



The Doon School WEEKLY

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

Vignesh Dodla discusses the relevance of the Inter-House PT competition today.

Today is the day that marks the end of hard days, long weeks, and numerous months of practice. In a matter of minutes, the blood, sweat and (lots of) tears shed will culminate in a performance bound to have jam-ups and mistakes, no matter how perfect it was the day before. PT in School is extremely interesting, where everything is catered around it, being the only event that can curtail academics, and even cut games time.

Being someone who did PT last year, and a silent observer this time, the cracks in the system are starting to reveal themselves even further as the question that is on everyone's minds every time their PT leader shouts at them to 'stand at-ease' prevails: what good does PT provide? The answer is complicated; those who support PT will say it creates a sense of discipline, coordination and brotherhood with your squad. Those against will say that the bad far outweighs the potential good that PT causes - the lack of sleep because of the totally legitimate early morning practice, the academic setback because of the missed time and classes, and the psychological effects of having children from the age of twelve practice the same exercises over and over in the hot sun until perfection is achieved.

The good that PT provides is obvious. The discipline that it takes to practice for hours at a stretch until that one exercise becomes perfect is noteworthy, and the coordination

of the entire squad to have each clap, flap, and footstep in sync is undoubtedly difficult. PT teaches us life skills that are extremely important for a young person to develop. Once a C Former knows that with practice, perfection can be achieved, he will take it into other fields and use the same principle — whether it be with maths, or with music. It also provides a platform for the PT leaders to show their leadership qualities and lead their squads to victory.

However, I believe that the potential good that PT offers has a significant downside - the platform that PT leaders get seems to allow them to take practice in the middle of exams without seeking proper permission, or the early hours of the morning, making these malleable 12-year-old minds lose out on important sleep and academics to win a trophy. The commendable coordination can be brought out in a child in a manner that doesn't make them practice in the hot sun for hours - something like playing in the orchestra can foster coordination in a much less hostile environment.

Discipline is a hard metric to measure and judge. For some, discipline could be standing for hours in the sun without moving or flinching, and for others, it could be dedication to one's specific craft. PT does enforce discipline, yes, but the discipline is exactly that: enforced. If given free will, no Junior will willingly subject themselves to

hours of physical training without much gain out of it at the end.

The largest issue that PT causes is the fact that it has taken up time for sports, despite having its own mandated time during the evening - for an activity that is not very conducive to sport - aside from the odd 10 minutes of double mark time that the squad does in a day's worth of practice, and the shoulder workout if done correctly. Another issue is that it is taking up time that we usually play sports in — especially in the morning, where without PT, the morning fitness timing is centred around sports and exercise. The only shame is that this happens for less than a term — as every morning in the Spring term is taken up by PT practices. The School then misses out on half an hour in a day that can be spent on fitness and skills that can help us win tournaments outside of School with more ease. Where other schools have practices for sports in the morning - ours has PT, which takes away the opportunity to specialise in a given sport.

PT has also started to cut into our academics; we wish that evening Toye would not have to stop because of PT. Evening classes as well have taken a hit, not being conducted until the end of the competition. Things like this, especially when classes for Sc and S Forms are missed, impact us in the long term a lot more than what seems obvious.

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This Week in History

1789 CE: John Adams is sworn in as the first Vice President of the United States, nine days before George Washington's presidential inauguration.

1915 CE: During World War I, German forces introduce the systematized use of chemical warfare after releasing chlorine gas along a six kilometer front.

1993 CE: The small East African country of Eritrea begins three days of voting on a referendum to make its independence from Ethiopia official.

2005 CE: Pope Benedict XVI, successor to John Paul II, formally assumes his position as the new leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

1964 CE: The United Republic of Tanzania is founded with the merger of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

1992 CE: British politician Betty Boothroyd becomes the first woman to be elected as the speaker of the

READER'S CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been reading this week:

Sohan Enugula: *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

Swarit Chaudhary: *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

Soumik Agarwalla: *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman

Viraj Drolia: *We All Fall Down* by Robert Cormier

Ved Agarwal: *The Grand Design* by Leonard Mlodinow and Stephen Hawking

LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

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

Namjus Multani: *Can't Stop* by Red Hot Chili Peppers

Manit Jain: *Smack That* by Akon

Ujjwal Pratap Singh: *TAKEOVER* by AP Dhillon

Yash Dongre: *redrum* by 21 Savage

THE WHO?

