

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
February 13, 2021 | Issue No. 2594



## लोकतंत्र और मीडिया

गुरसंजन सिंह द्वारा आज के लोकतंत्र में  
मीडिया की स्थिति की आलोचना।.....  
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## यह समय बनाम परीक्षाएँ

माधवन गुप्ता द्वारा वर्तमान परिस्थितियों के  
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A concise explanation of the  
recent coup in Myanmar  
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## The Full Circle

**Keshav Tiwari** reflects on the new yet familiar environment of School

The rustle of swaying leaves, the crunch of gravel underfoot, the bewitching gentle breeze, and the aura of Chandbagh, all served to be figments of my imagination, for the past year, as I pictured myself entering the gates that led to home. Funnily enough, when the time to enter those gates did arrive on January 31<sup>st</sup>, there was something eerie about the experience. It was surely not the leaves, the gravel or the breeze—they were just as I imagined them to be, but something was surely odd about the air that surrounded me. Disguised in the sanitizer-laden odour of the air, School welcomed me as warmly as ever, only this time, it had a mask on.

Unfortunately, Fortunately, a week of quarantine awaited me and so I convinced myself that a week would get me accustomed to my oddly unfamiliar surroundings. I was wrong. My week's stay in Foot House afforded the most valuable of all gifts to me - time. It made me observe certain patterns that I would never have had the time to observe in my normal, expeditious life in School. Reflections scurried around in my brain, a jigsaw puzzle coming together; it was not the "new normal" I was expecting but it was *what has been and what will be*. My brain was torn into two, with one half experiencing *Déjà vu*, for everything felt like it had happened before, and the other

half feeling *Jamais vu*, the exact opposite: unfamiliarity. It took me a week to realise that I was in the midst of the completion of a full circle. This was the end of yet another loop of my school-life.

—

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The House, in itself, gave me illustrations of other concluding cycles and for some it was the dénouement of their final Act in their lives as DoscOs, which is no short of what occurs in a Shakespearean play. Whether it is a comedy or tragedy depends on how well my fellow heroes dealt with their respective flaws. With two Sc-leavers held within their rooms with figurative guns to their heads, my mind could not help but think that they were beginning the end of their journeys right where it all started: in the dorm room of a holding house. Such is the full circle for all of us. For instance,

**This was the end  
of yet another loop  
of my school-life  
and I was not the  
only one**

I will commence my last year in School with the same housemates I had in my first year in School: my batchmates. 11 months out of School and yet it took a mere week for the circle to resume its flow.

What significance does this circle hold for our larger community? This is where I implore all of you to take some time out to acknowledge the existence of your own circle and your position in it, for it will fill you up with a sense of pride looking back at where you started; you will feel a sense of stimulation looking forward to where you are headed, and most importantly, a sense of gratitude looking at where you are right now. The movie *The Lion King* put it best, "It's the circle of life, and it moves us all, through despair and hope, through faith and love, 'til we find our place, on the path unwinding, in the circle, the circle of life." Furthermore, we must also acknowledge the fact that for most of us, life does not follow the *Hakuna Matata* policy. Hence, a sense of respect needs

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## TO THE SKIES ... AND BEYOND

A team comprising Mayank Agrawal, Soham Agarwal, Arnab Chaudhry, Harshvardhan Maskara, Rohan Taneja, Svanik Garg, Keshav Bagrodia, Yuvraj Sarada, Shrivar Kanudia, Varyam Gupta and Sparsh Gandhi represented the School at the **Asian Regional Space Settlement Design Competition 2020-21**. They were judged by industry experts in the aerospace industry and were placed **Runners up**.

Congratulations!

## A SCIENTIFIC SAVANT

Hridayam Tusnial has been awarded the **Award of Emergence - Argentum** in **Grade 9** for securing a position in the **top 30%** of the total participants, globally, in the **Sci-Pi Quiz** conducted by **Quantum Vault** in 2020-21.

Kudos!

## ART COLOURS

Aarnav Bahl, Chetanya Baid and Karthik Khosla were awarded **Art Colours**.

Congratulations!

## Around the World in 80 Words

A piece of a Himalayan glacier fell into a river at Uttarakhand's Chamoli district and triggered a massive flood which has killed 38 people and has left over 178 people missing. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denied corruption charges in court for the first time as his trial resumes in Jerusalem. The UAE's 'Hope' probe entered the Mars orbit. Protests in Myanmar continued as three people were shot in the process. Lewis Hamilton extended his contract with the Mercedes team.

