

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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## THE MURDER OF HUMANITY

A dream inspired by true events, one about rising above our differences.

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## INDIA'S POLITICAL KALEIDOSCOPE

Even though the year just started, it has been a tumultuous one.

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## STRIKING GOLD?

A perverse need to earn, potentially corrupting ideals of success.

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# The Absent Mentor?

**Avi Bansode** *deliberates on the effectiveness of School's tutorial system.*

I found the idea of the tutoring system in School to be one of the most unique and attractive concepts that fascinated me when I first entered the gates of Chandbagh. When we were explained this system, described as the integral foundation of the flow of communication, we collectively made it a mission to have an engaging synergy with our respective Tutors. However, it did not take long to realise that such a system holds minimal impact on a student's life despite its quasi-presence.

The system was designed by JAK Martyn in an effort to better manage students. The idea was to have a go-to contact in times of distress, or for any matter under the sun. It was a system that, in principle, would alleviate the burden of Housemasters and higher authorities and allocate the work of overseeing a Dosco's development more efficiently. This systemic balance also meant that parents could have direct contact with an adult in School to oversee the student's development — physically, mentally, and emotionally.

One crucial caveat to keep in mind is the fact this system needs to act two ways. It means that while a Junior who feels homesick is consoled by their Tutor, the Junior can also help their Tutor by building an open relationship — even the smallest step can definitely make a difference in the long run. After all, our Masters are only human, with social objectives and a purpose to

fulfil through their teaching and learning. The foundation for this concept as a whole stems from the "flow of communication" our School relies on — it means that a student does not always need to circumvent existing frameworks and rely on parents, especially considering that it circles back to people like the Tutors or the Housemaster anyway.

However, as time has progressed, this system has become largely ostentatious. Through collective observation and empirical evidence, it's safe to say that we all lack connection with our respective Tutors, especially towards the latter stages of our school lives. There's a lack of enthusiasm to attend Tutorial meetings, but more importantly, it is starting to become utilitarian: it happens only for the sake of it. Tutorials nowadays seem to revolve entirely around food (not in a position to blame), defeating the purpose of creating such a synergy in the first place.

Even when Tutorials are happening, the general atmosphere shows that we are lacking meaningful, legitimate discussions about School, or even the world. The role of a Tutor in a student's life has become futile in that sense. Importantly, also, a Tutor's role goes beyond just chatting — it's their responsibility to ensure that activities a student has enrolled in are upheld and done justice to, such as STAs and SUPWs.

More crucially, however, is the

fact that we are failing to instil such a culture in both Junior and Senior forms. Students are the ones expected to uphold this flow of communication for their own benefit, yet it is parents that carry the burden of their children's short-lived distress from thousands of miles away. Similarly, there is increased dependency on Housemasters in terms of accountability and approachability. A Housemaster's duty is to oversee and not to micromanage; this allocation of work needs to be respected.

The point is that within our five or six years of living in Chandbagh, our minds are transformed and shaped. Whether it be in terms of intellect or social skills, there is a clear output: we will never be the same when we leave. The Tutorial System is just one element of what the real world has to offer: mentorship, guidance and dependability.

The fact is that we have to refresh rather than reproach; we need a deeper introspection into what we are expected to do versus what we really end up doing. It is time for us to instil self-checks and self-balances to understand why we cannot keep up with a baseline expectation. It means that Tutorials need to be more engaging, and it needs to be two-way. Inclusivity plays a huge factor in such a group; this is a group where we can take a step back, have informal conversations and deliberate at low stakes but with ceaseless learning.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## This Week in History

**1909 CE:** The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is founded.

**1912 CE:** The last emperor of China, Hsian-T'ung abdicates the Throne.

**1942 CE:** British-Singapore surrenders to Japan in World War 2.

**1960 CE:** France detonates its first Atomic Bomb in the Sahara

**1972 CE:** Cambodians launch attack to retake Angkor Wat from North Vietnamese troops.

**1973 CE:** Release of U.S. POWs begins after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords.

### UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*Aloo is much better than potato.*  
**Manit Jain**, confused choices.

*I am getting goat-scaped.*  
**Aadi Tulsyan**, taking the brunt of grammar.

*After the fourth thing, the third thing is...*  
**RDG**, losing count.

*I told my hair not grow.*  
**Agastya Chamaria**, the last hair bender.

*I also studied in a girls school when I was young boy.*  
**DSI**, gender inclusive.

### MAGNUM CONCILIUM

**Vivaan Sood** has been appointed the School Council Secretary for the Academic Year **2024-2025**.

We wish him a fruitful tenure.

“

Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know and capable of more than you can imagine.