Who is Cole Palmer?

Shivank Dafoti: An Actor

Reyansh Sekhani: A Singer

Uday Thakran: A Golfer

Arnav Sahu: A Software Engineer

Cole Palmer is an English professional footballer who plays for **Chelsea Football Club** and the **England National team**. Known for his versatility and dribbling, he is considered one of the most promising young players in the world.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

That is the thing, but that is not the thing.

ADN, Schrödinger's thing.

Top players, like Rafael Nadal and other top players.

HM, etcetera.

You are good, but I'm gooder.

Aditya Dungarpur, 'goodest' at grammar.

I'm not handsome, handsome is me.

Zorawar Sandhu, overconfidence is key.

I got assaulted by cake.

Krish Agrawal, piece of ... wait.

Just put all your bags in the book.

Sohan Enugula, life hack.

Go to the swimming courts.

Aryan Agarwal, Lebron Phelps.

Around the World in 80 Words

21 migrants were killed after a boat capsized off the coast of Djibouti. The World Bank suspended financing intended to develop tourism in Tanzania after allegations of rape and murder. The US Senate passed a \$95 billion aid bill in support of Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. Fossils of the largest snake to have ever lived were found in Kachchh. In Manipur, voting was rerun at 14 polling stations after reports of violence. Arsenal beat Chelsea 5-0 in the Premier League.



(Continued from Page 1)

As the day of PT dawns upon us, it is important to question its relevance in today's educational landscape. While not much good comes out of it, the tradition and the legacy of the competition are upheld to this day, which is hard to break after 84 years of the Gong being handed out. The solution is also not that simple - no

one will train for PT unless there is an incentive. People need the competition to administer and do PT, but people rue the competition because of the environment that it fosters because of the competition. It's a difficult problem to solve, and I feel the only way to make a change in the long run - for the betterment of School and its children in general - is to abolish it outright one day.

Outrage will be sparked - PT has been a tradition for a long time, but if the cons so far outweigh the pros in the context of a school, there's no way forward but to go all out and one day cancel it altogether. As community, we need to take a call after reflecting on the pros and cons regarding the way forward.

Roving Eye

Socials

Ch. Ed., Ed.

This Socials saw the Charming Tipster reunited with his "the one," with the only red eyes stopping them being those of the escorting Masters. After enjoying their own private dance party, an exchange was made to cap off the night. But that was just the highlight. For everyone who thinks that they have slyly saved themselves from appearing on these black pages, just know, the Eye sees all.

The event was strangely marked by the absence of several would-be socialisers who found the ambience of the Auditorium apparently distasteful. Further still, the hall was left empty soon after the music performances as our brave romancers seemed to prefer the company of the CDH's new (and kudos to the catering staff on this front) menu, rather than that of our dear guests. Clearly, music be not the food of love, but does indeed sicken one's appetite.

It may take two to tango, but the Poster Boy stayed clear this time, having not found the one. In fact, the event was bereft of any such gambol as our knights still reeled from the disappointment of last time and the success of a recent visit to Ajmer. The later Jam was found to be quite energetic, and just like previously, certain guests were seen falling over themselves because of the extremity of the dance; nobody, however, fell for another person.

Socials also saw the presence of a few who missed their chance at reciprocating the visit, and instead spent the night wondering whether sticks (and stones) do indeed hurt.

"The Dehradun playboy" was seen once again with company, leaving many to question his commitment to

a certain someone from Dalanwala; however, for now, there seems to be no signs of disruptions, at least until the famed diplomatic meet in August. What the Eye can confirm, however, is that one of our own succeeded in touching down, as the Birthday Boy managed to take on an entire table by himself, of course with the help of his counterpart riding on at the success of his band performance. The occasion was marked by the presence of the Slenderman, but the duo still persevered and succeeded in establishing 'informal' relations.

