

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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DOONSPEAK

The Community recounts their School Interview experiences.

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Leaving No Stone Unturned

Arav Khanal (Ex 391-O, 2025) *reflects on the need to look within.*

"When you leave, leave with no regrets," is something everyone hears. And while I can in no way speak for anyone else from my Batch, nor can I judge my own merits, I found this to be an impossible task. For if I had truly closed Doon as a chapter of my life, I would be rejecting the proposal to write this article in the first place.

I had found it best to try and leave no stone unturned, which ultimately never led to as much satisfaction as I thought it would. Worse, if you look at the amount of *bajri* you walk over every day, prying into every rock is tiring and arduous. And so, there was always an internal dilemma. I would ask myself, "Should I really be doing all of this?" Over, and over, and over again.

Writing this article is, admittedly, a way to escape thoughts of my country in flames; but when it comes to burnouts in school, sometimes you have to let yourself be reduced to ash before you can rise again. Let the fuel run dry and then rest knowing you did all that you could. Taking a step back is not necessarily bad; it is necessary. Because we are still...

Human... and this is important (not just because I am pulling a Chekhov and you will see it later).

After my School journey was given a rather unsatisfying end due to conflict, coming back home and even in its safety managing to face another, I realised there is no freedom from crisis. Learning to

power through and stay put is no choice, and adversaries — however petty — are a dime a dozen in some place like Doon. The regret I can't seem to shake is the bitterness I've felt toward others, regardless of who they are or why. Compassion, rather than anger, should exist beyond reason.

It is easy to strip apart tone and intention from speech, only look at the reflection of the words on your mind, and take it for something completely different. If you had told me that I would go from seeing internet bickering to all three branches of the government razed over mere days, it would never have crossed my mind to look deeper and break apart the intricacies of all the pre-existing sentiment. Never judge a book by its cover, but do read into what is inside if you truly wish to learn. You will discover more than just a library. I truly regret that I never took the time to pry more into things and instead shrugged off plenty in spite.

Yet, not to stray from the notion of doubt, it is clear that despite everything accomplished and all efforts made, many still wonder: "Did we make the right choice? Should things have ever reached this stage?" "Is it too late for us—are we beyond hope?"

I mean, it feels just as ridiculous to potentially have the future of a country decided on Discord and Reddit as it does to discuss what your next move as Prefect should

be in the dorms after midnight. There will always be doubt that is raised through the triviality of the action. Yet sometimes, being trivial means being simple. Thereby, by extension, and application of Occam's Razor, that very simplicity is key. So, if there is, in this regard, any other regret that I have, it is the fact that overcomplication, too, can be a bane, and I had fallen for it to compensate.

Finally, there is fresh regret that I was not able to give any particular answer to what I was asked. Are we taking things too simply or for more than what they are worth? Even the middle ground feels lacklustre and not achieving of anything. As much as I would want this final point to be a 'meta' look at what I've written, it is also true to what I feel had been a mistake during my school years. I could waffle on and on, go off on topics you feel you have two cents to spare in — you could do it too — only to end up nowhere conclusive. However, the only thing that shelves that regret is knowing that you put forth the energy to think and talk about it in the first place. Whether it be answering your teacher's questions or putting forth your own questions to experts at the end of events. Knowing the hunk of fat and electricity within your skull exists, and functions. That you are flawed, yet all the same, still remaining human. So, if there is a regret anyone should have, it is: Not. Staying. Human.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Who wants the lava-iest choco lava?
Aryaman Sagwal, hungry.
The heavier tabla is the lighter one.
Reyansh Sekhani, light-headed.
Rain my love only.
Bhavesht Joshi, a giant heart.
Stop abusing substances.
Hridaan Kumar, vigilant.

