

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

March 26, 2022 | Issue No. 2636



'LEADERS' OF THE WORLD

A satirical play on a UN council meeting.

Page 3

WEEK GONE BY

An amusing account of the events that have taken place this week.

Page 4

WORD SEARCH

Can you solve this week's Formula 1 themed word search?

Page 4

Decoding the 'Putin' Logic

Svanik Garg gives an insight into Putin's justification for the Russo-Ukrainian war.

On February 24, the inevitable happened. After months of increasing tensions, Ukrainian resilience, and Russian frustration, Putin finally launched a military offensive against his 'own' people. Sounds ridiculous, but it was his justification that mentioned the same. Putin, for months, had been building the narrative in Russian minds that their Ukrainian brothers were 'falling into a pro-West abyss with their leader being a neo-Nazi'. While a superficial reading of such claims can be immediately struck down at first glance, understanding Putin's logic gives an interesting insight into the workings of the mind of a man who rose from being a KGB spy to the Russian president - all through his masterful manipulation of information.

Putin's first argument for this invasion revolves around the fact that Ukrainians are truly just Russians separated by a political boundary the West created. The flaws with this argument is that: Firstly, Ukraine is a state that existed well before the establishment of the Russian empire, and Kyiv was a thriving city and traces of its 500-year-old history are visible to this day. Secondly, Russians, and those who speak the language, are a minority in the country, constituting 29.6% of the population. However, Putin is successful in justifying

his actions due to the relationship between the Russians and the Ukrainians. It is popularly believed that every second Ukrainian has a family member in Russia and vice versa, meaning that while such Ukrainians crave an independent country, the population in Russia feels some sense of responsibility to enact a reunification.

However, what is of greater concern is that at a point where these same civilians are being killed, the majority of the public still believes the narrative that Putin is reunifying families, and building a connected, prosperous future, instead of fulfilling imperialistic desires. Putin's ability to put up a facade and completely transform a particular narrative, is his foremost tactic to convince people of the validity of the invasion.

The second, most baffling argument which Putin makes is of the Westernisation of Ukraine. His statements suggest that Ukraine is developing into a country submissive to the West, like other Eastern Bloc erstwhile Soviet nations, and that it is being controlled by neo-Nazis who will inevitably lead the destruction of land which is home to Russian brethren. Ukraine has been increasingly making efforts to join the European Union and establish connections with NATO after the fall of the pro-Russian government

in 2014, making that statement partially true. When Yanukovych, the fourth Ukrainian President left office, Russia increasingly felt that the West was reaching its borders. Therefore, as an act of retaliation, Russia invaded the Crimean Peninsula. The same strategy is being implemented this time around, and Putin can craft out a narrative of an aggressive West. Given the historically strong sense of nationalism amongst all Russians, such a stance directly speaks to them resulting in an overwhelming support and approval of Putin.

The second aspect of this argument is the so-called 'neo-Nazi' Ukrainian leadership; another example of his mastery in manipulating information. There is a faction in Eastern Ukraine that believes in this so-called 'neo-Nazi' ideology. However, its influence is limited to a single 'oblast' (province) in Ukraine. Putin's national address made absurd references to this group, mentioning how Zelensky and his deputy endorsed this ideology, corrupting Ukrainian leadership and destroying the lives of Russians in the country. With remotely connected visuals related to the ruling government in Kyiv, Putin reiterated his hopes of reunification in order to avoid the turmoil that such

(Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page.) violent neo-Nazi ideologies can bring, making his narrative more convincing to the public. Throughout this invasion, Putin’s relentless resolve to establish this trust with the public is evident, proving to them incessantly that military aggression is important

and needed. Since entering office he has always had strong views, always rooting for the reunification of the mighty Soviet Union. Though his ambitions are farfetched, his deliberate steps towards developing a juggernaut capable of convincing his public to support a ruinous war has

had them put their faith in their beloved leader. Putin’s resolve to execute his preposterous plans uncovers a fascinating leader, one who isn’t hesitant and proves to be the single largest threat to the West.

