's award. Having topped the preliminary rankings, we then prepared for our Quarter-Final round against the Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls School, this time as proponents of the motion 'This House Believes That repression of civil rights justifies violent action'. While arguing that violent action be a measure of the last-resort, and its effectiveness in obtaining civil rights, we were able to win the debate and progress to the Semi-Finals, taking with us the day's third award for Best Speaker. To unwind after a hard day's work, we attended a rousing Rock concert by the school's band and had a scrumptious dinner with our room-mates from The Shriram School.

Eager to continue our streak of success, we rose early to prepare for our Semi-Final round against the Modern School: opposing the motion 'This House would not censor any artistic expression'. Our case sought to promote respectful artistic expression and distinguished reasonable expression from 'intolerance, and despite facing a dynamic challenge from our opponents, we were adjudged the winners once again, receiving yet another Best Speaker's award.

Being third year finalists, we felt the pressure of expectation as we prepared our case against the motion 'This House believes that it is better for society to believe in life after death'. As the opposition, we argued against the

(Contd. on Page 3)



Regulars

Vociferous

The school was represented by Atrey Bhargava, Arjun Singh, Devang Laddha and Vedant Mehra at the **22nd Annual Padmashree JTM Gibson Memorial Inter-School English Debates** held at **Mayo College, Ajmer**. Throughout the debates, the team remained **undefeated** and won the tournament for the **third consecutive year**.

Devang Laddha was adjudged the **Best Speaker** in the **first preliminary round**, while Arjun Singh was adjudged the **Best Speaker** in the **second preliminary, quarter-final** and the **semi-final** rounds respectively, and was also declared the **Overall Best Speaker** of the tournament.

Congratulations!

Aced It!

Vaibhav Chandak received a **Letter of Commendation** from the United States' **National Merit Scholarship Corporation** for being amongst the top **50,000** high performers out of over **1.65 million** students who appeared for the **PSAT examination** in **October, 2015**.

Kudos!

Virtuoso

Harrsh Dewan participated in the **Mrs Ramamurthy Memorial Performing Arts Competition** which was recently held at **Hopetown Girls' School, Dehradun**. Amongst several established Hindustani classical vocalists, he was adjudged the **winner** of this highly challenging event.

Well done!

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you."
-Walt Whitman

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

The ears have walls. And they follow you around.

Yuvan Jaidka, little Sherlock Feluda on the prowl.

An octagon is an eight sided rectangle.

Rishab Goel, Math HL.

Pass the chili-water.

Bharat Choudhary, you mean the vinegar?

I have given hope up.

Nehansh Saxena, in yourself?

I think I be in love.

Prabhaav Swarup, this is what it does to you!

Me speaking english.

Udayveer Singh Sekhon, doesn't seem like it.

Protégés

The following are the results of the Dipankar Sen Science Quiz:

Seniors:

1st: Omar Chishti

2nd: Advait Ganapathy and
Aayush Chowdhry

Juniors:

