An Aristocracy of Self-Service

Kushagra Kar

With levels of pride unmatched by any other School in the country, we claim to be the ‘premier Indian public school’. Year after year, we convince ourselves that we are the best, and accept awards in honor of the same. Apparently though, the ‘Best School in India’ cannot insure that its students uphold the responsibility that comes with being the best. Truly, we are an exemplar of the type of hypocrisy which comes with the ignorance of reality.

There are enough events which have built up to the inking of this piece. Indiscipline is a growing issue across all houses, but the most recent was the animalistic cackle of a certain House this past Wednesday night. The house is so assured of its superiority that basic rules seem to mean naught to them. Truly, we can no longer believe in their morality, despite their actual honesty?

Truly, we are an exemplar of the type of hypocrisy which comes with the ignorance of reality.

My form recently voted to keep House Colors honorary, therefore completely ridding the system of points and an application. The response to this decision was sadly, disbelief in the replacement system of points and an application. The need to this decision was sadly, disbelief in the replacement system of points and an application. The fear that sycophancy can alter their decision simply points towards an inherent lack of trust in the judgement of the people who substitute our parents for eight months a year. The fear of sycophancy is in itself terrifying, because apparently we do not believe in the judgement of our teachers. To base our arguments on the existence of a slight possibility is ridiculous, and while our masters aren’t infallible, they at least deserve the benefit of doubt.

Amidst all this comparatively superficial degradation, a very fundamental destruction of qualities the School stands for has taken place. Junior batches in the School have created distinctions so clear, that ‘inter-mingling’ of people from these groups is rare. Among these groups exists one, ridiculous notion, which has exploded into what is essentially 21st Century racial discrimination. Juniors, B or C-Formers, identify themselves as members of a ‘Cool Gang’ which not surprisingly has a considerable overlap with the ‘Delhi Gang’. My only question is how such concepts can thrive in an institution which used to pride itself in equality. We are no longer an aristocracy of service, so much as an aristocracy of self-perpetuating self-service.

Indeed, there are merits to the way things have been in the past. While I do not agree with an
GUIDING LIGHTS

Following are the various appointments for the year 2018:

Cycling STA: Bhai Meer Singh
Economics Society: Raghav Dalmia
Archives SUPW: Pratinnav Bagla
Boys’ Bank and Tuck Shop: Mehrab Singh Pannu
The Doon School Stock Exchange: Shaurya Jain
Editors-in-Chief of The Himayat and The Governor’s Magazine: Shaurya Jain and Shivendra Prat Singh

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

TITLE

Dr M.H. Farooqui was honoured as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations at the World Integration Centre.

A unique competition to reward, recognize and celebrate teachers, the Third Edition of CENTA Teaching Professionals’ Olympiad (TPO) 2017 was held on December 9, 2017. Mr. G. Gyaneshwaran participated in 3 subject tracks and was the All India Topper in High School Physics and Middle School Science Challenge, and secured the 7th rank in Middle School Science. He also achieved All India Rank 6 overall, and was the Delhi City Topper and North Region Topper overall.

Well done!

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

— Warren Buffett

ATHLETIC AMBASSADORS

Following are the Sports Captaincies for the year 2018:

Cricket: Viksit Verma
Hockey: Gaurav Bhandari
Athletics: Anish Bhide
Table Tennis: Anuman Goel
Tennis: Viksit Verma
Squash: Mayank Sojatia
Badminton: Kabir Kochar
Swimming: Shiven Dewan
Basketball: Kushagra Bansal
Boxing: Sudhanshu Agarwal
Football: Ishan Roy
Shooting: Shaurya Agarwal
Golf: Shaurya Verma
School PT Leader: Viksit Verma

We wish them success in their respective fields!

BLAZING BLUE

The Games’ Blazer was awarded to Shubham Dhiman and Udaiveer Singh Sekhon.

Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

More than 1.8 lakh students missed their first day of Board Exams in Uttar Pradesh. Google faced class action lawsuits due to the defective Google Pixel and Pixel XL units. The US-led coalition fighting ISIS in Syria conducted air and artillery strikes against pro-regime forces in Syria on Wednesday, killing 100 pro-regime fighters. Arsene Wenger delayed the keeper decision for the match against Tottenham Hotspurs. The Pentagon recently mistook Taiwan to be a part of China in a nuclear report.