Unfortunately, heartbreak reigned when two Nizams succumbed to late timing, as the Prince of Jaipur swooped in just in time. The rest of the night was spent wallowing, but cheer up fellow brothers, for future visits await, and your prospects still live on! Socials also saw the presence of a few who missed their chance at reciprocating the visit, and instead spent the night wondering whether sticks (and stones) do indeed hurt.

A deadly duo much more successful, however, was that of the Koala and Mr Pause, who managed to wangle a double date out of our visitors. Last the Eye heard, they were still talking to them at the table instead of eating.

The Eye retreats for now in anticipation of how our famed hosts deal with their newfound relations. Time can only tell how they fare on their next visit to their guests, and while failure is always a possibility, success is only a matter of putting your best foot forward.

Passing the Torch

Anantvikram Singh and Rehhan Chadha *discuss the role of Senior Forms in the House.*

We and our batchmates continue to find ourselves awestruck when we pass through the hallowed halls of our Houses, each lined with almost a century of Honour boards and photographs from eras gone by. Old traditions are sometimes forgotten, but revived each day — in the reverberating rattle of hockey sticks, the weathered steps of the Main Building, or the reassuring smile on a Senior's face when searched for dependable advice. We find that this legacy perseveres not only in these sepia-toned photographs, but in the awe-filled eyes of Juniors and in the Common Rooms that reiterate and perpetuate the values of yore. Losing such a legacy which has guided so many Doscos in the past decades can disastrously happen when the forms of the Houses lose contact and synergy among themselves. They then run the risk of transactionalising the very process that is meant to be transformational, and that which renders a Dosco different — the percolation of the spartan culture, seasoned with infectious optimism and an indomitable *esprit de corps*.

The School Houses, since time immemorial, have been managed by a combination of the Housemasters and the House Pastoral teams, as well as considerable participation and path-breaking student leadership. The onus is on the students, particularly the Seniors, to preserve student decorum; not simply to indifferently uphold, but to profoundly believe in it, and exemplify it. This theory served as the foundation for the concept of a Prefectorial body. A group of four or five individuals who, each day, brave the task of managing an entire House, allowing them to delegate some of their administrative duties to their 'pillars of support', the S and A Forms.

At the outset, these duties may not seem significant to onlookers, but they foster a sense of accountability among the A and S Forms, primarily to continue contributing to the running of their Houses. In general, these forms are also responsible for the Houses' smooth operation under the guidance of the Prefects and designated Captains. One can draw parallels between the operation of a House and a cog system, with the gears progressively enlarging as the forms and positions within the House transition. This unprecedented enlargement

must be periodically checked, for it could lead to the system getting jammed. The jam up can manifest itself in the form of the A and S Formers tending to deviate from the preset conventions, causing a palpable disparity between the Sc Form and them. While being creative and not succumbing to conformity is an encouraging indication of ambition and growth, it's important not to undermine the systems established by batches that have, and are, leading the House.

Ego clashes hinder the efficient working of a House, and occasionally arise when some students tend to obtain more tangible or ostentatious achievements.

With the assigning of significant roles and positions such as Toye Monitors and Boys-in-Charge, an unjustifiable ego raising its head in one is only human. Ego clashes hinder the efficient working of a House, and occasionally arise when some students tend to obtain more tangible or prestigious achievements. This could operate as a barrier and create an unhealthy atmosphere, especially for the Juniors who find themselves aimlessly stranded between such conflicts. These middle rung leaders are driven to take charge because they are impatient to act out the noble traits of their Seniors. Only when they work in tandem with the senior leadership, will these values be transferred further down to the B,C and D Forms — who are the future of each House.

