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The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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Sins of the Father

Ansh Raj

The loud shrieks of the baby pierced through the air. Normally, the peasants would have sat around and consoled the baby to sleep, but things were now different. Months of suffering from starvation had left them with no strength or motivation to perform any parental duty. Months that could not wring even a shred of sympathy, as the sins of their fathers visited, or rather, inflicted upon them.

The world of the peasants had remained untouched for as long as one could remember, and they had lived safely in their comforting coexistence. Landowners existed even then, but the relationship between the two wasn't what it had become now. In the day, the peasants would toil laboriously in the fields as the landowners watched and guided them. Then, as dusk would settle in, both would revel in the fruits reaped, sometimes each by themselves, and sometimes together. Though there existed authority above the landowners, the relationship with the peasants was only limited to payment of revenues in kind, and on time. Beyond that, neither was much of a concern for the other.

But then, when there was new authority that appeared over the landlords, tremors were felt across the community. The transition looked seamless; initially, few noticed the change. However, before time could whisper the word around, the new Authority personally announced its arrival. Their declaration was laced with benevolence as the Authority offered promises of active help in the form of tools and fertilisers to the peasantry, which could be used without any objections from the landlord. We want you to be more productive and work smartly, they said. In addition, they also announced the construction of a large stone-sculpted lamp to celebrate the beginning of a new era. The burning of the lamp would bear the mark of their prosperity. While a few peasants warmly welcomed the promises, most received them with passive resignation. Meanwhile, in view of the promised welfarism, the Authority also relayed its

intentions of raising the revenue to the landlords.

Then, one year, the rains failed.

Emergencies of this kind had occurred in the past, but none had ever reached such a degree of panic. Further, the injection of fertilisers over time had added to the aridity of the land. Under such circumstances, crop failure was inevitable. The Risk-Taking peasants, though unnerved, decided to rely on their landlords' charity (as they always had). When they found that there was no reduction in revenue, still less food being given to them as relief, mayhem broke. Soon, correctional measures from the Authority began to be unleashed upon the peasants, punishing those who failed to pay the revenue, as well as upon those amongst the landlords who supported the peasants in the midst of such chaos. Martial law was strictly imposed, and all insurgencies soon disappeared.

Gradually, nature regained its course, and the rains returned. A new generation of peasantry took over, and collectively recognised the importance of avoiding risk-taking in cultivation. However, before they could take up the course of the work of their forefathers, a fiat declaring that all means of production had been seized by the Authority was issued. Landlordism was abolished altogether, and landowners now either toiled with the peasants, or worked as clerks for the Authority. In the production process itself, only so many inputs were distributed as would be enough to keep the peasantry in subsistent submission. But in most cases, even this proved to be too little, and starvation slowly set in. The suffering was visible to all, save the blindfolded Authority. Many peasants, seeing no form of liberation save one, committed suicide, while a few children died of a lack of enough nutrition.

None among the new cohort of peasants could muster enough courage to put even his demands forward. The Authority's diktat, clear and yet elusive, was that the lamp must keep burning. It burns dimly,

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UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

You losted its originality.

Anushtup Giri, Grammarly 2.0

You are doing Instagram.

Anshul Khakhar, looking for followers.

He cooks kitchen in the chicken.

Yuvan Kamdar, hungry.

Biology is the skin of my brain.

Shyamal Singhal, the true IB learner.

He is from Spanish.

Shantam Gilra, going back to his roots.

Let's have fun with pun.

CRK, Biology class (sigh).

I will eat coke and drink pizza.

Paavan Agarwal, late night snack.

Donald Trump is the butt on my pimple.

Varen Talwar, angry young man.

SUCCESS MAXIMISATION

Suyash Chandak took part in the **Dorian-Fisher Economics Prize**, a worldwide economics essay competition organized by the **Institute of Economic Affairs UK**, in which he emerged as **Runner-Up**.

Well done!

6 EXCUSES TO SKIP MIDTERMS

- 1. Participation in Round Square 'Leadership' Program
- 2. A cousin's marriage back at home
- 3. Social Service Midterms
- 4. Lung Asthma problems on the hills
- 5. Preparation for the SAT IB and ISC boards
- 6. Down with dengue

“

The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them.

—

Ernest Hemingway

CRÉME DE LA CRÉME

The following have been awarded the **Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship Award** for the **2018-19** academic year:

C Form: Keshaw Singhania

B Form: Agam Bhatia

A Form: Rushil Choudhary

S form (ISC): Pranav Goel

S form (IB): Paras Gupta

Congratulations!