1st: Shreyas Minocha

2nd: Shantam Gilra

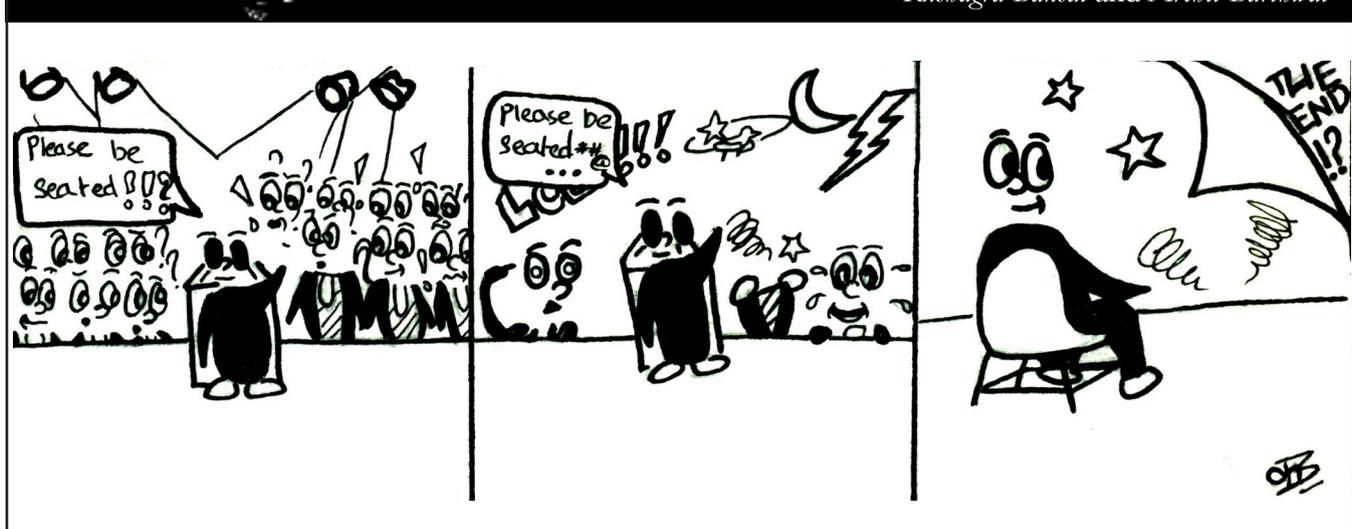
3rd: Shourya Agarwal

Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

Sources confirmed at least 12 Pakistani army casualties during India's surgical strike. US Republican vice presidential candidate Pence narrowly defeated rival Democrat Kaine in vice presidential debate, according to public polling. The Nobel prizes in Chemistry and Physics were awarded to three individuals each. Hurricane Matthew, the fiercest Caribbean storm in a decade, hit the shores of Haiti and Cuba and was reported to be heading towards the USA. The citizens of Colombia rejected a peace referendum with FARC rebels.

Dosco Doodle



Assembly Antics

Kushagra Bansal and Archit Barthwal

(Contd. from Page 1)

belief in superstition and advocated for accomplishment in an individual's current and definitive lifespan. The debate was perhaps our toughest as we battled against the National Defence Academy in a closely contested Final.

As the verdict was announced, we were thrilled to walk on stage as the tournament's victors for the third consecutive year, bringing back the trophy as well as the tournament's Overall Best Speaker's award. Following the Oliphant Debates, the success was our second major victory this season: with the School retaining yet another title, and with prospects for greater triumphs in the future now looking brighter.



Under the Scanner

Uri Attacks | **Aayush Chowdhry**

Volatility, hostility and Uri. These three words are at the heart of the current tensions between India and Pakistan. September 18 marked the date of 'the deadliest attack on security forces in Kashmir in over two decades'. All 19 of our martyrs and 30 of our injured patriots, victims of the attack have instigated a sense of revenge amongst the citizens of India. These attacks were punctiliously planned as investigations have shown that there were only 4 armed terrorists who knew exactly where to attack and how to breach the apparently infallible armed defense mounted by the Indian army.

These attacks have not only escalated tensions between the two neighboring nations but have also sparked outrage in many countries. Even the SAARC meeting in Islamabad has had to be cancelled, with a number of nations pulling out citing concerns over growing terrorism in the region. As the Indian government condemns these attacks and calls for a global isolation of Pakistan, both countries are simultaneously strengthening their defenses, in case tensions escalate further. Moreover, with the recent 'surgical strikes' carried out by Indian armed forces across the LoC, it seems that such an escalation might be inevitable, especially since rampant statements from various one-time diplomats, smaller ministers and war mongering citizens are only adding fuel to the fire.

Another provocation has come in the form of a terrorist attack on an army camp in the Baramulla district of Kashmir. In lieu of this, India has declared that it will exploit all rights given to it by the Indus Waters Treaty. The UN Human Rights council has been approached and India has drawn global support against the atrocities conducted by Pakistan in Kashmir. Meanwhile, Pakistani officials and spokespersons continue to deny any involvement with terrorist groups, and are instead accusing India of false propaganda. Back home, cries

that echo militant patriotism are already getting louder, and India is now on a military alert.

Pakistan is still not ready to initiate meaningful dialogue and curb terrorist activities. Instead, it chooses to threaten and taunt India persistently with statements like 'we are prepared to respond to any direct or indirect threat'. With neither country backing down, war looms large over the region and its people. Moreover, a rather untractable problem is being faced by nations such as the USA and China – they will be compelled to pick a side in case the concerned parties decide to go to war. The UN too faces serious problems as international laws have been violated, charters have been ignored and sanctions have been side-stepped. With repeated conflicts, it seems that fate itself is working to keep the Toba Tek line firmly in sight.

| Poetry |

A Plea to Life

Aayush Chowdhry

Oh life! Oh my life!
This dirty game you play,
With this rebarbative play you make,
A hapless me you slay.

