

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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## HISTORY, IN A NUTSHELL

A satire on human history and its comedic nature.

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Can you solve this crossword on Famous Assassinations?

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## Let's Get It Back

**Mr. Mohd. Istemdad Ali** *comments on the current academic environment in School.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc in multiple ways and the domain of teaching and learning is no exception. While the online mode of education did provide an alternative to the teaching and learning that takes place in the physical classroom, the consequences of students being away from the School physically has had multi-lateral impairments. There were inadequate opportunities for the students to develop appropriate skills that the physical environment of a school like Doon can ideally provide.

While the expectation and focus still remain on high academic performance, the priority should turn towards mitigating the gaps created due to online learning, and allow for the transition to be less anxiety-ridden with a vast array of strategies that our School is well equipped to deploy to overcome the damage. Remedial education could be a way forward to ensure that the core competencies are age/form appropriate and anyone diagnosed below the average level of their peers must receive remedial help without delay.

In the course of the Pandemic, large parts of our writing habits have been destroyed by using short forms, abbreviations, emojis, etc. However, for effective communication, we still need to learn how to write concisely and clearly. The words and phrases that

you write in your blogs and online articles travel faster than you could imagine. The greater your position in society, and who you write to, make the art of communication much more significant. Good writing requires focus and critical thinking to make it objective. Mistakes that you make while speaking can be forgiven but mistakes in writing will have a far greater impact and consequences, as they never go away. This is all the more reason to hone this life skill.

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The examination boards which we subscribe to in School - ISC, IGCSE and the IBDP - place a premium on writing skills. In the IBDP for example, a whole lot of e-coursework, as well as

the external examination, test different types of writing skills. The Extended Essay, which is a 4000-word long independent academic research written by an IB student, requires a host of skills to enable a candidate to get a good grade. Reflection, which has become a necessary component in the Assessment Criteria for Extended Essay, requires you to constantly jot down your ideas, plans and decisions, and reflect on those choices and decisions that you make. In the absence of written plans and reflections, this essay would never see the light of the day and would be an extremely stressful experience. The Theory of Knowledge Essay and commentaries on exhibitions are high level cognitive exercises where a student tries to establish connections between the abstract and the philosophical world of TOK with the real world, as well as that of the different disciplines which they study. These are great pieces of academic writing which lead to tremendous growth and confidence in students, making for a smooth transition to a highly competitive college life. Your academic achievements and college applications are areas that are crucial for all students to succeed. In order to make these impactful, writing skills will be of great help, ensuring that you are able to

*(Continued on Page 3)*

MEN IN BLACK

The Scholar’s Blazer has been awarded to the following: Varyam Gupta, Aditya Jain and Soham Agarwal.

Kudos!

ONTO NEW FRONTIERS

The following are the appointments for the Academic Year 2022-2023:

- Aeromodelling: Adish Mittal
- Design and Technology: Aneesh Reddy
- Bharat Vani: Aadi Jain
- Secretary SEDS: Gurmehar Bedi
- Boy-in-Charge SEDS: Yuvraj Sarda

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

SHINING THROUGH THE CROWD

Devank Agarwalla, Harsh Tibrewala, Aditya Saraff, Harshit Gupta, Agam Bhatia, and Varyam Gupta have been awarded the Excellence Scholarships.

Congratulations!

“

The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to change it.

Karl Marx

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

The Doon School participated in The International School Bangalore Model United Nations. Aditya Agarwal and Satvik Petwal received the Best Delegate awards. Veraj Goel was given the Outstanding Delegate award. Gurmehar Bedi, Amrit Agarwal and Vihaan Gupta were awarded Honourable Mentions. Maharshi Roy, Ahan Jayakumar, Katyayan Kanodia and Riddhim Agarwal received Special Mentions.