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tribesmen and separatists - were successful in stopping the rebels from capturing Aden, but only after an intense four-month battle. Soon after, Coalition ground troops landed in Aden in August 2015 and over the course of the next few months, helped drive the Houthis and their allies out of much of the south. The Hadi government has established a temporary home in Aden, although the President remains in exile. Unfortunately, the rebels are not the only problem Hadi faces, as Jihadist militants from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and rival affiliates of the Islamic State group (IS) have taken advantage of the chaos, and have begun seizing territory in the south and carrying out deadly attacks against civilians and the military.

The UN says that the Yemen crisis is the world’s worst man-made humanitarian disaster. More than 9,245 people have been killed and 52,800 injured since March 2015, according to UN statistics. At least 5,558 of those killed, and 9,065 of those injured up to 14 December 2017 were civilians. Saudi-led coalition air strikes were the leading cause of overall civilian casualties. According to the UN Human Rights Council, civilians have repeatedly been the victims of “unrelenting violations of international humanitarian law”.

Almost three years of fighting appears to have entrenched both sides, while three UN-organised efforts to negotiate a peace deal have failed. Pro-government forces - made up of soldiers loyal to President Hadi and predominantly Sunni southern
Budget 2018: A Vow for Votes


The Annual Financial Statement before the General Elections is always eagerly awaited. After all, it reveals the incumbent government’s stratagems to cement its electoral prospects. In 2013, the UPA government’s financial statement constituted weak tax reforms and loose promises (which, expectedly, failed to fructify). A year later, they were swept out by the “Modi wave”. 5 years later, when the hour of trial is now upon the BJP, they have done exactly what the Congress didn’t - strong promises to the masses.

The BJP’s promises (the credibility of which still remains questionable) to assist the lower strata of the society, especially the farmers, are not new. In their 2014 manifesto, they had declared a minimum of 50 per cent profit over the cost of production for the farmers. Unfortunately, this promise has only been able to see the light of day after four years, when BJP decided to make the agriculture sector (which also comprises the highest number of voters) this year’s priority. Under the MSP scheme, the government promises to buy the Kharif crops at a price that is 1.5 times the cost incurred on producing it. This will boost production, and concurrently, protect the farmers from any unanticipated price fall during bumper crop production. More importantly though, contextual significance of this scheme cannot be ignored- farmers’ problems in many BJP-ruled states, especially Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, are not only economic, but also highly political. Rampant suicides and mounting farmer debt is an alarming trend.

However, the new healthcare scheme received the limelight in the Finance Minister’s speech. In terms of priority, healthcare has often assumed a secondary nature. During the BJP’s term, healthcare would be upgraded with an occasional promise of constructing an AIIMs at a particular place. Therefore, when the Finance Minister announced plans of introducing the World’s largest Health Protection Scheme covering over ten crore poor and vulnerable families, economists and citizens were nonplused. However, the reasons that justify this step are not too far to seek. It has been reportedly said that lack of healthcare is perhaps the leading reason why poor families remain trapped in the vicious circle of poverty. Hence, this calculated maneuver, which is also being referred to as “Modicare”, would not only greatly assist the poor, but also help the BJP consolidate their election expectations.

The budget appears to be meticulously planned by the BJP. At the same time, many economists have expressed their disappointments because of the populist deviation that BJP has undertaken (in light of the 2019 general elections) from its usual reformist path. This claim can be attested by the negligence that the Finance Minister has shown towards the fiscal deficit target. Fiscal deficit targets have been the underlying theme of BJP’s plan of reforms. How the BJP is going to remain sincere to its fiscal prudence given the slew of heavy cost incurring schemes, like the MSP and Modicare, remains a moot question. The finance minister, on his part, has stated that the government is relying on GST’s collection to help them meet the target. But again the month-on-month collections have been dipping and rising so the finance minister’s beliefs appear to be quite unsubstantiated.

Lamentably, the biggest victims of this populist budget are us- the education sector, and the youth. Since the education sector and the youth of the country have a rather small share in the country’s electoral composition, they have been relegated to the sidelines in this budget. In contrast to last year’s pitch for a need to have a strong education system, the government seems to have forgotten its mandate to introduce urgent reforms. On the other hand, they have decided to increase the education tax by one per cent, and have also failed to fulfil their 2014 manifesto promise of allocating education funds worth 6 per cent of the GDP- the education sector continues to see a 3.8 percent share in the GDP.