READER’S CHECKLIST

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

Aarit Singhania: *We Were Liars* by E Lockhart
Ssavya Garg: *Zero to One* by Peter Thiel
Siddharth Sahay: *The Rest of the Robots* by Isaac Asimov
Tejas Bhardwaj: *Kafka on the Shore* by Haruki Murakami

LISTENER’S CHECKLIST

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

Vardhan Garg: *Delilah (Pull me out of this)* by Fred Again
Chaitanya Mukkamala: *Luther* by Kendrick Lamar
Sarosh Kamal: *O Rangrez* by Javed Bashir
Ayaan Adeeb: *Been Away* by Brent Faiyaz

This Week in History

1522 CE: The Magellan ship Victoria arrives at Seville, completing the first circumnavigation ever, of the Earth.
1683 CE: Several European armies join forces to defeat the Ottoman Empire in the Austro-Ottoman War.
1791 CE: King Louis XVI accepts the new French Constitution.
1943 CE: Benito Mussolini is rescued from house arrest by German commando forces led by Otto Skorzeny.
2001 CE: The 9/11 attacks kill 2,977 people through four aircrafts hijacked by nineteen members of the terrorist outfit Al-Qaeda.
2022 CE: Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom dies at Balmoral Castle in Scotland after reigning for seventy years.

Around the World in 80 Words

Thailand’s Anutin Charnvirakul took office as the country’s new Prime Minister, marking a significant change in leadership. Four killed and eighteen injured as Russia carried out its largest-ever air assault on Ukraine. Clashes broke out in Kathmandu as protestors clashed with police over corruption and a government ban on several apps. C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected Vice-President of India. Conservative commentator, Charlie Kirk, was shot dead at Utah Rally. India won their fourth Asia Cup hockey title in Rajgir.

READING AWARD

Harshil Makin has been awarded the **Gold Reading Award (Senior)**.

Congratulations!

The Weekly wishes the entire School Community a very happy हिंदी दिवस!



“

If we asked out of all the things in this universe which one, if altered in a random way, would remain unchanged, the answer is a random sequence. A random sequence changed in a random way remains random. A mess remains a mess.

Heinz Pagels



How was your experience with the School Interview?

When I received the email informing me that I had cleared the entrance exam and was only one step away from joining Doon, I was overwhelmed with joy and excitement, though a bit nervous as well. I had heard about the interview and was told it could be intimidating, with Masters and Prefects present. However, as soon as I joined, my fellow candidates and I were immediately put at ease. We discussed our backgrounds, hobbies, and other personal interests, which helped break the ice. During the session, we were shown a video on empathy and were reminded by the Headmaster of the importance of such values at Chandbagh. By this point, I felt comfortable enough to openly share my thoughts on the topic. The moment the interview ended, I had a strong sense of satisfaction, and my excitement only grew when I received the acceptance letter a few days later. I truly believe that the key to acing the interview is to be genuine and to confidently speak up about things you are truly passionate about.

- Vir Sandhu

While taking interviews as an Sc Former, I often notice how uneasy the younger children appear to be. Their fingers twitch nervously, their voices tremble, and their eyes wander as though searching for comfort. Watching them shiver in their chairs reminded me of my own admission interview. I remember sitting at a table that felt too large, directly facing the interviewer, in what was otherwise an already very tense setting. Every question seemed more daunting than it truly was. Even small group activities like solving puzzles or watching a short video felt more serious under the pressure of our every single movement being noted. My heartbeat was fast, and I was frighteningly aware of every small mistake I might make. Looking back, this journey has not been anything short of extraordinary, turning from a timid young child sinking under the weight of his interview to sitting across that table, taking that interview.

- Lohitaksh Gupta



Not long ago, I learned that I had been shortlisted for the Doon School interview. The moment I read the news, a wave of exhilaration coursed through me. I found myself replaying the thought over and over — I was actually going to sit for the Doon School Interview. Sitting outside the interview room, my heartbeat quickened as countless scenarios raced through my mind. When my name was called, I took a deep breath and entered, summoning as much composure as I could. Once the conversation began, my nervousness gradually faded. The panel asked me simple yet thoughtful questions — about the subjects I truly enjoyed, the hobbies that kept me engaged outside the classroom, and why I felt I would be a good fit for Doon. Looking back, the experience was a lesson in both composure and authenticity. After a brief but meaningful conversation with the School Captain, I felt certain that I had made the right choice in applying to Doon.