Congratulations!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

- The students are honoured when they come up for shake hand.
- Headmaster, an honorable mention.
- The hot water is both hot and cold.
- Vir Mehta, a glitch in the simulation.
- It’s not the fun kind of anti-fun.
- MGI, mood killer.
- Krish has outgood academics.
- Vedant Agarwal, jealous.
- Do your water business and bio business before class.
- RDG, master of the elements.

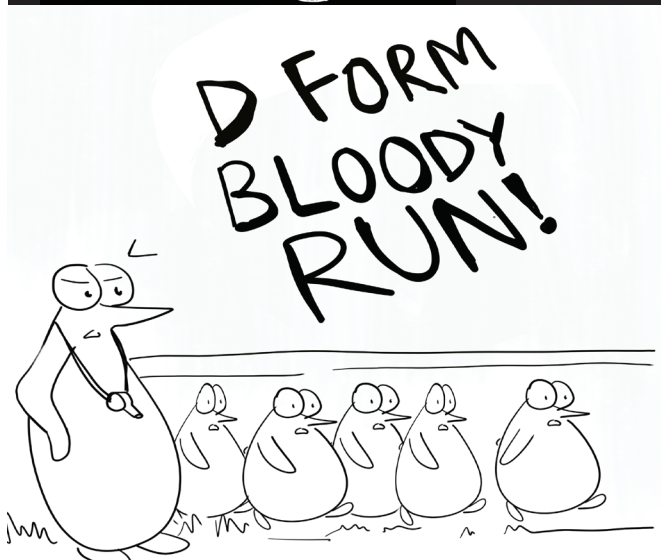
Around the World in 80 Words

The results of the Assembly elections were declared in 5 states including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand. U.S President Joe Biden imposed a ban on oil and gas imports from Russia after its invasion of Ukraine. Atlantic explorer Ernest Shackleton’s ship, The Endurance was found in the Atlantic Ocean 107 years after it sank. Australia declared a state of emergency after recent floods due to heavy rainfall. Real Madrid beat PSG 3-2 on aggregate in the Champions League knockout stage.

Dosco Doodle

Back to Normal

Roban Taneja



(Continued from Page 1)

prevent your application from reaching the bottom of the pile.

Doscors have made a mark in almost all walks of life and reading books and articles written by old and present boys seems to give an impression that this skill comes naturally. Although Doon has umpteen factors to help achieve high quality writing skills, this critical skill does not come by just spending six years in School. It requires constant practice under expert supervision to reach that level of accomplishment. Good writers become good public speakers as they are able to organize their thoughts better, which is essential for effective communication. Through this medium of communication,

several people have found a voice, a means to channel their ideas and emotions. Writing, according to several experts, has proven to be therapeutic, to overcome anxiety and stress common among students, as well as adults. The impact good writers have on society is perhaps what makes the saying “the pen is mightier than the sword”, true.

Over-reliance on a digital form of education has taken a toll on writing skills. Simple practices would go a long way in ensuring academic success. These include going to the class with dedicated registers for every subject and note-taking; things like this should be accorded foremost priority. Inadequate writing work is something which cannot be

encouraged, and the habit of constantly looking at the screen and making notes on the laptop is not only bad for physical well-being but also mental well-being. According to two US researchers, Pam Mueller and Daniel Oppenheimer, note-taking with a pen rather than a laptop gives better grasp of the subject to students. Experts who believe in the power of writing have said that handwriting is a complex task in which the pen is directed by thought. Since laptops cannot replace pen and paper, every effort should be made across educational institutions to battle this phenomenon, as otherwise it will bring about a cultural death.

# History, in a Nutshell

Neel Sahai and Vivaan Sood

The question of human suffering throughout history has always perplexed me. Suffering continues to persist even after we have seen it happen in the past. Perhaps it is something deliberate, or some sadistic pleasure that we have evolved to like. Or maybe we are all just fools, for only a fool does the same thing twice and expects different results. We humans are the perfect examples of such fools.

