Service Before Self

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Lt General Ravin Khosla, the Chief Guest of Founder’s Day 2022.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): There has been a massive decline in people wanting to join the Army as officers. What, according to you, is the reason for this?

Lt General Ravin Khosla (RVK): I think it’s basically because there are a lot of personal options available to youngsters who are graduating from good schools and colleges, like The Doon School. That could be a reason. And the other of course is that maybe the new generations are getting used to technology, and as a result, their comfort levels have increased. These things were not available in our time. The Army is obviously somewhere one needs to be quite tough, due to the kind of environment where we serve. I think possibly these could be a few important reasons.

DSW: What are your views on the Agnipath scheme? Do you think it will be effective in recruiting people to join the Indian Army or do you think it’s commodifying the notion of the Army?

RVK: Well, actually the Agnipath scheme is a major HR transformation system and honestly, at the moment it’s a little difficult to tell how it will actually pan out. We will have to wait for another four to five years when the first cohort begins to exit the system. That’s really when we get a sense of how the scheme will work.

So, it’s a little early to comment on the efficacy of the scheme right now.

DSW: In a country where unemployment is such a huge issue, the Army gave secure employment to a huge demographic of young Indians, especially from communities that don’t have the same opportunities we as Doscos may have. Do you think the Agnipath scheme will even the playing ground?

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Doscos who are serving are doing well. They are doing well because they are being groomed well; the School grooms you well. We are groomed basically to be leaders, and that’s what the Army needs.

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RVK: Actually, we at the Army are asking ourselves that very question. The fact is that what it will do is it will generate a lot more employment but for a shorter duration. So, what it is going to do is that currently a soldier, when he or she joins, will exit only after a minimum of 17 years of service. What the Agnipath scheme will do is that 75% of each cohort will exit the Army every four years. This will create more opportunities. And the sense is that this person who exits after four years in the Army will have some skill sets. He is disciplined, he’s physically fit, and therefore the sense is that he will probably be able to contribute to society. Indian society should gain more through the services of the Armed Forces. And this is one of the ways in which I think it can improve.

DSW: What can we as civilians expect in the development of indigenous technologies such as the Bharat Forge Kalyani M4 armoured vehicle, and other similar technologies?

RVK: This is a very positive development. What has happened is that by driving this atma nirbharta and insisting that the Armed Forces buy indigenous equipment, it is a step in the right direction because ultimately any strong Army cannot solely rely on equipment which has been purchased because there’s always a worry that at critical times like at war, there may be some sanctions or restrictions placed on the import of that particular equipment or parts. Therefore, if the Army has to be strong and self-reliant you need to have indigenous

(Continued on Page 3)
DARK KNIGHTS
The Scholar's Blazer has been awarded to Aditya Gupta, Ahan Jayakumar, Devank Agarwalla, Gurmehar Bedi, Satvik Petwal and Tamish Agarwal.

Kudos!

TOPSPIN
The School participated in the All-India IPSC Table Tennis Championship 2022 held at the Emerald Heights School, Indore. Following are the results:

In the Team Event, the School Team won the Bronze Medal in the U-14 and U-19 categories, and won a Silver Medal in the U-17 category.

In the U-17 individual category, Shreedhar Gupta won a Bronze Medal and Aditya Dungarpur won a Gold Medal.

Congratulations!

LEADERS OF TOMORROW
The School participated in the Young India Leadership Program organised by Muniversiti and AFS - India. Aryavardhan Agarwal and Neil Kashyap were declared All-India Winners in their categories.

Well done!

“Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.”
— Plato

KINGS OF THE BOARD
The following are the results of the Inter-House Chess Competition:

Juniors:
1st: Oberoi
2nd: Jaipur and Hyderabad
4th: Kashmir and Tata

Mediums:
1st: Oberoi
2nd: Kashmir
3rd: Jaipur
4th: Tata and Hyderabad

Seniors:
1st: Kashmir
2nd: Oberoi
3rd: Jaipur
4th: Tata
5th: Hyderabad

House:
1st: Oberoi
2nd: Kashmir
3rd: Jaipur
4th: Tata
5th: Hyderabad

Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words
British Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned just six weeks after she took office. Pictures of the Nord Stream gas pipelines showed a 50-metre hole, following massive explosions. The European Union imposed sanctions on the Iranian-made drones supplied to Russia. Indonesia banned the sale of all liquid and syrup medicines after the death of 99 children due to substances that caused acute kidney infections. Manchester United beat Tottenham Hotspurs 2-0 at Old Trafford. The T-20 World Cup kicked off in Australia.
capabilities. You have named some of these companies such as Kalyani Forge, but there are others. You have the Tatas, you have L&T and you have a number of other companies. Moreover, today there are a lot of start-ups with these niche technologies. For example, new technologies, like drones, are an upcoming field, and we did not have the required capability for this, we were importing them from China. Now suddenly that market has been shut out, so we’re actually developing them ourselves. We are actually excited about the fact that there are young kids, 25-26, just out of their I.I.T’s who are actually producing good quality stuff which can be utilised by the Armed Forces. So, I think it’s a good step, but, of course, it will take some time because you cannot suddenly create an ecosystem. They need investment; they need a lot of money to be invested; they need the infrastructure to come up. So it will take some time and for that, we will need to buy some time, but it is a step in the right direction.

DSW: What are your views on the recently introduced One Rank One pension scheme? Do you believe the Army would dedicate a larger part of its budget to pensions or to technology?

RVK: It cannot always be this or that. Both are requirements as the Armed Forces, by nature of the job contract, have been assured of pensionary benefits at the end of their service. This is not just unique to India, but rather the whole world. So, having said that, yes, there is a concern that the pensionary budget has been increasing. And there are some steps to be taken to decrease the pensionary budget. At the end of the day, the Armed Forces have to get a bigger share of the pie of the overall finance. The percentage that the Armed Forces are currently getting is definitely lower than most international standards.

DSW: What about the increase in the Union budget, while we can see a decrease in the education budget?

RVK. In term of percentage, the budget is not increasing, the budget itself is increasing. So hypothetically, out of ten thousand crores, you get a hundred crores, out of fifteen thousand crores you get hundred and fifty crores. The increase is not as substantial as it seems to be. So of course, there is a war on, Russians themselves are spending a lot of their inventory which they had on missiles and on bombs etc. So that much less is available for export purposes, but the fact is currently they are able to meet the requirements of their armed forces. Currently, the equipment is already under procurement. Like the S-400 you mentioned, as of now, they have promised that they will stick to the schedule. But, of course, if this war continues to drag on longer, then how will it manifest is again something that we are worried about, as I said, they will have to dig deeper in their inventories and then, that much less is available for export. So, it will have an impact, and ultimately what it will do is push us further to indigenous production, which is actually good for us in the long run.

DSW: Would you recommend the Army as a career for a Dosco? Why or why not?

RVK: Yes, I believe the Army is a good option. It’s a stable and honourable career. And Doscos are eminently suited because of the type of grooming we have in School. We are groomed basically to be leaders, and that’s what the Army needs. So I can just quote a figure. It’s a great time today, probably the greatest in the history of the School. Currently, we have three Lieutenant General equivalent Officers serving at the same time, and as you know, statistically, the percentage of Lt. Generals to Officers in the Army is 0.18%. So it obviously means that those Doscos who are serving are doing well. They are doing well because they are being groomed well; the School grooms basically to be leaders, and that’s what the Army needs. So I can just quote a figure. It’s a great time today, probably the greatest in the history of the School. Currently, we have three Lieutenant General equivalent Officers serving at the same time, and as you know, statistically, the percentage of Lt. Generals to Officers in the Army is 0.18%. So it obviously means that those Doscos who are serving are doing well. They are doing well because they are being groomed well; the School grooms you well. You take on challenges, like the midterm treks you have, outings, you know you have a lot of exposure. Games and PT make you physically fitter than the average person who comes out of other schools. I think it’s a great option to serve in the Army since you get to serve in wonderful places. I served all over the country. I’ve been to the Andamans. I stayed there for two years. I have served in Himachal, J&K, Ladakh, and the desert. So, you very much get to serve all around the country, places where normal citizens can’t go.
A Whimsical Evening

Maanat Bhadani reviews the Founder’s Hindi Play.

