

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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BIRD FLU BLUES

A satirical piece on the dearth of chicken this week.

Page 4

CLARIFIED: CANINE CRISIS

A report on the removal of stray dogs in the NCR.

Page 5

THE WEEK GONE BY

A humorous account of the events in the past week.

Page 6

Diplomacy Under Siege

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr Gurjit Singh, the Chief Guest for the Opening Ceremony of DSMUN'25.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): After exploring various tangents of diplomacy and serving in varying capacities, is there one thing that has given you clarity on your goals and kept you steadfast in achieving them?

Mr Gurjit Singh (GJS): Diplomacy today is more transactional than ever before. Your goal is to serve the national interest, which requires adjustments and trade-offs. But Indian diplomacy has embedded values. I would cite Mahatma Gandhi's ideals: promoting non-violence, supporting peaceful democracy, encouraging small industries, and caring for the common man. When we discuss foreign policy, we must not forget the common man. That is why when India speaks of non-violence, we come with that background. When you negotiate, even while making trade-offs, you try to carry those values with you.

DSW: You have represented India in countries as diverse as Ethiopia, Germany and Indonesia. Which of these experiences forced you to unlearn the most about diplomacy, and what exactly did you have to relearn to ensure your tenure was effective?

GJS: In peaceful times, one only needs to adapt; in violent times, however, unlearning becomes necessary. In Sri Lanka, during

the IPKF operations, when the LTTE and JVP were attacking us, I had to unlearn diplomacy and do things differently. I was First Secretary then, along with the current Foreign Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar, who was also in the embassy. That was a true re-learning process: how to deal with violence when armies, guerrillas and terrorism are involved. How do you deal with such a situation? That, I must confess, shaped how I thought about bringing diplomacy back to its core purpose to begin with.

DSW: How would you say this re-learning process works in violent times, when so many factors can affect every decision that is made?

GJS: There is no rule book for it. I studied international relations and have a Masters degree, but in 37 years, I never once opened those books. You can't go by the book. You go by instinct and values. What is the trade-off you can make? That is the learning you acquire on the job, there is no template.

DSW: Having done so much work, there must have been places where projects went awry. Could you describe one of those and how you learnt from it?

GJS: In Ethiopia, a poor nation deeply burdened by debt, I brought in about one billion dollars of soft loans, which catalysed Indian

investments of about four billion dollars, making us a major power there. The problem was Ethiopia's weak money management. They were grateful for the money, but didn't nurture it. Corruption followed and investors started to leave. The only option was to hold their hand throughout, because all progress crumbles if you let go. Diplomacy has not reached the stage where we can carry out project management. But if India wants to continue development cooperation as a foreign policy goal, then we must build project management units whose sole purpose is to oversee these projects. That is a lesson I learnt from failure: the success of our policy was diminished by weak implementation. I have often recommended a project monitoring and implementation team to ensure that things actually get done.

DSW: Private sector companies form a major part of international relations today. Considering the rise of globalisation and even the military-industrial complex, in what ways can private companies and global giants hinder diplomacy in addressing international issues?

GJS: More than in multilateral diplomacy, they have an impact on bilateral or regional diplomacy. Indian companies abroad are big

(Continued on Page 3)

This Week in History

1831 CE: Nat Turner launches a deadly slave rebellion in Virginia.

1911 CE: The Mona Lisa is stolen by Vincenzo Peruggia, a Louvre employee.

1959 CE: Hawaii officially becomes the 50th U.S. State.

1993 CE: NASA loses contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft.

BLEED BLUE

Kovid Kagdee has been awarded the **Games’ Blazer**.

Congratulations!

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Following are the winners of the **Bakhle Literature Prize 2025**:

Seniors:

Winner: Hrishikesh Aiyer

Runners-up: Arnav Tiwari and Omar Malik

Juniors:

Winner: Tejas Bhardwaj

Runners-up: Anvit Agrawal and Rannvijay Dutt

Well Done!