Conclusively, we can affirm that the BJP has switched its stance to a more populist one. Having said that, it remains to see whether they are able to fulfil whatever promises they have made, and if the results truly bear fruit.
Transformational Change

Mr Rajesh Majumdar recognises the need of evolution in the current educational system.

In my article ‘The New Order’ published in Issue No. 2475, I explored the idea of systemic changes in the learning environment. Picking up from there, I want to consolidate my views on the role of teachers and assessment as two most important sub-systems which need urgent evolution from where we stand today.

In the present scenario, job profiling of teachers can bring about greater efficacy in all that we do in the school. I think this is necessitated due to the generational change in the learning environment, from what it used to be few decades earlier. One of the ways of doing it is to study and analyse the ‘Shanghai System’ which puts greater responsibility on experienced teachers to take up more action research than teaching in a school. These teachers, who have had a rich experience in teaching and learning process over many years, work closely with the middle and entry level teachers. The prevailing system in the school hence gets strengthened by the new approaches introduced by these teachers. The innovations in the teaching-learning processes implemented through these action researches are monitored, studied and analysed and shared with all. This structured exercise is not just the old method of ‘mentoring’ or ‘passive guidance’ by seniors to the new comers. The researches can focus into the prevalent successful teaching-learning processes and constantly find ways to address the shifts to help evolve the learning environment within the school. It lays importance on more efficient methods of content delivery and assessment measurement tools for informed responses from the learners. The action researches can also get modified by various studies in advanced systems of education from all over the world. Analysis of the dynamic approaches to teaching learning processes, supported by relevant data of a particular group of learners, will rightly indicate the possibilities of focussed growth for students and teachers alike. The unique character of our system gets value addition through conscious choices and evidences. I do believe that this exercise will be far better than blind referencing of researches which completely misses out on our cultural background, demography, learner styles and aptitude levels of our learners.

In the breakneck speed of ‘information age’ we teachers have ceased to remain ‘gatekeepers’ of information and education has ceased to be ‘data dumping’. More and more evidence is now pouring in about the unpreparedness of our students getting into the corridors of higher education. Many universities have started offering bridge courses to prepare students for their new learning environment and get ready for unexpected challenges. This in turn clearly points the schools’ failure to prepare their students on how to graduate from school to college life. Jack Welch, the CEO of General Electric, while speaking on challenges of school education, once mentioned, ‘If the rate of change inside an institution is less than the rate outside, the end is in sight’. The statement might seem to be too profound in the context of our school, as we have certainly pioneered quite a lot of good action research on several pedagogical challenges within our school over the past five years. But in the same breath, I would like to say that those action researches were primarily initiated for personal needs to complete a coursework and were not necessarily sustained thereafter. So, it does not take away the importance of Jack Welch’s insight.

Apart from the urgency in attending to the role of the teacher, I want to bring in another important sub-system that needs serious attention i.e. assessment. I feel it is utterly important to question the role of assessment, its utility and who benefits from it. Is assessment required to fulfil certain goals of the institution, examination board, the country or is it conducted to measure the comparative success of the learners, including teachers? I believe quantification of the assessment is one big bad concept that has happened to education, as marks or grades forces the learner ahead or behind fellow beings. This entire process of placements of learners on the pedestal of comparative success is a result of ‘assessment of learning’ (AoL), which I think is again an ‘industrial age’ concept. On the contrary ‘assessment for learning’ (AfL) needs to find more prominence in the school systems as it aligns to the ‘information age’ knowledge and skills. Greater attention to AfL points to institutional goals while learner goals are primarily addressed by AfL.

One way to address the issue of assessment is to make it a more learner centric process and align it to AfL by doing away with the single mandatory test at each formative stage. Instead of compulsory time-bound tests, a flexible assessment mechanism will help shift the balance towards enhanced learning opportunities for learners. At the formative stage, multiple options or attempts of taking an examination will encourage the learners to manage time much more effectively to their advantage. Psychologically, it will relieve stress and anxiety, giving learners a chance to perform better. I agree though, that the work of the institution and teachers will increase manifold!

The ideas expressed above are just seeds for thought. I strongly believe that there is no other way but to take giant measured leaps in establishing innovative educational systems for future. To remain a leader in school education, we need to challenge the status quo as was done in the last century by people who were passionate enough to dream big.
‘Fire and Fury’

Kabir Subbiah evaluates Donald Trump’s first year in office.