Roy T. Bennett

### LEADING THE FLOCK

The following are the appointments for the year **2024-25**:

#### Publications:

**The Econocrat:**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Kabir Gandhi

#### The DSIR:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Avi Bansode

**Chief-of-Production:** Sriyash Tantia

#### The Echo:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Aradhya Jain

**Chief-of-Production:** Aaron Fareed

#### SUPWs:

**Lost Property Office:**

**Boy-in-Charge:** Rishith Jaiswal

### LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been listening to this week:

**Aadi Jain:** *The Count Of Tuscany* by Dream Theater

**Saharsh Khetan:** *After Hours* by The Weeknd

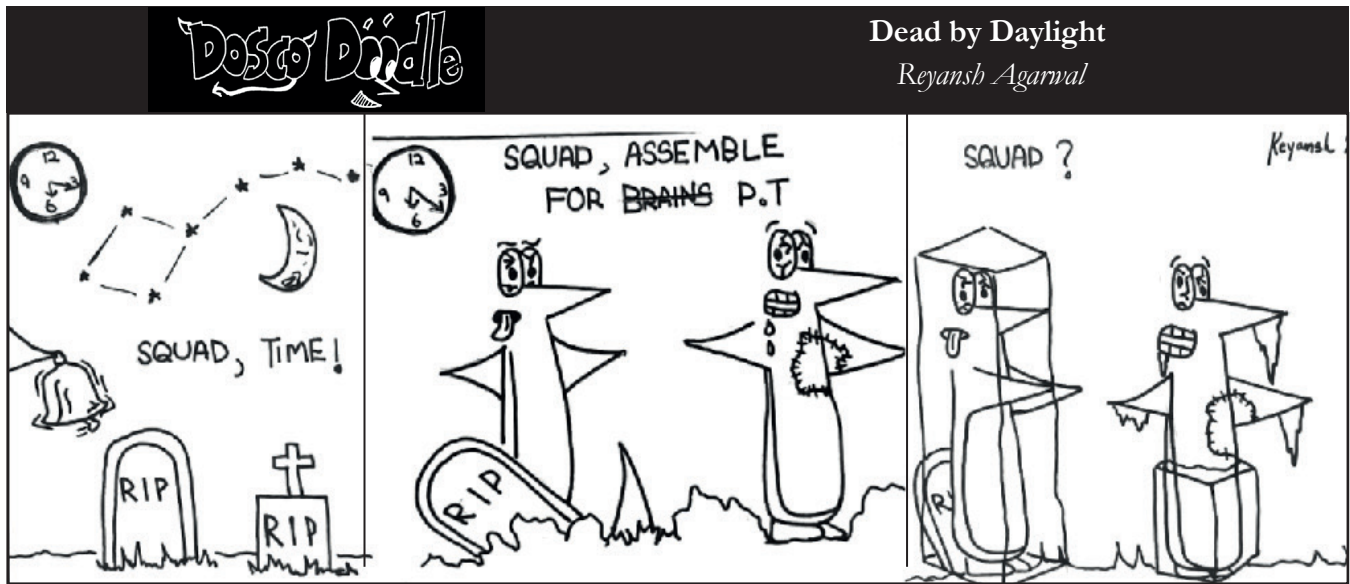
**Agniv Acharjya:** *Vultures* by Kanye West

**Harshil Makin:** *Ten* by Fred Again

**Aarav Dadu:** *Née-nab* by 21 Savage, Travis Scott

### Around the World in 80 Words

US Homeland Security Chief Alejandro Mayorkas was impeached. Kim Jong Un oversaw the test of new surface to sea missiles. Indian farmers march to New Delhi demanding legalisation of Minimum Support Price. Amazon's Bezos sold shares worth \$4 Billion to avoid Capital Gains Tax. France, Poland and Germany placed sanctions on Israeli settlers over West Bank violence that has killed over 507 Palestinians. The Backmydata ransomware hit dozens of Romanian hospitals. Israel launched a strike on Lebanon, killing 13 people.



(Continued from Page 1)

As human beings, we have a propensity to orient ourselves through enjoyable action which is why rather than stacking meeting after meeting, it’s good to change things up once in a while. And it is with great pride that I can safely state that we genuinely uphold such an approach when I see Tutorial groups exploring trees in Chandbagh or getting together for a

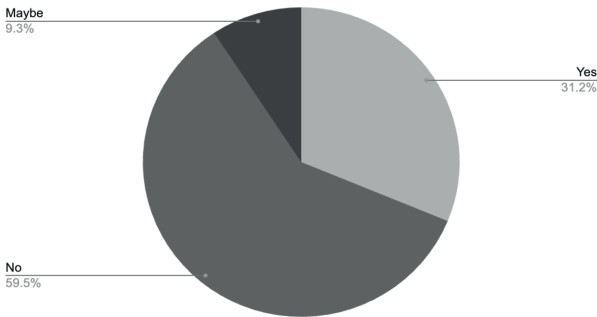
small weekend social service project during a Tutorial Outing.