- Adhyayan Rajgarhia

I still remember it like it was yesterday; I slept restlessly, as any child in my position would have. I knew that after the interview, my life would not stay the same. I woke up the next morning not to my alarm but to my mom screaming in my face, “YOU’RE LATE FOR THE INTERVIEW!” Amid all the chaos, I remember thinking that chaotic beginnings lead to chaotic endings. As I sat in my warm, freshly ironed clothes and joined the meeting (online), I was met by the Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, that year’s School Captain, along with a few other students who would either become my Batchmates or just acquaintances I met on the day of my interview. A few questions later, I sat comfortably, knowing that I had answered them — though nervous to my bones — to the best of my ability. Now, all I could do was wait for the results.

- Tanay Lal

THE LIFE OF CHUCK

A Movie Review

by Sumer Gill

Other movies attempt to play tricks with story timelines and inevitably end up overcorrecting and losing the audience. *Tenet* reminds me of that. It had the ingenious idea of moving in reverse, but it immediately drowned in its own machinery. *The Life of Chuck*, in contrast, achieves the remarkable feat of moving backwards without ever missing a beat. Each act gathers momentum, not in a downward or upward direction, but inward. The final scene connects seamlessly with its origin.

Chuck's story becomes personal right from the beginning. It is expressed in the richest metaphorical terms. He is not just a man. He is a universe, a memory, a circle. The narrative structure is shaped by powerful character development: fear as a child, visions in the attic, and even the scar on his hand. All these details come together at the end, not as unresolved fragments, but as the surreal conclusion of both the character's journey and the world itself. What could have been disconnected sideplots instead become emotionally resonant. Many films aim for profundity by using forced or otherworldly elements and collapse under their own ambition. This film earns its depth through emotional coherence.

What astonished me most was how gracefully the film maintains emotional tension from start to finish. I walked into the theatre half expecting a horror film, especially since it is based on a story by Stephen King. It turned out to be nothing like the lumbering macabres of *It*. Rather than being a grotesque spectacle, this film offers a quiet and persistent unease that never lets go. A billboard tribute to Chuck, a high school prom, and an unexpected Tom Hiddleston street dance could easily have felt like tired clichés. However, the way these moments are presented makes them feel both strange and deeply comforting. This consistent combination of the familiar and the

uncanny gives the film much of its emotional strength. The cast performs as a cohesive ensemble. No actor tries to stand apart or steal the spotlight. Together, they create a texture that feels subtle and completely in tune with the story's emotional rhythm. Lines that appear mysterious during the opening scenes of the third act return later in the first act, now filled with context and emotion. The repetition does not feel redundant. It feels deliberate and meaningful, reinforcing the foundation for a conclusion that feels both dreamlike and deeply moving.

The film is strongest when it embraces familiar themes and presents them with sincerity. School dances, first crushes, and the experience of being an outsider are not original ideas. In this story, however, they serve as the starting point for a life that feels real and universally relatable. Chuck's development feels fluid, not because it is filled with spectacle, but because it reflects an ordinary journey. That ordinariness becomes its greatest strength.

There are flaws if one chooses to notice them. Some of the acting stumbles briefly, and the theatrical framing becomes slightly too self-aware at times. These moments, though, are minor. When a film captures its emotional tone and structure with this much clarity, small imperfections become irrelevant. I was never focused on the mechanics of the story. I was fully absorbed in the experience. It is rare to see a film bring all its elements together with such confidence and emotional truth. *The Life of Chuck* deserves recognition, not because it is loud or provocative, but because it unites its form, message, and emotion with quiet brilliance.

Very few films deserve to be called complete. This one truly does.

Crescendos and Cadenzas

Anuraag Basu reports on the recently concluded Inter-House Music Competition.

The recently concluded Inter-House Music Competition was a resounding success. The Competition acted as an opportunity for upcoming musicians to showcase their talents. The variety of instruments and genres filled the Auditorium with musical energy and enthusiasm.

