

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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From the Headmaster's Desk

As a school, one of our primary aims is to cause learning to take place in the minds and the hearts of our students. As a residential school it is also to provide the environment in which their social, moral, spiritual and physical development is also taking place with the adults in the community curating the experiences that allow all of these facets of a child's character to develop.

We get the feedback on the job that we are doing at different points along the journey as well as on into the future; class tests, project work, IPSC sports competitions, interhouse, Trinity, examination results, university admissions and, eventually, impact. The evidence that the school has done something to prepare its boys over the years to become the wise and ethical, just and principled leaders that India and the world needs come from the members of the DSOBS who are living into the mission every day.

Moving from the ICSE board to the Cambridge board for our 7th to 10th classes was not only a move from one syllabus or pedagogy to another, it was a move from one language to another, a language that we don't all share. The language change was in the meaning of the command words used in the classroom (do we all know what discuss means?), the way in which we give formative feedback, the way in which the results were reported and the way we talk about those results in comparison to the

ICSE results of the past.

I realise that I should have done more to help our communication grow as a community around this new language in the run up to the May 2019 results coming out. I also realise that we don't share the language to talk about the results in terms that reflect the learning and skills of the boys who are now underway in their ISC or IB programme.

The school chose the Cambridge International Assessment Programme back in 2013 in order to evolve a higher impact learning agenda. This was to incorporate the latest research in learning and help the students to be more ready for their chosen courses and careers in the future. It was felt that the ICSE was certainly full of content and that we were able to deliver it well and get good results, possibly in partnership with the various tutors our boys worked with over the holidays, but it was not helping to develop the skills and characteristics needed for success today. Colleges and employers around the world are looking for bright, articulate people who know how to make connections more than know facts (which you can just look up). In order to remain relevant we needed to look for the programme and the assessment too that would develop and test analytical and creative thinking, communication and collaboration skills, synthesis and the creation of original content, note taking and summarising, practical problem

solving and design thinking ... and the programme chosen by the school was Cambridge.

All of these skills take practice, as does planning and delivering the environment and the teaching that allows them to grow. Many of the conversations that we have had as a community over the last few weeks have been about how we can maximise learning, academic rigour and outcome with what we have available to us. The changes that I have shared in my newsletters are some of the ways in which we will continue to improve, and some of the ideas in last week's issue of the *Weekly* will add more to the refinement of what we do. There are also some changes to be made in things that School cannot control; amongst them are the things like motivation, personal responsibility and what boys choose to prioritise. There are differences between all of the boys in School. We know that when they arrive and we are selecting them for the diversity they bring; each has his own capacity, strength and experience. What is it then, that leads to two boys who arrive with the same admissions results, live in the same House and attend the same classes within the same environment getting such different results? This is the case with one of our toppers in the IB this year and one of the boys who was unable to get the diploma. These are the questions that have the most difficult and interesting answers and are what I hope we will all learn more about this year.

SUPERSONIC SHUTTLERS

The results of the **Individual Badminton Championship, 2019** are as follows:

In the **Junior Category**, Yuval Kundu emerged **runners-up** and Sargun Batra came **first**. In the **Medium Category**, Abhisar Sudhakar came **second** while Kapil Thapli emerged **winner**. In the **Senior Category**, Mayank Kukreti was the **runners-up** and Krish Aggarwal the **winner**.

Congratulations!

MODELLING MINDS

A delegation of 16 boys participated in the **Welham Boys' School Model United Nations Conference, 2019** from **August 3-5**. The results are as follows:

Verbal Mention: Shathaayu Patil

Honourable Mention: Arjun Singh Bajwa, Armaan Thapar, Karanvir Mann, Paras Gupta, and Sargun Singh.

Most Outstanding Delegate: Aarsh Ashdhir, Sidhant Shyam, Aryaman Kakkar and Anay Krishnan

Best Delegate: Aryan Bhattacharjee, Rishab Verma, Keshav Singhal and Nirvair Singh

Overall, the delegation was adjudged as the **Best Delegation** at the conference.

Congratulations!

“

Never give up. Today is hard, tomorrow will be worse, but the day after tomorrow will be sunshine.

—
Jack Ma

DONS OF DALAL STREET

The Business Club hosted its **7th Young Entrepreneurs Conference** on **August 3, 2019**. Thirteen teams participated in the conference. The School was represented by Sudhir Chowdhry, Kabir Subbiah, Arnav Jain and Kabir Singh Bhai. The team stood **Runners-Up** in the **Client Assessment** and **Sustainability in Business** rounds.

Well done!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Switch off the door.

Ahan Jayakumar, off his hinges.

Switch on your notebooks.

