

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

April 24, 2021 | Issue No. 2604



## THE NOT-SO-BEAUTIFUL GAME

Arjun Prakash analyses the new European Super League.

Page 4

## CLARIFIED

Dogecoin and the double mutant Coronavirus strain, explained.

Page 5

## PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Can you solve this week's maths problem?

Page 6

## Suggestions for Safety

**Kabir Subbiah** explores certain measures School can take to handle the challenges posed by COVID.

In early January, I never would have expected School to reopen physically. If you had asked me at the time, I would have explained how I expected half of our SC Form, the final year of our School lives, was going to be consumed by COVID. Keeping this in mind, one can probably imagine the extent of my shock and delight when School announced its decision to reopen beginning February.

It may not seem like this to the SC formers who are outside of School, but we were in School for more than two months, without an outbreak, privileged enough to forget about the existence of COVID. At least for this duration, we must laud the role School played in preventing the spread of COVID, through the enforcement of precautions, random testing, etc. However, since we had a few positive COVID cases on campus, we are forced to reflect upon what additional measures can be planned to further mitigate risk when we return. The contents of this article are a compilation of suggested measures for School during COVID that students believe will be appropriate once we return, in our capacity not as medical professionals or adults, but as a major stakeholder in School's decisions.

### The Bubble

It is a well-known fact that

School had certain limitations while creating a bio-bubble, with bearers, CDH staff, ground *maalis* and others entering the campus on a daily basis. Generally, the ground *maalis* and cleaning staff do not come into close contact with students, therefore they do not pose a significant risk to the community as a whole. However, since the opposite is true for CDH staff and house bearers, the School could consider housing these support staff within School grounds. The declaration of School as a micro-containment zone has some important lessons in this regard; perhaps the arrangement to set up living spaces for house bearers inside their respective houses could outlive School's time as a micro-containment zone and become a more permanent solution in COVID times. Considering that it is unlikely that all six batches will return physically after summer, there may be sufficient space to house a portion of the support staff, who interact most closely with students, on campus. Since students live on campus, the act of restricting the movement of support staff would further reduce risk of COVID cases.

### A Revision of Testing Policy

Up until this point, School has been taking random RT PCR tests which is a sensible approach because they detect when there

has been an outbreak, and if a result comes positive, it can lead to a School-wide testing exercise. However, in a boarding school such as ours, it would be much better if we could prevent the virus from spreading in the first place. A model that has worked in some American universities is mass-testing: testing the entire community at a certain frequency, say, once a week. While this may not guarantee the prevention of an outbreak, it is an effective way to prevent an outbreak from reaching its full potential (the point at which people with comorbidities are endangered to great degree). Though this model may be slightly more expensive to execute, it is something that School could contemplate.

### More Frequent Communication

Communication is important in any institution, especially in times of crisis. I feel we should be regularly updated regarding things such as the number of cases and the measures that are being taken to contain the spread of COVID. In my mind, there should be communication from the School at regular intervals in the months ahead, and students should be included in the decisions that are being made regarding our well-being. If students are kept updated about the number of cases, the status of those cases, and the new

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

measures that are being taken, then it reaffirms their faith in the School's approach to handling COVID.

### COVID Committee

School requires a body that involves students and Masters to review and supervise the implementation of COVID measures. This could possibly be achieved by the Pastoral Council, though a body dedicated to COVID would be preferable as there are ample issues that need to be addressed. For instance, the installation of sensor-operated flushes and no-contact taps in all the washrooms around School (as opposed to only in the Houses) as well as their maintenance is just one of the many topics that

may be discussed in such a committee.

School reopened successfully in November; we should not let this setback change our perceptions of the School's efforts. We need to acknowledge that School has done its best to keep the members of the community safe. However, as a confidence-building measure in its decision-making process, it is imperative that School actively involve students in that process. By the same token, I hope that School seriously considers these proposals, and that the community can work together with all protocols to overcome the COVID challenge.