The event commenced with the graceful and captivating performances of the Piano Solo. The spirit of competition was palpable, as each performer sought to leave a distinct impression on the audience and judges, not merely through their technical expertise, but by the emotional weight of their interpretations. The category left an impression on all with its technical brilliance, fluid melodies, and versatile musical pieces. The evening moved into the Hindustani Classical genre, with the presentation of the Vocal Solo category. As each House's performer stepped on to the stage, the Auditorium resonated with melodic and soulful *ragas*, and heard the impressive range of voices, from the deep bass to the soaring soprano. The introduction of the new category, the Percussion Ensemble, brought innovation to the program by spotlighting various percussion instruments and encouraging the self-compositions of songs.

The event continued with the Hindustani Orchestra. The skillful melodies, embellished with short improvisations, and the perfect coordination between the instruments, truly portrayed the mastery of the experienced musicians and the brilliant adaptability of the novices. The much-anticipated Choir segment provided a vibrant and fitting

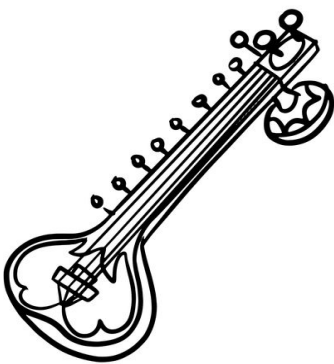
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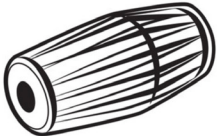


conclusion to the evening’s performances. As the singers took the stage, the atmosphere shifted delightfully with the timeless tunes of Kishore Kumar brought back to life. Their exciting harmonies and quick-paced rhythms offered a playful contrast to the Orchestra’s serene elegance, while the witty lyrics added an element of charm and humour. Several performers went a step further, embracing their inner actors with a theatrical flair, keeping the audience chuckling and engaged throughout.

Beyond showcasing musical prowess, the Inter-House Music Competition served as a culmination of creativity, teamwork, and a spirit of friendly competition. Every category, from delicate Piano Solos to dynamic Choir performances, showcased the School’s talent spectrum and the commitment and hard work put in by the students and Masters. What was most evident was the way music served as a unifying bridge, connecting different Houses and even different styles of music at a time when competition was the greatest driving force.

The addition of new formats, such as the Percussion Ensemble along with the Hindustani Orchestra, struck an appropriate balance between creativity and tradition. The environment of the Auditorium had morphed the evening into a vivid collection of moments, laughter, applause, and intensity; each moment an enthralling experience. The Competition this year, as with all previous editions, will definitely be etched in the School’s memory.



HOUSE STANDINGS

Percussion 1st: Kashmir 2nd: Jaipur and Oberoi 3rd: Tata 4th: Hyderabad		House Choir 1st: Tata 2nd: Oberoi 3rd: Jaipur and Kashmir 4th: Hyderabad		Hindustani Vocal 1st: Jaipur 2nd: Tata 3rd: Oberoi 4th: Hyderabad 5th: Kashmir
	Hindustani Orchestra 1st: Tata 2nd: Jaipur 3rd: Kashmir 4th: Oberoi 5th: Hyderabad		Piano Solo 1st: Oberoi 2nd: Tata 3rd: Hyderabad 4th: Kashmir 5th: Jaipur	

Smoke Over Kathmandu

Samik Garg explains the ongoing crisis in Nepal.

‘Burning banks, hotels, supermarkets, and punishing politicians may feel like rebellion, but the end product is a destroyed society.’ This statement captures the tension in Nepal. The country is experiencing one of its most turbulent moments in years, if not decades. Protests, largely started by the youth of the country, have shaken the government, and with the removal of the Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, the nation is left in uncertainty.

The crisis began when several laws regulating social media were enforced in 2023. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and X were informed of the requirement to register under the law of Nepal, pay their taxes, and follow stringent national checks. When most

platforms refused to comply with the protocol, the government responded with bans. The Government justified itself by defending the actions as a matter of law and sovereignty. The Prime Minister too directly defended the decision, claiming that foreign arrogance could never govern or overrule the nation of Nepal.