**Perhaps it is something deliberate, or some sadistic pleasure that we have evolved to like.**

I suppose each of our environments, our milieu, offer some insight into our habits and the traits that we as a species have allowed to propagate. Much like baboons, we stick to our tribes and

expect others to bend to our will. We have gone so far as to make entertainment out of it. Maybe baboons are the evolved ones. After all, we have had two major wars (creatively dubbed World War 1, and its sequel, World War 2). Yet, I still asked myself, was that the end? The end of people suffering every day, without food, a home to go to, a day to look forward to? Nope. The Congo War, 5.4 million deaths, Syrian Civil war, 207,000 deaths. I could go on and on.

However, history has not just repeated itself. No, no, things have changed. I believe it has gotten much worse. Yesterday I could trade my friend for a cow, today I can trade ten of my friends for a virtual picture of a cow. Furthermore, we are currently winning the Earth Race, and have eliminated 600 (and counting) competing species. From what I gather, heat is the answer. But we are not satisfied with winning one race. This is the human race after all! We are going interstellar.

**Much like baboons, we stick to our tribes and expect others to bend to our will.**

But for now, let me be a bit down to Earth. From the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand to the Holocaust to the ‘Peace Treaties’, there is a lot that humans have been through, and I would like to hope that we learnt from the mistakes we made in the few million or so years that we have been around, but hope is for the optimistic.

From what I have seen, I do not believe history fully repeats itself. I believe it repeats itself in a manner that is just horribly convenient for the time. Then again, convenience is only a matter of time, and I think we have plenty of it. Unless some asteroids ruin it for us, like it did for the previous tenants.



# Politics and Penalties

Ruhan Agrawal and Aarush Agrawal *talk about the everchanging influence of politics in sports.*

There is widespread condemnation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine across the sporting world. This has heavily impacted the standing of Russian and Belarusian sportsmen competing in international tournaments. As Russia’s hostile advance into Eastern Europe continues, international sporting organisations have retaliated by either removing all mention of the countries from events or outright banning athletes from those countries.

Sports and politics have been interconnected throughout history, whether as a form of diplomacy or as a way to bring people together. However, it’s not simply a matter of whether teams or individuals should be removed from their profession. Evidently, there is a lot of grey area surrounding the issue and matters can’t be resolved in a straightforward manner.

We cannot argue with the fact that professional players have a huge influence in the 21st century, this is very evident with the fact that the most followed personality in the world is Cristiano Ronaldo with a whopping 400 million on the social media app Instagram, closely followed by Lionel Messi. Therefore, the implications they have on our social environment are cosmic. Taking the knee before a game in the top flight of football leagues has become customary: it is a display of condemning racism. It is also a powerful example of why it is integral that we recognize the role of politics in sports, because they are virtually inseparable.

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Most sports fans don’t want politics to interfere with the sport they are interested in, whether it’s taking the knee or their favourite team or athlete being removed from the competition. Sports have been part of human civilization for the longest time. While the average football fan or boxing enthusiast may not particularly like the influence of politics on sport, we cannot change the way that social and political environments shape the sports we are forever connected to.

The great Muhammad Ali always stood for what he believed in. He brought a sense of social awareness and calmness to a sport that was known for its

brutality. He played a pivotal role in showing the connection between sports and politics. He refused to fight in Vietnam; citing it was against his religion and that the Vietnamese had done nothing wrong to him. He memorably said that his conscience wouldn’t let him shoot some poor hungry people in the mud for “big powerful America”. His decision eventually led to his arrest which nearly sent him to jail. He later said, “Shoot them for what”. His stance on the war was clear and it is a fact that his World Title and boxing license was stripped due to his decision to abstain from joining the Vietnam war.

Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine greatly affected their sporting endeavours, simultaneously affecting their economy. The Russian National Football team was removed from the 2022 FIFA World Cup and was barred from future international competitions until further notice. The Russian club Zenit Saint-Petersburg was removed from the UEFA Europa League as well, and whether the decision was the right thing to do is still controversial and will continue to be a debate. Even Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA, the international governing body of football, was adamant in his disapproval of Putin’s hostile behaviour. In a statement, he added, “FIFA condemns Russia’s use of force in Ukraine, as well as any sort of violence used to resolve problems”. Vladimir Putin, the Russian President, was deprived of his World Taekwondo black belt. Putin’s invasion of the Eastern European country, according to World Taekwondo, goes against the organisation’s slogan, “Peace is More Precious Than Triumph”. Putin’s honorary presidency and ambassadorship with the International Judo Federation were also revoked. Players, managers, and supporters of English Premier League clubs are allowed to protest the Russian invasion this weekend by displaying Ukraine’s flag during their games. Russia is also in danger of being kicked out of the Women’s European Championship, which will be held in England this summer. This is not only going to have a huge impact on sports but also on the economy of Russia, as UEFA, football’s European governing body, confirmed on Friday, that the Champions League final will no longer be staged in St. Petersburg. This was followed by a slew of athletic events involving Russia being cancelled. It just goes to show that a sporting event of a certain magnitude can never isolate itself from the political state of the country.

## बदलाव का पत्र

अर्जुन मित्र

“यह पत्र स्वयं के लिए हैं जब मैं ९० वर्ष का हो जाऊँगा। तब यह पत्र जिसके पास भी होगा, कृपया मुझे दिए गए पते पर दे देना।

३ धरा,  
सौर मंडल कॉलोनी,  
ब्रह्माण्ड।”

अँधेरा कब का आकर मेरे मुँह पर हँस कर घर पर कब्जा डाल कर बैठ गया और मैं कर भी क्या ही सकता था। उस छोटी सी बस्ती की बड़ी वाली मौसी से फिर से मदद मांगता? फिर से उस कमरे जैसे घर के सड़ते दरवाज़े में फैलते दीमक के ठिकानों को टाँकता और निहारता। ‘जिंदगी तो हर बार कुछ न कुछ सिखा ही देती है, सड़कों के मोड़ पर, कमरों के कोनों में और लोगों के रूप में’, ऐसा ही कुछ बोला था ना तेरे सबसे छोटे स्वरूप ने। आज भी उसकी याद आती है जिसकी मासूमियत की सब वाह-वाही करते थे और मिठाइयों के डिब्बे पर जिसका हक पहले आता था। वो भी समय के हवा के साथ लुप्त हो गया, चली गयी वह मासूमियत, चली गई वह मिठाई और बचा, तो सिर्फ वह घना, काला अँधेरा। आज भी मुझे पापा की बात याद आती है, क्या तुम्हें स्मरण है या तब ने तुमसे तुम्हारे इन दिनों की सभी यादों को छीन लिया है? क्या तुम बस एक चमड़े का ढाँचा बन कर रह गए हो? मुझे कुछ पता नहीं, और लगनेगा भी कैसे, अभी मुझे यह तक पता नहीं कि मेरे साथ क्या होगा, जब मुझे यह तक पता नहीं कि इस वाक्य को पूर्ण करने से पूर्व क्या मेरी स्याही किसी सूखे पड़ रहे झरने की तरह, बह न जाए, और मुझे यह तक पता नहीं कि जिसको मैं अपनी व्यथा शांत करने के लिए पत्र लिख रहा हूँ, क्या वह सच-मुच ज़िंदा भी होगा, या ज़िंदा होकर किसी पालतू कुत्ते की तरह बुढ़ापे की लाठी को तराशता रहेगा जो उसे कभी मिलेगी नहीं। शायद मैं फिर से भटक गया, माफ़ करना। भोलू के नमकीन समोसे मुझे हमेशा बहलाते हैं, तब भी जब मैं सिर्फ उनकी खुशबू ले सकता हूँ, स्वाद नहीं। खरीदकर भी क्या फायदा, वह पुराना नमकीनी स्वाद तो उस काले अँधेरे में जूझ कर जल गया। शायद तुम सोच रहे होंगे कि यह खत तो तुम अपने बुढ़ापे में पढ़ रहे हो, फिर मैं क्यों उस तरह पेश आ रहा हूँ। तुम्हें लगनेगा कि मैं इसका भी उतर थाली में सजा कर तुम्हें दूँगा, पर नहीं - नहीं और नहीं। उस याद