LISTENER’S CHECKLIST

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

Abhinav Kumar: *Lover* by Taylor Swift

Mahek Kumar: *Manchild* by Sabrina Carpenter

Uday Thakran: *loml* by Taylor Swift

“

Remember that the airplane takes off
against the wind, not with it.

—
Henry Ford

FICTION

The door slithered open, creaking as it crept past. The red light from the button was still burnt into my retina. The temperature was sharper than it was cold, the smell of the floor more pungent than the last, somehow. As much as I yearned to scream, my throat had given up on me, and all that was left was a hollow rasp. I crumbled to the floor, my skin stinging as I fell. I looked up in hope of salvage, but I knew it would not come. Hours later I braced a hand on the wall, shuddering as I pushed myself upright. No matter my weakness. I am leaving this loop, even if it ends me.

-Uday Thakran

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Are you a germophobia?

Yohaán Marda, not-so-young Sheldon Cooper.

At least I am smart, unlike me.

Aryaman Sagwal, the ideal role model.

We birth Australia every year.

DKM, aspiring head of the UNPD.

READER’S CHECKLIST

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

Viransh Jain: *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick

Aaravjeet Ranthawa: *Storey’s guide to raising chickens* by Gail Damerow

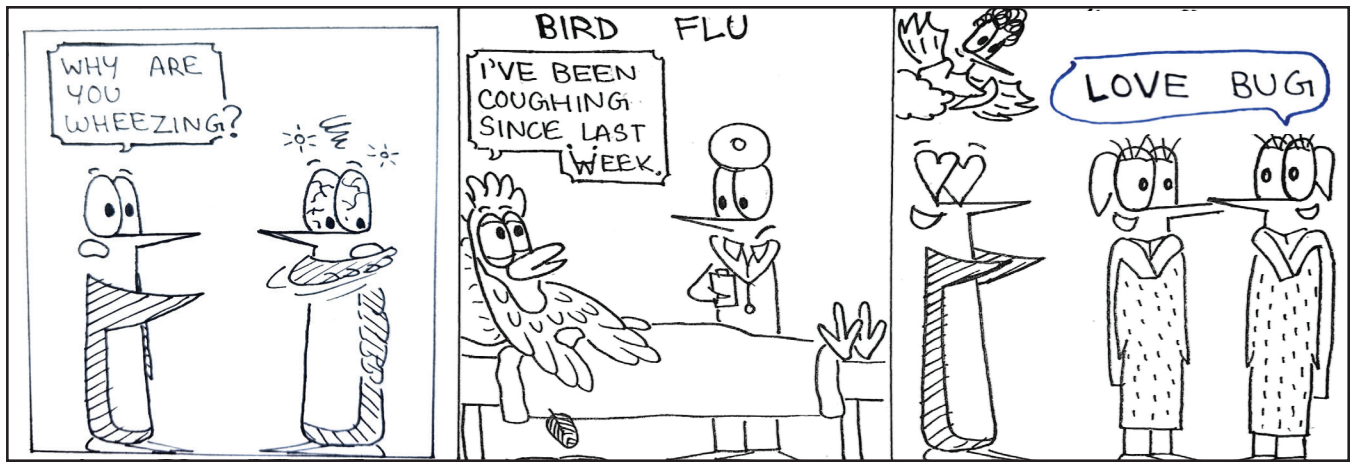
Around the World in 80 Words

Russia launched its largest August strike on Ukraine after Trump met Zelenskyy and European leaders at the White House. The Indian Parliament passed bills mandating the removal of ministers jailed beyond thirty consecutive days. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was hospitalised after being assaulted during a *jansunwai*. Former boxing champion Julio Chávez Jr. was arrested in Mexico following detention in the United States. A meteor exploded over Kagoshima and Miyazaki in Japan, turning into a massive fireball and releasing shockwaves.

Dosco Doodle

Under the Weather

Reyansh Agarwal



(Continued from Page 1)

assets, but do we listen to them? No, they are on their own. We must learn to listen and understand their objectives. Very often they have stronger connections with governments than us, and we must live with that. In Ethiopia, for instance, education and investment were highly valued. We had many Indian professors and investors come together and meet the regional president. This left a much larger impact than meeting the ambassador alone. You must marshal and utilise all your strengths in a host country. This approach does not work everywhere. Germany or Japan don't need such support, so you must re-evaluate the situation on a country-to-country basis.

