

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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DOONSPEAK

Doscors tell us how they are spending their quarantine time.

Page 3

COVID PANDEMIC UPDATE

Information you should have about the ongoing pandemic.

Pages 4 & 5

RECOMMENDATIONS

Movies, TV shows, and books to escape boredom.

Page 6

Editorial

The Show Must Go On

Varen Talwar

I remember the day a few weeks ago when the School abruptly closed due to the Coronavirus threat. The announcement had brought all activities and plans to a sudden stop, and boys-in-charge and captains held their heads in distress. I myself had been sending articles for that week's issue of the *Weekly* for editing barely twenty minutes before the announcement, and suddenly it all didn't matter anymore. Although the consequences for people around the globe had become apparent much earlier, I have since then realised how immensely this crisis has changed the lives of people in School also. It was no longer something we read about in the newspapers or online: it was happening to us. However minute its ramifications for us were, their very existence pointed to its terrifying proximity.

It is now almost a month since School closed, and the future is under an even denser mist of uncertainty. However, in this critical situation, we have seen the emergence of a new culture of adaptability, acceptance, and solidarity, with people trying to make the most out of the present. This tiny virus, merely 120 nanometres in length, has come as a humbling reminder to us of our powerlessness in front of nature, and that we must sometimes put

our heads down and let a wave pass when things are beyond our control. With a majority of the people adapting to the situations by practising social distancing and working from home, and schools around the globe adopting online teaching for a, this change provides solace in these stressing times.

So, in that spirit of adaptability, we at the *Weekly* decided to continue producing issues as a message to the School community that, whatever the circumstances, we must all do our bit to carry on with the little things that bring us joy and keep us together as a community: the Saturday morning breakfast over the *Weekly*, for instance. We are also doing this as a message to you to use this opportunity well. This is the time to get creative, and the *Weekly* hopes to be the platform for the members of the community to express this creativity. The motto of the *Weekly* has been to 'sketch your world exactly as it goes', and in these unusual times, we aim to paint the picture of the myriad experiences of all members of our community onto one canvas.

In this issue, we have given an overview of the current situation and have also included important information that is necessary to stay safe. Although we plan to give regular updates like this in every issue, our primary focus will be

on publishing creative pieces like short stories and poems, along with accounts of your experiences during this time. We look forward to receiving your stories, anecdotes, photographs, and cartoons.

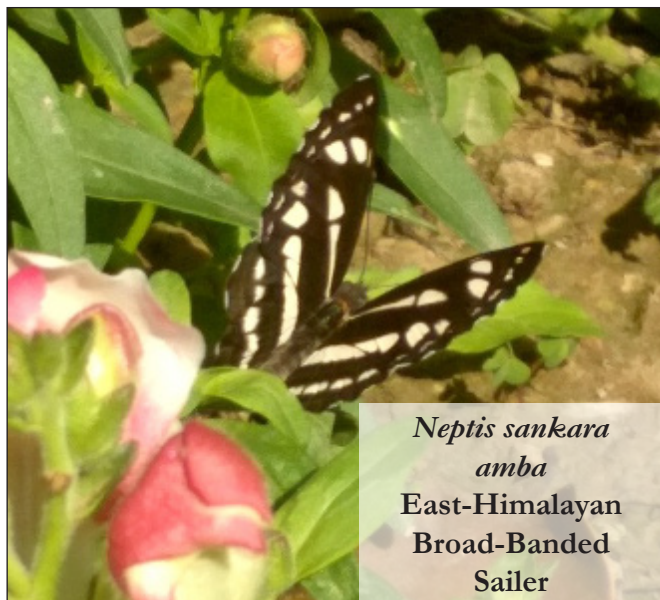
This is a new project for us, and we are looking for ways to improve the online reading experience by adopting new software and methods of distributing and creating our issues. Like it is for all other fields, this is time for experimentation for us also. We are constantly looking for ways to reinvent ourselves to adapt to this new platform, and have been working closely with the School's Communications Department to do so. We would love to receive your suggestions also on our email.

In conclusion, I hope that you enjoy this issue, and that you will appreciate the efforts of our Editorial Board. The issues we will be releasing over the next few weeks are our contribution to keeping our community together in spite of our geographical differences, and it will only be augmented by your help. So, I wish you good luck, and hope that you and your families stay healthy and well. Please follow the safety guidelines released by the WHO and the government, do your bit in flattening the curve, and have fun reading and contributing to the *Weekly*!