## जिन्दगी की असलियत

मानत भदान

हम लोग हर रोज़ किसी न किसी सड़क को देखते तो हैं पर हम सबका उस सड़क को देखने का नज़रिया एकदम अलग ही है। कुछ लोग सड़क की बनावट को निहारते हैं तो कुछ होता उसकी लम्बाई या फिर चौड़ाई को। सच्चाई यह है कि जब हम लोग अपने देखने के नज़रिये में थोड़ा सा अंतर लाते हैं तभी हम सब सड़क के मूल भाव को समझ पाएंगे।

एक सड़क एकदम मामूली हैं जैसे हमारा जीवन एकदम मामूली है। अगर हम देखें तो सड़क हमारे जीवन को उचित तरह से दर्शाती है। सड़क के दो पहलू होते हैं जैसे एक आम मनुष्य के जीवन में होते हैं। सड़क हमें अनंत लक्ष्यों और गंतव्यों तक ले जा सकती हैं और जीवन में भी कुछ ऐसा ही है। ये तो हम पर निर्भर करता है कि हमें कौन सा मार्ग लेना चाहिए। एक मार्ग होता है परिश्रम तथा सज्जनता और दूसरा

मार्ग अनीति तथा मूर्खता का। पहला मार्ग ही सही मार्ग है पर इस मार्ग पर चलने से एक इन्सान के पसीने छूट जाते हैं। दूसरा रास्ता बहुत ही सरल है पर गलत है।

जो इंसान परिश्रम करे उसी इंसान की समाज में इज्जत और प्रतिष्ठा होती है। परिश्रम से इंसान ऊँचाइयाँ छूता है पर जब वही इंसान अगर अनीति का काम करता है तो वह उतना ही ज़मीन के नीचे धंस जाता है। अधिकतर लोग जो उद्योग का सहारा लेते हैं उनकी कमाई लम्बे समय तक उनका साथ देती है पर जो लोग अनिष्टता की मदद लेते हैं उनकी कमाई हुई इज्जत और संपत्ति दोनों ही उनका साथ कभी नहीं देते। अंत में बस इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि "सफलता भी उसी की तरफदार होती है, मेहनतें जिसकी वफादार होती है"।

## वैक्सीन को पकड़ो और कोरोना को छोड़ो

वेदांत अग्रवाल

समय के साथ-साथ मनुष्य जाति ने विज्ञान में बहुत प्रगति की है। यह पूरी दुनिया अब इंसानों द्वारा बनाई गई चीज़ों पर चलती है — एक तरफ नवीन गाड़ियां हैं तो दूसरी ओर बादलों को चीरता हवाईजहाज, प्रौद्योगिकी, असीम आसमान में उड़ रही है। ऐसी अनगिनत चीज़ें हैं जिनको इंसानों ने कड़े परिश्रम से विज्ञान की सहायता से और अपने आप पर भरोसा करके बनाया है।

बहुत समय पहले कुछ महान लोग थे जिन्होंने इस विश्वास के साथ कि कुछ भी असंभव नहीं होता, रोगों से लड़ने तथा बचने के लिए कुछ तकनीक विकसित कीं जिनकी सहायता से उन दवाइयों का निर्माण हुआ जिन्हें हम आज के समय में "वैक्सीन" के रूप से जानते हैं।

असंख्य महामारियों, उदाहरण के लिए प्लेग या फिर इबोला, ने हमारी धरती का संतुलन बिगाड़ने की पूरी कोशिश की पर हर बार उन्हें असफलता और अपने विनाश के आलावा और कुछ नहीं प्राप्त हुआ।

२०१९ में एक ऐसी ही तरह की महामारी "कोरोना" ने हमारे दरवाजे पर दस्तक दी थी। इस विषाणु ने बहुत तबाही

मचाई और बहुत से हमारे प्रियजनों को हमसे छीन लिया पर अब विज्ञान और इंसान के मस्तिष्क ने फिर से अपना चमत्कार दिखाया है और इसकी वैक्सीन को विकसित किया है। भाग्यवश कुछ वैक्सीन्स जैसे कोवाक्सिन अस्सी प्रतिशत प्रभावकारी दिख रही हैं किन्तु इसका अर्थ यह नहीं है कि हम कोरोना के खिलाफ सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल्स का पालन करना भूल जाएँ।

कुछ समय पहले तक यह आभास हो रहा था कि इस घृणित वायरस के खिलाफ युद्ध में हम विजेता घोषित हो गए हैं पर अभी भी सूरज उगने में थोड़ा समय बाकी है। हालांकि टीकाकरण अभियान हर जगह प्रारंभ हो गया है और अपने सकारात्मक परिणाम भी दिखा रहा है लेकिन फिर भी हमें हर क्षण सुरक्षा के घेरे में रहना पड़ेगा क्योंकि कोरोना की बीमारी अब हमारी ओर और भी तेज गति से कदम बढ़ा रही है।

