

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
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## THE LAST REGRET

A poem talking about the doomed future of mankind.

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## Rockets and Rabble-Rousers

**Keshav Singhal** *comments on the politicization of the recently-launched space mission to the moon.*

The remarkable attempt by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to land a robotic rover on the lunar surface has received a mixed set of views from people all across the globe. ISRO launched its second unmanned moon mission Chandrayaan-2 earlier in July, 2019 with certain goals, which if achieved, would advance further research on the moon. One major aim of this mission amongst others was to soft-land and operate the Pragyan Rover, which would go on to investigate lunar soil and report on moon quakes. ISRO seems to have lost communications with the Vikram lander, it has been able to

successfully plant another orbiter that would greatly contribute to research on the lunar soil and atmosphere.

While a successful soft landing of the Vikram Lander would have propelled the Indian Space agency into a new era of innovation and research, the international reaction to this project has been encouraging. Esteemed agencies such as NASA have already approached ISRO for international cooperation in the future, a huge leap for the Indian organisation, which was only in its infancy when NASA launched its manned mission to the Moon. Even though, ISRO was not able to produce a soft landing on its

first attempt, it has so far enjoyed a history of achieving many firsts. The year 2014 heralded the beginning of a new era for ISRO when it successfully launched its probe that still orbits Mars. Then in 2017, ISRO accomplished the goal of launching the largest number of satellites in one go (104 satellites). That said, ISRO has proven its prowess over time and has been able to draw international attention. So how does an organisation that boasts such feats become a victim to domestic criticism?

The answer to this question is perhaps the most deep-rooted problem that Indians face today: poverty. The Indian Government has been questioned time and again about the viability of such missions keeping in mind that millions of Indians face a dearth of food supplies everyday. Millions of Indians fail to celebrate the efforts of ISRO because they believe the government should handle their ground realities first. Even though they are not entirely responsible for this malaise, it's imperative that we consider the boons that the programme will bring.

By launching these missions, ISRO is merely sowing the seeds for potential growth in the future; it has already established firm roots by using Chandrayaan-1

*(Continued on Page 3)*



SPLASHING SUCCESS

The School finished **Runners-Up** in the **P.A. Kidd Memorial Swimming Tournament** held at **Wynberg Allen School** from **August 31 to September 1, 2019**.

Following are the results:

Gold

**50m breaststroke:** Jayaditya Dahiya  
**50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke and 200m Individual Medley:** Tarun Bhide

Silver

**50m backstroke:** Aditya Jain  
**50m butterfly:** Balraam Suri  
**50m breaststroke:** Kabir Takhtar  
**200m Individual Medley:** Arjun Prakash

Bronze

**50m breaststroke and 200m Individual Medley:** Aryan Prakash  
**50m butterfly:** Enaith Habibullah

The Under 14 Relay team won a **Silver Medal** in the **4x50m Medley Relay** and a **Gold** in the **4x50m Freestyle Relay**. The Under 17 Relay team was awarded **Gold Medals** in the **4x50m Freestyle Relay** and in the **4x50m Medley Relay**. The Under 19 relay team procured a bronze in the 4x50m medley relay.

Tarun Bhide was adjudged as the **Best Swimmer** in the **Under 17** category and Jayaditya Dahiya was adjudged as the **Most Promising Swimmer** in the **Under 19** category.

Kudos!

ERRATA

The *Weekly* regrets the omission of the following **Long Service Awards for 15 years**, awarded to Mr. Manu Mehrotra, Mr. Anjan Chaudhary and Mr. Shadeep Adhikari.

NOTES OF VICTORY

Following are the **Winners** of the **Inter-House Music Competition, 2019:**

**Dance:** Tata  
**Band:** Oberoi  
**Drums:** Tata  
**Piano:** Oberoi  
**Tabla:** Jaipur  
**Instrumental:** Kashmir  
**Light Vocal:** Kashmir

House Cup

**1st:** Tata  
**2nd:** Oberoi  
**3rd:** Jaipur  
**4th:** Kashmir  
**5th:** Hyderabad

Congratulations!