Protesters saw the bans as an attack on individual sovereignty. Defensive measures such as curfews were imposed, despite which, vandalism took place. Banks, supermarkets, and government offices became targets of the protests. Parliamentary buildings were the top priority when it came to vandalism during the

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protests. Homes of Ministers were vandalised, and families were also affected. Within just a few days over nineteen people have died.

The corruption has been a rampant problem in Nepal, with several government officers criticised for alleged involvement, thus compounding the problem altogether.

The economic climate of Nepal has been unwelcoming and uninclusive of the people of the country. This led to the economy being another strong point of contention of the protestors. Inflation, unemployment, and inadequate infrastructure have left young people deeply dissatisfied. For the government, striking a balance between changes and stability has become nearly impossible given a general lack of capital and honest leaders in the system.

As a result of these problems, the government is facing rampant criticism and popularity is hanging in the balance. The volatility has been heightening by key ministers stepping down from their offices along with the Prime Minister, who fled to Dubai.

However, as reforms are underway, a lot of platforms that were previously banned were made accessible to the public, and the Nepal Army

has stepped in and is patrolling the streets of Kathmandu to ensure no more destruction can take place.

Protesters are calling for broad reforms, including the dissolution of parliament and the resignation of dishonest leaders within the country. VPNs are being used by the youth of Nepal to bypass what is left of the bans and spread news of the protests worldwide.

With Oli's resignation, Nepal has found itself an opening. Figures like Kul Man Ghising, Sushila Karki, Balendra Shah, and Harka Sampang represent diverse backgrounds in engineering, law, activism, and grassroots governance. Their rise signals a shift away from traditional politics toward pragmatic, transparent leadership. If these leaders remain true to their ideals, Nepal could see meaningful reform through stronger institutions, reduced corruption, and a government more responsive to its people. The challenges ahead are formidable, but the energy and vision of these individuals offer Nepal a chance to build a prosperous future.

The world watches as Nepal's youth are at the helm of steering the country forward.

हिंदी: हमारी पहचान, हमारी शान

हिन्दी दिवस के अवसर पर समर्थ गोयल द्वारा प्रस्तुत आलेख।

‘कोस-कोस पर बदले पानी, चार कोस पर वाणी।’ 19वीं शताब्दी के महान लेखक और नाटककार भारतेन्दु हरिश्चंद्र के यह शब्द हमें बताते हैं कि हमारे भारत में कितनी विविधता है, जहाँ कुछ ही किलोमीटर की दूरी पर एक नई भाषा-बोली बोलने और सुनने को मिल जाती है। लेकिन इतनी विविधता में इतनी सारी भाषाओं को एक जुट रखने का काम एक बेहद ही प्यारी भाषा करती है और वह भाषा, हमारी राजभाषा ‘हिन्दी’ है।

14 सितम्बर, हमारी हिंदी भाषा के लिए एक बेहद महत्वपूर्ण दिन है। 1949 में इसी दिन हमारी संविधान सभा ने निर्णय लिया था कि देवनागरी लिपि में लिखी जाने वाली हिन्दी भारत की राजभाषा होगी। इसी ऐतिहासिक दिन को यादगार बनाने के लिए 14 सितम्बर 1953 से हिन्दी दिवस मनाने की परंपरा शुरू हुई। हिन्दी दिवस भारतीयों को याद दिलाता है कि अंग्रेज़ी के बढ़ते प्रभाव के बावजूद हमें अपनी जड़ों से और अपनी संस्कृति से जुड़े रहना चाहिए। हिन्दी अपने इतिहास और अपनी संस्कृति को जानने का एक सशक्त और सरल माध्यम है।