Of Sailers and Jesters

Dr. Srinivas Swamy *recounts his discoveries during his nature walks in Chandbagh.*

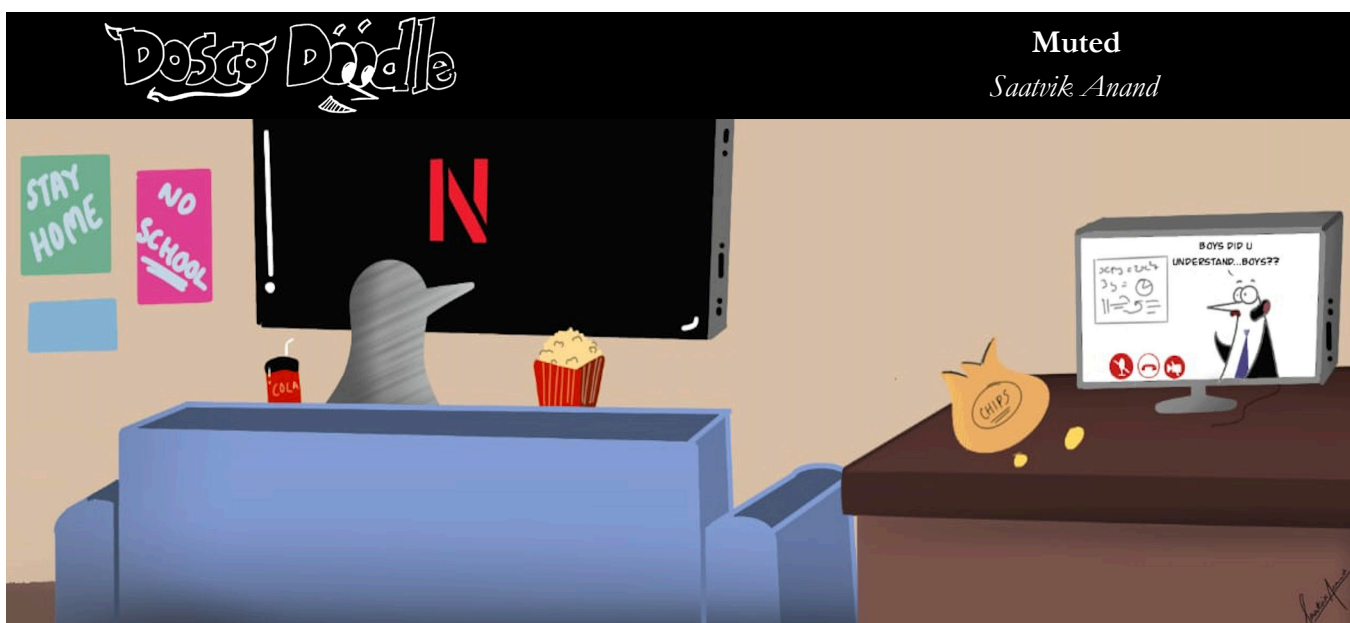
We are truly blessed to have a campus where you hardly feel the impact of lockdown except, of course, the absence of the community's key members: the DoscOs. Interestingly though, with a dip in the population of bipeds, the campus saw an increase in the winged visitors, both of feathers and scales. As an Ecocentric Environmentalist to the core, I am cherishing every moment of this period of lockdown. Though I am an avid follower of the feathered visitors, this time my interest shifted to the scaly winged visitors. With the Earth taking a pause and refreshing itself, the campus too has pressed its refresh button with all anthropogenic activities coming to a halt. Even the morning light has the minute insects flying by than a single speck of dust. The campus has become lively with flowers of all sizes, colours, and fragrance. This, of course, is the main attraction for the scaly winged visitors. This lockdown has also provided the perfect setup for the ecological revival of the campus, a



project whose execution the Environment Committee was relentlessly brainstorming and working toward.

This time, I thought of focusing on the butterflies. The first one I recorded was the Sailer, followed by the Northern Common Jester. The task of capturing them through the lens and identifying them is a very tough one. The difficulty of this task reminded me of Muhammad Ali's famous quote, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee". While identifying the sailer, I realised that there are more than 30 different species of it in India, and it is an interesting challenge to know which one you have got.

However, I have no complaints despite these backbreaking activities, as these creatures are my companions during this time of social distancing and complete isolation, and they provide me with the focus to meditate and follow my interests. Hopefully, the community will get to see more of them captured (through the lens) and catalogued soon.



How Have You Been Spending Your Time in Quarantine?

The Weekly asked members of the School community about their quarantine experience. If you want to share your anecdotes, please send them to our email address in no more than 200 words.