DSW: Since private companies can't work in a multilateral diplomatic setting, what about the global giants that operate across the world?

GJS: They are multilateral in the

sense that they are present in many countries, but they influence each country separately, under different laws. Mining giants, for example, operate everywhere but must be handled differently in each country. Airtel expanded into fourteen African countries and said that they were investing in Africa. They underestimated the complexity of investing in fourteen different countries, each with its own laws. That was a lesson learnt.

DSW: How does the expansion of such companies into wider diplomatic spaces shape the world today?

GJS: Indian investors in Africa are particularly valued. First, they create jobs. Unlike China, who just hires workers from their own nation, Indian companies employ locals. For example, in one company with fifteen thousand employees, only about one hundred were Indian. Second, Indian companies transfer the

most technology. Third, they contribute to domestic and regional trade, which boosts local economies. For these reasons, Indian investors are highly valued.

DSW: Many political parties have weaponised religion for votes, leading to manipulation and polarisation. How do you see this as a diplomat, and how is it viewed internationally?

GJS: I don't involve myself in active politics, but as a social activist, I believe political education is very important. People must realise what is genuinely good for them, and then choose their leaders, whether at the panchayat, MLA, or MP level, rather than simply following them blindly. A better appreciation of rights and benefits, rather than religion, will create a more educated Indian voter.

एक नई सुबह

माधव मेहरा

उन्हत्तर बरस पहले, अंधेरी रात में वो चिंगारी जल उठी थी,
लाठी और गोलियों के साए तले भी आज़ादी की पुकार गूँज उठी थी।

फाँसी के फंदों पर हँसते हुए वीरों ने साहस का गीत सुनाया,
अपने लहू से इतिहास ने स्वतंत्रता का अमर अध्याय लिखवाया।

वो संघर्ष केवल जंजीरों तोड़ने का नहीं, आत्मसम्मान जगाने का था,
हर क्रांति की गूँज, मातृभूमि के फिर से मुस्कुराने का था।

आज वही भारत विकास की राह पर आत्मविश्वास से कदम बढ़ा रहा है,
सपनों का सूरज विज्ञान, शिक्षा और श्रम से जगमगा रहा है।

खेत-खलिहानों, उद्योगों-कारखानों, तकनीक के आयामों तक मेहनत का
जाल बुना है,
हर गाँव, हर शहर ने मिलकर नए भविष्य का कारवाँ चुना है।

कश्मीर की वादियाँ अपनी ठंडी बयार से दिलों को सुकून देती हैं,
राजस्थान के मरुस्थल की सुनहरी रेत, धैर्य और शक्ति का संदेश कहती
है।

पंजाब की उपजाऊ मिट्टी भारत का अन्न-भंडार सजाती है,
गुजरात के सागर से हर लहर व्यापार की तरंगें उठाती है।

महाराष्ट्र के शहर-नगर मेहनतकश उद्योगों का उज्ज्वल आलोक जगाते हैं,
दक्षिण के मंदिर संस्कृति और कला के दीपकों को जगमगाते हैं।

पूर्वोत्तर की घाटियाँ अपने सांस्कृतिक रंगों से एक नयी सुगंध फैलाती हैं,
बंगाल की धारा साहित्य और चिंतन से आत्मा को नया विचार सिखाती है।

केरल की नदियाँ शिक्षा और प्रगति की लहरों को बहाती हैं,
उत्तर प्रदेश से प्रयाग और पवित्र भूमि सुनहरा इतिहास बताती है।

हर राज्य की अलग पहचान है, पर धड़कनें एक साथ मिल जाती हैं,
यही विविधता भारत को अद्वितीय शक्ति और सौंदर्य दे जाती है।

हम युवा हैं, हमारे सपनों की उड़ान आकाश से भी ऊँची होगी,
हमारे हौसले और कर्म भारत की पहचान का भविष्य लिखेंगे।