भारत में हिन्दी सबसे अधिक बोली जाने वाली भाषा है। भारत में करीब 60% लोग धाराप्रवाह हिन्दी बोलते हैं और करीब 30% भारतीयों की मातृभाषा हिन्दी है। लेकिन सबसे महत्वपूर्ण यह जानना है कि हिन्दी भारत की राजभाषा है। आज हिन्दी प्रशासन और न्यायपालिका से लेकर शिक्षा और मीडिया तक हर जगह महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही है। सरकारी कार्यों और दफ्तरों में हिन्दी का प्रयोग लगातार बढ़ रहा है। हिन्दी साहित्य ने भी देश को नई दिशा दी है—कबीर, तुलसी, प्रेमचंद और महादेवी वर्मा जैसे जाने कितने महान साहित्यकारों ने हिन्दी को जन-जन तक पहुँचाया। हिन्दी ने हमारे देश, भारत की एकता को सुदृढ़ करने में सबसे बड़ी भूमिका निभाई है। भारत जैसे विविधता से भरे देश में जहाँ सैकड़ों बोलियाँ और भाषाएँ बोली जाती हैं, वहाँ हिन्दी ने एक साझा भाषा के रूप में कार्य किया है। यह उत्तर और मध्य भारत

में मुख्य भाषा होने के साथ-साथ दक्षिण और पूर्वी राज्यों में भी समझी और बोली जाती है, जिससे देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों के लोग आसानी से एक-दूसरे से संवाद कर पाते हैं। हिन्दी ने भरत सहित पूरे विश्व में भारतीयों के बीच सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक जुड़ाव व सद्भाव को मज़बूत किया है और यह राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर संपर्क की भाषा बनी है।

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में हिन्दी का प्रभाव गहरा रहा है। हिन्दी माध्यम से शिक्षा प्राप्त करने वाले करोड़ों विद्यार्थियों ने न केवल उच्च शिक्षा पाई बल्कि विज्ञान, साहित्य और कला के क्षेत्र में भी महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया। स्कूलों और विश्वविद्यालयों में हिन्दी के प्रयोग ने ज्ञान को आम जनता तक पहुँचाने में मदद की, क्योंकि यह भाषा सरल, सहज और बहुसंख्यक जनसमूह द्वारा बोली जाने वाली भाषा है। हिन्दी ने शिक्षा को केवल अभिजात वर्ग तक सीमित न रखते हुए हर गाँव-नगर तक पहुँचाया।

साहित्य और कविता में हिन्दी का योगदान भारत के राष्ट्रनिर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण रहा है। स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के समय हिन्दी कविताओं और लेखों ने लोगों को जागरूक किया और स्वतंत्रता की लौ जलाई। मैथिलीशरण गुप्त, मुंशी प्रेमचंद, रामधारी सिंह दिनकर, महादेवी वर्मा और जयशंकर प्रसाद जैसे महान व समर्पित साहित्यकारों ने हिन्दी के माध्यम से समाज सुधार और राष्ट्रीय चेतना को फैलाने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया।” हिन्दी साहित्य ने भारतीय समाज को एक नई दिशा दी और सामाजिक कुरीतियों के खिलाफ आवाज़ उठाई।

प्रशासन और सरकारी कामकाज में हिन्दी ने एक प्रभावी साधन के रूप में अपनी जगह बनाई। सरकारी दफ्तरों, न्यायालयों और संसद में हिन्दी के प्रयोग ने आम जनता को शासन से जोड़ने में मदद की। यह भाषा आम नागरिक और सरकार के बीच संवाद का सेतु बनी, जिससे लोकतंत्र अधिक

(Continued to Page 7)

सशक्त हुआ।

हमारे विद्यालय में भी हिंदी को बहुत सम्मान और महत्त्व दिया जाता है। यहाँ हिंदी के अनेक कार्यक्रम आयोजित होते हैं, जैसे भारतवाणी सोसायटी के अंतर्गत आयोजित अनेक गतिविधियाँ जिनमें वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिताएँ, काव्य पाठ, संभाषण प्रतियोगिता, निबंध व कहानी लेखन प्रतियोगिताएँ आदि प्रमुख हैं। रंगमंच सोसायटी द्वारा हिन्दी में नाटकों का मंचन, विद्यालय की एक पुरानी परंपरा है जो विद्यार्थियों को भारतीय व विश्व की अन्य संस्कृतियों के मूल्यों और परम्पराओं से जोड़ती है। इसके साथ विद्यार्थियों के बीच हिन्दी में मौलिक व रचनात्मक लेखन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कई पत्र-पत्रिकाओं जैसे सृजन प्रयास, युव अर्पण और इस साप्ताहिक पत्र के हिन्दी खंड का प्रकाशन भी भाषा के सीखने-सिखाने की प्रक्रिया को विशेष बनाता है। इन सब प्रतियोगिताओं व गतिविधियों से विद्यार्थियों को न केवल प्रेरणा मिलती