## MAGNIFICENT MAESTROS

The following students successfully cleared the recently-held **ABRSM** online **Music Theory examinations**:

**Grade 2:** Akhil Ahuja, Pranav Almal, Veer Nigam

**Grade 3:** Aradhya Jain, Parv Agarwal, Rishik Chokhany, Veer Patwalia

**Grade 5:** S.J. Akhilesh, Vignesh Dodla, Vivaan Sood, Vivasvat Devanampriya

Good Work!

## YOUNG HAWKINGS

The following are the results of **The Dipankar Sen Individual Science Quiz** held on **January 26, 2020**:

**Senior Category:**

**1st Place:** Ruhaan Goel and Agam Bhatia

**2nd Place:** Abhyuday Singh

**3rd Place:** Vinamra Agarwal and Amrit Agarwal

**Junior Category:**

**1st Place:** Sanurag Shekhar

**2nd Place:** Arkh Rishi Goyal

**3rd Place:** Madhav Mehra

Well Done!

“

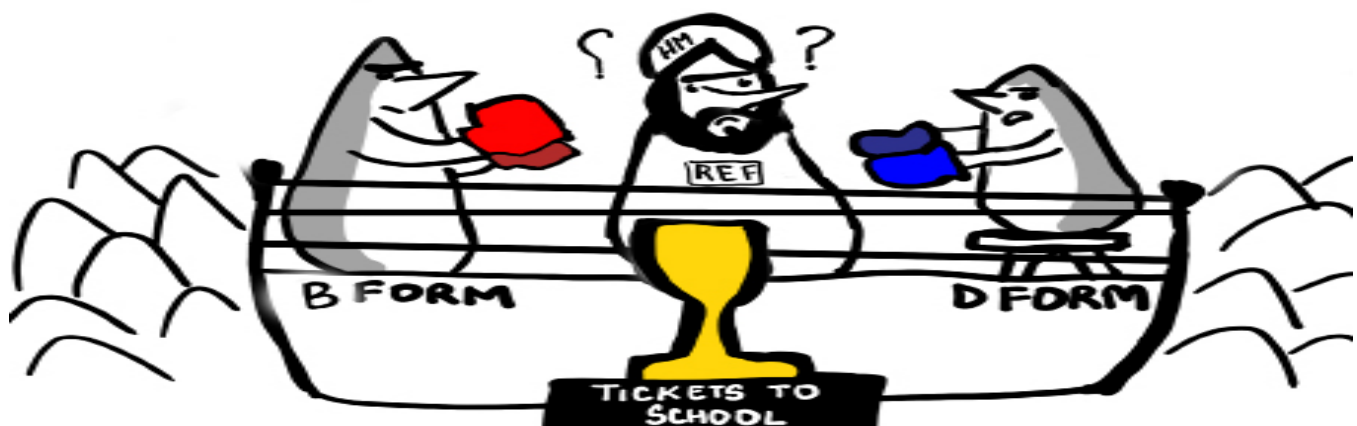
**I believe every human has a finite number of heartbeats. I don't intend to waste any of mine.**

—  
Neil Armstrong

**Dosco Doodle**

**A Tussle for a Ticket**

*Rohan Taneja*



(Continued from page 1)

to be afforded to all as each of us perseveres through the internal troughs and celebrate the internal crests of our personal circles. Some may need a push out of their troughs and aiding them in doing so might pull you up to a crest, and while that is an exemplary result, it must not be an incentive to do good.

At the end of this *pravachan*<sup>1</sup>, my mind awaits the end of my circle with considerable curiosity, anticipation, and a tinge of fear.

<sup>1</sup>*pravachan*: the Sanskrit term for the exposition of any doctrine or treatise. It refers mainly to the tradition of *Pravacanakara* (monks, scholars or saints) presenting their teachings or explanations of spiritual ideas before a gathering of householders or general public in the Indian traditions.

It is easy to lose one's self in the novelty of the current School experience, but in no way should that be taken as an excuse to not remain true to School's values and ethos. As further batches roll in and Chandbagh gets back up to its true hustling-bustling self, the responsibility to introduce its new-born travellers to our shared circle becomes imperative. The challenge, however, will not be to ensure that they abide by the circle and follow the paths of numerous Doscors before them, but to give

them the necessary courage to enable them to take a path around the circle that has never been voyaged, for them to not succumb to the normal.