CALLING THE SHOTS

The following are the appointments for the academic year 2022-2023:

- MFL Society: Veraj Goel
- Quiz Club: Gursanjan Natt
- Adventure Club: Kapil Thapli

Model United Nations:

- President: Krishang Arora
- Secretary General: Maharshi Roy
- Deputy Secretary General: Shaurya Goenka
- Director General: Tejveer Dhingra
- Executive Director: Gurmehar Bedi

Kudos!

ERRATA

In the announcement printed on page 2 under the heading “New Faces At The Helm” in Issue No. 2635, the Weekly incorrectly stated that Veer Nigam had been appointed boy-in-charge of Assembly Talks (English), when, in fact, Yuvraj Sarda had been appointed. The Weekly deeply regrets this error.

“

Build your own dreams, or someone else will hire you to buld theirs.

Farrah Gray

LITERARY LEADERS

The following are the appointments for the academic year 2022-2023:

- DSIR: Editor-in-Chief: Gurmehar Bedi Chief-of-Design: Rohan Taneja Himayat: Editor-in-Chief: Paras Agarwal Chief-of-Design: Avi Sahni Infinity: Editor-in-Chief: Harsh Tibrewala Chief-of-Production: Aarush Saxena VIBGYOR: Editor-in-Chief: Shreyan Mittal Chief-of-Production: Katyayan Kanodia

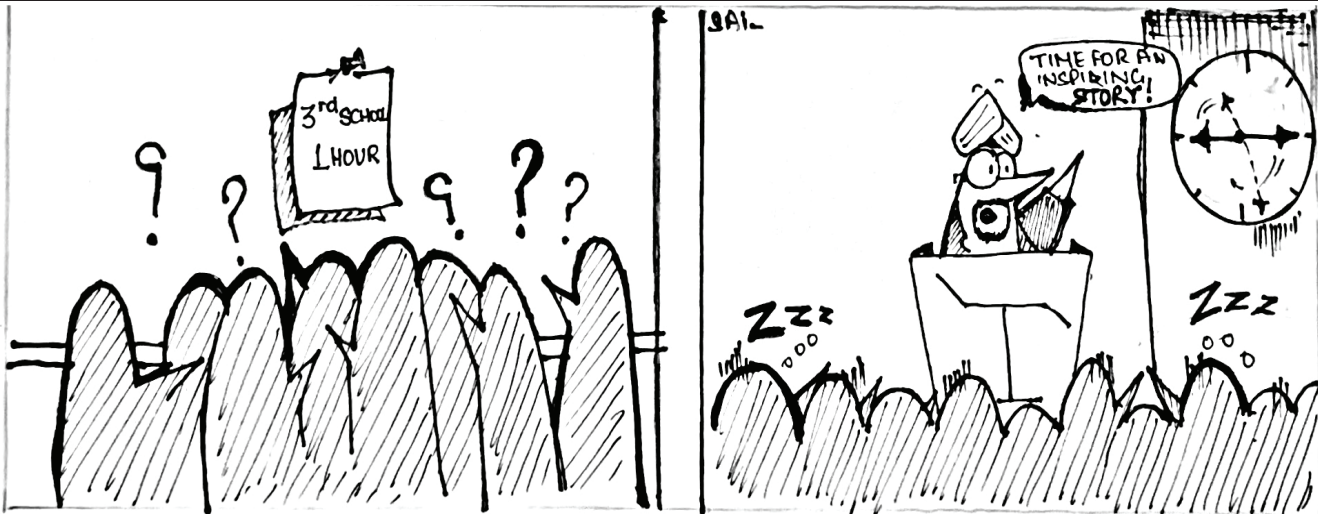
Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

A Boeing 737 carrying 132 people crashed in China. Ukraine’s refugee exodus exceeded 3.6 million. Temperatures in Antarctica were 30 degrees celsius above average. Facebook and Instagram were banned and declared ‘extremist’ by a Russian court. The U.S. formally recognized Myanmar’s military actions against the country’s Rohingya minority as a “genocide”. Chile entered the UN Escazu Agreement, a landmark environmental treaty. Rafael Nadal’s winning streak came to an end, after a loss to Taylor Fritz in the Indian Wells Masters.