है बल्कि विचार और भावों की अभिव्यक्ति के लिए कई मंच भी मिलते हैं ताकि हर एक विद्यार्थी अपनी रुचि के अनुसार इस जनभाषा का हिस्सा बन सके, व्यावहारिक जीवन में इसका प्रयोग करे और इसे सहज भाव से सीखे।

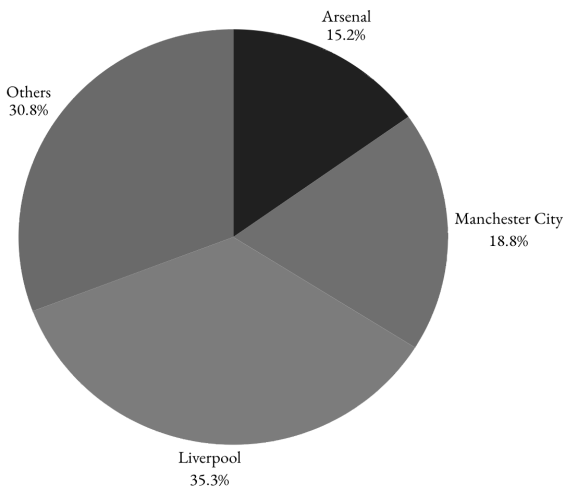
“हिंदी हृदय की भाषा है।”

-महात्मा गांधी

Between the Crossbars

Vivaan Arora lays out his expectations for the Premier League season ahead.

Who will win the Premier League this year?



230 members of the School Community were polled.

The 2025-26 Premier League campaign has kicked off with great vigour and balance in competition between the twenty teams involved. Last season's champions, Liverpool, have been impressive so far under their new manager, Arne Slot, leading with an undefeated streak through their initial matches. With smart reinforcements from the Bundesliga and a shrewdly rebuilt backline, Liverpool look well placed to defend their crown, balancing tactical discipline with attacking flair. Their quality and depth in the squad indicate a high chance to maintain the crown.

Arsenal and Chelsea too are some of the main contenders for the trophy as the season kicks off. Arsenal's signing of Viktor Gyokeres and Martin Zubimendi has brought greater versatility to their attacking and midfield lineups, while Chelsea's continued spending and recruitment has placed them well. Manchester United, the club that previously terrorised Europe, has had an absolutely disastrous beginning, reflective of the transition from the old superstar-heavy line-up. With one victory, one draw, and one defeat so far, their squad is mid-table, which is evidence of an unbalanced form. A great deal is required of the team manager Ruben Amorim if the club wants

to preserve some semblance of its former glory. This is especially important, due to dire performances by keeper Onana and the loss of key players like Marcus Rashford last season under Erik Ten Hag.

The Season is also witnessing the complete installation of semi-automated offside technology in all fixtures, improving officiating uniformity and precision. The technical innovation is consistent with the league's pursuit of fairness and integrity. Furthermore, the Premier League has shifted the official match ball supplier to Puma, ending Nike's 25-year reign.

Promoted clubs Leeds United, Burnley, and Sunderland have emerged as 'minor' dark horses of the tournament, injecting healthy competition into the league. Sunderland's promotion brings back the Tyne-Wear derby, a fixture missing since the 2015-16 campaign, creating new local interest. Managerial movements have also grabbed headlines, as Nottingham Forest parted with Nuno Espírito Santo for a decent mid-table finish and moved surprisingly quickly to install Ange Postecoglou.