The Hindi Founder’s Day play named *Taj Mahal Ka Tender* in my opinion encapsulates different aspects of reality through a fictionalised and satirical retelling of history. The play was successful, not only in its attempt to promote awareness against corruption, but also did a commendable job of entertaining the audience with its humorous dialogue and dance. The plot of the play included Shah Jahan, who wished to construct the Taj Mahal in memory of his late wife, Mumtaz. He ends up being made a fool of by Gupta Ji, who had ulterior motives in his quest for copious amounts of profit. In doing so Gupta Ji encounters a number of people who try to act as obstacles in his way to success, somehow, these people end up making profits from the great Taj Mahal. As the play began, the cast did not fail to entertain the audience, as the plot unfolded in a comical manner. Every new character entered from a different background and spoke a different language. I personally loved certain characters such as Dhruru Lal. Chopra Ji’s unique entrance seemed to entertain the entire audience as well. However, as the proceedings of the play went on, there were some repetitive moments and gags. In spite of the repetitiveness, the humour remained intact.

Along with the comical characters, let’s not be quick to forget the clerk sitting at the back of the office, who added to the comic nature of the play. Special credits to the organic and hysterical performances by Gupta Ji and his assistant Sudhir. The play *Taj Mahal Ka Tender* portrayed multiple elements of reality in a fictional manner, with its creative and funny storyline. A parallel theme of the play was the sheer strength of love which was exhibited through the portrayal of Shah Jahan who was driven only by his desire to immortalise his love for Nur Jahan. The play should be lauded for its novel approach to revealing India’s present corrupt system while alluding to history.

Of Mystery and Melodrama

Aaron Fareed reviews the Founder’s English Play.

The play *Gaslight* was written by Patrick Hamilton, in which the theme of psychological abuse, power and control, and masculinity are portrayed through the vivid depiction of the antagonist, Mr Manningham. The term ‘gaslighting’, has been derived from this play itself which is a form of psychological abuse. This form of abuse involves a perpetrator trying to convince a victim that they are losing their sanity, essentially asserting their control.

The play involved Mrs Manningham, once a beautiful woman, now pale and fragile, who suffers from what she believes are the early stages of insanity – a disease from which her mother died. Her husband, Mr Manningham, struggles to help her and spends his evenings out in town in order to cope, or so he makes her believe.

Mrs Manningham evidently misplaces items from time to time, some of which are gifts from her husband. Because she cannot remember moving or misplacing these items, she thinks she is going crazy. It becomes clear, however, that her husband is the reason for these petty inconsistencies, scrambling at an attempt to torture her into believing they are her fault.

Things take a turn when late one evening, a detective comes to the house while Mr Manningham is out and signals that he is there to protect Mrs Manningham from her controlling husband. Through the course of the play’s riveting plot, questions arise and secrets are revealed about her husband. Suddenly, ‘insanity’ is no longer the biggest threat she faces as she discovers she has married a dangerous man.

The antagonist is like a parasite who slowly weakens and suffocates his counterpart.

The play is a rollercoaster of emotions, with a lot of confusion and tension expressed through the actors’ expressions. The antagonist is like a parasite who slowly weakens and suffocates his counterpart.

I absolutely loved the interaction between the characters, the ongoing tension, and best of all, Mrs Manningham’s monologue at the end. It is indeed thrilling to see the underdog fight against her bully and reclaim her agency. The symbolism of the flickering light was also beautifully portrayed in the play. Furthermore, I really liked the role of Rough, the detective, who brought suspense and entertainment through his characterisation. The play had an element of humour too, which was delivered brilliantly by Nancy, a servant of the Manningham household. Her character’s wit and charm lightened up the serious atmosphere of the play. Overall, the play was powerful, entertaining, and immensely captivating for an audience of all ages — well-suited for the occasion of Founder’s Day.
What does it mean when we read the news headlines that India has displaced the UK to become the fifth-largest economy in the world? Well, before we get into the tumultuous story of the growth of the Indian economy, I would like to draw the attention of my readers to some objective facts about the economy. India has a population which is twenty times that of the UK but on the per-capita income front, we are one-twentieth of theirs. This explains the large gap which exists in the living standards between the people of the two countries. It is important to understand some of the paradoxes which beset our economy, its causes, and possible solutions.

