

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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Aspirations, Actions, Achievements

Mr Manu Mehrotra reflects on how each batch must lead the School together irrespective of which individuals actually hold the leadership positions.

The annual series of appointments in the leadership positions across sports, activities, and the Houses, also brings with it many disappointments. The ubiquitous question that naturally arises in the minds of those feeling disappointment is, 'What did I lack that I did not become whatever it is that I was expecting or wanting to become?' We have happiness, excitement, sense of fulfilment on the one hand, and sadness and a bit of resentment on the other. The ones who make it, also have a wonderful opportunity to work for the collective good. The ones who do not make it, too have an opportunity to do the same thing, albeit without a position.

It is a function of several factors are whether students get the position they covet. Some of those factors are, the track record in School, contribution to the respective areas, leadership potential as seen by those who make the appointments, and the behaviour towards the community. The list of aforementioned factors is not an exhaustive one.

The regrettable and avoidable part in this affair is that the ones who do not get a position or the position they wanted, tend to sometimes wonder what went wrong or where they were lacking. This brings with

itself negative thoughts, hurt to one's self-esteem, and rationalisations, often unjustified ones, for their situation. At times it also leads to straining of relationships that have been built over many years. I have always wondered, how such ephemeral things at times impact the long-lasting ones!

Being very good at an activity does not necessarily mean that you

**I have always urged
students to focus
on *doing something*
and not *becoming
something*.**

are very good at leading people in that activity. The best player is not necessarily the best captain, and the best actor may not make the best director, or in case of us adults, the best teacher in the classroom may not be the ideal head of the institution. The skill set needed for any role and those for leading people in that role is vastly different and at times we tend to forget that.

I think the problem is also when the ones who do not get a position are unable to fathom why they

missed the bus and why someone else got to board it. But then, even if the reason is given, would that satisfy the individual in question? Not necessarily, and understandably so, because of differing perspectives. The matter gets more complicated when the ones who get the position display meritocratic hubris.

There will always be more people who are deserving than there are posts. If we assume that all those who we think are deserving can do the job equally, then how do we rationalise choosing one over the other? Such situations of choosing the best one from many are not rare and on occasions, I have found my own self wanting. After making the long list, should I have just picked chits to make my selections, or would that have been sacrilegious? I do not know.

In the larger scheme of things, we need to work towards the common good, which is about strengthening and deepening the bonds that we have and not about a scramble for positions, awards, and rewards.

I have always urged students to focus on *doing something* and not on *becoming something*.

Focus on the former and it will help you pick up skills and engage meaningfully with your interest and

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DIVERGENT TALENTS

Following are the results of the Inter-House Squash Competition:

Juniors:

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

Seniors:

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

Mediums:

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

House Cup:

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

Congratulations!

MIGHT OF THE PEN

Following are the results of the The Bakhle Essay Competition:

Juniors:

Runner Up: Harshil Makin
Winner: Krishiv Jaiswal

Seniors:

Runner Up: Yashvat Nandan
Winner: Tejas Sharma

Well done!

“

No man is good enough to govern another man
without that other's consent

—
Abraham Lincoln

THE WHO?

Who is Paul David Henson?

Aayush Raghuvanshi: An Actor
Samarth Gupta: A Business Tycoon
Anuj Joshi: A Singer

Paul David Henson, known professionally as **Bono**, is an **Irish Songwriter** known for being the lead vocalist and lyricist for Rock Band **U2**, known for songs such as *Where the Streets Have No Names* and *One*. He has received several awards including **22 Grammy Awards**.

MATHEMATIC MAESTROS

A team comprising Aadi Kandeale, Shashwat Singh and Harshil Makin, represented the School at **Infinity Math Competition 2023** organised by the **University of Waterloo** and hosted by **Aditya Birla World Academy, Mumbai**, from **14th to 15th January**.

Aadi Kandeale and Shashwat Singh were the **Second Runners-Up** in the **Individual Round** and received a **Bronze Certificate**.

Kudos!