You make me love,
But keep her away,
You keep me alive,
Just to kill me every day.

I used to believe,
Being good is good,
But for the truth to portend,
It only took a look.

The happiest people around,
Who with open eyes I see,
Hankering among the riches,
Are narcissists and criminals free.

Galore is their endless prattle,
With bumptious mirth,
While I still wonder,
What do I do on this Earth?

Solitary and alone; like Calypso,
I go through my life,
But she also had Odysseus,
To oppose her strife.

Through unprecedented this farce,
This is my one and only plea,
To find the purpose of your play,
Oh life! Help me.

Tapovan

Yashmit Sutodia

Throughout the trek we could see the rock we needed to cross to reach Tapovan, our destination. Just like the sun and the moon never get any closer, no matter how much you look at them or in which direction you move, this rock too seemed impossibly distant and unreachable. The path on which we were traversing consisted of loose rocks and mud. But no matter how far our destination seemed, or how demanding the route was, we remained firm and continued to take one step at a time.

All said and done, our first private midterm was a plethora of experiences rolled into one. From bargaining with guides to cooking our own *dal-chawal*, we learnt why old-boys have such fond memories of midterms and why Doon places so much premium on the importance of midterms. The first day in Gangotri was mostly spent in procuring the necessary permits, hiring mules and buying other essentials for the trek. Armed and well prepared, we set out the next day for a 14 kilometre trek to Bhojwasa. The route was stunning to say the least; winding upwards along the Ganga and surrounded by majestic mountains. While the days were bright and beautiful, the nights were frosty and foreboding. But in the company of close friends, one doesn't mind the minor difficulties.

As planned, we got up early the next day and made our way to Gaumukh. The route was of moderate difficulty and we managed to cover it in a fairly short span of time. The day had barely begun by the time we reached Gaumukh, and so we decided to embark on the treacherous journey to Tapovan. En route we came across several fellow Doscos who, having failed to reach Tapovan, informed us about the danger that lay ahead. The path, if one can call it that, was a narrow, 75 degree uphill climb on loose rocks that afforded very little grip. Doggedly, maybe even foolishly, we continued to make our way forward with the thought that we shall not give up, no matter what. We only stopped after reaching Tapovan where we enjoyed a cup of natural lemongrass tea given by the benevolent campers there.

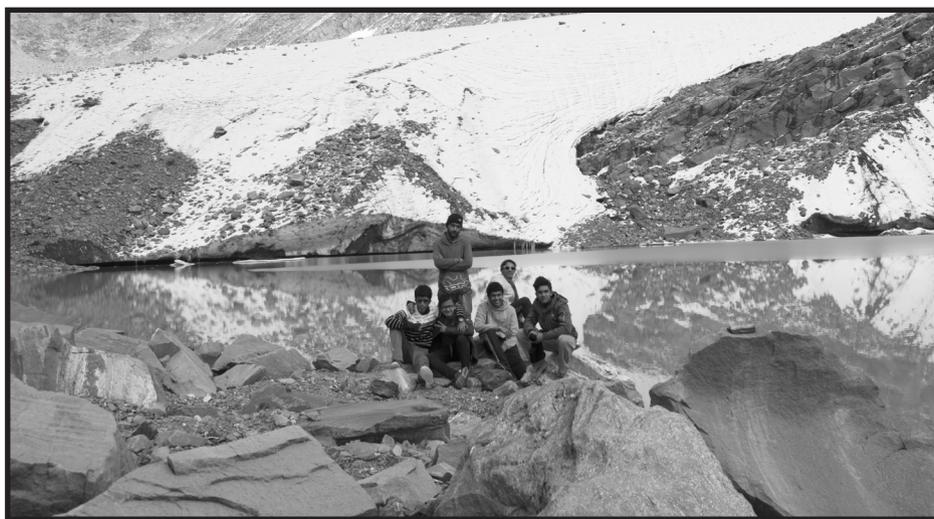
We were back in School after another two days of hectic travelling, exhausted but satisfied with the knowledge that we were the only group who actually finished the trek. Though our midterms had its ups and downs, the feeling of having achieved something and reaching the top allows us to call ourselves Doscos with even greater pride. Onwards and Upwards it is!