We also need to strictly look into the flow of communication: it has been constructed after decades of systemic changes and when upheld, can reinstate positive changes for everyone. This means lesser reliance on Housemasters, more engaging interactions with the Tutors and an actual gain in independence when we all learn to live away from

home, into what we so fondly call our second home. It is our duty to ensure that Tutorials can live up to their principal concept and truly, no one ever stops one another from pursuing something unique — whether it be service or competitions within the house or just simple discussions from time to time.

Are your tutors closely involved with your School life?

(198 members of the School Community were polled)



The Murder of Humanity

Ayaz Ferozi illustrates how humanity comes before faith.

This is the tale of a murder. A self-inflicted murder of something that defines all us humans, and

I write to share a dream inspired by the events I’ve witnessed in the 15 years of my life — first, as a human, then as an Indian, and finally, as a member of the community that I was born into. As I grew, I observed people from various walks of life. A vivid memory from my early years remains etched in my mind: At the age of three, I witnessed a beggar, frail and hungry, knocking on the window of a luxurious Mercedes-Benz. Pleading for help, the beggar implored, “For the sake of God, please give me some money.” In my innocence, I believed that god and the religions created by him safeguarded humanity. However, the driver of the car paid no attention to the beggar’s plea. This marked the beginning of my contemplation on the purpose of religion in fostering humanity.

I pondered why anyone would harm someone based on their beliefs when all religions tend to share the common principles of love, kindness, and compassion. My naive understanding persisted until the dawn of 2020, when our driver failed to show up for work. His phone was unreachable, and he never returned. The following day, news of communal tensions and riots in the area where he lived left me shocked to the core.

At eleven years old, my perception of religion shifted dramatically. I questioned why people would forsake the core idea of humanity, using religion as a tool to divide and not unite. I dream of a day when all religions end up coexisting in harmony.

The prevalence of communal strife — in which countless people lose their lives across the world — illustrate the destructive consequences of religious hatred, devoid of any trace of humanity. Today’s society seems to have forgotten the teachings of their respective religions. Under the pretence of being a defender of their faith, adherents of the various religious communities have focused more on hatred and violence than on the tenets of their respective religions, each one of which teach love and brotherhood. I believe that religion is meant to provide a framework for a better life, not to endorse violence or sow discord by othering members of other communities. The murder of humanity has become more prevalent than the birth of humanity. Humanity suffers more than anyone in this world. The indifferent attitude of today’s generation towards war and suffering will harm this world in the long run and I can say with certainty that it seems that even before mankind faces extinction, humanity will perish.

To those who question the relevance of these dreams to me, I respond: I am a human first, an Indian next, and finally, an adherent of my faith. My dream is of a day when I know humanity comes before any religion. My dream is of a day when there is no hate towards other people’s opinions on social media by targeting their religion. My dream is of a day when I know that no human would kill another human because of their faith. My dream is of a day when I can read the newspaper without news of riots, war, and the murder of humanity.



# India's Political Kaleidoscope

Arsh Mishra *recaps recent political, social and economic events in India.*

Even after spending endless hours watching news channels and reading articles on platforms like the *New York Times* online, many important developments often slip past us due to the sometimes confusing nature of politics. Recently, I visited *The Hindu* news website to catch up on the current state of Indian politics, only to realise how little I knew about both the state and national political landscape, and even about my own city.

I came across several articles discussing the upcoming general elections, where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is eyeing an impressive third term in power. The Indian National Congress stands as the primary opposition. Given the general lack of faith often expressed in the Congress, though, the BJP seems assured of their position without needing to clear their desks.

However, general elections are not the only events stirring action and resolve among political opponents, although they may be few.

Intense political campaigning is taking place in a number of important states in India as state elections get underway. The leading states in this election contest are Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur. Different political parties are fighting for control and using different tactics to win people over. These elections are important because they will affect national dynamics and the political environment. Identity politics, governance, and development are central themes in the discussion. Three major state government elections are scheduled to take place in the coming months.

Maharashtra, known as a political powerhouse, has been a testing ground for innovative politics. Recent changes include the formation of a coalition government by the Shiv Sena, National Congress Party, and Indian National Congress, which is an unusual occurrence. The state's political environment is constantly evolving, being ceaselessly reshaped by issues such as coalition dynamics, urban development, and agrarian distress.

