

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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## A NOON WITH MR. VIKRAM BHATT

A report on the Film Society's session with Mr. Vikram Bhatt.

Page 4

## NET NEUTRAL?

An analysis on India's recent vote in the UN Assembly.

Page 4

## SCIENTIFIC SPEEDSTERS

An preview of the upcoming Formula One season.

Page 6

## A Learning Curve

**Yashovat Nandan and Krishay Sutodia** *discuss the pros and cons of laptops for Juniors.*

The new IT policy has been a topic of discussion among almost everyone in the School community. This is because the change in regulations has enabled junior forms to bring their laptops to campus, a privilege once reserved exclusively for the S and Sc forms. While the Pandemic has strong-armed us into spending increasing amounts of time in front of screens, we believe that we must take a closer look and weigh both the positive and negative aspects of Junior forms using their laptops in School.

Most students have spent the better part of the year doing their classes virtually and reasonably, this has led to a vast amount of their study material becoming a part of the online world. This is advantageous for many DoscOs because they do not need to worry about preserving countless sheets of paper for later. It also allows them to build on existing notes and resources instead of beginning from scratch, allowing them to save time in their exam preparation. Students having their laptops on campus has also allowed masters to conduct extra classes or revision sessions in the evenings, eliminating the need to rush to the Main Building. This has proved to be especially beneficial for the A Formers, who were preparing for their boards

at the time. Another reason why it was necessary to allow students to bring their laptops was the fact that during the quarantine period, classes could not be stopped, so they were conducted online, which ensured that there was no gap in the students' learning.

### It takes time to become acquainted with the culture of the main houses...

Additionally, DoscOs are known to indulge in a variety of competitions and events as it helps to develop cognitive and analytical skills, and other outside-of-classroom lessons. Even during the Pandemic, students were willing enough to participate actively in Round Square conferences and School's annual Junior English Debating Invitational cup (JEDI). Thanks to the online world, we as 'digital natives' were able to conduct one of our most prestigious (and awaited) events, DSMUN. It was a massive success, seeing the largest-ever student participation, because it allowed even schools from abroad to experience this MUN. The digital world guaranteed that

there were no obstacles in the way of the learning curve: for the junior-most forms, this was not only an enriching experience, but also allowed them to actively participate in these wonderful competitions organised by School.

However, while laptops have proved to be a useful tool in everyday school life, if not used properly, they also pose a serious problem. Laptops can be distracting, especially in junior forms because academics and other activities are not that demanding, meaning that students have more free time. Students can stay on a screen, even during games time, scrolling through Instagram or watching YouTube videos, and this threatens the very ethos that the School is built on. The time after lunch is meant to be used constructively, by attending an STA or a society meeting, practising at the Music School or even taking a nap to recharge before sports. When a Dosco is in his C or D form, he is meant to explore School and the various activities it offers before picking a certain field that they wish to pursue. Now however, juniors instinctively pick up their laptops, which has adversely affected their experience and relationships in School. *'It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity'* - this quote by Albert Einstein

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

perfectly summarises the state of the junior-most forms at this point.

In C-Form, students should bond with their form-mates, because that is a vital part of the School experience. It takes time to become acquainted with the culture of the main houses—how everything functions—and possessing laptops could hinder this. There are new students in C Form, trying to fit in, and this becomes just one more thing that laptops affect.

Introducing Chromebooks for junior forms would just make this shift too complicated and uneasy. In this new environment, C-Formers have not even been able to observe how their seniors make efficient use of their laptops, and thus they may not know how to use the laptop maturely enough. They also run the risk of losing their laptops and all the accessories they carry with them.

While having laptops may ideally seem like a good idea, they are

vulnerable to being misused, and that is not something that a boarding school with an ethos like Doon's would want, especially given the fact that these junior forms have barely spent any time in School. Having said this, at the end of the day, it is a tough call to make, keeping in mind the complex needs of the post-Pandemic world, especially where the education of young children is concerned.