Every day begins with the usual: pulling out my phone as soon as I wake up, using it till I realise I have an online class, and then rushing into the bathroom to bathe and brush, hurriedly finishing breakfast to make it in time for class. After the classes of the day are over, I'm back on my phone, scrolling through countless memes and posts on my never-ending social media feeds. When I'm tired of that, I play a couple of games of FIFA with my brother and then it's time for lunch. After lunch, I go back to studying. With that done, it's time to take my dog for a walk, the only time I spend outside my house. When I'm back, it's time to head to the kitchen and prepare something to eat. This whole lockdown has made me much more interested in cooking than I ever was, and now I'm gradually trying out tougher recipes. The evenings are very different, by dinner, everyone finishes their work and we play a board game or watch a movie together. After that, I'm on my phone till very late, doing something or the other. When I finally decide to sleep, I put my phone down, knowing that tomorrow will be as monotonous as today. But finally, the thought of moving one day closer to the end of all of this puts aside all the boredom and I go to sleep, to wake up and do the same things as the day before.

- Adit Khosla

Quarantine has been an interesting experience for me. Here in the US, the situation is quite bad with just about no interaction with the outside world. This has led me to increase my use of social media as a way to experience what is going on around the world and what my friends are up to. Without this platform I may just have gone mad! My daily schedule is a mixture of relaxing, studying, enjoying time with family, and exploring new things to do at home. Throughout this quarantine period, I have ventured on to read more books than ever before. It even has me venturing into the kitchen, and helping around the house a lot more. But, do not be mistaken, this quarantine time has also led to a certain increase in my screen time in a day! So far, being quarantined has been an interesting experience, but let's see just how long that enthusiasm lasts.

- Prithvi Panicker

After three weeks of waking up at 8 am to go for an exam, rising at noon in the comfort of your home seems like a change that one would snap at in the blink of an eye. The first week back wasn't unlike any other. Watch Netflix, sleep late, eat whenever you want, and study just enough to satisfy your parents. Then came the announcement of the extended lockdown in India, and my plans changed drastically. Adopting a more school-based, busy lifestyle and I formed a schedule where I could keep myself busy, accommodating all the incoming schoolwork and SAT preparation. To keep my mind occupied, practising the guitar and reading have become a major part of the day, along with participating in household chores and cooking. I have been spending more time on my phone, whether it be talking to my friends or simply catching up on what is happening around the world the world. The lockdown has given me an opportunity to reflect upon myself as well and has helped my time management skills. I hope that I can make the most of it.