GYA, drop the mic.

Infertility is inherited.

Shaan Bulchandani, unheard of.

It quenched my learning.

Keshav Tiwari, knowledge our light.

FINESSE

The School Football Team emerged victorious against the Old Boys' team in a match held on Saturday. The School Football Team won **4-3**. Udbhav Tomar scored a hat-trick.

Kudos!

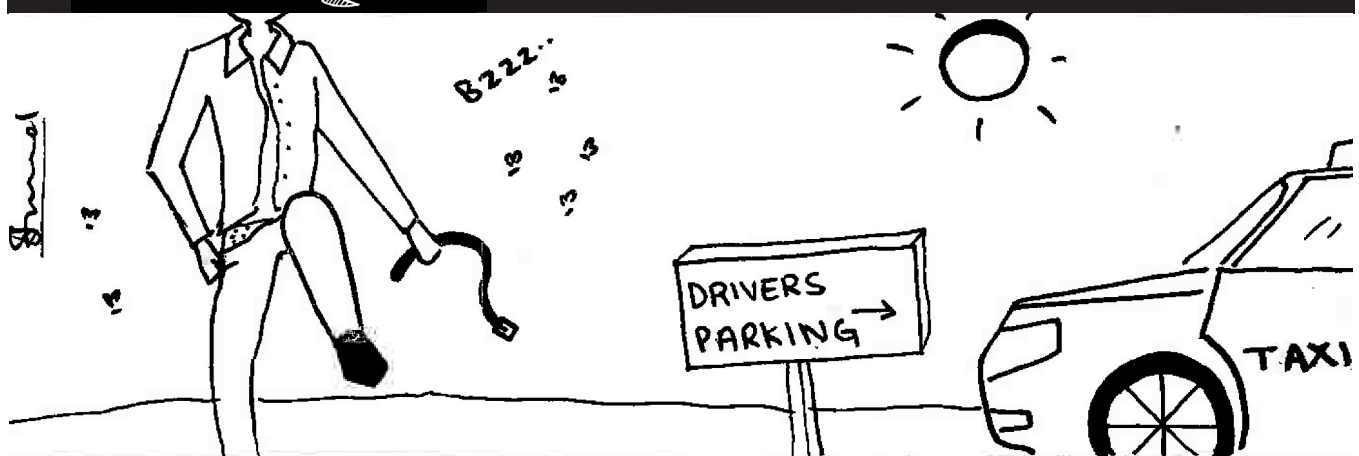
Around the World in 80 Words

A bomb explosion wounded 95 people in Kabul. Troop from Kyrgyzstan broke into the former President Almazbek Atambayev's residence. Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir was abrogated. A rescue boat was capsized in Maharashtra due to a flood, killing nine people. Sushma Swaraj, the former Minister of External Affairs passed away on Tuesday at the age of 67. Real Madrid have completed the signing of Giovanni Lo Celso from Real Betis.

Do Sco Doodle

'Driving' Dengue Away

Saatvik Anand



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was recently made aware that the proposed decision of having two-year cycles for major events in School has been dropped. I am glad that School has come round to this decision; even the idea of holding Chuckerbutty and Kamla Jeevan alternately was inconceivable. In this letter, I have penned down some thoughts which came to my mind when I first heard of this decision.

There are certain events that have remained ingrained within the very fibre of our institution. In my eyes both, the Chuckerbutty and the Kamla Jeevan Debates are two such events. It has been the fruit of continuous effort, time, and hard work devoted towards these two events that has enabled us DoscOs to go on to represent not only our institution, but also our nation at prestigious platforms. Moreover, I have also heard instances where the junior boys have gone on to outperform the senior boys over the due course of these events, which in itself speaks volumes. In such instances, moving towards the odd-even system and hosting these debates in alternate years would not be doing justice to the hard-earned respect that the students of Doon and the institution itself has garnered because of these events.

The School Captain of my batch and a very dear friend of mine put it very aptly in his last speech to the school community during the Prize Giving Ceremony of our batch: "Doon is a microcosm of the world." Building on that line and emotion, it wouldn't be wrong to claim that with many aspects of school life, what we witness as juniors is what we aspire to do as seniors, much like any real-life scenario. With a two-year cycle of events, however, we would be impeding this process for the junior boys to witness and thereby work towards reaching the particular

goal, as it might not exist in their senior years. The reason I highlight this is because for many of us, six years of our school life culminate in that one moment on stage when we get the chance to give back to the community and the very people whose support has allowed us to reach till that moment. SC form is a year of lasts and the system of alternating debates would take away from many what they would call their defining moment of school life and a lifelong cherished memory.