According to recently-published data, the growth of the Indian economy has been 13.5% in the first quarter of this financial year, the highest among all the emerging economies of the world. This is against the negative base of last year’s growth in the first quarter. Experts have pointed out that by the end of the financial year the real growth rate will perhaps be 4% if things go well. The RBI’s projected growth rate of 7.2% does not seem possible with high interest rates and persistently high commodity prices in the foreseeable future. A 4% growth rate is far below the minimum required to absorb the rising labor force in the country. Here it is also pertinent to mention that the actual GDP levels have just reached the pre-Pandemic 2019-20 levels of output, with real growth probably close to 1% according to some estimates.

To get some context first, let us go back a few years and understand things from the perspective of the Pandemic and the two major policies, demonetisation and the GST, preceding it. Today’s battered MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector has a story to tell. Demonetisation left a trail of disaster for the MSME sector. The original intention of wiping out black money failed completely as 99% of the cash came back to the banks. The micro and small-scale sectors in India are not banked. This halted transactions and stopped income generation. With 86% of the currency demonetised, it was not possible to generate ten years of cash in just one year which created a huge paucity of cash, the lifeblood of small-scale sectors in the unorganised segment of the economy. The government shifted its claim to the success of digitisation of the economy once it realised that the original idea of curbing black money had failed.

Paradoxically, the cash to GDP ratio in the country has gone up despite the rise in digitisation although this is not an indicator of corruption. Further, GST helped in reducing the cost to the large organised sectors by providing input credits. In the absence of computers this facility was not available to the small-scale sectors, thus increasing their cost. This caused the closure of lakhs of small units and resulted in the shifting of demand from the unorganised sector to the organised, large firms fuelling their growth and the growth of the economy.

The organised sector employs 6% of the labor force and provides 55% of the output in the country. The figures for the unorganised sector are 94% and 45% respectively. The MSMEs are responsible for 30% of the jobs in the country. Currently, finance to the MSME sector has dried up after formalisation of the financial sector, because of which job creation in the country is suffering immensely. The labor force participation rate in the country is 40% which means out of 100 people in the working age group, sixty are not applying for jobs. Although unemployment is a major issue today, it is the problem of underemployment which needs to be understood in the Indian context. The growth of the Indian economy is the result of the growth of the large-scale sectors in the organised segment, which probably indicates that the unorganised sector has shrunk or not grown at all. Ever since the beginning of the five-year plans in India, the thrust has been on the development of the large-scale sector to bring about the overall economic growth of the economy.

In the early years the growth rate was around 4% per annum till the inception of the LPG programme in India in the early nineties. The service sector contributes to 60% of the GDP and employs only 30% of the workforce. This sector has been growing at a rate of 20 to 25% but the amount of employment has not grown in tandem. So, the growth of the organised sector is failing to absorb the surplus labour of the unorganised sector. There is also an increasing trend of casualisation of workers and employing contract labourers. This keeps them under the constant threat to save their jobs otherwise they will end up in low-paid unorganised sector work for a living as the government here does not provide unemployment benefits. This is increasing the gap between the rich and the poor in the country, where 21% of the population is below the already low poverty line. Suicide rates among the daily wage earners has doubled in the last eight years from 12% to 25% now. During the pandemic we saw a reverse migration as migrant workers leaving the city went back to agriculture leading to a rise in demand for MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act). This gap in technology between the organised and the unorganised sector is huge, which

(Continued overleaf)
According to NITI Aayog, India’s gross expenditure on research and development is one of the lowest in the world, around 0.7% of the GDP or $43 per capita. India’s expenditure on research and development, health, and education has been dismal. Until and unless we raise the expenditure of these areas, the technological gap between organised and unorganised sectors, and between India and the advanced countries, will be hard to bridge. This will continue to perpetuate our reliance on China and the West. Efforts must be made to recognise the importance of the small-scale sectors and shift away from the neo-liberal corporate sector growth model to avoid exacerbation of poverty and underemployment. in the country.