बारसू गांव

मिडटर्म्स गंतव्य 'बारसू' गाँव पर हृदय कनोडिआ और आरव शुक्ला के विचार

इस देश में कई सारे छुपे खजाने मौजूद हैं। कई ऐसे हैं जो दुनिया भर में बहुत मशहूर हैं और लोग उनसे परिचित भी हैं, परंतु पहाड़ों में कुछ स्थान ऐसे हैं जहाँ बहुत ही कम लोग पहुँचते हैं। कई रोमांच से भरपूर खूबसूरत दृश्य अनदेखे ही रह जाते हैं। लेकिन एक डोस्को ऐसी रोमांचक यात्राओं से ही पूरा डोस्को बनता है। हाल ही में इस सत्र की अपनी पहली यात्रा के लिए कश्मीर हाउस की 'ए' फॉर्म उत्तराखंड के ऐसे ही एक खूबसूरत गाँव 'बारसू' पहुँची। बारसू एक छोटा गाँव है परंतु इसके अंदर बहुत सी छुपी खूबियाँ हैं। बारसू की समृद्ध ऐतिहासिक और विभिन्न प्रकार की खूबियाँ इसको भारत के कई छुपे खजानों में से एक बनाती हैं। यहाँ की आबो-हवा, दृश्य और कहानियाँ हृदय में भीतर तक उतर जाते हैं। बारसू जैसे गाँव आत्मनिर्भर होने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ते, दूसरे गाँवों के संसाधनों पर आश्रित नहीं होते। इस गाँव में जो कुछ भी खाया-पिया जाता है, अधिकांशतः इसी गाँव में ही उगाया जाता है। यह गाँव लगभग 300 साल पुराना है। इस गाँव का नाम बारसू पड़ा क्योंकि इस गाँव को माल एक ही रास्ता बाहर के गाँव से जोड़ता है जैसे एक चूल्हे में आग जाने के लिए एक ही जगह रहती है। इस गाँव में सभी रावत और राणा समुदाय के लोग रहते हैं।

'बारसू' भटवाड़ी ब्लॉक, उत्तरकाशी ज़िले के 97 गाँवों में से एक गाँव है। यह गाँव समुद्र तल से लगभग 2350 मीटर की ऊँचाई पर स्थित है। जनगणना 2011 के हिसाब से बारसू गाँव के अंदर 469 लोग रहते हैं। यहाँ के 75% पुरुष और 56% महिलाएं शिक्षित हैं। बारसू अपनी प्राकृतिक सुंदरता, हरी-भरी हरियाली और हिमालय के मनोरम दृश्यों के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। गढ़वाल हिमालय में कई सुंदर ट्रेक के लिए बारसू गाँव एक शानदार शुरुआती बिंदु है। इस गाँव में दो छोटे विद्यालय भी मौजूद हैं। यहाँ पर अगर किसी को भी शहर या कोई दूसरे गाँव जाना होता तो वह वहाँ पर राज्य सरकार द्वारा संचालित बस से जाते थे कुछ प्राइवेट टैक्सी सेवाएँ भी उपलब्ध हैं। यहाँ के बहुत से लोग यहाँ से निकलकर बड़े-बड़े शहरों में जा कर अच्छा काम कर रहे हैं और बस भी रहे हैं। लेकिन पूरे के पूरे परिवारों का पलायन यहाँ से न के बराबर हुआ है जो कि बेहद सकारात्मक है।

साल के इस दौरान केवल दयारा में बर्फ जमी होती है परंतु जनवरी एवं फरवरी के महीनों में दयारा और बारसू, दोनों ही जगहों में कम से कम 1 फीट की बर्फबारी होती है। गंगोत्री, द्रौपदी का डंडा 1 और 2, जॉन ली जैसे कई ऊँचे पहाड़ बारसू गाँव से नजर आ रहे थे। बारसू में एक गहरा तालाब मौजूद है जिसका पूरा पानी दयारा में मौजूद तालाबों से आता है और इन्हीं तालाबों से प्रकट होता है एक प्यारा सा झरना जो किस्मत से हमारे बेस कैम्प के पीछे से बह रहा था। बारसू गाँव में हम जहाँ ठहरे थे, उस जगह पर पहाड़ों के बीच हमने कई तरह के खेल खेले जैसे क्रिकेट, वॉलीबॉल आदि। नज़ारा तो प्यारा था ही, साथ-साथ वहाँ का मौसम भी जादुई था। प्रकृति की गोद में बसा ये गाँव कई मायनों में हमारे लिए खास रहा।