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## A Noon with Mr. Vikram Bhatt

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Arjun Mitra reports on the Film Society session conducted by filmmaker Vikram Bhatt.

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We all have a filmmaker inside us, waiting to meet the right audience and, ah, “a good story.” Celebrated Indian director, Vikram Bhatt, kick-started our hour-long conversation by emphasising on the importance of stories. Filmmakers, writers, and every sort of artist look for an authentic story, and according to Mr. Bhatt, “everything is a story”. According to him, every lived moment and every passing day has the potential to be a part of a great narrative. Regrettably, he lamented that it is not easy to recognise an impactful story, and often good stories go unheard or unsaid. Furthermore, he noted that in the hands of a skillful director, even a mediocre story can be turned into a powerful film.

As the clock ticked, Mr. Vikram Bhatt began talking about how the pandemic has changed the way the entertainment industry functions and how we perceive entertainment. Going to a movie used to be a preferred recreational activity, but that has now changed. Everyone waits for the OTT platforms to release the same movies, and the majority prefer the safety and comfort of their homes.

According to Mr. Bhatt, it is indeed getting harder for a movie to secure a theatrical release and most moviemakers get sidelined, often to their advantage to OTT. He went on to explain his seven-second theory, that audiences now like to get engaged with any form of visual entertainment within the first seven seconds. If any filmmaker cannot engage the audience in those first seven seconds, then the audience could drop out. Mr. Bhatt said, “There is no investment in OTT, and to engage people in your movie, instant gratification is the need of the hour.”

Further on, Mr. Bhatt emphasised the need to be futuristic while planning further progress. He stressed on the importance of making films with certain

elements of virtual reality, as he has been doing in his movies made during the lockdown phase. As he put it, “If you want to be a part of the virtual world, if we are to become a beacon of the future, then we need to help the future. We need to become a part of the metaverse.”

Mr. Bhatt considers himself to have been influenced by several filmmakers, notably Mahesh Bhatt, Mahboob Khan, and many more names to add. He thinks that a filmmaker should learn from everyone and from every movie, be it a good one or a run-of-the-mill one. Over the years, he enjoyed making *Ghulam*, *1920*, *Haunted 3D* and is currently passionate about his ongoing movie *Cold*. For him, the film that challenges you the most is the film that you would have enjoyed working on. For Mr. Bhatt, patience is the most important quality for any filmmaker, because filmmaking is a tough job with a lot of uncontrollable variables. He firmly believes that a filmmaker should be a writer-director so that, in times when he feels scenes are not playing out in a justifiable manner, he himself can take over the reins. Adding a bit of humour to the event, Mr. Bhatt spoke of the biggest cliché in horror movies, that is, if a girl hears some noises from an unknown place, she always has to venture out to the unknown territory. He also laughingly mentioned the most loved horror cliché of jump starts and the appearance of cats to suggest something ominous. He continued the session by giving tips to aspiring filmmakers on how to construct a well-structured script and spoke of the importance of having close-knit friends outside of the professional circle. After answering several questions from the audience gathered virtually, we came to the end of an enlightening and marvellous hour-long session with Mr. Vikram Bhatt.



# This Week in History

**1066 CE:** Westminster Abbey, one of the most famous churches in England, is opened.

**1692 CE:** Sarah Goode and Tituba are accused of witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts, sparking the hysteria that started the Salem Witch Trials.

**1704 CE:** The town of Deerfield, Massachusetts was razed in Queen Anne’s War.

**1856 CE:** Hostilities in Russo-Turkish war ceased.

**1928 CE:** The Raman effect was discovered by Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman.

**1986 CE:** Olof Palme, a prominent prime minister of Sweden known for his strong pacifist beliefs, was assassinated.

## READERS CHECKLIST

What members of the school community have been reading this week.

- GYA:** *Mastery* by Robert Greene.
- Yash Adalti:** *Mother Of Learning* by Domagoj Kurmaic.
- Kritin Goel:** *The Palace Of Illusions* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.
- Yuvraj Sarda:** *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.
- Nabhit Singhal:** *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi.