आजादी केवल स्मृति नहीं, यह जिम्मेदारी का आह्वान है,
संघर्षों की गूँज हमारी एकता और परिश्रम की पहचान है।

आओ हम सब मिलकर प्रतिज्ञा करें इस युग के द्वार पर खड़े होकर,
भारत को जग का मार्गदर्शक बनाएँ — साहस, प्रेम और श्रम से जुड़कर।

Bird Flu Blues

Creative

Hridansh Nagpal

The Weekly extends its heartfelt regards to the strict non-vegetarians who missed out on their favourite food this week. The following is a diary entry that attempts to encapsulate their plight.

18th August, half past 7 P.M.

I entered the CDH after a strenuous weekend of continuously passing chits around my committee and running back and forth from the House, fetching the small “essentials” my Seniors forgot. Finally, I could now sit down and enjoy a meal without having to get a cup of water or orange squash for a Senior and his “partner.” I could finally have that one food I crave: chicken. I eagerly walked past my Formmates and stood for grace, the only thing barring me from euphoria. To my great dismay, my friend whispered to me, “There is no chicken. Have you not heard of the bird flu?” My heart sank, my hopes diminished, and my soul seemed to transcend into agony. I kept standing there for a second rethinking what my friend had just said. I knew I had no craving for anything at all left. All ambition that I had had escaped me with the bird flu.

19th August, Quarter to 9 A.M.

Knowing that there is nothing that can fix the void left within me, I scuttled into the dining hall, drooping. Alas, I had to eat food for my own wellbeing. I sat down and sulked on what miserable options I had in front of me. *Parantha*, toast, *upma*, cereal and boiled eggs. “Egg!?” I thought to myself looking at the bowl, with four boiled eggs laying sadly there, offering some meek consolation. Amidst this crisis, I found a sort of angst, one that kept pushing me forward and motivating me to overcome everything that lay in front. In a surprising turn of events, while getting a refill for my friend, I stopped by the captivating television display and peered disinterestedly at the menu when something grabbed my attention: Mediterranean fish.

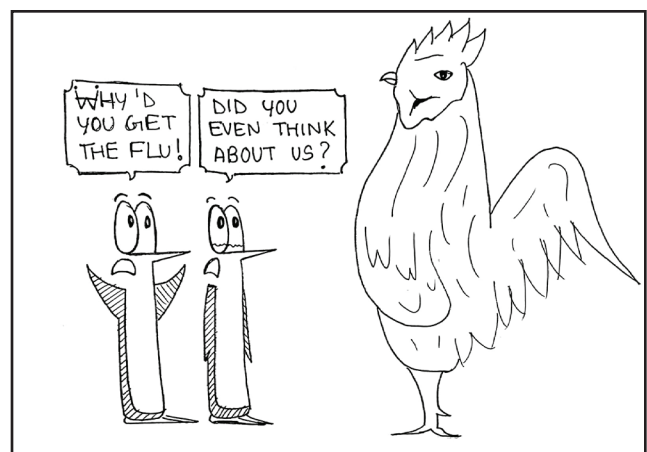
19th August, Half past 7 P.M.

I entered the CDH knowing that there are other things that may uplift my sense of wellbeing. Though the thought of a bird flu had somehow crept its way into School and had stripped me of my favourite food, tonight’s food tried its best to console me, providing me with a sliver of comfort. A fantastic assortment of teriyaki potatoes, focaccia bread and falafel eagerly awaited my arrival. Tonight was going to be good. I could feel myself salivating already. So what if the chicken couldn’t make it? Its

trusty aquatic accomplice was sure to steal the show. A bite of the fish revealed something was missing. The texture was simply not on point. Alas, not even its maritime counterpart, could fill the abyss left by its absence.

20th August, Quarter past 2 P.M.