He promised to create twenty-five million jobs for Americans in a decade. He vowed to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico, and avowed that the expenses will be borne by the latter. He wanted to repeal Obamacare and replace it with something “so much better, so much better, so much better”. He even swore to deport the eleven million illegal immigrants that called the US their home. If you were to count (it took me a while), President Donald Trump made seventy-six promises during his presidential campaign. The question is “Has he delivered?”

Trump’s first major move was inducting thirty senior members of staff, including Jared Kushner, his son-in-law, and Ivanka Trump, his daughter. Also, he announced that he would exit numerous trade deals the US had previously committed to, as they had “detrimental effects on the US economy”. A mutual agreement between the US and Canada compelled America’s continued presence in the NAFTA, but they withdrew from the TPP. He signed an order authorising the construction of the wall, which Mexico rejected outright and has since continued to do so. Whenever a poll was released that criticised him, he posted his infamous ‘#FakeNews’, one that has been tweeted over three-hundred and twenty times. One of the first instances of this was when reports suggested that there was dissent within the Trump administration. He tweeted “Don’t let the fake news tell you that there is big infighting in the Trump Admin. We are getting along great, and getting major things done!”

Throughout the year, he was persistent about imposing travel bans on Muslim nations, making three attempts at the same. The last one had more luck than the initial two, and got passed. Later in the year, he turned his attentions towards the DPRK and made his infamous statement, “They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen.” This only exacerbated relations between the DPRK and the US, with some political commentators even claiming that the feud between the DPRK and the US could escalate to nuclear proportions. The issue of diplomatic ties is by no means limited to North Korea, but extends to other parts of the world as well. For example, Vladimir Putin has said that America-Russia relationships have only worsened under Trump. In April 2017, Trump authorised the use of the largest ballistic missile in their armada. Known as the “Mother of all Bombs”, it was dropped on an ISIS base in Afghanistan. Trump has since taken much credit for making progress in the ‘elimination’ of the ISIS.

One of Trump’s most controversial statements was made when he called climate change “a hoax created by China to attack the US economy”. Following this, he withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement and attempted to retrace the US Environmental Protection Agency. Ironically, in 2009, he said, “If we fail to act now, it is scientifically irrefutable that there will be catastrophic and irreversible consequences for humanity and our planet.” One of his most awaited promises was to cut taxes. He has managed to reduce taxes substantially for most employed Americans and brought corporate tax down from 35% to 21%. This policy seems to benefit the upper segment of society as much as all others, and considering Trump’s cabinet is among the richest in American history, the budget cuts are without a doubt, controversial.

Trump called Obamacare a massive job killer, and attempted to rescind it. The Republican plan hasn’t been passed; nevertheless, Trump hasn’t given up in trying to repudiate the policy and has already revoked part of it. In 2013, Trump made his views on Afghanistan clear when he said that the troops’ presence there was futile and counterproductive to American lives. He has since changed his views (obviously) and has even gone to the extent of dispatching additional troops to Afghanistan to maintain order. He hasn’t delivered on his promise to deport all eleven million illegal individuals and his stance is gradually softening. He has recently redefined ‘immigrants’ as illegal immigrants who “are criminal, and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers”.

Considering this number is below a million, he has downright failed in his mission. The fate of immigrants sans documents is cloudy, since Trump abrogated Obama’s DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) policy, which permitted them to reside in America. New York Times claims that throughout his eight-year tenure as president, Obama told a total of eighteen lies. Just in his first year, Trump has told a total of hundreds and three lies. President Donald Trump vowed, in his presidential campaign, to be “unpredictable” because then “no one would touch America”. To me, that one word perfectly sums up his policies, and more importantly his character.
Affetto

Aryaman Kakkar writes on the recent held Grammy Awards.

Over the past few months we have heard some great melodies floating in the air. Last week, they were honoured at the 60th Grammy Awards, which saw rising stars as well as the rise of many movements against gender inequality in the music industry.

The night started off with an explosive performance by Kendrick Lamar rapping about the losses suffered whenever an American soldier died in combat. Hillary Clinton made a surprising appearance when she read an excerpt from ‘Fire and Fury’, condemning Trump’s lifestyle. One of the heartfelt instances of the show was when Kesha had a #MeToo moment with Camila Cabello, Julia Michaels, and Bebe Rexha while singing ‘Praying’ to signify the gender inequality women have to face in the music industry. Camila Cabello brings up the immigrant issue by sharing her own story and saying that everyone deserves an equal opportunity in the ‘Land of Dreams’ that is America.