THE WHO?

Who is David Gilmour?

Keshav Singhal: An astronaut

Ahan Jayakumar: An author

Varen Talwar: A biologist

Vedansh Kokra: An actor

David Gilmour is the guitarist, singer, and songwriter of the famous English rock band, **Pink Floyd**, which is famous for developing the genre of psychedelic rock.

Around the World in 80 Words

Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg won the 2019 Right Livelihood Award. Democrats in the US House of Inquiry launched a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump due to illegal talks with the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensk. Nintendo released the mobile version of their game, Mario Kart. A bomb attack on a Turkish Police bus left five injured. Drones from Pakistan have reportedly dropped 80 kg of arms and ammunition in Punjab. Barcelona beat Villareal 2-1 in the LaLiga.

Do Sco Doodle

Magical Night

Anant Ganapathy

2 WEEKS AGO...



NOW...

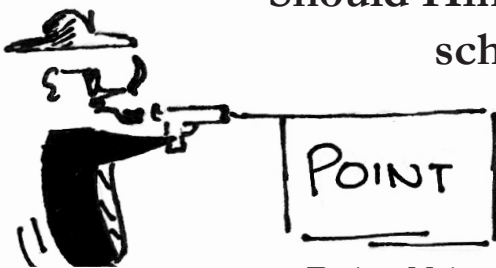


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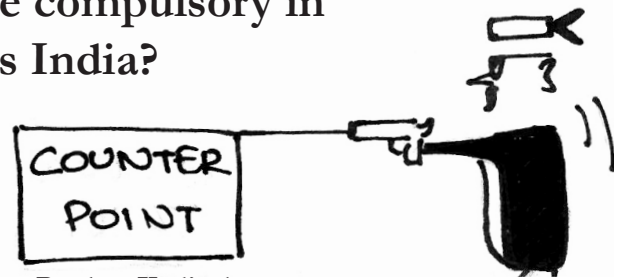
and must burn brighter. That far too many peasants would be consumed in this fire was a reality they had divorced themselves from. Or worse, they didn't really care about it. After all, the count of peasants suffering or dead was just a figure to them, a figure that could be buried and forgotten in the pages of history for the Authority to achieve its purpose.

As the peasants sat outside their houses, limp and helpless, the grim bespectacled face of Prudence stared in their faces. For the sake of its own perpetuation, this Prudence held every peasant's desire and hope with contempt. A failure on the part of a few peasants to be cautious had brought an Unpredictable and bleak future for generations ahead. And there was nothing that could be done about it.

Should Hindi be made compulsory in schools across India?



Eeshan Mehrotra



Raghav Kediya

The draft new education policy 2019 is aimed at making structural changes pertaining to issues such as the curricular design, funding policies, teacher recruitment, and training aspect of the education sector. One of the reforms includes an emphasis on the three-language formula, which allows students across the nation to study three languages: English, Hindi, and a regional language. Until now, non-Hindi speaking states faced no compulsion to teach Hindi in schools, but the draft education policy proposes to change that.

India is famously known for its diversity, which clearly reflects upon the number of languages spoken in the nation. The fact that across 29 states, India has 22 languages being spoken indicates how one language does not predominantly exist. Besides, with the increasing surge of Hindu nationalism in our country, many have even seen this as a step towards linguistic imperialism. However, it is imperative that we look past these reasonings and try to understand the purpose behind the policy. Firstly, the policy only asks for students from Grade 1 to Grade 8 to study Hindi. These eight years of schooling would establish a basic understanding of the language, which is necessary considering that Hindi is India's official language and it would only bridge the communication gaps between culturally-varying states. Moreover, the policy also protects regional languages and puts them at par with the other two languages (Hindi and English). Hence, regional languages are not being side-lined, but are being protected and promoted by the three language formula. The purpose behind the policy is not one whose effects will be seen in the near future. By making Hindi compulsory in schools, the education ministry is only ensuring that a common language would aid in the development of a common belonging and a sense of nationalism among the

From the age of nine until I was twelve, I lived in Manila, Philippines. Before that, I lived in Bangalore, Karnataka. After Manila, I live in Hyderabad, Telangana. I was born in Nagpur, Maharashtra; but associate my lineage with Dehradun, Uttarakhand. In my life up till now, I have lived amidst people who speak Kannada, Telugu, and people who speak Urdu or Marathi, and others who speak Garhwali. What's most interesting is that I have experienced all these languages in just one country- India. I feel that this is the beauty of India; that within one country, India manages to maintain conditions optimal for the thriving of a plethora of ethnic, linguistic and religious communities. With this in mind, I feel that the type of unconventional shifts the ruling government is trying to make in regard to the nationalisation of the Hindi language, is something that severely threatens the sustenance of a cultural pluralism that has prevailed in India.