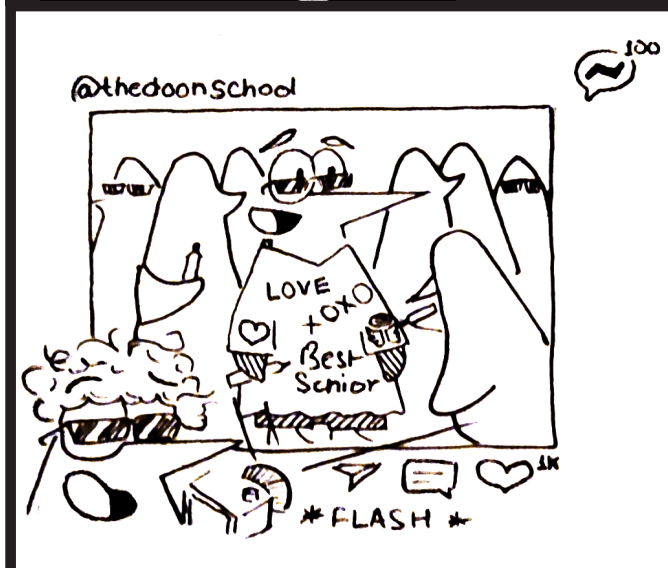
Around the World in 80 Words

ChatGPT became the world's fastest growing app after surpassing a hundred million users in two months. King Charles' portrait will not feature on the Australian five dollar banknote. A suicide bombing at a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan left over a hundred dead. Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released the Union Budget for the Financial Year 23-24. The Indian Women's U-19 national team won the recently concluded U-19 T20 world cup held in South Africa, after beating England in the finals.

Dosco Doodle

Two sides of the same kurta

Pragyan Goel



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with the people around you. In the event that you do not become something, the skills that you picked up will still go a long way in helping you lead a holistic life.

There are problems and then there are dilemmas. Problems have solutions, dilemmas need to be managed; and this is a dilemma that

we need to manage. Conversations with the entire student body, and extended discussions with those hoping for some positions, before and after the appointments are announced, are helpful.

To the students who have got and will get positions, I say, 'Good Luck' and urge them to remember that there are many others who are

equally capable, maybe even more so, but the opportunity to serve has come to you; serve well. To the ones who did not get the position, I say, do feel sad, for it makes you human, and then keep your disappointment aside and move on, for that is both human and humane.

Deadlock

Hrishikesh Aiyer *comments on the rising militarisation of Eastern Europe.*

As we enter 2023, the war in Ukraine continues unabated. Russian President Vladimir Putin views his "special military operation" as a life-or-death contest with the US and its NATO allies. The West, for its part, sees the war as a threat to its own security and has thrown its support behind Ukraine's sovereignty. However, framing the conflict as a proxy war between the US and Russia has an inherent flaw. It downplays Ukrainians' spirit, resilience, and daily sacrifices in resisting a mighty neighbour bent on re-establishing a Moscow-centred imperial order across the post-Soviet space. No amount of military or financial assistance to Kyiv would have been enough to thwart the Kremlin's plans. There would have been no ambition if Ukrainians had not been determined to fight back against aggression and revanchism. A key takeaway from this war is that East European countries and nations have agency and are more than just pawns in the power struggles of larger players. And it extends far beyond Ukraine's example.

Poland is now a much more powerful player in European defence than it was previously. It's not just that it's a front-line country that takes in many of the refugees fleeing Ukraine, provides a land route for weapons and humanitarian aid to its neighbour, and sends aid from its own pocket (more than \$3.5 billion so far). The case of Poland is not an exception. Romania's defence budget is expected to exceed the NATO benchmark of 2% of GDP next year. Over the next few years, the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia will also spend 2.5 percent of their GDPs on military expenses.

Indeed, the Eastern flank countries are re-arming massively, with old Soviet-made systems being transferred to Ukraine or scrapped entirely. Eastern Europeans' newly acquired clout within the EU and NATO should also be considered. For many years, Poland and the Baltic states were regarded as being overly hostile to Russia. Germany's cautious approach prevailed, based on the belief that dense commercial links would create commonality of interest with Moscow, and was embraced by other major Western

European powers, including France.