GUTS AND GLORY

In the **Sardaar Mohammed Tennis Tournament 2019**, Zubaer Chawla emerged as the **Winner** and Aradhya Aggarwal was the **Runners-Up**.

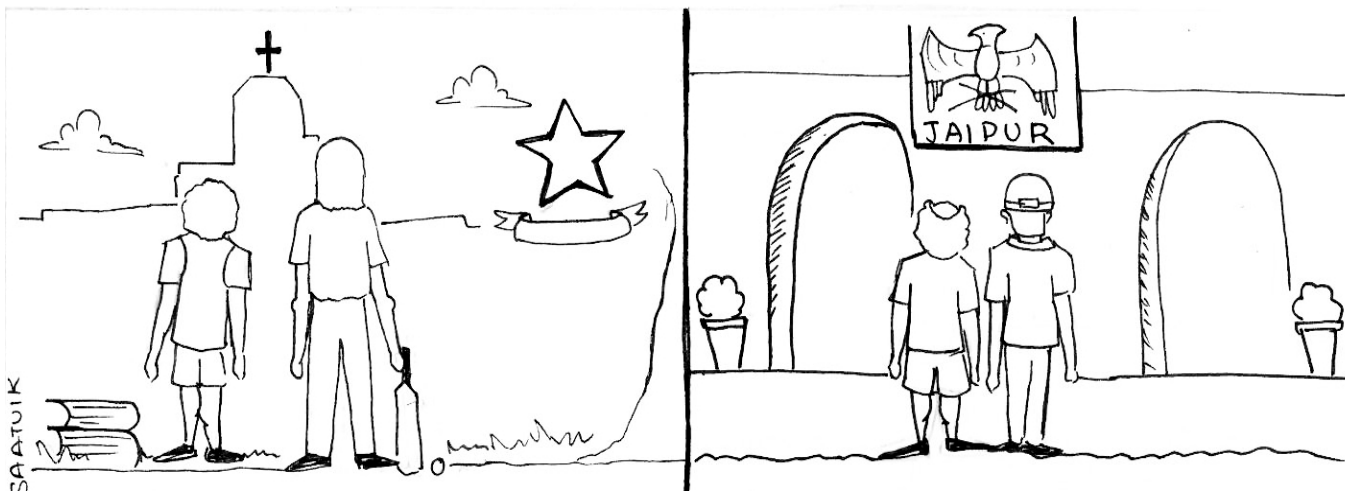
Well done!

Around the World in 80 Words

The US Supreme Court approved of Trump’s asylum restrictions to take effect, severely limiting the ability of migrants to claim asylum. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau officially dissolved the parliament and called for elections in October. Israel and the Hezbollah, an Islamist militant group based in Lebanon, exchanged fire at the former’s Lebanese border. India and Nepal opened South Asia’s first cross-border oil product pipeline on Tuesday. England beat Kosovo 5-3 in the UEFA European Championship 2020 Qualifiers on Wednesday.

Do Sco Doodle

A True Love Story  
Saatvik Anand



(Continued from Page 1)

to spot water on the moon, and looks forward to launch manned missions in the future. More so, this debate has many other facets to it including jobs and resources in the long run. Critics of the investment in ISRO have pointed out the situation of the dwindling economy, and have encouraged investment in embattled industries like the automobile industry. However, not only does ISRO provide a substantial amount of employment, but it also helps the economy to move away from its reliance on agriculture and move towards development in technology, a highly developed sector; therefore, reaping economic benefits for the country.

Yet another point of contention in this entire dispute is the politicization of the mission by the Modi government. Admittedly, ISRO deserves commendation for its new venture in space, but the excessive glorification of the organisation seems out of proportion. This overwhelming reaction of the Modi Government has flooded mainstream news channels of the country with pictures of the esteemed Prime Minister shaking hands with the scientists working at ISRO and making inspirational speeches. An event of such magnitude would definitely receive unparalleled media attention, but instead of focussing on speeches, news reports

should reflect upon the scientific intricacies of such a mission. By politicizing this entire process, the people are diverted from their scientific focus, something that is detrimental for the society.