प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को इस विषाणु के खिलाफ जंग में सम्मिलित होना होगा लेकिन यह जंग तलवार और बंदूकों से नहीं बल्कि घर पर धैर्यवान होकर लड़ी जाएगी।

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*The Headmaster will have the casting vote.*

**The Headmaster**, sure, Sir, you may!

*Who is reporting my unquotable quotes to the Weekly people?*

**Zubin Mehra**, the imposter among us.

*Where is there?*

**Anushtup Giri**, here.

*I love aggression in math.*

**ANC**, black belt.

## THE WHO?

## Who is Daniel Campbell Smith?

**Parth Agarwal**: A singer

**Ryan Jain**: An actress

**Krishiv Jaiswal**: Aerosmith

**Daniel Campbell Smith** is an English **singer**, **songwriter** and **record producer**. He is the lead singer, primary songwriter and founder of the British band **Bastille**. The band is famous for the songs **'Pompeii'** and **'Happier'** which earned a position on the **Billboard Hot 100** chart.

“

If you can talk brilliantly about a problem, it can create the consoling illusion that it has been mastered.

Stanley Kubrick

## This Week in History

**1509 C.E.:** Henry VIII becomes the King of England following the death of his father, Henry VII.

**1616 C.E.:** English playwright and poet, William Shakespeare, dies.

**1870 C.E.:** Vladimir Lenin is born in Simbirsk, Russia. He is widely known for leading the October Revolution in 1917.

**1889 C.E.:** Adolf Hitler is born in Braunau am Inn, Austria.

**1898 C.E.:** Spain declares war on the United States after rejecting their ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba.

**1916 C.E.:** The Irish Republican Brotherhood, a secret organization of Irish nationalists, launches the Easter Rebellion, an armed uprising against British rule.

**2018 C.E.:** Swedish DJ and record producer, Avicii, (Tim Bergling) dies.

## Around the World in 80 Words

An explosion at a luxury hotel in the Pakistani city of Quetta killed four people and wounded 12. India has reported 314,835 new COVID cases in the last 24 hours - the highest one-day tally recorded anywhere in the world. The US attempted to reassert its global leadership on climate change as President Joe Biden hosted 40 leaders at a virtual summit in the White House. The 'Big 6' Premier League clubs pulled out of the European Super League.

Do Sco Doodle

Celebration?

Roban Taneja





# The Not-So-Beautiful Game

.....  
**Arjun Praksh** *analyses the possibility and implications of the European Super League.*  
 .....

After hearing about the introduction of a breakaway 'European Super League' I felt sick in my stomach. Millions of football fans, including me, felt betrayed by the clubs we had devotedly supported. These clubs had abandoned the values of competition and fair play out of greed. The format of the European Super League will not only eliminate all competition but will also strip clubs of their historic significance. However, this is only a fraction of the problem. The creation of such a league could bring about the end of 'the beautiful game' as we know it.

To understand the seismic effect the League will have on football, one must understand the proposed format of the 'European Super League' and the current format of European football. Currently, there are multiple European leagues spread across different countries. However, what these European leagues have in common is an open league system. In this system divisions are ranked according to a hierarchy – the best teams play in the top league, the next-best group in the second, and so on... Teams that are uncompetitive can be demoted to a lower division and teams at the top can be promoted to a higher division. This system of relegation and promotion keeps the game competitive as clubs are forced to compete at the highest level.

The European Super League has been formed with the intent to create an elite league comprising the top teams from the other European leagues— however, the 'European Super League' is an exclusive closed format. Out of the 20 teams participating in the competition, the 15 founding members cannot be relegated and will be permanent members of the League. Only five teams will be chosen based on their performance in other leagues. These 15 teams also plan on running the competition themselves, without organizations like UEFA and FIFA involved in its governance. Additionally the League is funded by JP Morgan Bank which has promised 3.5 billion euros to be shared amongst the permanent 15 members

for joining the League, which appears to be the motivation behind this breakaway.

Currently, an elite platform with Europe's biggest clubs already exists in the form of the Champions League. However, there is no guarantee that a club would qualify for this as only the top clubs of each national league that year are given a spot in the competition. The 'European Super League' appears to be an attempt by the large clubs to ensure they are guaranteed a spot in what they hope will replace the UEFA Champions League and be the most prestigious European cup.