Saptrishi Kund

Nehansh Saxena

A mere misstep was the difference between life and death; a test of time and fear. Climbing from mountain-top to mountain-top, we disappeared above the view from Yamunotri. We had been told that the trek had not been completed by our School since 2004. This fact was instilled so well in our minds that we gulped with each climb we made. The five of us, although true to our grit, faced many instances that made us feel that we too would not finish it. Our grit triumphed. At the end of an eight-hour long vertical ascent on the

fourth day of our midterms, starting at five-thirty in the morning, we found heaven: Saptarishi Tal. Two lakes; one small and the other one partially frozen and rather huge. An imposing glacier glared at us from the opposite bank. Clouds floated below us. At seventeen-thousand feet, we felt like we were on top of the world. Descent followed. It was not as physically and mentally taxing as the climb,



but the fatigue of a total of 14 hours of trekking had not left an ounce of sweat within. Apart from the main trek, we also visited the waterfalls from which the Yamuna originates, prayed at the Yamunotri temple, bathed at hot water springs and managed cooking on our own. Despite attempting the most challenging trek of our lives, we shall cherish these midterms the most.

Midterms at Doon

Aryan Chhabra and Omar Chishti

As the rest of the School set off for their treks up in the Himalayas, a group of students enjoyed their own midterm expedition right here in Chandbagh. While other midterm parties suffered through their nauseating journeys, the nine of us set up base camp in Hyderabad house, undertaking excruciatingly long journeys from our respective houses with bags laden with books and stationery. We made frequent excursions from our base camp to the Dining Hall (The food is surprisingly edible when warm) and then on to the Main Building, where SAT/IIT preparatory classes were held. For lunch, our party relied mainly on the generosity of the Bansalites, who would visit daily laden with packages from Eddy's. On the day the news of the 'surgical strikes' broke out, squadrons of helicopters could be seen and heard all over School, prompting worries of war among the more excitable members of the party.

From Mr. Bean re-enactments and struggling to wake certain members of the party to actually proctoring the test, our 'escort', PTV, and our guide, JAS, played a significant role in our expedition's success (to be confirmed when results arrive on the 20th of October). The 'editor-in-chief' was often spotted in the room of the two 'editors' for extended periods of time, forcing them through marathon after marathon of Youtube sessions. Certain things transpired during classes which shall most certainly not be addressed here, but let it suffice to say that the stories doing the rounds are closely based on the truth. Here's to our chances for the 'most adventurous' midterm!

Delhi and Agra

Ansh Raj

With a heavy sigh of relief from the tyranny of mid-year trials, the B form embarked on a journey which had been a subject of much anticipation - the once in a lifetime experience of Historical midterms. Right after the last paper was written, a sudden surge of energy took over the B form. They hurriedly packed their bags and set off for their version of Midterms! The form had been divided into two groups, one going to Madhya Pradesh and the other to Delhi and Agra, and each group had its own share of fun and learning. The Delhi party visited the seven historical sites of Delhi, enjoying a truly memorable view of the monuments, which, with their sheer grandeur, left us in awe. The Qutub Minar, the Red Fort, and Humayun's tomb, all equally magnificent in their beauty and history were some of the beautiful sights we enjoyed. Delhi was followed by our sojourn in Agra, where our eyes basked in the unqualified glory of India's finest piece of architecture, the Taj Mahal. Along with it, we got to see two equally spellbinding Mughal fortresses -the Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri. However, the undisputed highlight of this midterm was the visit to the Parliament and Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi. We were privileged to have met an Old Boy and an MP, who guided us through the building and whose own history seemed to be as fascinating as the history of the Parliament itself. The experience of these wonderful midterms has certainly embedded itself in our minds, and along with the luxurious accommodation (extravagant dinner, air conditioned rooms and late night TV shows included), made this midterm a truly treasured one.

Chamba

Jaiveer Misra

As our trials came to a close, I had one day to prepare for the most awaited occasion at school, mid-terms. As a D Former, I did not know what to expect. I did know however, that a lot of excitement lay in store. After breakfast we boarded the bus with the accompanying masters. It was a five-hour journey from school to our destination, a campsite near the Chamba region.

The camp was led by Mr Partha Saha, an experienced mountaineer who owned many such sites across the country in remote and wonderful locations. We partook in a range of activities from rock climbing to trekking. The most exhilarating part of this midterm was a trek to the Terhi Dam, the fourth largest dam in the world. Built over a village known as Tehri, the dam which is 840 feet high, came to be known by its name. It is an engineering marvel as it is virtually indestructible and runs on five high powered turbines. The mornings started with an invigorating yoga session, followed by tea and a hearty breakfast. We spent our days trekking through the region dotted with Rhododendron trees and rappelling down gorges.