Dosco Doodle

Time Flies Sai Arjun



'Leaders' Of The World

Arjun Prakash

The chairman arrives, silence strikes, countries hold their breath.

The agenda at hand, plan in papers, debate is all that is left.

The proud diplomats occupy a sea of vacant seats, as New York prepares to host another UN Security Council meeting.

Secretary-General: Good evening delegates, I would like to initiate an unmoderated caucus for five minutes, the floor is now yours.

Assistant (*whispers*): Sir, this isn't an MUN.

Secretary-General: Apologies, please bear with me for a few minutes, kind of new to this.

Big Boris: Let me take the lead. Fellow diplomats, we have gathered here to discuss an important issue, one that the U.K feels strongly about. But before that, could someone please pour me a cuppa tea? Earl Grey would be nice. These meetings always seem to worsen my appetite (*unintelligible British noises*).

Macron: Speaking of appetites, I find it rather amusing that the UK has no outright cuisine. They are the land of bad weather and stolen cultures.

Modi: I'd like to second that thought, they stole our food and made it their national dish. Finally, a sanction-worthy crime!

Vlad: Russia does not associate herself with all this tea business. Russians love Vodka. All Russians from Kamchatka to Kyiv.

Zelensky: The only Russians in Kyiv are those soldiers of yours.

Big Boris: Alright then, what's this soldier-stuff all about?

Big Boris was met with an array of deathly stares. Don't be a Boris.

Secretary-General: Good evening once again. The events that have unfolded in Eastern Europe pose a threat to world peace, and it is our duty to protect the stakeholders involved. In the hope of reaching a peaceful resolution, I hereby open the floor to debate and discussion.

(Zelensky stands up, with a sense of déjà vu)

Zelensky: Fellow leaders, this issue stretches far beyond the Instagram memes and Twitter violations, the people of Ukraine need your help. Russia is a very large bully, and has invaded us. We require the international community's help in stopping this heinous crime from developing further. President Putin has plans that are beyond my understanding, and I can only hope and pray that he stops playing with his military toys.

Trudeau: How dire is the situation?

Zelensky: It has the potential to wipe the entire human race from existence. All it takes is one bad decision, which is why I urge Mr Putin to enter negotiations

with the Ukrainian government.

Diplomats: (*Gasp*)

Other diplomats: (*Laugh*)

Jinping (*whispers*): I can see why he gave up the comedy gig.

Joe: But why should we help? The U.S has no intention of fighting another proxy war unless it has the potential of disrupting the new world order.

Zelensky: This is practically our 9/11.

American Diplomats: (*scream*)

Joe: Never mind.

(With a great sense of entitlement, the Taliban representative stands up)

Taliban: We strongly condemn Russia's attempt to annex Ukraine.

The Taliban was also met with a lineup of deathly stares, perhaps not the best reputation to uphold.

Vlad: I have observed that this discussion has commenced on the wrong foot. Firstly, the correct term is 'military operation', as we have no intentions of harming the people of... whatever. Secondly, the world needs to calm down. I have a black belt in judo and I have never seen my opponent react in such an untimely manner to my moves. Ukraine's claims of being 'invaded' are as weak like the cocktails they drink-throw.

(Secretary-General interrupts)

Secretary-General: I would like to remind the diplomats to keep a professional register. We are here to settle disputes, not ignite them further with playground insults.

Trudeau: We would like to borrow the words of our national pride, poet and billionaire philanthropist, Drake, to express our views on this entire shebang. "Tables turn, bridges burn, you live and learn." However, humanity's time to 'live and learn' is over, we must now take action. Therefore, Canada condemns the oppression of the Ukrainian people, as their homeland is being unrightfully taken from them.