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Morality is not the doctrine of how we may make ourselves happy, but of how we may make ourselves worthy of happiness

Immanuel Kant

# THE WHO?

## Who is Christopher Beaux?

- Siddhant Srivastava:** A Rapper
- Uday Pratap Singh:** A Chef
- Dhairyajit Singh:** A Singer
- Karan Agrawal:** Director
- Krishnav Sachdev:** Renowned Mathematician
- Raghav Periwal:** Poet

**Christopher Breaux**, known professionally as **Frank Ocean**, is an American singer and rapper known for his songwriting, unique musical style and wide vocal range. He is widely known for popularising alternative R&B and has won **two Grammy Awards** and a **Brit Award** and was named by the *Time* Magazine as one of the world’s most influential people in 2013. His albums: *Blonde* and *Channel Orange*, are listed in *Rolling Stone’s* 500 Greatest Albums of All Time. Both the *Insider* and *The Wall Street Journal* regard him as the most dominant rapper in the 2010s. Beaux also secured a place in the 2013 edition of *Forbes* 30 under 30.

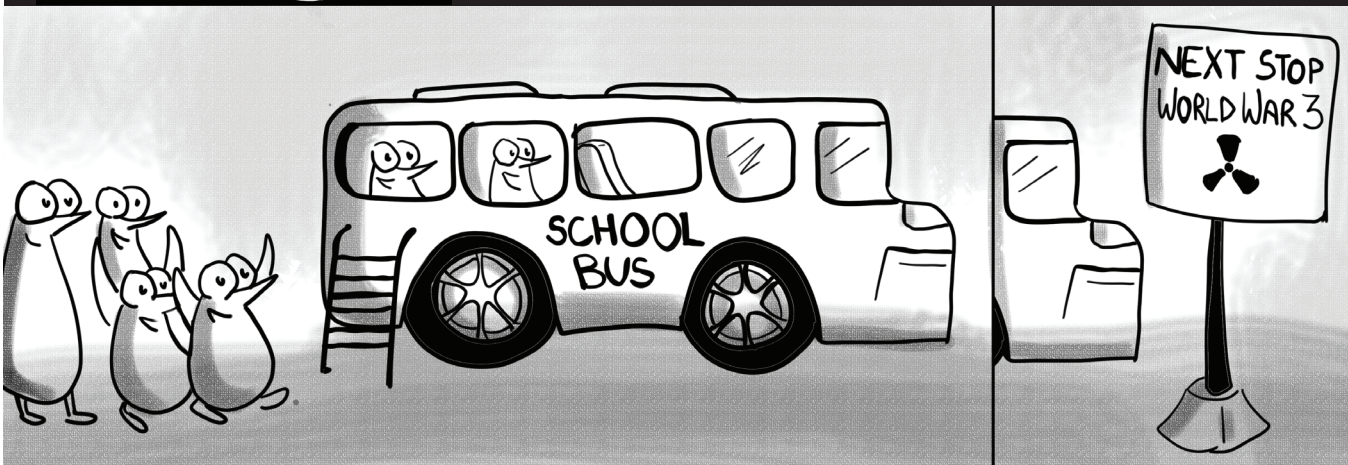
## Around the World in 80 Words

Investigation into possible war crimes was launched by the ICC, after Russia was accused of bombing civilians. Libya’s parliament approved a new government and sparked political conflict since the incumbent administration vowed not to cede power. India abstained from the vote in the UNSC, on whether to use armed forces to maintain international peace and security, regarding Ukraine. Meanwhile voting in the sixth round of the Uttar Pradesh assembly election began on Thursday as polling moved to the Purvanchal region.