इस गाँव के लोग बहुत आत्मनिर्भर हैं क्योंकि उनके पास उनके खुद के खेत हैं और वे अपना सारा काम खुद करते हैं। यहाँ के लोग सुबह-सुबह ही काम में जुट जाते हैं और शाम को अपना समय अपने-अपने परिवारों के साथ

बिताते हैं। लोग बहुत मिलनसार हैं। जब हम इन लोगों से इनके जीवन के बारे में पूछ-ताछ कर रहे थे तो वे बहुत ही सहयोगात्मक तरीके से हमारे सवालों का जवाब दे रहे थे। वे हमारे सवालों का जवाब बहुत उत्साह से दे रहे थे। इन लोगों में से एक का नाम था प्रमोद बिष्ट। उन्होंने हमें बताया कि यहाँ की अधिकांश आबादी खेती, पशु पालन और पॉलीहाउस खेती करती है लेकिन यहाँ के 20-30 वर्ष के युवा ट्रेक गाइड व अन्य कई कार्य करने में कुशल हैं। इस गाँव में राजमा, आलू, और गेहूँ की खेती-बाड़ी ज़्यादा होती है। रिलायंस फाउंडेशन ने इस गाँव की संभावना को देखते हुए, पॉलीहाउस की स्थापना संभव की है जिसके कारण अब टमाटर जैसी कई तरह की फसलों को उगाना संभव हो सका है।

यहाँ के लोग छोटी-मोटी बिमारियाँ खुद ही ठीक कर लेते हैं क्योंकि इस गाँव के सबसे पास वाला अस्पताल लगभग 2 घंटे दूर है। स्कूल के लिए छात्र-छात्राओं को 2 घंटे पैदल चलकर विद्यालय में पहुँचना पड़ता है। बीमारियों को ठीक करने के इनके पास इनके खुद के तरीके और देसी नुस्खे हैं। वे कभी-कभार जड़ी-बूटियों से अपनी दवा बनाते हैं। हालांकि इस गाँव में अधिकतर अन्य गाँवों की तरह पंचायत प्रणाली नहीं थी, फिर भी वे प्रधान प्रणाली का पालन करते थे, जिसमें गाँव के सदस्य आधिकारिक मामलों में उनका प्रतिनिधित्व करने और नेतृत्व करने के लिए एक सदस्य अथवा गाँववासी का चुनाव करते थे। उन्होंने हमें बताया कि जो उनके पिछले प्रधान थे, वह हमारे देश के राष्ट्रपति से भी मिले हुए हैं। गाँव की वर्तमान प्रधान एक महिला हैं। यह हमें बताता है कि इस गाँव के ग्रामवासी महिलाओं को बराबरी का अधिकार देते हैं।

प्रमोद ने हमें यहाँ का एक मिथक भी बताया। उसने बताया कि यहाँ पर बहुत साल पहले तिब्बत से एक लामा आए थे। उन्होंने ग्रामवासियों को कहा कि अगर वे लोग उनका एक मंदिर बनाएँगे तो वह गाँव की व यहाँ के लोगों की रक्षा करेंगे। राजा देवता मंदिर जो आज इस गाँव के सबसे ऊपर स्थित है वह इसी कारण बनाया गया था। गाँव में एक और मंदिर भी है, नाग देवता मंदिर। इस मंदिर में दिसंबर-जनवरी में एक बड़ा सा धार्मिक-सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम होता है। जब हम यहाँ पर घूम रहे थे तो हमको पता चला कि गाँव के बहुत से लोग ब्लॉगिंग भी करते हैं और सोशल मीडिया पर काफ़ी सक्रिय भी हैं। हम यहाँ पर मां-बेटी ब्लॉगर से मिले जो पहाड़ों पर उनकी जीवन की घटनाओं और दिनचर्या के बारे में ब्लॉग तैयार करती हैं।