Meanwhile, in West Bengal the Trinamool Congress has turned the state into a political battleground. Intense political competition revolves around social welfare, economic development, and regional identity, highlighting the delicate balance between national politics and regional ambitions.

In Tamil Nadu, an ongoing rivalry between the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam dominates the political scene. Power transitions, driven by

socioeconomic concerns and regional pride, are recurrent themes. Industrial development, welfare policy, and identity play significant roles in shaping Tamil Nadu's political discourse.

Economic factors, too, wield considerable influence over Indian politics, especially as the country undergoes significant economic changes. Issues like unemployment, inflation, and the impact of global economic fluctuations are hot topics in policy discussions. Responses to government measures, such as the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and demonetization, vary widely.

**Achieving a delicate balance between economic growth, social harmony, and political stability requires astute leadership and stable democratic institutions.**

Concerns about unemployment remain significant, particularly given the nation's youthful demographic profile. To harness the demographic dividend, the government must create employment opportunities while maintaining price stability through prudent monetary and fiscal policies.

Additionally, the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the importance of resilience and flexibility. The ruling party handled the situation quickly and efficiently, and collaborations between institutions like National Institute of Virology, Bharat Biotech, and Indian Council of Medical Research resulted in the development of India's first indigenous vaccine, 'COVAXIN'.

Indian politics is characterised by powerful coalitions and complex feuds shaped by decades of bitter history. As India progresses, various factors continue to influence its political landscape. Achieving a delicate balance between economic growth, social harmony, and political stability requires astute leadership and stable democratic institutions. Citizen participation in the political process will undoubtedly shape the evolution of Indian politics, reflecting the country's rich diversity and complex socio-political fabric.

# Striking Gold?

**Param Chhajed** *talks about the rapidly-growing culture of 'instant riches'.*

The alluring call of instant wealth has echoed through generations, but in today's hyper-connected world, its melody seems particularly sweet to ambitious youth. Carefully crafted stories of youngsters and college dropouts becoming YouTube moguls and striking gold with cryptocurrency are causing social media to boom. This disruptive and ambitious culture, as I characterise it, is a double-edged sword that flashes potential wealth but also conceals dire implications.

The times of spending millions, accumulating debt, and dealing with an unstable job market that are mired in textbooks, are long gone. These days, people with the entrepreneurial spirit start YouTube channels, buy cryptocurrency, or work as freelance influencers, seemingly going against the grain. The "get rich quick" mentality is fuelled by these tales of success, which are frequently magnified by skilfully constructed online personas. They present an image of effortlessly-earned money and financial freedom. This shift in aspirations has definite advantages. It encourages young people to break out from conventional trends and look for creative solutions by cultivating an entrepreneurial spirit, giving young people more power than the gatekeepers of traditional careers. This newly discovered autonomy can be very freeing, especially for people who may not have flourished in rigid academic structures.

However, this narrative sometimes presents an incomplete picture. Seldom is life as rosy as it appears on the internet. Overnight achievements are statistical anomalies that are most likely the result of extraordinary skill, unwavering dedication, and a healthy dose of luck. Most of these ventures end in failure, leaving people dismayed and sometimes even in debt. Furthermore, anxiety, exhaustion, and feelings of inadequacy can result from the continual need to maintain the well-manicured online persona.

The attraction of instant wealth may have negative social effects: it could diminish the value of education and the skills that it imparts. Critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills all developed via rigorous academic study are essential for long-term success as well as non-traditional occupations. Additionally, the hustle mentality can foster a culture of instant gratification, hindering the development of patience, resilience and work ethic - qualities essential for navigating the complexities of any career path.

The degradation of ethical principles is perhaps

the most concerning part. College students working at a local bar and other impatient opportunists, who are desperate to get wealthy, may be tempted to use shortcuts or participate in unethical behaviour. When shortcuts are accepted as the standard, fraud, exploitation, and a lack of social responsibility tend to follow. In addition to hurting individuals, this also undermines confidence in the greater community.

Success is rarely as simple as it seems, even when it isn't a total fabrication. Social media's lack of authenticity and the detrimental effects of constant pressure to perform were exposed by various influencers, portraying cherry-picked instances of financial gain which may not be true at all. Instant wealth can become an obsession, leaving little time for development on a personal level, coherent connections with others, or a comprehensive sense of wellbeing.