Modi: I just want to make friends, I don't want beef (*quite literally*). Hence, India's decision to remain neutral in this conflict stands its ground.

Secretary-General: Despite the overwhelming majority of nations condemning Russia's actions, would anyone like to offer a viable solution? We have practically reached nowhere and I am getting late for the Nets game. This meeting has run its course.

Kim, the other one (*thinking out loud*): To nuke, or not to nuke? That is the ultimate question.

(a familiar orange-haired figure storms into the hall)

Trump: Who started this meeting without me?

The Week Gone By

Saatvik Anand

As winter slowly creeps away, the long-forgotten summer uniforms and sweaty floaters have once again been pulled out. Just in time to welcome the arrival of Promotional Trials on campus. The Sc Form, who would usually be on their way home now, find themselves cooped up in their studies, only coming out for the occasional coffee and Maggi break as they enter the thick of their *pre-boards*. Chandbagh, now dotted

with dark circles and hunched backs, witnesses Doscoss scurrying in panic as they try their best to complete syllabuses sabotaged by the procrastination prevalent during the pandemic.

Like always some students are resorting to the Main Building toilets to do their work for them after their worst fears seem to be coming true due to the recent prohibition imposed on smartwatches. Although back to back examinations terrorise the School, the sound of hockey sticks clashing against each other can still be heard all over campus as Doscoss impatiently wait to get another taste of an Inter-House tournament.

In the midst of all this, the S Form prepares itself for newly appointed positions, as they endure their much-anticipated interviews. The race for the School poster boy still seems to be on as certain individuals can be spotted hopping around from House to House, making stops at Masters houses and in the rooms of Juniors. The suspense of the next two weeks seems to be bringing out the Machiavellian tendencies of my dear batchmates.

With only a week left until Doon returns to being a full house, I wish all my fellow Doscoss the very best of luck getting through this set of examinations and see you all on the other side.

Wordsearch | Formula One

1. This driver won the first Grand Prix of the 2022 season.
2. The French manufacturer Alpine was formerly known as this F1 team before 2021.
3. This former Haas driver was forced out of his team due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict
4. This driver is currently the record holder for the most number of podium finishes
5. This former Ferrari driver is currently tied for the most number of World Championships
6. This former World Champion, regarded as one of the greatest ever, died as a result of a fatal accident on track
7. This is the term used for an instruction to get new tyres, repairs, and mechanical adjustments
8. The first ever Championship Grand Prix was held here.
9. He is the youngest ever F1 Grand Prix winner.
10. This driver is famously known as ‘The Honey Badger’.

Q J U I U V K Y F Z R U U T C S X R R B
E D J L E C L E R C X O E J L D B E O P
Q K L N C X Z Y D I F K Y W E K H Y A A
Q R G H E L M X I P C E O J K C S K H M
D N A V U W B S X M O C C M A D E P I F
V P H Y L R F I L N P G I M U U L U P Z
G K W H O V F L I F I T U A O R V O I E
H A Q W W M T V A E C H K H R C Z F T M
F D O F V D J E W F C C Z A Q D K M S V
D Q Z H I Z M R T S I G J M D J O D T B
D C A D E B I S E F P Y Z I J A N Z O B
G R K P L M B T S Q O M N L T Y T O P M
B X E C J X I O A Z F W J T V A K E X A
S H S N I R D N O L D A G O S T P T N Z
Z G Z G A A S E Y D K R M N U A F V M E
F X B R N U O M A L O G N R N M H Y F P
O D O N E A L S I H H Y J C H F M A A I
Y Z E A B X W T R N S D Q Q T R E V V N
B S V E R S T A P P E N F J I Q D O C S
C R F P F O Q S J M G N A R H D K W F L

- Answer
1. Leclerc
 2. Renault
 3. Mazepin
 4. Hamilton
 5. Schumacher
 6. Senna
 7. Pitstop
 8. Silverstone
 9. Verstappen
 10. Ricciardo

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