Without the fear of relegation or the excitement of promotion-- two pillars of the existing football system, which has successfully shaped the last 150 years of football, this new League removes a large chunk of what fans cherish about the sport. It takes away the core ideals of merit. By rewarding the winners and punishing the losers there is an incentive for large teams to stay competitive. The compelling uncertainty of the game is lost when the top teams do not have to face relegation. In the past, smaller clubs worked hard to qualify for the Champions League or the national division one. They would dream of competing with the top European teams one day. However, this dream would be impossible following this monopolization. Sport is meaningless without the unexpected underdog stories and unpredictable wins.

Additionally, there is no specific criteria for a club to join the 'European Super League'. Admission to the League has been solely based on which clubs have the most money and can rake in the most money for the League. For example, the club Leicester City is performing better than some of the richer clubs right now, but has not been invited simply because they do not have the same monetary value. A league such as this will set us back two hundred years, when the sport was restricted only to the rich. The irony is that most of the teams involved in this scandal were started by and for the working-class men of the communities they play in. They were never meant to be a franchise to begin with. Hence, the slogan "created by the poor, stolen by the rich" is trending on social media following the public uproar.

However, there is a bright side to this story. Following the uproar from fans and the possible ban of all players in this League from participating in the FIFA world championship, six of the permanent members have withdrawn from the League. We wait to watch the drama unfold.



# CLARIFIED



## New Strains of the Coronavirus

In the past few weeks, India has seen a resurgence of Covid-19 cases. Of these cases, experts have found a new variant, a double mutant virus variant. But what are double mutants? And should we be concerned?

The double mutant is thought to be the root of the recent surge in infections. On April 20 alone there were almost 300,000 new cases in the country. Only 8% of the population has at least received one dose of the vaccination and with the US suspending the export of 37 crucial items needed for vaccine production, the situation is looking dire.

Mutants of viruses form when a virus replicates and its genes undergo random 'copying errors'. Oftentimes these mutations are harmless. However, over time, these genetic copying errors can lead to alterations in the virus' surface proteins or antigens. Mutations like in the variant in the UK or South Africa can make the virus more infectious and, in some cases, even deadlier.

In the case of this 'double mutant', which is now the 'triple mutant' due the presence of three mutations, was detected with the mutations: E484Q, L452R and P6814. According to the GISAID (Global Science Initiative and Primary Source) database, the variant accounts for 63.6% of coronavirus strains from India that were found in GISAID participants in the last four weeks. The variant has also been found in several other countries such as Australia, the UK, New Zealand, Namibia, Germany, and Singapore.

These mutations have been found in other variants around the world as well. The E484Q mutation, for instance, is similar to the E484K that was previously seen in the fast-spreading Brazilian and South African variants. The L452R mutation has also been found in a variant in California. It enables the virus to dodge antibodies induced during a prior infection or a vaccine, and therefore, show greater virulence. The P6814 mutation is similar to the mutation found in the highly transmissible UK variant.

However, there is still relatively little publicly available information regarding the variant. There are only 660 sequences of the variant, as compared to 384,000 of the UK variant. The Indian government also denies that the rise in cases is linked to the mutations, but research indicates that it is a possible culprit. Scientists are still testing whether the variant is capable of 'immune escape', a characteristic possibly shown by the L452R mutation.

Right about now, the variant is under surveillance and is being studied by institutions from around the world. At this stage, it is still too early to fully ascertain the significance of this variant, but signs show that we must be aware and alert.

## Dogecoin

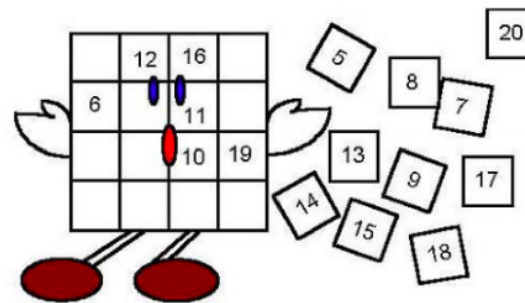
Dogecoin is just one of many cryptocurrencies, with a twist. In 2013, it started as a 'joke currency' by software engineers Billy Markus and Jackson Palmer to mock the number of altcoins (all digital coins other than bitcoin) there are in existence. Doge itself is an iconic meme which contains a picture of a shiba inu (Japanese breed of dog) accompanied by text which serves as the meme's punchline. Now, the coin is backed by the 'meme master' himself, Elon Musk, and has grown from being valued at 1 cent at the beginning of the year to recently hitting around 30 cents.