"Normal, in our house, is like a blanket too short for a bed: sometimes it covers you just fine, and at other times it leaves you cold and shaking; and worst of all, you never know which of the two it's going to be." - Jodi Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*

## लोकतंत्र और मीडिया

गुरसंजन सिंह

"लोकतंत्र की सफलता और विफलता उसकी पत्रकारिता पर निर्भर करती है"— अमेरिकी पत्रकार स्कॉट पेले के द्वारा कहे गए इन शब्दों पर आज के भारत यानी दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतंत्र को चिंतन करने की अति आवश्यक जरूरत है। मीडिया या पत्रकारिता को लोकतंत्र के चार स्तम्भों में से एक माना जाता है, लेकिन दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतंत्र में मीडिया की गरिमा ही खतरे में है।

आज के भारत में जिसको 'नया भारत' भी कहा जाता है, ज्यादातर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया की भूमिका सवालियों के घेरे में आ गयी है। स्थिति यह है कि मीडिया एक व्यापार जैसा लगने लगा है जिसके बारे में कहा जाता है कि आप बस मोटी रकम चुका कर किसी भी तरह का प्रोपेगेंडा फैलवा सकते हैं। लोगों को गुमराह करना और उनका ध्यान असली मुद्दे से भटकाना तो आज के मीडिया की विशेषता बन चुका है। सच ही है कि दौलत और पैसे का लालच किसी को भी अंधा कर देता है और वैसा ही कुछ आज के मीडिया के साथ भी हो रहा है जो पैसे कमाने के लिए कुछ भी कर सकता है निष्पक्ष और सच्ची

पत्रकारिता के सिवाय।

भारत में मीडिया की दुर्दशा अब खुलकर सामने आ रही है। चाहे वह आधारहीन खबरों का प्रसारण हो, किसी के व्यक्तिगत जीवन की छीछालेदर करना हो, किसी विशेष विचारधारा को आगे बढ़ाना हो, किसी विशेष घटना को जरूरत से ज्यादा तूल देना हो या फिर किसी घटना को सिर से गायब कर देना हो; ऐसा होते हुए रोज ही देखा जा सकता है। मसाला लगाकर नफरत से भरी खबरों का प्रसारण, व्यक्ति विशेष को लगातार खबरों में बनाए रखना, चुनिंदा घटना विशेष के बारे में महीने भर प्रसारण करना, मुद्दों से ध्यान भटकाना, हमारे देश के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया की पहचान बन चुका है। आशा की किरण यह है कि देश की जनता इस प्रपंच को समझाने लगी है। यह समझ ही उसे जागरूक बनाएगी तथा उसमें विवेक पैदा करेगी कि मीडिया से कितना लेना है और कितना छोड़ देना है।

पत्रकारिता का धर्म होता है सवाल पूछना और मीडिया का धर्म होता है बड़ी संख्या में लोगों तक निष्पक्ष और सच्ची खबरें पहुँचाना। क्या आज हमारे देश के पत्रकार और न्यूज चैनल अपना

मीडिया या पत्रकारिता को लोकतंत्र के चार स्तम्भों में से एक माना जाता है, लेकिन दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतंत्र में मीडिया की गरिमा ही खतरे में है

धर्म निभा रहे हैं? देश को चलाने वाली नीतियों पर सवाल, विस्तृत बहस, आलोचना और प्रत्यालोचना, व्यवस्था को बेहतर बनाने की कोशिश, सबकी बात को स्वर देना, किसी भी तरह की गलतफहमी से जनता को उबारना ये सब मीडिया के कर्तव्य हैं। अगर मीडिया अपनी भूमिका को निभाने में चूक गया तो कैसे दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा लोकतंत्र, एक विकसित और सफल देश बन पाएगा?

# CLARIFIED



## The Myanmar Coup

On February 1, 2021, democratically elected members of the National League for Democracy, Myanmar's ruling party, were deposed by the Tatmadaw - Myanmar's military - which vested power in a stratocracy. A stratocracy is a form of government headed by military chiefs. The Tatmadaw declared a year-long state of emergency and declared that power had been vested in the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Min Aung Hlaing. A *coup d'état* occurred the day before the Parliament of Myanmar was due to swear in the members elected at the November 2020 General Election, thereby preventing this from occurring.

To understand the magnitude of the situation, we must understand a little more about the history of Myanmar's struggle for democracy. Myanmar became independent on January 4, 1948, and was under military rule from 1962 to 2011. In 2012, Aung San Suu Kyi, one of the most ardent advocates for democracy in Myanmar, assumed the role of State Counsellor of Myanmar, a role akin to a head of government. She rose to prominence in the 8888 uprising, a pro-democracy protest that took place on August 8, 1988. She was placed under house arrest when her party won an election, and the military refused to cede power in 1989. Her party managed to bring democracy back only in 2012 and remained in power through 2020. Her party won the most recent elections in November 2020 by a landslide. However, the military did what they did in 1989 and accused her party of election fraud. They even detained her, along with some 400 other candidates.