From the 3rd grade, I have always had Hindi as a subject at school. Never have I ever found it interesting or easy— something that makes itself abundantly apparent in my transcripts. Therefore, if such a subject causes a student such distress and frustration, perhaps students, already burdened with subjects like the sciences, humanities and finances, should not be further with an additional language. Such stress will only add to students' psychological and mental strains.

Further, Hindi has become more and more redundant. With students from urban areas of India constantly leaving the country for higher education; the language isn't even very greatly in use or need. Also, students in rural areas usually speak in their vernaculars, rendering a compulsory education of Hindi completely pointless. For example, a village in Bihar would use Bihari as the vernacular. This leaves

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population of India.

Furthermore, compulsory study of Hindi as a subject across the nation, especially in non-Hindi speaking states, would be beneficial for all those who go on to work in Hindi-speaking states in any capacity, and also for people migrating from Hindi-speaking states to non-Hindi speaking states for work purposes.

To sum up, having Hindi as a compulsory subject in schools across India would be beneficial for the nation as it protects regional languages, eases the transition for domestic migrants, and establishes a common understanding in the form of a language between the people of India which symbolises one of the core beliefs of India - Unity in Diversity.

only those students who live in regions where Hindi is widely spoken; in such a situation, where the language comes naturally to these students, there seems no apparent reason for teaching these children the literature and grammar of the language. At the end of the day, all they need Hindi for is communication, for which the Hindi they learn at home is adequate.

Rather than enforcing a language that, in many parts of India, is considered synonymous to a foreign one, we should celebrate the linguistic diversity of our nation. Indians, as a nation, speak more than 1500 languages and enforcing a medium of expression that many don't identify as their own, is plain undemocratic. So, I believe that Hindi should not be made a compulsory subject in Indian schools.

To What Degree?

Aryan Agarwal *reevaluates the dominating college-centric mindset in School.*

‘Applying Sideways’ is the title of a curious post on the page of MIT’s admission blog, and I think it deserves attention for two reasons: firstly, because it’s application advice by MIT (the MIT!), and the other that it presents the possibility of a far more intimate high school education.

The post describes an attitude in school-going-students that we too have begun to imbibe over time, because of the many changes between the past and the present. More specifically, the post describes the college-centric alignment that dominates students, which can be attributed to the ever-increasing grappling for spots in colleges. It is arguable that such a tendency is a necessary adaptation, but even if it is an adaptation, is it effective in serving its intended purpose? It is this question the post attempts to answer, and while doing so it also swims against the current in advertising a radically different mindset- a mindset which encourages readers to ‘follow our passions’ instead of asking the apathetic question, “what does my college want me to do?”.

Now, why would you want to abide by the idea of ‘following passions’, which is, at the very least, a cliché? It is because the idea, in spite of its careless repetition in countless conversations, still holds merit - an activity that is a passion motivates a pursuit that is organic, allowing a student to construct their natural focus around it. Such focus then becomes the foundation for a base for the wholesome growth of the student, in both skill and knowledge in their area of interest. However, when college spots occupy the highest pedestal — commonly the case today — development in individuals is not nearly as wholesome. The pivotal difference in the two approaches is not that the latter is lacking; rather, it is that the former allows a student to dive deep into their interest area,

and to discover the smallest niches of that topic.

Why then does the prevailing sense still exhibit the belief that college is indeed the final goal? Logically, this can be attributed to the inseparable human quality that causes us to divide our focus systematically. College is obviously not the ultimate goal, as there are many other turning points that lie beyond graduation, but it is undeniably the next significant escalation, much like the escalation of levels in an arcade game. This explains the prominent and seemingly normal line of thought adopted in School. An unforeseen, often unrealised consequence of this focus on university and college admissions is, unfortunately, the abortion of the natural pursuit of curiosities, as all attention shifts to fine-polishing oneself for later education. Therefore, while measuring all our decisions and activities to exactly fit the specifications of a university’s prospectus may reap fruit in getting us into our dream school, it remains a practice that cannot parallel the boons allowed by an unrestricted, almost wild way of being.