The downpour was steady and the Eighth School had just ended. The whole school was either leisurely walking in under the comfortable embrace of their umbrellas, or sprinting frantically into the CDH to escape the torrid barrage. I, unluckily, was part of the latter, rushing for shelter from a certain impending doom. After another unfortunate event, I hoped to find something worthy of satisfying my tired taste buds, something that would compensate for my voracious hunger for chicken. As the bell rang and the whole school swarmed inside the CDH, I could smell the rich aroma of biryani wafting across the hall, specifically the mutton biryani: a divine delicacy involving the sacrifice of a succulent vegetarian mammal. In a state of salival deluge, I grabbed the casserole and was the first to feast on the hot and tender dish. As my soul satiated, I could feel its enveloping warmth sooth my anxiety caused by the absence of the delicate avian, whose evolutionary shortcomings deprived it of wings had seemingly made it land on our plates. Around me, several people were shouting “After you!” but I went numb, succumbing to the state of elation I was in by serving myself aplenty. After four generous servings of biryani, my gluttony was fully sated. I was finally ready for some dessert, which turned out to be my personal favorite: chocolate brownie. Buckets of rain were pouring down now, but inside, there was a sense of solace, a fleeting reminder that even in times of loss, there are avenues for stirring up joy.



Clarified: Canine Crisis

Manit Jain reports on the bill passed for the removal of stray dogs in the NCR.

Ten thousand a day and 3.7 million a year. This was the total number of dog bites recorded in 2024 alone, while the number of stray dogs in India was a staggering 62 million. To help the Readership realise the magnitude of this number, the approximate population of South Africa is 63 million. India's canine crisis is escalating at a pace most public health experts deem alarming. These statistics highlight a growing backlog in accomplishing disease-prevention goals. To curb these incidents and ensure the safety of its citizens, the Supreme Court of India issued several orders on August 11 to be implemented in the New Delhi and NCR region. These reflect a firm administrative stance on dealing with the feral dog population.



The Supreme Court order, titled 'City Hounded By Strays, Kids Pay Price,' mandated the immediate removal of the strays, prompting civic bodies to commence retrieving them from all localities with utmost urgency. The extracted canines are to be placed within pounds to be established by the government within eight weeks. The pounds must be equipped with adequate personnel for sterilisation, immunisation and proper care. The court also instructed that once captured and placed in shelters, strays must not be released back into the streets, and strict records of their occupancy are to be maintained.

Eventually, these dogs are to be offered for adoption to the public to avoid overcrowding. The shelters must comply with standard protocol and any instructions issued by the authorities from time to time. Furthermore, while local animal welfare agencies are encouraged to volunteer at the shelters, any government exercise must not be hindered by personal sentiment. Alongside these welfare provisions, the authorities must establish public helplines for reporting dog-bite cases, and the concerned authorities must capture the animal within four hours. The Delhi government has

ensured strict legal accountability by stating that any individual or organisation found obstructing these mechanisms shall be held in contempt by the court.

This legal framework issued by the Supreme Court has sparked debates between public safety advocates and agencies that work in the field of animal protection and welfare. India's share of global rabies-related deaths stands at a shocking 36%, a statistic most concerned stakeholders cite as evidence of the health risks caused by stray dogs. The government described the Supreme Court order as a decisive step towards making localities safer, but several animal rights activists and sympathisers have criticised the move because they believe that the relocation of such a huge number of dogs is infeasible and will inevitably lead to logistical chaos.

Subsequently, there have been several protests against these directives across the nation. The core of the protestors' argument is that removing street dogs from a familiar environment and then placing them in shelters with limited facilities is fundamentally inhumane. The activists frame the sterilisation and vaccination of these dogs through various programmes as the more effective and feasible approach to curb the growing canine population. On August 20, the Chief Minister of Delhi was physically assaulted at her residence by a sympathiser of the movement against the court ruling. Although such public display of dissent was initially rooted in a deep concern and compassion for the dogs, it has now quickly soured into a political scuffle.