यह गाँव उन बाकी सभी गाँवों, जिन्हें मैंने देखा था, उनसे बहुत अलग-सा था। यह गाँव मुझे बहुत विकसित होता हुआ लग रहा था क्योंकि यहाँ के अधिकांश लोगों के तौर-तरीके और जीवन जीने का ढंग एक शहर के आम आदमी जैसे ही थे। उनके विचार और हमारे विचार एक जैसे थे। हमने जाते-जाते उन सभी लोगों का शुक्रिया अदा किया जिन्होंने हमें गाँव की जीवन शैली, उनकी समस्याएँ व संस्कृति को जानने में बहुत मदद की। हमें भी जाते-जाते आशीर्वाद मिल गया वहाँ के लोगों का।

The Week Gone By

Zubin Dhar

A boy sits outside a classroom, clutching a piece of paper in his hand. He sweats from the heat, and more so from the glares of parents around him. A parent looms over him, questioning him angrily with their eyes. The boy glances down at the paper, reading down the list to the next appointment. "12:45 slot?" The boy inquires, adding, "Sorry, but they're going overtime, can you come back in half an hour?"

The CDH staff all stop clearing up as they hear a scream ring out across campus. They wonder what someone could possibly be so angry about. PTM is always such fun.

This week saw a veritable role reversal across classrooms on

campus, as Masters giving their B Ed exams became the absentees in their own domain. Wishing them a speedy and successful return, as I'm sure all the students are very excited to start taking classes seriously again.

The beginning of the week saw the ToK exhibition put on by my dear batchmates in the IB, with some people having brought everything but the kitchen sink, probably because the rest were crying into it. D Form took a special interest, more than making up for the missing guests. Socials took place later that day, for both the S Form and my batch, with a lot more taking place than our previous meeting with the ladies from Dalanwala. You can read more about that in the Roving Eye.

Midweek marked the start of the IB for our Sc batch of 2024, and I wish them great fortitude in this time of tension. The familiar sound

of splashing has visited the campus once again, with Inter-House swimming starting to heat up the pool (saving energy on actual heating).

And finally, as you are reading this, it's PTM again, and that means more reunions, story swapping, confusion, and bustle on campus. Yet another full day of Masters saying the oft repeated phrase, "Ma'am/Sir, your son is an incredible boy, but..." Thankfully the outings will allow both students and parents alike to cool down and enjoy some time together, and might just be enough to forget those pesky grades for now. Yes, dear readers, it's just another term at Doon.

Doon /dun/ Adjective

A state of being where absolutely nothing is fixed, rigid, or regular. Singularly characterised by everything happening at all times with no pause whatsoever, but in the kind of way that makes you miss it once it's over.

Wordsearch | Indian Premier League

1. This cricketer holds the record for the most runs scored in a single IPL season.
2. This player has taken the most wickets in IPL history.
3. This team holds the highest win percentage in IPL history.
4. Under this leaders' captaincy the Mumbai Indians secured their first IPL championship victory in 2013.
5. This cricketer holds the record for the fastest century in IPL history.
6. This batsman has scored the most runs in IPL play-off matches.
7. This overseas cricketer has received the most IPL Player of the Match awards.
8. The IPL team which has won the Fair Play Award the most times in the history of IPL.
9. This IPL team holds the record for the longest match-winning streak in the tournament's history.
10. This exceptional cricketer has won the IPL MVP (Most Valuable Player) award the most times.

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

1. Virat Kohli	6. Suresh Raina
2. Yuzvendra Chahal	7. AB de Villiers
3. Gujarat Titans	8. CSK
4. Rohit Sharma	9. KKR
5. Chris Gayle	10. Andre Russell

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