Regardless of the merits of encouraging a more natural process of learning and pursuing activities, it would be surprising to not face resistance, be it in the form of a conceited believer, or even someone who doesn’t connect with the idealism thrown at them. Changes in mindset, inevitably, face resistance, just like the law of inertia for masses in physics. But imagine the boundless momentum that may be reached if the crucial change were to be made - from a student that wades arduously to college, to a student who, by pursuing his uncontaminated quest for knowledge, intensifies the halo around them, all the while enjoying the sights seen during an enriching sailboat ride to professionalism.

Masters of Melody

Aditya Jain *comments on the recently held Inter House Music Competition.*

This year, like every other, gave School the opportunity to witness some truly mind-blowing performances in the Inter House Music Competition from boys, across all categories. The Inter House Dance, the Popular Band and the Drum Solo category held last term received the appreciation of many who were present in the Rose Bowl as people witnessed the rise of young talent, and at the same time, saw the experienced carry out their roles to perfection. These events gave a boost to the events this term which kicked off on a high note. The anticipation was higher than ever before, and performers expected fierce competition.

It started with the Piano Solo category, one that etched memories in the hearts of all in the audience, who was left mesmerised by the various moving pieces played this year. Intense competition was witnessed in the category with the Music Captain emerging victorious, followed closely by the aspiring eagle. Each performance kept the audience hooked, leaving them excited for the Tabla Solo category. Here, though stellar performances were seen in the category by every player, it was the clash between the fiery duet from Jaipur House and the 'Maestro' from Tata House that was most intense. It ended with the Jaipur House duet edging everyone out and winning the cup by a slim margin of one point. This ended the first day, and left everyone waiting for more.

The second day of the competition came with a lot of expectations, all of which were met! First came

the classical vocalists, where keen listeners were left satisfied with the melodies of our harmonious singers. The heavyweights from Kashmir exceeded everyone's expectations and ended up sweeping the cup. Then came the final category of the competition – the Hindustani Instrumental category. The audience was expecting an exciting finale with performers like the experienced Kashmir House duo and the Nizam, who was ready to beat the odds once again, waiting to compete. Not only did the category see some sensational performances, but it also brought with it a lot of drama. The string of our sarod player from Kashmir House snapped mid-performance, catching the attention of even those dozing at the far ends of the MPH. However, not only did he manage to fix his string and start playing again, but the santoor player next to him continued too, and improvised on stage, leaving everyone in the crowd shell-shocked. Not only did the duo receive a standing ovation, but it also won the category!

With the absence of the Inter House Choir this time, the audience expected the level of action and entertainment to come down a notch or two. However, our musicians made sure that this did not happen by giving some truly memorable performances. With Tata House winning the Competition once again, the standard of the Inter House Music Competition was raised exponentially by the boys this year, setting challenging standards for future performers.



The Week Gone By

Adit Chatterjee

This week, as the mid-year examinations concluded, one would imagine that our SC Form would be spending this time drowning away their sorrows (in sleep, of course). Instead, it seems that the SCs’ nightlife has only become more vibrant. This seniormost batch is reduced to fighting hard for its predicted grades, as the chilling implications of a ‘predicted-determined’ future settles in. For now, however, miniature idols of the Careers Department are being put up all over School and being ceremoniously worshipped round the clock as a final resort, the last hope.

This week also saw the much-awaited House feasts on Monday, a

magic show on Tuesday, and will also see our students off for midterms on Saturday. With the upcoming SAT examination on October 5 a large number of students plan on carrying their SAT books rather than conventional trekking gear, in the hopes of catching up on some last minute studying up in the mountains. Perhaps the fresh air and a swish of the magician’s wand will get our US college aspirants the much-coveted 1500+ score next Saturday, which might just have been our administration’s plan all along. If all else fails, at least the thick books will serve the purpose of handkerchiefs - to soak up the flood of tears brought about by dashed hopes and dreams.

In the arena of sports, the Inter House Senior Basketball is in full swing, while practices for Inter House Athletics have begun as well. Of course, athletics isn’t the only thing the S-form happens to

be running in, as the running for far greater aspirations in full sprint, with appointments due to be announced shortly after Founders - just two weeks away. May our athletes avoid any unforeseen injuries, especially with the reputation made and broken during Midterms that are likely to take quite a few out of the running at such a crucial juncture. All those “hills to climb” can really put a strain on one’s lungs and futures.

Preparation for Founders has begun as well, but we are yet to see the regular late nights that are so characteristic of Founders preparation. We will see them soon enough though, I’m sure. On a final note, let us enjoy the week ahead, and leave behind us all the tension of the past few weeks, living life to the fullest up in the hills or in the comfort of our homes.

Sudoku

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

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



The Weekly wishes the School community good luck for their mid-terms.

Key

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

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