India seems to be an outlier among other developing nations when it comes to the freedoms that many stray animals enjoy. The controversy regarding the country's stray-dog crisis is one of values, not heroes and villains. On the one hand, it is imperative to protect citizens from increasing cases of dog bites and the spectre of rabies. On the other, deep-rooted affection and sympathy for animals many communities consider family cannot also be completely disregarded. The Supreme Court's instructions can mark a watershed, but unless backed by strong infrastructure, humane practice, and sustained population control measures, they are at risk of becoming yet another temporary solution. India's task lies not in choosing between humans and dogs, but in devising a sustainable model wherein public security and animal well-being can exist together.

The Week Gone By

Kanishk Bammi

I usually start these off with a sentence or two about how it's such a chore to write the *Week Gone By*, but this week I've realised two things. Firstly, the Chief Editor stresses too much (my college counselor doesn't fret so much over an essay deadline). Secondly, I have only a couple more of these, so I figure that I should make the most of it.

Anyways, have you ever heard of the light at the end of the tunnel? Trick question, because if you're a Dosco, you haven't. You're not allowed to. One may have thought that after a term with exams, football, IPSCs, YEC and DSMUN,

with two more sets of exams as well as the DS90 Founder's Day coming up, we would have gotten some sort of a break in between. Well, no, because next week has not one, not two, not three, but *four* events coming up. With *Chucks*, Kamla Jeevan, JEDI, and the DS Quiz just around the corner, I urge my Juniors to look forward to a long weekend. Take a nap or two for me, because *prep* for the coming events is now in full swing.

Along with Hockey season kicking off, this is also PTM week, and I truly believe that we have taken unserious to a whole new level. Instead of trying to behave well and studying in class a week before the PTM like regular people, we decided to follow the teachings of a wise penguin who once said "Can't behave badly if you're late to class." I will say though, that we have shown some improvement after the Great YC

Inflation of August 2025. People have stopped bunking classes. A certain level of sophistication and class has been bought into the game, as attendance in the *hospi* has skyrocketed, especially since rumours have begun spreading that the much coveted 'House Rest' was being handed out (thank you Doc).

In other news, this week also saw the arrival of the 'bird flu' and the departure of chicken in the CDH, with the empty plates at dinner leading to increased activity around 'Tutors' residences in the later hours of the day.

I've been sitting here for ten minutes and I can't think of a way to end this so, that's all for now. See you next time.

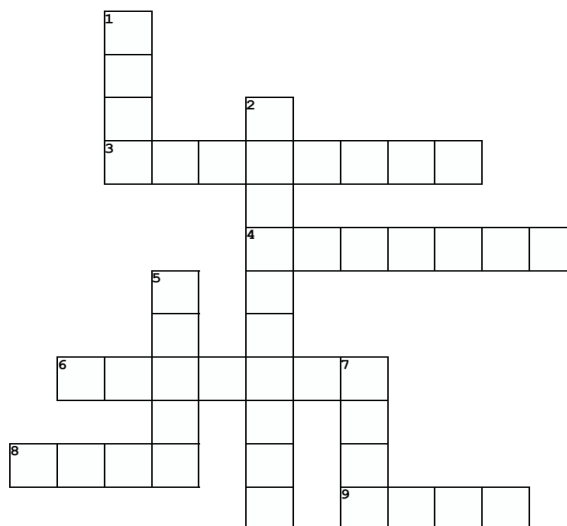
Crossword | Infectious Diseases

Across:

3. A deadly disease, it caused a fever and characteristic progressive rash.
4. The WHO-declared pandemic of March 11, 2020.
6. A severe diarrheal infection typically caused by eating contaminated food, known to spread through water.
8. A mosquito-borne outbreak tied to microcephaly.
9. The 2003 coronavirus that hit East Asia and Toronto.

Down:

1. Camel-linked coronavirus outbreak starting in 2011.
2. A medieval plague spread flea-bitten rats.
5. A hemorrhagic fever with a massive West Africa outbreak.
7. A sexually transmitted disease that caused an epidemic in the 1980s.



Across:	Down:
3. Smallpox	1. MERS
4. COVID-19	2. Black Death
6. Cholera	5. Ebola
8. Zika	7. AIDS

Key:

Source: <https://www.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

Online Edition: www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/



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