उस याद को याद करने की मुझमें शक्ति नहीं, वह याद जिसने मेरे हर याद को सुहाने से मुरझाये हुए पत्ते के राख्र जैसा बना दिया

को याद करने की मुझमें शक्ति नहीं, वह याद जिसने मेरी हर याद को सुहाने से मुरझाये हुए पत्ते की राख्र जैसा बना दिया। “बदलाव सही है, बदलाव से ही हम सब बदल पायेंगे

और बदलाव से ही हम-तुम और तुम-हम बन पाओगे”, यही कहा करते थे ना पापा। बदलाव, बदलाव... सच में सब कुछ बदल गया, आप, मैं। वह आशियाना जिसमें बैठकर आपने यह कहा था, वह भी बदल गया, दीवारों ने अपना जवाब दे दिया, और पानी के पाइपों ने बदलाव को दिल पर ले लिया, इसलिए देखिये आज पानी नलों में नहीं आता, धरती पर सांप बन जाता है। इससे भी मज़े की बात तो आपको पता ही होना चाहिए, उस अँधेरे ने मुझे उस घर के लायक नहीं समझा, जब कि मैंने विनती की, मैंने यह तक कहा कि अँधेरे का दिया जलेगा, पर नहीं। सब कुछ बदल गया है मैं सचमुच में बदल गया हूँ और आपने सच कहा था कि मैं, आप बन जाऊँगा, पर क्या यह कुछ जल्दी नहीं हो गया। नहीं, अब तुम जो यह पत्र पढ़ रहे हो, यह जान लो कि तुम-मैं नहीं बने हो, नहीं। मैंने क्या सहा है, यह सिर्फ दो लोग जानते हैं, मैं और वो कटी हुई धान जो आज भी मुलायम गढ़े का काम करती हैं, और बारिश

वह आशियाना जिसमें बैठकर आपने यह कहा था, वह भी बदल गया, दीवारों ने अपना जवाब दे दिया, और पानी के पाइपों ने बदलाव को दिल पर ले लिया, इसलिए देखिये आज पानी नलों में नहीं आता, धरती पर सांप बन जाता है

के पानी को मुझ पर बहने देती हैं। क्या तुम्हें पता भी है इसका मतलब, क्या तुम्हें अंदाजा भी है उस दर्द का, जब तुम मंदिर के खाट पर होते हो और बिना घंटी बजाये ही निकल जाना पड़ता है। प्रसाद से क्या लेना देना, अगर भगवान् मिल जाए तो प्रसाद तो अपने आप ही मिल जाएगा। अब तुम्हें और कहने का क्या फायदा, बस यही उम्मीद रखता हूँ कि बदलाव सच में आ जाए, और तुम-मैं ना रहो, तुम बदल गए हो, बस अपने रूप-रखाव से, अंदर से नहीं। दो दिन बाद मेरा जन्मदिन है, तैयारी में फिर से जुट जाता हूँ, आखिर चढ़ावा भी तो मैं ही बेचता हूँ, इस बार थोड़ी मिश्री और दे दूँगा, दूसरा कम कर दूँगा। ‘भगवान् को मीठा दो, वह प्रसन्न होते हैं’, आज भी वह बात याद है, भगवान् को खुश करना ही तो मेरा काम है। इस साल दुआ माँगूँगा, मेरे लिए नहीं, तुम्हारे लिए, आखिर दांत किसके टूट गए होंगे। फिर भी दुआ करता हूँ कि ना ही हुए होंगे, आखिर तुम ही तो मैं हूँ, और मैं ही तो तुम हो। इसे मेरा पहला और आखरी पत्र समझना क्योंकि तुम जो भी बनोगे, मेरी आज की मेहनत से बनोगे, इसलिए तुम नहीं चाहोगे कि मैं अपनी नींद तुम्हें पत्र लिखने में व्यर्थ करूँ। इसी के साथ अलविदा।