Moreover, this reaction has invisibly achieved more for the Government that has financial and political crises at hand. The Government has tactically used this event as a weapon to fire back at its critics who have been pointing to the instability in the country for quite some time now. The top stories that were previously covering the huge unemployment rates in the automobile industry and the human rights abuses in Kashmir are now replaced by stories on Modi's speeches. Thus, this instantaneous shift in attention has been exploited by the Modi Government to silence down its critics who have been vocal for months now.

Despite these economic and political issues, the efforts of the scientists at ISRO cannot be undermined at any cost. Even if we leave the economic aspects of these missions aside, the very thought of being one of the leading members of the world in the field of space technology should be enough to inspire us to persist. To achieve such a feat for a 'third world' country like India is not insignificant. It took an aborted landing for us to realise that women can be scientists and men can cry.

# The Last Regret

Rohan Taneja

The sun rises over the Horizon,  
The Horizon bathed with blood.  
The blood of a race that once was,  
Whose tales are lost to the mourning wind.  
Those once known as trees,  
Lay dying in the winter blaze  
As all those fortunately dead  
Rot in the summer freeze.  
While the land that once was Russia,  
Burns like the Lord Ares  
The Sahara desert faces  
Its last deep freeze.  
As the floods of Poseidon and the draughts of Hades  
Strike Gaia on her death bed,  
The race called man faces the fate of his deepest  
regret.

# Sleep

Aryaman Kakkar

It doesn't come as easily now.  
Always when I want it least,  
Never when I need it most.  
I wait and lie in the darkness but  
It doesn't claim me.  
Like a moth to a flame,  
I am drawn close to burn and hover  
But my wings hold me back from those midnight  
pleasures.  
Keeping me from the scorching dreamscape.  
Yet it comes in fits and bouts like an indecisive  
plague.  
It consumes me in tumultuous waves and drowns  
me,  
Only to find myself breathing as it deserts me.  
It is erratic, wild; a pixyish entity that thrives on  
My dark circles and red-eyes and silent sobs in the  
night.  
When it allows me dreams, I am lost in labyrinthine  
structures;  
Worlds that defy my imagination, my reality.  
It always leaves me wondering why  
It doesn't come as easily now.



# Elegance in Eloquence

**Samarth Kapila and Kabir Singh Bhai** report on the recently concluded Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates.

Sixty three years and counting, the Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates are one of the most prestigious legacy debating tournaments in India. With a total of 14 teams coming from across India and a school from Dubai as well, this year's competition saw closely contested debates, with winning margins being as close as a single point. 48 hours, 31 debates: that was the high intensity brain-sport that we were treated to this year!

After weeks of relentless preparation by the organising committee as well as the team, the much-awaited tournament kicked off on 30th August. Chuckerbutty's hectic schedule launched debaters relentlessly into one round after another, with the stipulation that debaters who were not seen digging into the sumptuous snacks provided by the CDH would not be allowed to debate! The motions ranged across a spectrum of provocative issues, from tackling the refugee crisis to analysing computational creativity. Debaters drew upon a rich assortment of examples such as Brexit and the abolishment of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. We marvelled at their presence of mind and rich knowledge, as they were given no access to any digital resource during their preparation time. It was a sight to see debaters scrambling to their venues like midnight Cinderellas the moment a motion would be announced! At Chuckerbutty, as always, every second counts.

Our judges were active debaters and adjudicators themselves in Delhi University, with numerous accolades to their names. They could be seen always surrounded by eager debaters wanting a little more feedback. Another vital organ of this year's debates was the Organising Committee, a motley crew of 40 or so boys that were the invisible gears of the event. Notably these debates had a very minimal carbon footprint, not using any plastic in the course of the event.