I am also of the thought that breaking this continuous flow would deeply impact the stature and the degree of involvement in debating as a school activity, as it would either disincentivise or heavily skew the participation, depending on which of the two debates are to be held during one's senior year.

As an Old Boy who has always understood the importance of academic performance in one's life, I understand the backdrop against which these set of decisions was proposed. However, it must also be remembered that we at Doon are nurtured in such a manner that if we really wish to prioritise something, then we go out of our way to dedicate our heart and soul towards that particular aspect. I would also like to emphasise the fact that participation in such events, be it as a member of the school debating team or the organising committee is based completely on an individual's free will. It is because one believes in his true potential and his ability to balance out the various aspects of school life that he goes ahead with participating in it. An odd-even system for the purpose of hosting these debates, I feel, does not ensure that the academic performance of the school as a collective entity would improve. Further, a simple analysis of the composition of our past school debating teams would prove to all that the boys/girls who have gone on to represent Doon

in these debates have also been the ones who have had exceptional academic records and in many cases have gone on to attain the some of the highest grades within their respective cohorts.

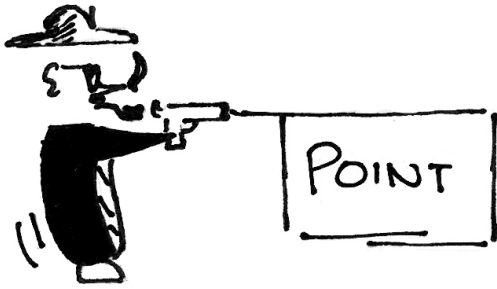
From the logistical side too, I would like to reiterate the fact that each of these events is merely three days long with limited prior involvement and preparation needed. Masters are a major source of support, which is further complemented by the strong functioning of the English and Hindi Debating Societies due to which both the events are planned out well. Admittedly, both cancelling classes for senior boys and their over-involvement within the Organising Committees can affect their academics. However, there are simple solutions to both of these issues. The first issue can be solved by not cancelling classes for the senior boys and letting the juniors attend the preliminary rounds – giving them an opportunity to learn outside the classroom, and as the tradition holds, letting the whole school witness the Finals. As for the second issue, I feel that the Senior Administration of the school can formulate a certain set of criteria for the involvement of senior boys within the Organising Committee. This can either take the form of selecting boys on the basis of academic performance or limiting the number of hours one can devote towards OC work – outside class and Tote time (keeping them non-negotiable).

We as a school community have always cherished the opportunity of witnessing some of the most exceptional debaters from both within the school and outside. Continuing to do so only further the impeccable legacy of DoscOs, and I am grateful that we are able to preserve this.

Regards,

Mihir Gupta (ex 378-K, '18)

Article 370: The Burning Of a Bridge?



Aryan Bhattacharjee

A recent withdrawal of Article 370 (giving special legislative powers to the state of Jammu and Kashmir) and 35 A (protectionist measures for residents of the state), Section XXI, of the Constitution of India has posed to the citizens of our country, and indeed the global community, three fundamental questions: was such a withdrawal warranted in the first place, was it carried out strategically and cogently and what the implications of it may be.

Article 370 was conceived in 1950 with the accession of the princely state of Kashmir, then ruled by a Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh, into the Indian Union. Its primary purpose was to ensure a peaceful transition of the state into the larger union, one inherently temporary in its purpose. Moreover, under clause three, is written that the President of India may declare, at any date he deems appropriate, the article completely null and void or with certain exceptions; such considerations at the very conception of the article convince one that its role was ephemeral.

Jawaharlal Nehru, whom many who now oppose the withdrawal of the article quote, himself on December 27th, 1963 made a speech in parliament in which he declared, “Article 370 is eroded, Kashmir stands integrated.” Gurzarilal Nanda, the then Home Minister, went to the extent of calling the article, “a shell emptied of all its contents.” Two things, thus, become most certain: firstly, that the article had only a temporary role in the constitution, and secondly, that it had served its purpose as early as 1963 - at least in the mind of those who conceived it. There can then be no doubt that the act of removing the article, independent of implementation, was an action most certainly warranted and long overdue.