That was true even after Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and the start of the Donbas war in 2014-2015. Europe-watchers will recall French President Emmanuel Macron cheering for France alongside Putin during the 2018 World Cup final in Moscow. Later, Orban was able to obtain an exemption from the EU embargo on Russian goods.

The Druzhba (Friendship) pipeline transports oil to Hungary via Belarus and Ukraine. He also used his veto power over an 18-billion-euro (\$19-billion) aid package for Ukraine as leverage to lift a freeze on EU funds that Brussels had imposed as a condition for his government to implement rule-of-law reforms.

While Hungary's pro-Kremlin stance has hampered efforts to assist Ukraine, it has also contributed to Eastern Europe's growing importance on Brussels' agenda. The EU has demonstrated a much more serious commitment to aspiring candidates along its eastern border in the last ten months. Budapest can claim at least some of the credit for this, as the man in charge of enlargement is Commissioner Oliver Varhelyi, a Hungarian career diplomat.

Furthermore, EU-Western Balkans summit in Tirana on December 6th also demonstrated the EU's commitment to the region. It was also the first time the union's leadership met in a non-member country. During the summit, the EU and Balkan leaders charted a course toward establishing a regional common market. Brussels has promised to invest billions of euros in cross-border infrastructure as well as in "greening" and "digitising" Balkan economies.

Although enlargement of the Western Balkans remains a long shot, Eastern Europe is punching far above its weight. And Putin, of all people, deserves some credit for that. To counter his aggression, he has pushed the region to mobilise both politically and militarily.

The Kremlin's boss would rather discuss European geopolitics with Washington, Berlin, and Paris, while ignoring Warsaw, Bucharest, and Tallinn. However, his interpretation is unquestionably out of date.

The Week Gone By

Abhay Jain

As the new year commences, the halls of the School are once again filled with the sounds of chattering students and shuffling feet. The first week is always a curious mix of excitement and lethargy, as students struggle to adjust to their new routines and shake off the winter sluggishness that inevitably comes with holidays. Nonetheless, there are some who arrived at School prior to us. The A-Form students, in particular, are feeling

the heat, as they brace themselves for the upcoming board exams. While a flurry of activities drives School towards achieving a rhythm, our Sc-Form seems to be slowly, yet inevitably moving towards a world beyond the walls of red and white. With their Boards around the corner, you may have a chance to spot them within their Houses, slogging on heaps and heaps of books, as they prepare for their last and final stretch of exams. Despite the exam anxiety, there is still a sense of excitement in the air. As the Prefect and School Captain election announcements loom closer and closer, more and more S-Formers can be seen desperately waiting on our dear departing Sc's for hints on the new appointments.

Cricket season also kicked off with the start of nearly full-blown practices on the very first day of the term, and the whites can now be seen on the fields for long hours every afternoon. Also, coming to the surprise of many, a new meal plan boasting great variety and nutrition has many on the fence as students try to figure out whether they appreciate the variety of health or mourn the loss of even more flavour and time from their everyday lives. The beginning of the new year is filled with a mix of emotions, from excitement for new opportunities to nervousness for the challenges ahead. All I can recommend is for us DoscOs to put our best foot forward and set a good tone for the year ahead.

Wordsearch | World leaders who died in office

Clues:

1. He led the Union through a Civil War to defend the nation as a constitutional union; while also succeeding in abolishing slavery.
2. She had been assassinated by two of her bodyguards in retaliation for military action at a famed temple.
3. He was regarded as the youngest person to assume the presidency by election. He stood in office at the height of the Cold War.
4. He internationalised the struggle for Indian independence. He also played a leading role in the development of the internationalist outlook of the Indian independence struggle.
5. He fought against Japanese forces in World War II in Burma and Malaya, before opting for Pakistan in 1947.
6. He was an Italian cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church and the president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State.
7. In jail, he dictated the first volume of his autobiography and political manifesto Mein Kampf.

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

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Lincoln | 4. Nehru | 7. Hitler |
| 2. Indira Gandhi | 5. Zia-ul-Haq | |
| 3. JFK | 6. Canali | |

Answers

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

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