Do Sco Doodle

## Unwilling “Volunteers”

Roban Taneja



# Net Neutral?

**Abhay Jain** *writes about India's decision to abstain in the UN Assembly.*

On February 27th, the UN Security Council voted to set up an emergency UN General Assembly session on the Ukraine crisis. The motion to call the assembly was passed with 11 countries voting yes, Russia voting no, and India, China, and the UAE abstaining from voting.

**“Keeping in view the totality of the evolving situation, India has decided to abstain.”**

For many historical, political, and geographic reasons, India's vote to abstain from moving the motion forward did not come as a surprise. In India, we have always been allies with Moscow and have been maintaining a steady balance between the Western Bloc and Russia.

Furthermore, India also abstained on a procedural vote on whether to discuss the issue of Ukraine. India's vote to abstain was explained by T.S. Trimurti, who is India's permanent representative to the UN, clarifying India's stance. First, Tirumurti spoke of how disturbed he was by the recent developments in Ukraine. Then he talked about his appeal for a cessation of violence, as no

solution is attainable at the cost of human lives. He next talked about the 16,000 Indians still stuck in Ukraine. After this, he reiterated the need for territorial integrity and sovereignty to be upheld for all the member states of the UN. Tirumurti also stated that dialogue was the only method through which peace could be attained at this moment, and that it was “a matter of regret that the path of democracy was given up”.

Tirumurti's final statement on the matter was that, “Keeping in view the totality of the evolving situation, India has decided to abstain.” By abstaining, India has also maintained a steadfastly neutral position, which allows it to stay in touch with both sides, urging them to find a middle ground to maintain diplomacy and dialogue.

A part of India's decision to abstain from the vote comes from its strong relations with Russia. India first formed diplomatic relations with the USSR during the Cold War, a relationship that was passed down to Russia after the dissolution of the USSR. India's first major initiative with Russia was the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the two countries. This treaty was signed in October 2000 by former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Besides, India's position of strength in the Indo-Pacific is seemingly shaky, as India is forced to fend off hostile attacks from its neighbours, China and Pakistan. Due to apprehensions of a Chinese invasion, India has long been reliant on Russian arms and weapons, with Russian imports accounting for over half of India's weapons imports.

As further sanctions are being applied to Russia, it is also possible that Russia may turn to China to sell its oil and gas, and with Russia being cut off from SWIFT, it is also possible that both countries may try to create an alternative.

This presents a worrying situation for India, as the cementing of relationships between Russia and China may lead to India being stuck between a rock and a hard place. We will have to watch for further developments in India's policy towards the West and the East, as leaning toward any side too much may lead to India making choices that it cannot undo.

However, India is in a unique position because its influence with both Russia and the West may come in handy if the current political situation between Russia, China, and the US is renegotiated. The real question is, to what lengths will India go to keep its legacy relationship with Russia in a world which is rapidly leaning towards the West?





# Scientific Speedsters

Umaid Singh Dhillon and Neel Madhav Sahai *discuss the return of Formula 1 racing.*

Formula 1 is returning in 2022 with a plethora of changes. The extraordinary end to the 2021 season left Max Verstappen fans on a high note as the young Dutchman snatched the world championship from the star-spangled Brit, Lewis Hamilton. With a new season nearly underway, the F1 community is excited as to what to uncover in the coming season. Apart from the changes to the car and teams, there have also been changes in the F1 schedule for the year. Among the other notable changes, the long-awaited Miami Grand Prix will finally begin in the first week of May and the Sochi race track would be removed in Russia due to the current conflict and increasing tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

The cars for 2022 have kickstarted a new era in F1 racing. A significant change can be seen in the front wing of this season's car, as it has become a simpler version of its predecessor. The reduction of the gap between the nose and the elements themselves is the most important factor. It aims to reduce the Y250 vortex, which is a series of spinning air vortices that affects the car behind. The new front wing not only provides simplicity to motorsport but also a chance for the fans to see competitive racing week in, week out.