Numerous communication channels stopped working – phone lines to the capital (Naypyidaw) were interrupted, the Myanmar Radio and Television company, a state-run company, said it was unable to broadcast due to “technical issues”, and widespread internet disruptions were reported beginning around 3 a.m. The military disrupted cellular services throughout the country, using “kill switch” tactics in which they shut down the internet and various other communication channels. All the member banks under the Myanmar Banking Association suspended their financial services. The military subsequently announced on military controlled Myawaddy TV that it had taken control of the country for one year. A statement signed by acting president Myint Swe declared that responsibility for “legislation, administration and judiciary” had been transferred to Min Aung Hlaing. Following a meeting convened by the National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) a statement was issued by the military declaring that fresh elections would be held, and that power would only be transferred after they had concluded. Notably, the NDSC is an executive body that has disproportionate membership consisting of Tatmadaw members and therefore it was no surprise that the meeting was chaired by Myint Swe, the acting president, and attended by top military officials. The outcome of the meeting was also no surprise therefore.

In opposition to the *coup*, numerous forms of civil resistance efforts have emerged within the country. Such efforts include acts of civil disobedience, labour strikes, a military boycott campaign, a pot-banging movement, public protests, and formal recognition of the election results by elected representatives. The three-finger salute has been widely adopted as a protest symbol, while netizens, active and keen participants on the internet, have joined the Milk Tea Alliance, an online democratic solidarity movement in Asia.

On February 4, telecom operators and internet providers across Myanmar were ordered to block Facebook until February 7 to ensure the “country's stability.” MPT, a state-owned data carrier, also blocked Facebook Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp services, while Telenor Myanmar blocked only Facebook. Facebook had been used to organize the civil disobedience campaign's labour strikes and the emerging boycott movement. Following the Facebook ban, users began flocking to Twitter, popularising hashtags like #RespectOurVotes, #HearTheVoiceofMyanmar, and #SaveMyanmar. On February 5, the government extended the ban on access to social media to include Instagram and Twitter. On the morning of February 6, the military authorities initiated a nationwide internet outage.

International response to the *coup* has been varied. While many countries, including Bangladesh, China,

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India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Singapore, expressed concern in response to the coup, others encouraged dialogue between the government and the military in order to resolve the issue. Clear disapproval has also been expressed by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, USA, UK, and leaders of the EU. All these countries have condemned the coup and called for the release of detained officials. The White House has threatened to impose sanctions on coup perpetrators. Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, on the other hand, explicitly refused to support a side, characterising the coup as an internal matter.

As of now, the Tatmadaw's long term plans are unclear. The uncertainty of the situation is perhaps best summed up by renowned historian Thant Myint-U who has recently tweeted, "The doors just opened to a very different future. I have a sinking feeling that no one will really be able to control what comes next."

#### Sources

- 1 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55902070>
- 2 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2021\\_Myanmar\\_coup\\_d%C3%A9tat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2021_Myanmar_coup_d%C3%A9tat)
- 3 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8888\\_Uprising](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8888_Uprising)

## यह समय बनाम परीक्षाएँ

माधवन गुप्ता

जब छुट्टियों का एलान हुआ था तब सी.डी.एच में बैठे सभी लोग खुशी के मारे ताली बजाने लगे थे। एक महीने की छुट्टी आम बात नहीं थी, परन्तु तब से हम केवल अपने घर में ही बंद हैं। बस, हर एक दिन के जाने की प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं। जब यह बीमारी और भयंकर होती गयी तब यह समझ आ गया था कि हम घर में लम्बे समय के लिए हैं। यह समय ही ऐसा है कि कुछ करने का मन नहीं करता थी। थोड़ा समय और बीता। ऑनलाइन कक्षाओं की शुरुआत हुई तो वह उबाऊ दिन और मुश्किल हो गया, परन्तु हम जानते थे कि और कोई चारा नहीं था।

मुश्किल तब हुई जब कक्षाएँ हफ्ते के हर दिन होने लगीं और हमें बीच में एक दिन का भी आराम नहीं मिला, पर हम जानते थे कि यह भी जरूरी था। लेकिन जो एक चीज अभी तक समझ में न आ पायी वो यह कि इस समय में परीक्षाएँ कितनी आवश्यक थीं। न ही हमें इतने पाठ मिले थे कि हम अच्छे से तैयार हों और न ही परीक्षा की अखंडता और प्रभावकता को बनाए रखने के रखने के लिए

ज्यादा कदम ही संभव थे। ऐसे कठिन समय में छात्रों पर और दबाव डालना उचित था क्या?