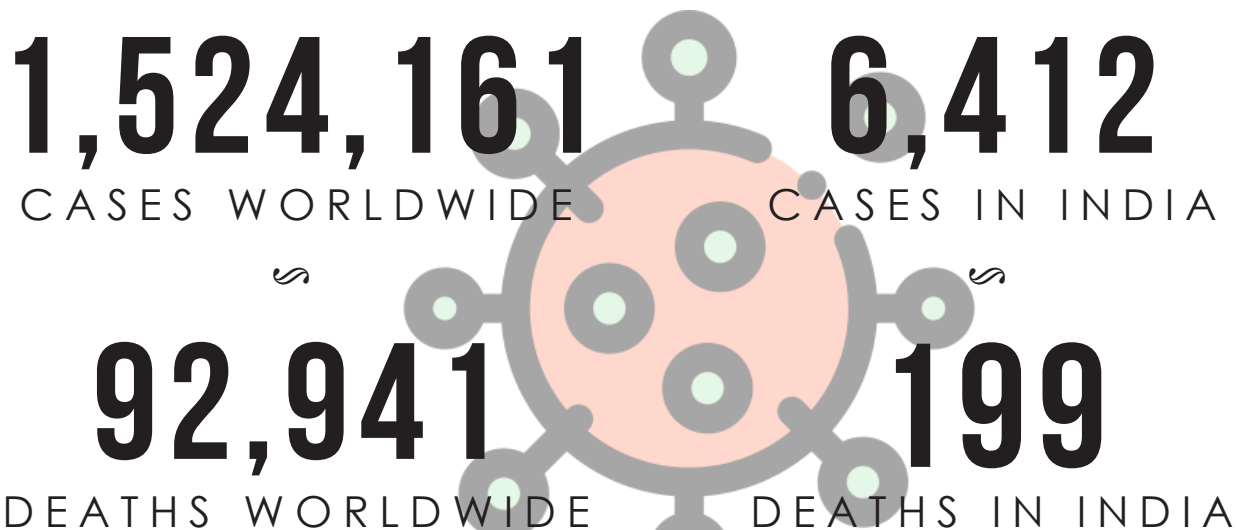
- Shaan Bulchandani

The first week of my time at home was amazing, with the popular daily routine being - eat, sleep, Netflix, repeat! But as time gradually past by like a large eagle soaring across the sky, reality began knocking at my door. Those gentle knocks soon turned into violent banging. Now, the smile that once rested upon my face at the last lunch at school disappeared, like a dark cloud slowly blocking the moon. I don't mean to say that life at home has been horrid. Of course I've enjoyed my fair share of good times, but as the lethal virus crosses the horizon I realized that life isn't always like sipping a Piña colada at the beach. Rather, it is like a battered ship waiting to be crushed by the raging sea.

Every time I read the news, I am reminded of our present-day duties as humans to join forces to protect ourselves from this deadly virus and to aid those in need. And remember that the best we can all help is by just sitting at home, with our beloved Netflix, and simply carrying on with life and never forget to submit your classwork on time...

- Tarun Doss

COVID-19 Update



The above figures are taken from the official WHO website as on 11:30 am, April 11, 2020.

Consequences of the Pandemic

Economic Impacts

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs believes that the global economy could contract by almost one per cent. The UN also believes that there could be mass unemployment in the aftermath of the ongoing crisis. The Indian economy, already weak, might go to a point of no return. On March 26, the Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a \$23 billion package to dampen the dire effects of the current crisis. The banks too helped the government by cutting the interest rates. The Sensex has reached record lows and is dropping almost everyday. The GDP of India has worsened to a great extent.

Political aspect

The ongoing crisis has changed global politics. The President of the USA had disbanded a part of the National Security Council formed after the Ebola outbreak to fight and prevent epidemics in 2018. This has led to the USA having the highest number of cases in the world, crossing 200,000, and the deaths reaching 10,000. Several politicians around the world have called out China and believe that after the current situation gets better, the world should boycott China. Some also believe that China and India have under-tested, which led to China being able to pacify the threat of the virus to an extent and India having very few cases as compared to other countries. The suspicion revolving around China seemed to get worse after the death of Li Wenliang, the doctor who warned people about the virus way before it was so serious via an online platform. India has been under a strict lockdown since March 24.

Social Impact

The crisis, having emerged from Wuhan, has made life tough for Asian immigrants as they are assaulted and are being harassed by people. On the other hand, people in India and the UK and a few other countries applauded their respective healthcare service operators. Also, the lack of car usage has led to a better environment and rivers have cleared up and the toxicity of polluted cities' air has reduced.

Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea's success in flattening their curves has earned them a lot of praise. The first confirmed case in Taiwan was recorded on January 21. Since then, Taiwan has had only 339 cases. South Korea has a population of 51 million people, but it has flattened its curve by testing at least 20,000 people daily at designated areas and places.

Many have also applauded India's efforts in stopping the further spread of the virus. Even though it is densely populated, India has only 0.05 deaths and two cases per million. The lockdown that took place in India can be credited for this success. Some politicians opposed to the ruling party have accused the government of under-testing.

Steps Taken By Countries

China

As the origin country of the Coronavirus, China has done remarkably well to contain the spread of the virus. Although China was slow to respond to the coronavirus outbreak in the beginning, it was able to curb the virus in its later stages, something which can be considered a remarkable feat for any country. China has mainly curbed the virus by enforcing extreme lockdown and aggressive social distancing. The Chinese government has also gone ahead to enforce creative policies such as the usage of social media apps to track coronavirus patients and those who have interacted with them.

India

India has been a very responsive country in terms of response to Coronavirus. As soon as Coronavirus began uncontrolled spread in India, Prime Minister Modi immediately put in place a 21-day lockdown till April 14 to slow the Coronavirus spread by aggressive social distancing. The lockdown is one of the fastest and most effective ways to stop Coronavirus spread. It is regarded that India, with its population of 1.2 billion people holds the power to make or break Coronavirus.

The USA

The United States of America currently has over 200,000 cases of coronavirus, and is by far the country with the most coronavirus cases. President Donald Trump has called for aggressive social distancing. Moreover, the USA has also released a \$2 trillion stimulus package to recover for the Coronavirus impact. However, even with all these packages and relief funds, unemployment claims rose by 6.6 million in one week.