तुम्हारा १४ वर्षीय स्वरूप,  
- अगर ज़िंदा हो तो खुद ही नाम भर दो -

# The Week Gone By

Vihan Ranka

The transition from the online learning platforms to offline ones has proved to be quite eventful. Earlier in February, the Jaipur House ‘supply line’ was sadly declared “out of commission”. Meanwhile, our ever-resourceful SC Formers lived up to the characteristic Dosco trait of *sliminess*, making the most of the arrival of the D Form. The most important implication of these developments being that the AV Squad and the Stage Committee have found new fodder to lure into the cannons that drive their dubious dealings.

While the influx of students added to the already-lively campus of Chandbagh, the most notable change to our premises was the addition of the ‘Yet to be Named Auditorium’, where the first offline Assembly in two years packed a heavy punch: while the S Formers slowly began the transition towards their final year in School, the entire student and teacher body bore the brunt of the Headmaster’s rather exceptional story-telling skills twice in ten minutes.

The beautiful harmony of the huffing and puffing of the D Form at the hands of the PE Department added to the symphony of Chandbagh, contributing to the return of a sense of normalcy. To misquote Benjamin Franklin, “Nothing is certain but death, taxes and NTC Sir screaming at

kids.” The cricket season, now in full-swing, added the one missing ingredient from a typical March evening in Chandbagh: sledging. The Inter-House friendlies ended up being not-so-friendly as each House defended their pride with searing insults being thrown at the end of every over. Oberoi’s valiant efforts paid off, as they tasted rare victories.

All the while, our S Form rat race rages on. A few of my compatriots have been rewarded abundantly while others still look forward to Assemblies with a little bit of hope in their hearts.

The looming threat of Trials will slowly catch up to you, as will the 37 assignments you left for later during online classes. Study on, fellow Doscos, and watch out for snakes, especially in the warm months of March and April.

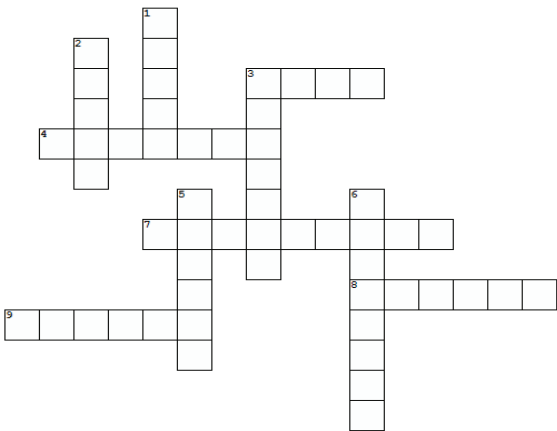
## Crossword | Famous Assassinations

### Across

- 3. Killed in Memphis, Tennessee, this Civil Rights Leader was an American Baptist Minister and activist.
- 4. This US President fought a civil war to abolish slavery.
- 7. This leader’s assassination led to World War One.
- 8. This dictator was stabbed to death 23 times, in a conspiracy involving 60 people.
- 9. She was the first female prime minister of Pakistan.

### Down

- 1. He was named one of the top two rappers in America in the 90’s along with Snoop Dogg.
- 2. He was killed in a suicide bombing while campaigning for his next election in Sriperumbudur.
- 3. He was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald.
- 5. This musician was killed shortly after signing an autograph.
- 6. He was a Muslim Civil Rights activist killed while addressing a gathering of 400 people.



Across	
3. King	7. Ferdinand
4. Lincoln	
8. Caesar	9. Bhutto
1. Tupac	
2. Rajiv	3. Kennedy
5. Lennon	6. Malcolm X

Answers of this Week's Crossword

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

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