इसके अलावा यह भी जरूरी नहीं है कि हर घर का नेटवर्क बिलकुल सही काम करे। हमारे विद्यालय में ही नहीं लगभग सभी विद्यालयों में छात्रों से यह बताया गया था कि किसी भी हालत में कक्षा से बाहर नहीं जाना है जो कि बेहद असुविधाजनक था। मेरा सोचना है कि हमारे अंक असाइनमेंट के आधार पर भी दिए जा सकते थे। काफी विद्यालयों ने ऐसा ही किया था। ऑनलाइन कक्षा की अपनी समस्याएँ होती हैं कई बार छात्रों का नेट चला जाता है तो कभी कैमरा और माइक काम नहीं करते। इस परिस्थिति में छात्र महत्वपूर्ण पाठों में उपस्थित नहीं रह पाते। ऐसा भी नहीं है कि वे पुस्तकों से काम चला लें क्योंकि जिस तरह के पाठ्यक्रम हमारे विद्यालय में चलते हैं उनमें काफी कुछ पुस्तक से बाहर भी खोजना पड़ता है। ये कक्षाएँ और परीक्षाएँ बाहर रहने वाले छात्रों के लिए सबसे मुश्किल रही हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें हर कक्षा के लिए देर तक जागना पड़ता था या केवल

रिकॉर्डिंग से ही काम चलाना पड़ता था। उनके लिए परीक्षाएँ तो और भी कष्टकर रहीं क्योंकि उन्हें आवश्यक रूप से देर रात उठकर परीक्षा देनी पड़ती थी।

महीने के बाद दोबारा परीक्षाएँ होंगी परन्तु वे और बड़ी तथा मुश्किल होंगी। इस बार पाठ्यक्रम भी और ज्यादा होगा। दस महीनों से घर में बंद छात्रों के लिए हर दिन मानो एक साल लगता है। क्या हम ऐसी परिस्थिति में भी बच्चों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य का ध्यान नहीं रख सकते?

अंत में मैं बस यही कहूँगा कि यह बहुत ही गंभीर समय है और इस समय में हमें छात्रों को थोड़ी राहत जरूर देनी चाहिए। मेरा सुझाव है कि अगर इस बार की परीक्षा की जगह असाइनमेंट से अंक दे दिए जाएँ तो वह हर छात्र को थोड़ी सी खुशी देगा और उनके मानसिक स्वास्थ्य में सकारात्मक प्रभाव दिखाई देगा। परीक्षाएँ तो आती-जाती रहेंगी, परन्तु एक बार मानसिक स्वास्थ्य खराब हो गया तो इसका ठीक करना बहुत मुश्किल होगा।

# The Problem of The Week

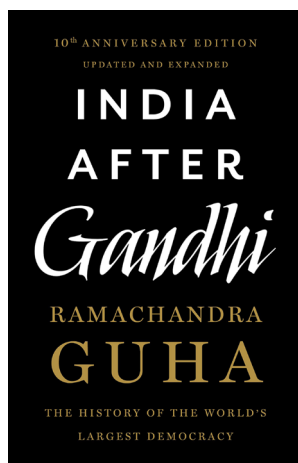
Akira and Hideo are twins with different jobs. Akira earns five-eighths of what Hideo earns, but Akira's expenses are half of Hideo's. Akira ends up saving 40% of his income.

What percentage of his income does Hideo save?



Source: [www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca)

## What Have You Been Reading During the Lockdown?



### India After Gandhi

**Author:** Ramchandra Guha

*India after Gandhi* does a brilliant job at recording Indian history in the past century while remaining fun and engaging. The book delivers a wealth of information on not only the nascent stages of our country but also political issues that are relevant today. As students who have studied IGCSE, we often miss out on learning about our country's history. Therefore, it is imperative that we engage with the political issues of today. The book is highly recommended for anyone wanting to learn about modern Indian history.

- Kabir Singh Bhai

## What Have You Been Watching During the Lockdown?



### David Byrne's American Utopia

**Cast:** Spike Lee

*David Byrne's American Utopia* is a stimulating musical about the expression of art. With its rousing blend of songs and sensational dance performances, the movie carries you into a different world. The protagonist of the movie, David Byrne, is the embodiment of individualism, something he showcases through his musicality. The main purpose of this movie is to convey that human expression is the most valuable and enriching thing in life. It really is a movie worth watching.

- Krishay Sutodia

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