Why is it so popular? Since there are so many cryptocurrencies, each one is used differently. For example, bitcoin is ideal for large transactions and ethereum for medium transactions. Similarly, the public began to use dogecoin to tip and micro-tip (tipping small amounts) people such as content creators and streamers. Platforms like Twitch and Reddit now support dogecoin as a method of tipping and supporting streamers and users. As more people began to use Dogecoin as a means of tipping, its popularity grew. The fact that Dogecoin is not as significant an investment as other currencies such as Bitcoin coupled with its 'joke-currency' status makes it appeal much more to the public. This has actually had indirect benefits since the creators, who had no intention of profiting from the currency, have used their earnings for humanitarian purposes. For instance, they have helped relieve the water crisis in Kenya and sent the Jamaican bobsled team to the Olympics among other things! And you thought cryptocurrency couldn't do good out there?

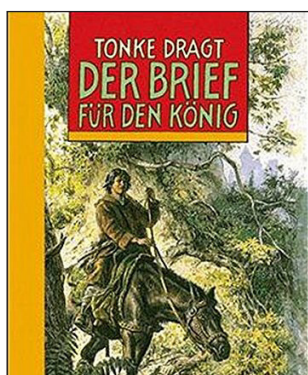
## Problem of the Week

My friend, Magic Square Fifty, needs your help. She tripped and fell and some of her numbers popped out of her square. Can you help her put them back in the right place so she can regain her magic? To regain some of her magic, all her rows, columns and diagonals must have the same sum. To regain all of her magic, each of her quarters (4 upper left squares, 4 upper right squares, 4 lower left squares and 4 lower right squares) and her center (4 squares) must have the same sum. Complete the puzzle on the right.

Source: <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/>



### What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown



#### The Letter for the King Author: Tonke Dragt

A deep sense of religious good against evil sense pervades this fantasy-adventure story. It is set in a fantasy feudal world of three kingdoms – two beautiful, idealised and well ordered, and one that threatens the peace and plentitude of the other two. The protagonist, a 16-year-old squire named Tiuri, has to deliver a top-secret letter to one of the kings of the beautiful, idealised kingdoms mentioned above, knowing nothing of its contents. In many aspects, his journey is a pilgrimage that defines him as a man and a knight, testing his virtue and loyalty as well as his valour.

-Vivasvat Devanampriya

### What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown



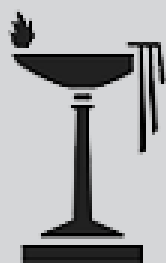
#### The Test: A New Era for Australia's Team Director: Adrian Brown

This documentary, filmed over two years, follows the Australian cricket team closely and shows how the team tries to rebuild the love and respect Australia had in their cricket team before the traumatizing Australian ball-tampering scandal of 2018. It takes us deep into each player's life and explores their experiences of the recent years. The journey begins after the scandal and takes us through the Australia vs Pakistan test series, the Border-Gavaskar trophy, the ICC World Cup and then, ultimately, *The Ashes*. It is a short yet inspiring series on Amazon Prime Video.

-Aryavardhan Agarwal

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

Online Edition: [www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/](http://www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/) [weekly@doonschool.com](mailto:weekly@doonschool.com)



©IPSS: All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001, India. Published by: Kamal Ahuja, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Advaita Sood Editor: Aryan Agarwal Senior Editors: Aditya Jain, Kabir Singh Bhai Hindi Editor: Keshav Tiwari Associate Editors: Ahan Jayakumar, Armaan Rathi, Saatvik Anand, Shreyan Mittal, Vihan Ranka Special Correspondents: Anshul Khakhar, S.J. Akhilesh, Tarun Doss, Abhay Jain, Aryan Baruah, Yashovat Nandan Correspondents: Arjun Prakash, Neelotpal, Saachin Ramasami, Sriyash Tania, Vivasvat Devanampriya, Vivaan Sood Cartoonist: Paras Agrawal, Rohan Taneja Webmaster: Kritika Jugran Assistant Managers: Arvindanabha Shukla, Priyanka Bhattacharya, Purnima Dutta Technical Assistant: KC Maurya Picture Credits: India Today, Amazon Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-56507988>, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/19/is-a-double-mutant-covid-variant-behind-indias-record-surge>