Chekhov’s Gun

Vivaan Sood

Brandished with that forbidding trigger, he would remember how so many years ago, when he was still a reticent young boy, he would feign clairvoyance to rouse the masters, giving the effect that, despite his simple beginnings, he had the gift of the gods. His prescience was of course not god-given, but rather the outcome of a convoluted solution to his problems, chief among which was the opposition he and his family had to the authorities in their town. They brought with them their diplomats and representatives of the government sent to bring order to the town which didn’t need any.

He boasted of his psychic skill to these magisterial men who giggled and stuffed themselves, and he did so for them all throughout the interminable hours of the night, for otherwise his family would be forced to work for their share of the tribute to the magistrate or face the trigger. He would cast prophecies that made these men feel happy, simple prophecies that he himself contrived using nothing more than a day’s work. Since these prophecies were so inconsequential, after a certain point, the men didn’t even bother checking if they had proven true.

The magistrates brought them besides the introduction of tributes: a group of six lame soldiers, who for lack of any other skills, had been inducted into the army and assigned to this ‘lackluster’ town, equipped with guns they dared not ever use, but rather used them are devices that threatened the townspeople; enterprising merchants who set up shop in the town, seeing it as an untapped market, charming the locals with their novel instruments and toys, forcing uninspired parents to spend inordinate sums of money (another result of the tributes and tariffs) to pacify their children; the introduction of a strict schedule with an inexplicably early and strictly enforced curfew; as well as the magistrate’s control over the bell tower, and regiment was put in place that everyone was to follow, so that the town could maximise its productivity for tributes; and fourthly, and most dire consequence of the magistrate’s entrance into the town, the introduction of the trigger, a weapon that had supposedly been put in place to ease the magistrate’s introduction into the town, but now was a device that necessitated ambitious gambits in order to escape it, and one that, so many years later, he would hold while facing the magistrate.

His ruse was sustained well through his teenagehood, until one day, without any recent provocation, arose in him the need to describe a convoluted prophecy involving the magistrate’s wife and her death at the hands of a wasp. Now, for the first time, the men ceased the party, and all that remained were seven disconcerted stares toward the soothsayer. He did not know what drove him to tell of such a prophecy, and it certainly did not help that a few days later, the magistrate’s wife was stung by a wasp near the creek, producing a previously unknown allergic reaction to which the dispensary had no remedy to. Perhaps this was the result of a long-buried hatred for the magistrate and all that it had brought with it, and the constant paranoia he had lived in for the past eight years, or perhaps it was because he really was indeed endowed with the gift of clairvoyance.

Either way, he was arrested for his supposed involvement in the death of the wife of the magistrate and sent to work off a tribute that he would not be able to pay off in this lifetime or the next. Nothing could be said of the plight of his family since shortly after he was arrested, he had heard that they too were supposedly arrested, but beyond that, he knew nothing of their fate. This he regarded as lucky since he would live better in blissful ignorance than knowledge of what had actually happened to them, on the other end of the trigger, which a part of him knew, the same part that drove him to threaten the use of the trigger in front of the magistrate.

Over the years as he worked off his tribute, he lost a number of things, the first of which was control over his own time and volition. The second thing he lost was his gift of clairvoyance, the same thing that had (Continued on the next page)
damn him to a lifetime of drudgery, as hours and days blended into an indecipherable flow that swept him away, where time ceased to be linear and instead happened all at once in his eyes. All through countless threats of the trigger, and moments where his subconscious forced his body to collapse, he ached for the day his body would give up, and he would be released of his torment.