As the day faded to dusk, we would sit in the glow of a warm bonfire and reminisce about the events of the day under the light of the stars. Many interesting stories were exchanged as we got to know each other better. The experience left me with memories that I will treasure and I cannot wait for midterms to come around again.

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

The one thing that helps a Dosco start his day on a sunny note is a good, refreshing morning assembly. We had the pleasure of attending one such assembly, taken by an experienced Dosco who also holds the distinguished record of scoring for both sides in a Basketball game. One is inclined to believe that the assembly was taken keeping in mind a similar strategy, stumping both the student body (defence) as well as the staff (offence), not to mention the plight of the orchestra. The beatific smile on the face of the concerned Dosco was almost like a sneak preview of the subject of the assembly talk on the importance of smiling. Indeed, it brought smiles on the faces of many amused fellow Doscos. Apparently, the concerned Dosco has credited the success of the assembly to the refreshing break he took from attending Breakfast, WWW and assemblies taken by any person except him.

On a different note, Athletics commenced much earlier than expected and is due to finish before Founders'. The over eating that some Doscos indulged in during the past three weeks has in some way affected the fitness levels that were at their peak towards the end of the football competition. Meanwhile, surgical strikes, accompanied by heavy mortar shelling were overtly carried out in the Main Building. Students were seen ducking for cover as exam scores rained over their heads, causing significant damage. Many wished they had made a permanent home on top of any mountain they might have climbed during midterms. To make matters worse, this is the season of college applications, and our boys seem to be spending a majority of their time discussing the future as well as the philosophical depths of their extensive essays.

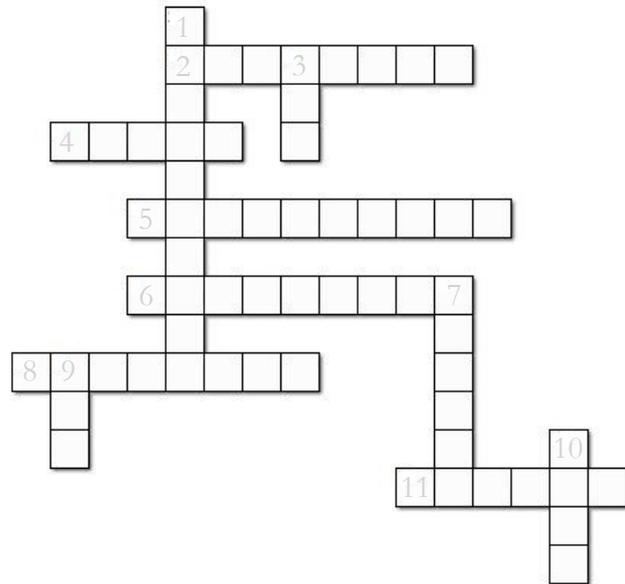
Midterms proved to be a great experience for those who enjoyed the freedom of being on their own for the first time. Several midterm parties managed to complete their treks without any hassle. The Headmaster rightly pointed out that credit goes to at least five parties for successfully completing the most difficult trek, albeit in different locations. For many of us, this was the last midterm, and most of us made the most of it in the mountains of New Delhi.

Now we are back to the incessant rain and thunderstorm, looking forward to the mega-show we call Founders.

Rain continues to pour down on Chandbagh and has certainly not reduced the chances of contracting mosquito bites. It signals a change in weather, and the beginning of winter which will never fail to freeze us. Let us huddle together.

Crossword

Emmy Awards 2016



Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

Across

2. The 68th _____ Primetime Emmy awards preceded the main awards, which took place a week later.
4. Rami Malek, part of the show 'Mr. _____' won the award for 'Outstanding Lead Actor' in a dramatic series.
5. The 2016 Emmys' were hosted in this US state.
6. The award-winning director of the drama series 'Game of Thrones'.
8. The special episode of this critically acclaimed British television series won an Emmy this year.
11. The host of the winning variety talk series.

Down

1. Maggie Smith, the actress who played Mrs. _____ in the 'Harry Potter' movies won an Emmy this year.
3. The TV network which aired the Emmy awards.
7. The host of the Emmy awards 2016.
9. The network which received the most nominations.
10. The winner of the award for 'Outstanding Comedy Series'.

Answers to This Week's Crossword Down 1. McGonagall 3. ABC 7. Kimmel 9. HBO 10. Veep	Across 2. Creative 4. Robot 5. California 6. Sapochnik 8. Sherlock 11. Oliver
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