Italy

The Italian Government effectively shut down the entire country on March 11, save for shops offering essential supplies in an attempt to stem the Coronavirus spread. The Italians were forced into indefinite homestay, only being able to go out with a ministry issued pass. This type of forced homestay may sound alien to many, but it is something that Italians have taken to heart. The Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte himself said, “We must all give something up for the good of Italy. We have to do it now. There is no more time – our future is in our hands.”

Important Things You Should Know

The coronavirus is a family of viruses which causes respiratory problems ranging from common cold to serious respiratory issues. An extremely contagious virus from the coronavirus family was found in Wuhan, which the World Health Organisation (WHO) termed as COVID-19.

This, as you may know, has spread across the globe and is the sole reason for your cabin fever. Furthermore, it is also the reason you need to stay vigilant, look out for certain symptoms, and avoid public places. COVID-19's symptoms are fever, tiredness and dry cough; however, older people or people with respiratory conditions are likely to be severely ill and require special treatment. About 80% of its victims survive without any extra remedies.

What the nation is doing

The Indian government has put into motion a 21-day lockdown. This is mandatory for all citizens, although they may step outside their homes to get essential goods like food or medicine. The government has also issued the purchase of rapid test kits and plans to soon begin nationwide testing.

What you need to do

Firstly, the nationwide lockdown should be adhered to. It is vital to contain the virus, in turn making it equally important for you to stay within the comforts of your home. Even then, it is still important to undertake safety measures like using hand sanitisers on a regular basis and coughing into a tissue or flexed elbow (the former is preferred).

How to do your bit

The national lockdown has affected, or in this case, has hit the daily-wage earners or the manual labourers the hardest. A vast chunk of the population has barely any food or medicine. In a situation like this, one can support the government by donating money to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) or to the newly made PM CARES fund.

Recommendations

Books, Movies, and TV Shows you can spend time exploring.

TV Shows

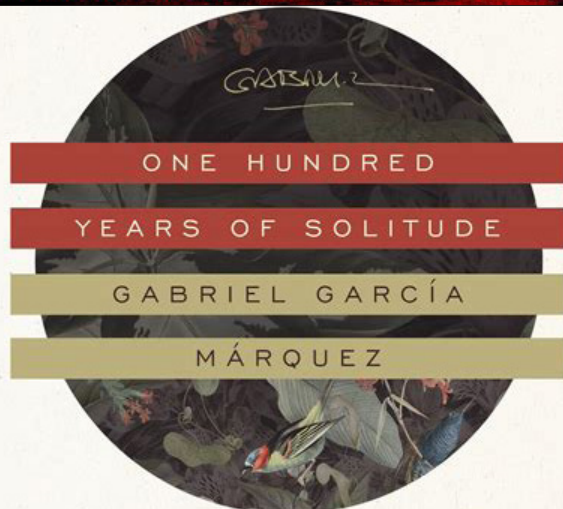
Recent

1. Money Heist (Available on Netflix)
2. Locke and Key (Available on Netflix)
3. Rick and Morty (Available on Netflix)
4. The Witcher (Available on Netflix)
5. Freud (Available on Netflix)
6. Self Made (Available on Netflix)
7. The English Game (Available on Netflix)
8. The Trial: A Murder in the Family

Movies

Recent

1. Parasite (Available on Prime Video)
2. 6 Underground (Available on Netflix)
3. Coffee & Kareem (Available on Netflix)
4. Lost Girls (Available on Netflix)
5. The Platform (Available on Netflix)
6. Sniper: Ultimate Kill (Available on Netflix)
7. Jojo Rabbit
8. Knives Out



Classic

1. The Office (Available on Prime Video)
2. South Park (Available on Netflix)
3. Sherlock (Available on Netflix)
4. The Big Bang Theory (Available on Prime Video)
5. Modern Family (Available on Disney+ Hotstar)
6. House (Available on Prime Video)



Classic

1. The Godfather Trilogy
2. Goodfellas
3. Escape from Alcatraz
4. The Shawshank Redemption
5. Ocean's Film Series
7. Back to the Future Trilogy
8. Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learnt to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

Books

Recent

1. Walk the Wire David Baldacci
2. Such a Fun Age Kiley Reid
3. The Night Watchman Louise Erdrich
4. The Glass Hotel St. John Mandel

Classic

1. How to Read a Book Mortimer J. Adler & Charles Van Doren
2. The Catcher in the Rye J. D. Salinger
3. Sophie's World Jostein Gaarder
4. The Fountainhead Ayn Rand
5. One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez
6. Catch-22 Joseph Heller
7. The Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood

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