Overall, the 2025-26 Premier League season is marked by a coincidence of ambitious investment, technological investments, and the dramatic fall of the Old Giants. The fiercely competitive nature of early positions, coupled with the quality and ambition of several clubs, guarantees a brilliant and competitive campaign. Fans and commentators alike expect a season marked by technical brilliance, emergent players, and enthralling performances as the season unfolds.



The Week Gone By

Kanishk Bammi

As I sit in class trying to slyly write this *Week Gone By*, since I happen to fear the Chief Ed. more than my Masters, I couldn't help but think that this week, on the face of it, seems like one of the more *normal* weeks here at Doon. I then realised that we have had PT, Play *pracs*, Quiz, admission interviews, hockey, debating, badminton, football and in the middle of it all, a small group of sensible people who happen to remember that 'Test Week starts in ten days' time. Remember, there is no normal week here at Doon.

So let's start at the very best place to start (your day) — PT. Ever since it's no longer compulsory for me to attend, I have a newfound appreciation for PT and I'm now a strong advocate for whatever the

reason for doing PT was (still haven't understood that one). Moreover, PT now features a fresh set of faces and whether *built* for the role or not, I would like to congratulate everyone who has been blessed with early mornings of shouting at *smaller Penguins*.

Everyone prays for rain in the morning during PT but sunshine in the evening to play hockey, but unfortunately, such is not the case as the Hockey season has seemingly tried to adopt the Pomodoro technique. Speaking of techniques to focus on, Test Week is around the corner, and with 'Predicteds' on the line for a lot of us as we start the final stretch, we can only think, *Pressure? What pressure?*

In other news, with the stalwarts of Sc Form slowly retreating back into their rooms with the realisation that marks indeed do matter, the snakes have come out to play. With PT being just the start of it, I'd like to remind all my dear Prefects that having "late-night talks" with that one S

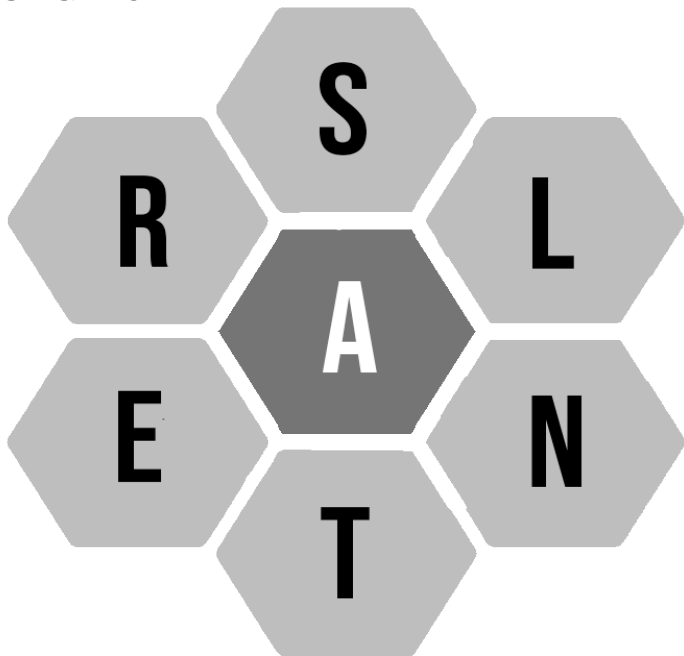
Former won't get you to your dream university. If they so desperately need to make an impression, get them to write an essay or two for you.

The Quiz is going to be held tonight, and in case you are thinking about bunking, remember that answering an audience question will earn you a chocolate. There's also a high chance that your Formmate will answer the most basic question incorrectly — giving you something to make fun of at the dinner table for days to come. On behalf of the *Weekly*, I would also like to congratulate the Football team for their stellar performance at the IPSC Competition.

Lastly then, come find me at the O House Sc Form table. If you give me your dessert, I promise I'll get your article published in the *Founder's DS90 Weekly*. You can then show off to your parents and tell them about how smart you've become.

Anyways, it's Senior Editor #2 next week for his last appearance. I'll be back soon, though. I still have one more left in me. Till then, miss me.

Word-It



Some answers to this
Week's Word-It:
Alert
Alter
Steal
Laser

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