Although acquiring sensible wealth at a young age is feasible, we can do much to rewrite this often-unfounded story in a more responsible and grounded manner. Firstly, it is imperative to foster critical thinking and financial literacy. Giving people the skills to separate facts from fiction and evaluate investment possibilities with objectivity will help rescue them from the siren calls of financial fraud and irrational expectations. It's also important to promote honest dialogue and open talks regarding the reality of entrepreneurial endeavours. A more nuanced view of the easy money idea can be obtained by sharing personal accounts of both triumphs and failures, emphasising the effort, tenacity, and sacrifices required. Finally, it's essential to cultivate a culture that encourages ambition combined with ethics and social responsibility. Stressing the value of creating companies that uphold moral principles and benefit society might help guide the next generation of entrepreneurs away from quick fixes and toward long-term, more fulfilling success.

Dear readers, remember that the desire to become wealthy is not systemically faulty. The risk lies in the skewed narrative and frequently used immoral tactics offered as shortcuts. We can cleanly sidestep these risks and aid people in designing a road to success that is both rewarding and responsible, ensuring the beguiling charm and implied recklessness of the "get rich quick" attitude doesn't lead them wrong: by equipping individuals with knowledge, encouraging open discussions, and promoting ethical ideals.

# The Week Gone By

Zubin Dhar

*Leaves float downwards in the winter breeze. Something lurks within the winter chill, as thoughts swirl in the land of Chandbagh. As the Old Guard prepare to ride into their respective sunsets, the New Knights of the realm waste no time in eyeing further laurels, with many already having put their hat in the ring for several grand honours.*

Dear readers, I do hope you have been enjoying the winter thus far. As it stretches out the hours, with that fuzziness of feeling and the lack of will to move, I can definitely say that the season has its pros and cons. While there certainly is nothing like a hot drink on a cold day, summer could not come

sooner, as perhaps then we will finally be able to function properly, as sadly there is no “antifreeze” to benefit our kind during this season.

Even though the term has not even grown three weeks old, there has been no hesitancy in getting back into the swing of things. The fields buzz with the sounds of blocks of wood hitting small hard round objects, red and green alike. Calls of “Out!” or “Chauka!” float across campus, as we gear up for the coming Cricket season.

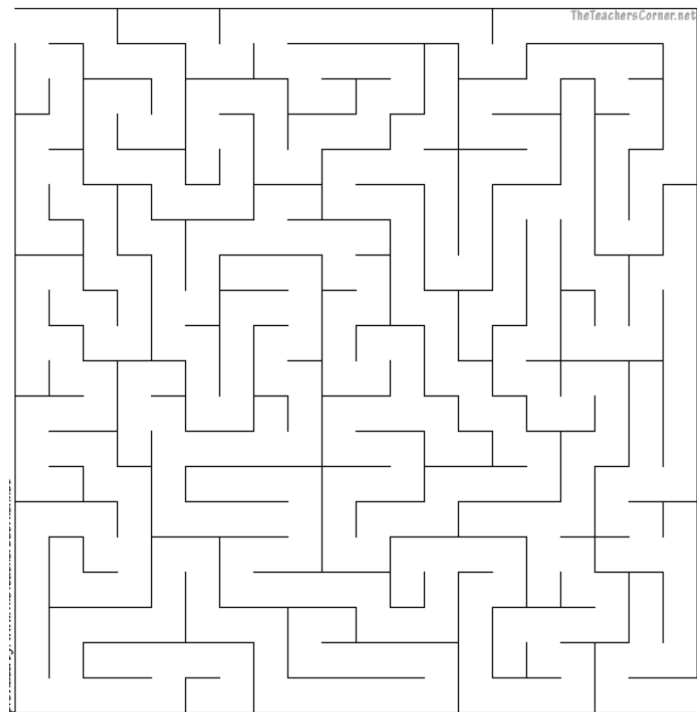
My Seniors and Juniors alike, beloved A and Sc Forms, have taken up the task of pushing their boulders up the hill, one last time. As their final Boards go on, I wish them motivation and strength, as all are watching your Sisyphian task with apprehension and respect. The Scs meanwhile, have been finding themselves plagued by an unexpected annoyance: Juniors

with autograph books, scribble pads, or cries of “fill out your Yearbook quote!” have seemingly materialised out of nowhere. We look forward to the quips that are sure to be forthcoming.

To my dear Batch, I give my assurance no matter what, we will prevail. The new predicted scheme has surely scared many, but I hope that you will see this as an opportunity more than a burden, as I’m sure we will rise to the occasion and prove our mettle. Consistency is something not only appreciated by colleges, but by life itself.

I urge you, my fellow DoscOs, to keep your spirits up through these frigid times, as soon the term will thaw out, and when it does, suddenly time will compensate for its current lethargy, and the term will be over, just like that.

## Maze



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