Leaving aside, however, the necessity of the removal, and moving to a domain of fiercer debate, was the article revoked in a manner that was rash and impulsive? No. The very first precursors to the sixth of August, when Home Minister Amit Shah declared the article null and void, can be traced back to 2016, when the BJP government assumed power in Kashmir – in an alliance with the People’s Democratic Party – a regional party of the state. Between 2012 and 2016, the number of stone pelting cases were a cumulative of 3415; a number which was, as a result of active involvement and military action reduced to 51 in 2017 and then to

15 in 2018. Concurrently, the number of eliminated extremists increased by 44%, civilian deaths reduced by 66% and resident injuries plummeted by 96%. But did these fluctuating numbers really impact the lives of the people? Municipal voter turnout increased to an impressive 56%, electing in Kashmir 100 members of the BJP and a 178 members of the Congress into power (48 BJP and 18 Congress representatives in Jammu), indicating a clear disillusionment of the long powerful regional parties (the PDP and the NU). What may be inferred from this is that voters, tired of a corrupt government and an unchanging status quo, welcomed the numerous changes and decisive measures of the government by displacing the longstanding balance of power in the state. The BJP, quite markedly, considered the revoking of Articles 370 and 35A a high priority even in its first term, and took concrete steps towards it starting with its rise to power within the state.

On immediate implementation, under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Constitution of India, the government has received criticism in the bountiful on its ‘inhuman’ treatment of the people of Kashmir. Section 144, CrPC, imposes three restrictions on citizens’ freedoms: it does not permit them to carry weaponry, does not permit them to meet in groups of larger than five, and restricts their access to the internet or any other remote calling services. Was this really necessary? A member from almost every household in the region is an extremist and terrorist. Just in 2016, in the aftermath of the death of Burhan Wadi, 90 civilians and two security personnel were killed by militant forces, injuring thousands; an event like the scrapping of special privileges for the state could cause a militant uprising far beyond anything yet seen, putting the lives of twelve million Kashmiris at risk. Section 144, in this context, is not precaution but a necessity, and one that is to be welcomed rather than condemned. The implementation of the withdrawal was, hence, well planned, brilliantly strategized and keeping in mind all caution.

The implications of the move are far reaching and manifold. Allowing non-residents of Kashmir to purchase non-movable assets in the state means an increase in investment in J&K – a direct consequence of which is the economic uplifting of the people. Moreover, employment could be the single largest factor dissuading the youth from joining local militia or terror groups, making the valley prosperous and tranquil. Most importantly, it would allow for a social intermingling paramount in making the state accept and be accepted by the rest of the country.

Placing Kashmir at a pedestal no higher than any other state in the country also allows the government to implement swift actions furthering economic

growth and development. An oil pipeline, with huge potential earnings, was delayed by two years, 2011 to 2013, in its laying because of the inefficiencies of state legislature, dissuading investment in the region. The centre could do away with the labyrinth that is the state legislature and deliver to the people high-impact social and economic policies that enhance the daily

In New Delhi, a wave of jubilation swept the country as the Home Minister delivered a monumental speech in the Rajya Sabha. Simultaneously, in the Kashmir valley, a wave of terror and uncertainty swept across the region as troops poured in. Students eager to learn were sent away and all offices were shut. Lal Chowk, a place in Srinagar that normally buzzes with activity, stood abandoned as if its spirit had withered away. Political leaders who were meant to calm an enraged community lay imprisoned in their homes and all means of communication were shut down. Kashmir was in complete lockdown.

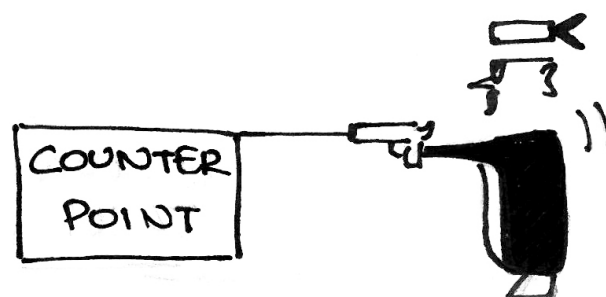
Before moving forward, it is important to concede two important things surrounding Kashmir: Article 370 and 35A did carry temporary solutions to the dispute, and that increasing militancy had brought more urgency to the matter. Having said so, the measures adopted by the Indian Government in the Valley bear two major shortcomings: it is immoral, and more importantly, it undermines some of the most fundamental democratic values of our country. Historically speaking, the future of Kashmir was agreed by both India and Pakistan to be left at the results of a UN-mandated referendum conducted in the state. For the referendum to take place, both parties had to meet certain conditions (which mainly involved demilitarisation); unfortunately, vested interests caused failure in meeting these conditions on both sides. These failures notwithstanding, it is still incorrect for the Indian government to bulldoze its way forward without showing any regard for international code.

The notion of referendum highlights a more important issue that surrounds this decision. While taking a decision that revolves on nationality, the government decided against taking any opinion of the Kashmiris. Instead of Kashmiris being the primary stakeholders in the decision, they were left with having no stake in it at all. The affected could not speak up, and a defining principle of democracy was thus stifled.