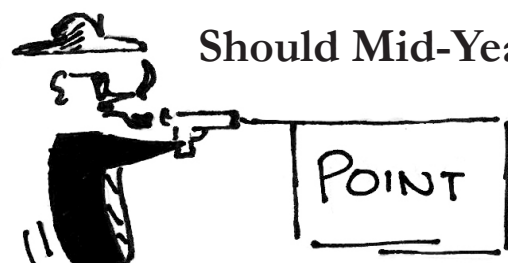
By the end of the four preliminary rounds, Karan

Sampath had bagged four Best Speaker awards. Exemplary performances were displayed by Akshata Kapoor from the Cathedral & John Connon School and Dhruv Bindra from The Shri Ram School. After these fiercely contested prelim rounds, four schools qualified for the semi-finals, namely, The Doon School, The Shri Ram School, Dhirubhai Ambani International School and GEMS Modern Academy, Dubai. The motion for the semi-final round read *"This House Would Actively Recruit Conservative Women Into The Feminist Movement."* A very relevant motion, arguments from side proposition were based on the premise that the feminist movement should be all inclusive, and that this would be effective in advancing feminist ideas even in ultra conservative households. Side opposition, on the other hand, argued about how conservative women are resistant to change and challenging patriarchy, which is one of the fundamental tenets of the feminist movement. All four teams fought tooth and nail for their spot in the finals, but The Shri Ram School and The Doon School emerged as winners, advancing to the final round. Karan Sampath, yet again, was able to clinch the Best Speaker of his debate, his fifth in a row.

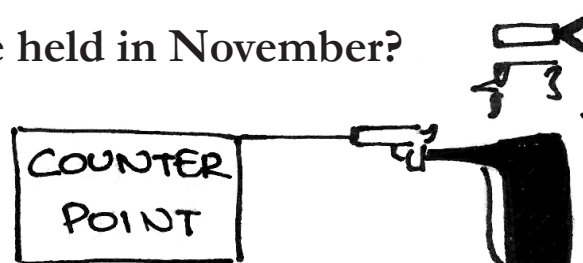
The motion for the final round read *"This House Regrets the Rise of Social Media as the Primary Source of News."* This was by far the closest debate in the entire tournament, and it was quite a sight to see both teams biting their nails while the results were being tabulated. In a split ballot, our home team emerged victorious, with The Shri Ram School coming runners up for the fifth consecutive year.

This year's debates helped raise the standards of our participants as well as debating in School and has set a new ceiling; one that is hopefully going to be shattered next year. We look forward to seeing all the debaters next year!





Sriman Goel



Nirvair Singh

## Should Mid-Year Trials be held in November?

With the reinforced emphasis that School is putting upon academics, most Inter-House competitions have been spaced more evenly across the Autumn Term. Until last year, all racquet sports, boxing, athletics and basketball were compacted into the final few weeks of the term. While all these sports and the Trinity Music examinations left most of us hellishly exhausted, academics bore the brunt as we barely dragged ourselves across the pages at the end of the day. The change in the calendar and the uniform spacing of sports has freed up the possibility of having the Mid-Year Trials during November, along with providing time to those who wish to participate in several Inter-House competitions throughout the term.

One of the many reasons why having our mid-year Trials in November is beneficial is that it practically acts as an end of year summation, covering the whole year's syllabus and acting as a warm-up to March Finals. For those in B and S Form, testing in November helps create a comprehensive picture of where they stand in their new board as about a third of their syllabus can be tested. Sure, if Trials were to be in September, only a part of the curriculum would be tried, but any part taught between September and November then remains untested until March of next year. While recognising that SC Form needs to complete their mid-year papers before October to use their scores to apply to universities, nonetheless A Form could have their trials in November as it would set up their plan for studying in the holidays – creating a clear path to their Mocks and Boards.

Furthermore, we know Founder's to be a labour of love – but we require a balance between academics and ambition. Having September trials and midterms fall right before Founder's leads to a compromise on either our studies (if we work for Founder's during papers) or affects the quality we aspire to bring to events (if we wait until trials have passed), particularly in large productions such as music and dramatics. Trials in November allows us to focus wholly on Founder's in September, and on our studies in November.