**The new rear wing comes bearing the hopes of also trying to increase competition by sporting a design that decreases the competitive advantage of the frontrunners on the grid.**

The new rear wing comes bearing the hopes of also trying to increase competition by sporting a design that decreases the competitive advantage of the frontrunners on the grid. This has been achieved by curving the endplates rather than them meeting at sharp angles. The floor of the car's shape and its idea has changed, with two fully sculpted underfloor tunnels allowing for significantly more regulated airflow beneath the car. As a result, any dirty air striking the front wing of the car should have less of an impact. To further promote closer racing, the new F1 2022 rules and regulations have made it so that the cars will lack downforce compared to their predecessors. The 2021 car had 35% downforce at 20

metres and 46% at 10 metres, however, the 2022 car has reduced the downforce to 4% at 20 metres and 18% at 10 metres. All these changes to the Formula 1 car have ensured a memorable season ahead.

The biggest change yet, however, is the introduction of the 18-inch tyres which reduce the amount the tyres overheat when they slide. The 18-inch tyres are a shift away from the conventional 13-inch ones, and this radical change has been welcomed by the fans. Wheel covers are back for the first time since 2009

**Wheel covers are back for the first time since 2009 to limit the wheel and the tyre's ability to produce aerodynamic inefficiencies, which improves overall airflow.**

to limit the wheel and the tyre's ability to produce aerodynamic inefficiencies, which improves overall airflow. Due to the bigger wheel, there is an increase in car weight but this increase also comes from the improvement of safety requirements of the chassis. During testing, the chassis absorbed more energy in both, the front and the back.

One of the final changes made to the car might not be visible to us fans when we watch the car speed down the track, however, it holds great significance for Formula 1 in the future. The new F1 cars are now using Ethanol 10 fuel to slowly allow F1 racing to adapt to a sustainable future.

The much-anticipated move of George Russell to Mercedes from Williams sees two Brits compete for the World Championship in the Mercedes W-13. Alfa Romeo, in a bid for silverware, completely changed their driver lineup, with Valtteri Bottas and rookie Guanyu Zhou racing for the Italian team. In a bold move, Williams signed ex- Red Bull driver Alex Albon, to compete for them in the 2022 season.

Pre-season testing has given us exciting results, with different drivers topping the timesheets every single day. This is just a sign of what is to come for the rest of the season as racing has become more competitive and exciting to watch.

# Problem of the Week

In the diagram, all the small squares are of the same size. What fraction of the large square is shaded?



Source: <https://nrich.maths.org/11669>

## What Have You Been Reading At Home?

**Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End**

**Author: Atul Gawande**

Death. It is something that is universally accepted as inevitable, yet we have bent and twisted the circle of life rather than embracing it. In the era of advanced medical technology that prolongs a person’s life span, does the acceptance of death play a role? Should a person on a hospital bed with ventilators pumping air through their lungs, needles penetrating their skin, in hopes to keep them alive, continue? Should we relieve them of their suffering? The answers to these questions can spark a rather challenging conversation; however, Atul Gawande, a renowned writer and surgeon, touches on these matters with delicacy yet honesty by addressing his profession’s limitations.

In this book, he remarks on the philosophy of keeping the patient alive no matter the cost, even though the treatment has little to no potential to extend a life substantially, which often leads to a decreased quality of life. The possibility of an unlikely long life following a terminal diagnosis has shaped our medical system and culture into a form of lottery machine, where the idea of obtaining the unlikely odds to survive is the prized ticket, regardless of the anguish. He demonstrates how it is better for terminally ill people to speak with their doctors to let them know their goals, to receive the appropriate guidance, and to know when it is time to let go. Thus, proposing that medicine’s goal should be to improve the quality of life and understand what it means to die with dignity, a sense of purpose, and, most importantly, control over one’s own life. It is about being free to dictate your final moments, whichever way you want and enabling well-being in the sense that one chooses how to continue.

In the end, understanding what options we have when it comes to making decisions when faced with mortality, for someone we care about or for ourselves, and realising the significance of the “*quality of death*” makes this a highly recommended read.

- Vinesh Uniyal

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

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