Coming to the awards of which only 9 were aired out of 84, Bruno Mars swept away the top three categories: Album of the Year for ‘24K Magic’, Record of the Year for ‘24K Magic’, and Song of the Year for ‘That’s What I Like’. Kendrick Lamar also took away Best Rap Album for ‘DAMN’ and Best Rap Song for ‘HUMBLE’. The Award for Best New Artist went to Alessia Cara for her song ‘Scars to Your Beautiful’. Ed Sheeran’s wins (which he received in absentia) of Best Pop Solo Performance for ‘Shape of You’ and Best Pop Vocal Album for ‘Divide’ was met with great distaste from the audience. However, some artists were felt dejected in spite of numerous nominations. Jay Z was nominated for five awards, got to perform a full song of her own and was the only one to do so out of the nominations for Best New Artist.

The highlight of the entire show was the #MeToo movement propagated by artists Kesha and Janelle Monáe. To quote Monáe, “just as we have the power to shape culture, we also have the power to undo a culture that does not serve us well.” Music executives urged all artists to dress in white and wear white roses in order to support the cause. The victims of violence at music concerts were also honoured by Erin Church, Maren Morris, and the Brothers Osborne as they performed a heart-wrenching performance of Eric Clapton’s ‘Tears in Heaven’.

The Grammy Awards of 2018 played host to many movements and revealed many problems faced by artists of all social backgrounds. Overall, it was a show worth watching and very revealing in terms of the music industry’s stand on many issues.

Tick Tick Tock Tock

Aarnav Chadha

Tick Tick Tock Tock,
The time is running from the clock,
24 hours a day,
60 minutes an hour,
60 seconds a minute.

Why waste the time,
Which is running away,
From under our noses into oblivion’s fray,
The clock is slowing,
The cells are dead,
But time isn’t,
So don’t lie in bed.

Time is precious,
So use it wisely,
Time never stops nor does it race,
If you listen to time,
You won’t be in a haste.

So if you wish to use,
This precious time,
Organise yourself,
And you’ll be perfectly fine.
The Week Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry

Juxtaposed with the tranquility of last week, this week was a rather hectic one for masters and boys alike. As our last batch of ICSE students and the SCE/F Formers finished their preboards, the masters sunk into the pool of correction over the weekend. Simultaneously, the final stretch to finish the course of the other batches began with intensely planned classes - many of which promoted “self study” to provide time for corrections. Even some senior boys were found busy over the weekend with Hyderabad House’s S Form crafting furniture, friendships, and relationships at the D&T Centre.

Monday morning Assembly provided the much-needed positivity and comic relief to start the week, as we celebrated the victory of the School Cricket Team. The classes, however, saw an increased lethargy since PT began with many senior boys taking a staunch stance against the long-standing tradition for the sake of their examinations. Meanwhile, The House of Nizams enjoyed the midnight silence during a half hour long black-out.

Amidst all of this, rumors of the Headmaster’s sighting were rampant, but, much to our sadness, his visit was short-lived. Though, it is believed that he missed the School so much that (this time) he left for good fortune and rest for the strenuous weeks ahead!

Crossword | Romance

\[ \text{Across} \]

2. This film, directed by James Cameron, is set in the Atlantic Ocean and was nominated for 14 Academy Awards in 1997.
3. This author is one of the earliest romance authors, having written “Pride and Prejudice” in 1813.
4. “_____ Akbar” is a historical romance film portraying a Rajput princess marrying a Mughal Emperor.
5. “Romeo and Juliet” is set in this city of Italy.
6. “__________ in love” is a movie portraying a playwright falling in love while writing a romantic tragedy.
7. This Bollywood actor is revered as “The King of Romance”.
8. Written “Pride and Prejudice” in 1813.
9. Nicholas Sparks, later adapted into a film as well.
10. “_____ in love” is a novel and a film about an affair between a teenager and an older woman set during World War Two.

\[ \text{Down} \]

1. Green
2. Titanic
3. Casablanca
4. Watson
5. Austen
6. Jodha
7. Reader
8. Verona
9. Notebook
10. Khan

Note: All answers to this crossword are the concerned persons’ surnames.

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

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Editor-in-Chief: Kushagra Kar
Editors: Devang Laddha, Kanishkh Kanodia
Senior Editors: Aayush Chowdhry, Zoraver Mehta
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Assistant Managers: Ishaan Saxena, Purimna Dutta, Arvindanabha Shukla
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