Soon, an air of pestilence surrounded him, and he remained immobilised in his cell. At that point, he could not remember his days as a young charlatan, or his family, or his hometown regardless of how much he tried and yearned for it. He could not remember at all, and instead his mind only existed in the moment, motionless. Even as the cell doors opened, and a voice picked him up and guided him outside, his mind remained in a state of stupor, and it was only until, with the guidance of a pointed finger, that it regained its fervour and he could now remember, for at the other end was the trigger. Now he recognised the voice that guided him as an old friend of his from his town posing as a guard, and now he remembered why he had come in the first place. His indignation with the rule of the magistrate had driven him to pick up the trigger and take it to the magistrate. It was at this moment that he remembered how so many years ago, as a little boy, his hatred of the magistrate was born, and had driven him to take every single action in his life that had led him here, and there, at long last, he faced the fearful magistrate brandished with that dreadful trigger, and he let his thumb fall.

A Melodic Evening

Avighna Daruka writes about the Founder’s Day Music Production.

Music is a form of expression that we saw on display during the Founder’s day music production. This year, we had a music production called “Swaranubhuti” meaning ‘Musical Experience’.

The opening piece of the Music Production was the Game of Thrones theme by Ramin Djawadi, I personally believe that the opening piece was the perfect start to an eventful production. The moderation of the piano in the middle of the piece was upbeat, however, I also felt it was slightly artificial. I also felt that the combination of the synthesiser and the guitar which was rather appealing.

The middle section of the production contained various different Indian classical pieces, but I was pleasantly surprised to see the blend of Western and Hindustani orchestras to create an atmosphere that resonated within the Rose Bowl audience. The climax in my opinion was the seemingly effortless Tabla solo, the piece that was performed by the Tabalchies was truly a sight to behold. I particularly enjoyed the extremely rapid movement that was conducted during the last piece, the synchronised beats were really entertaining to listen to.

All in all, the music production was a marvel to experience. It was a unique display of Hindustani classical music and Western orchestra, something that I have a lot to learn about. Kudos to all the members of the Music faculty as they have produced something that will be marvelled for years to come.
The Week
Gone By

Shreyan Mittal

The change in the atmosphere inside Chandbagh was palpable as Founder’s Day celebrations came to an end. Though the three-year wait for the festivities was long and arduous, seeing the campus bustling once again with food stalls and parents was a sight to soothe sore eyes. The two-day break also served as precious time for the students to unwind and relax, though the number of Doscos that have been struck with a mysterious illness that convincingly happens to extend their leave until Diwali is slightly suspicious.

The busiest of the bunch during this week had to be the Sc Formers. Whether it be cooped up in the Careers Department trying to increase their Predicted Grades or finishing their college essays at 2 AM, it seems like they just can’t seem to catch a break. The levels of exhaustion can clearly be seen in the dwindling number of students in the classrooms, though the Music and Athletics IPSC competitions made for a good cover.

On the games field, preparations for the Inter-House Athletics Competition is evident with the Doscos marching to the rhythmic beat of the drum in their singlets, the athletes jumping over hurdles, or the Juniors attempting Shot Put for the first time. Some Houses are also seen on Skinners in the early mornings honing their boxing skills, though the amount of time spent running and the time spent actually boxing seems a bit skewed. Despite a couple of complaints arising about the dates of the competitions, in classic Doon School tradition, the allure of Colours and the Games Blazer eventually prevailed.

The decoration of Masters’ houses with rangolis and lights heralds the arrival of Diwali. While many students will spend the weekend celebrating it with their friends and family, some students apparently plan to spend it at the Founder’s celebrations of our sister school. In the end, I would like to wish a speedy recovery to all those stuck at home, and for those taking a trip to see our lady counterparts, all the very best!

Wordsearch | Mental Illnesses and Disorders

1. Batman, the famous superhero is known to have this mental illness which is caused by traumatic events and is associated with many war veterans.
2. A disorder associated with episodes of mood swings ranging from depressive lows to manic highs.
3. A mental disorder in which people interpret reality abnormally, causing them to hallucinate.
4. A mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest.
5. This illness features a pattern of unwanted thoughts and fears that leads to a pattern of repetitive behaviour.
6. Intense, excessive, and persistent worry and fear regarding everyday situations, related to things like stress, is said to cause this common condition.
7. One of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders amongst children; this causes people to have trouble paying attention and controlling impulsive behaviours, as well as making them become overly active.
8. A term used to describe a group of symptoms affecting memory, thinking, and social abilities is called________.

Source: https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/wordsearch/#top