Furthermore, Article 367 and Clause 3 of Article 370 together had meant that the President would have to seek the consent of the Legislative Assembly of Kashmir before revoking any of Article 370's clauses; since the state assembly had been dissolved by the BJP governor of Kashmir in November, no need (or possibility) of consent was felt by the centre. With such calculated realpolitik manoeuvres, the BJP was able to seal not only Kashmir's fate but perhaps that of India's federal character as well. The precedent this

lives of residents.

The withdrawal of articles 370 and 35A is then one that is necessary, well implemented and with huge potential benefits to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, making it something that ought to be looked upon as a milestone in the legislative history of India.



Ansh Raj and Karan Sampath

sets is far-reaching and in many ways, terrifying. States need to be independent, and they must have a say in their own existence. The reason for this is that one's identity is both of their nation as well as their state. How long can Nagaland or Tamil Nadu be assured of its own existence if Kashmir fell so swiftly? Without due process, acts such as these threaten the founding ideals of the Indian constitution.

Many on the other side have argued that Article 370 kept Kashmir in isolation, causing it to be deprived of economic development and cultural assimilation with the Indian union. With Article 370 repealed, therefore, Kashmir will possibly develop a more 'Indian' character' and accrue all benefits of economic development that India has to offer. This all may sound promising, and reasonably so. But it also betrays elements of historical actions committed by countries that India, along with the rest of the world, has announced. When people are made to accept decisions without any choice in it, particularly in an already disturbed region, they began to resent the decision-maker in the first place. The social integration that India hopes happens in Kashmir will only happen when the people feel India and its government cares for them. This is hurt by such a decision and exacerbates the problem. Even with the removal of Article 370, businesses will hesitate before investing in such a tense region, and politicians will continue to be angry as the people are angry. By not including the Kashmiri people in the process, the BJP government has made the situation worse.

A case in point which is closest to home is Tibet and China. Many Chinese who migrated to Tibet thought of themselves as missionaries of progress. China has attempted to homogenise Tibet's culture (distinct and similar on many grounds) with its own, something that has even been called a "cultural genocide". Today's situation is strikingly similar in many regards. It appears almost as if India and China switched places with each other, and Kashmir is the new Tibet.

The Week Gone By

Aryan Bhattacharjee

It was certainly an unusual sight to see DoscOs clad in crisp white shirts trotting around the Main Building early on Monday morning. Fifteen cases, or so, of dengue in our beloved neighbour school sparked the need to cover our limbs from the onslaught of the mosquitos. We wish our neighbours a quick and hearty recovery, and hope they make it to DSMUN as planned, for, from what I am told, there is a lot in store for them!

To make matters worse, incessant rains all through the week have wrought a definite sense of gloom on campus, especially

with the conspicuous absence of the Headmaster’s red trousers to alleviate the mood. That however, by no measure, means a slump in the activities we pursue. The football field remains occupied through the evenings despite the rain, with all the House teams getting all the practice weather permits them. Congratulations to the School Football Team on beating the Old Boys in an intense match on Saturday, with the Old Boys almost staging a comeback.

On other fronts, congratulations to the WELMUN delegation on their victory early this week; hopefully this gives us the fuel we need to power our way through to DSMUN, and make it a truly enriching ‘academic’ experience, filled with heated debate and discussion. Meanwhile, the semi-

finals of the Inter House Hindi debates are to be held today, with the Finals of the English debates on Tuesday night – we wish the teams the very best of luck.

The academic front witnesses DoscOs, especially the SCs, getting done with IAs and projects to clear up their time for the serious study that lies ahead. The surge in importance given to academics, I believe, certainly has had an impact on our attitude towards it, with a multitude going every night to the Main Building to study in a distraction-free environment.

With only two working days next week, hopefully we will catch up with our sleep, practices, or pending work and gear up for the flood of activities that awaits us.

Sudoku

		1
	8	3

	4	
		5
		1

	7	
		8
	4	

		8
5		
9		

3		9
1		

		5
		7
4		

	4	
3		
	6	

6		
5		
	2	

1	2	3

Source: <https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/>

**Hiroshima Day —
I believe there
must be bones,
Under the paved
street.**

- Shigemoto Yasuhiko

4	5	7	3	2	8	9	6	1
6	9	8	4	1	5	2	7	3
3	1	2	3	6	9	4	5	8
2	8	4	6	5	1	7	3	9
7	1	6	9	8	3	4	2	5
5	3	5	6	4	7	2	1	8
9	4	5	1	6	2	3	8	7
8	9	2	5	7	3	1	4	6
1	3	7	8	4	9	6	5	2

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors’ own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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