To sum up, having Trials in November allows for the dedication needed to prepare for Founder's, towards Inter-House sports throughout the term and finally, towards our academics – an intensive dedication that is representative of what we stand for and practice in School.

Over the past few years, the zeitgeist in School has been one of change: be it the introduction of the IGCSE curriculum or ISC board examinations for class 11, such reforms have significantly affected the timetable and calendar. The change in the calendar with regards to Mid-Year trials being held in November is another such example of this, but will it pan out to be success in the long run?

Keeping in line with the argument for the time we need for Founders and Inter-House activities, one can argue that shifting these trials to November creates a consistent and uninterrupted timeline wherein we can fit in various Inter-House competitions and more importantly our preparation for Founder's, such a proposition forgets a crucial component within the equation – the S Form opting for the ISC curriculum. Having official board examinations at the end of the School year, they must now shift their focus from the extra-curricular and towards the academic. Because November is the final month of the term instead of a mid-way point, and their boards are now in February, there is an added pressure to complete the ISC syllabus, meaning that many S Formers, who play large roles in both Founder's and the various Inter-Houses, will be consigned to a similar, academically-oriented fate that the SC's and A Formers face during September Trials; the same forms who the S Form were expected to cover up for in the past.

Another gripe brought forth by advocates of the November-based calendar is that Trials in September only test half the course, meaning that there is no test after to gauge our progress until the finals themselves. These people must understand that firstly, barring the S Form, the D, C and B form all have a syllabus that, arguably, isn't so rigorous enough as to warrant such a concern. As for the S Form, there did exist such an examination in the older system – Pre-Boards. With this new version however, instead of a evenly spread-out examination structure across the year, all forms would be essentially facing a gauntlet of tests, one right after the other, with little room to breathe in between, as even the winter break would be spent studying.

To conclude, I believe that changing what was a well-established and coherent structure will backfire in the long run, and that both the quality of our extra-curricular activities and Founder's, along with our academic development, will certainly be impacted, but in what would ultimately be a counter-productive way.

# The Week Gone By

Varen Talwar

The week began with the conclusion of an unusually dramatic Inter-House Music Competition, which featured a broken sarod string in its final performance, and the rather unexpectedly heroic rise of a pianist from Hyderabad House given barely three days to prepare. This year's Competition has been characterised by exactly these sorts of improvisations, heartbreaks, close shaves, and atmospherics. However, as suitable as they might have been for the Competition, they were just as

uncanny in foreshadowing the events of this week. Particularly so for those of us writing exams, for the last thing anyone wants in the examination hall is to have to deal with such 'broken strings', or a paper you are not prepared for. Even the juniors must have felt uneasy, in view of their Inter-House Football matches, especially Oberoi House after a rather shocking blow at Skinner's on Monday. As for the S Form, it faced the spectre of what exams look like after finally jumping the chasm that separates A and S Forms. A majority of the batch can also be seen with their noses buried in SAT practice papers, with the test less than a month away, and the Mid-Terms standing

very conveniently in between. Meanwhile, the A and SC Forms seem to be in a wholly different universe, burning the midnight oil to do well in their Trials. However, they should remember that there is quite a fair bargain of becoming Rs 60000 richer, or shall I say Rs 60000 less poor, if you work hard enough, as we discovered during Monday Assembly! We are still left with another week of such obstacles to be conquered. It is quite unlikely for a sea as stormy as ours to give its sailors any rest, so let's just hope we can handle whatever the coming week has in store for us - like we do, quite gallantly, I must say, eight months a year!

## Sudoku

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

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

“  
Our dead are never dead to us until  
we have forgotten them.  
On the anniversary of 9/11, the *Weekly*  
remembers all those we lost on this  
unfortunate day.

“  
The two most powerful  
warriors are Patience and  
Time.  
Leo Tolstoy

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

Key

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