

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
September 20, 2025 | Issue No. 2752



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## Plugged In, Tuned Out

**Ms Suravi Podder** *analyzes the disadvantages of relying on social media for accurate information.*

There was once a time, not so long ago, when the morning newspaper held the key to the world. Its rustling pages spoke of coups and cricket, warzones and Wimbledon, and between the columns nestled cartoons, commentary, and crossword clues that made you think. Today, that ritual has been replaced by something far more addictive: an early morning scroll through YouTube shorts and Instagram reels.

For many in Gen Z, the phone screen has become the lens through which the world is viewed and understood. Social media platforms are no longer just entertainment; they are increasingly the primary sources of information. And this shift, gradual yet profound, deserves both admiration and scrutiny.

The rise of social media as an information hub is not without merit. It is revolutionary. A student in rural India can now access lectures by MIT professors, watch explainers on international conflicts, and listen to podcasts. Traditional media, with its polished anchors and formal tone, often alienated the young. In contrast, a relatable YouTuber or Instagram educator offers not just news, but context, and perhaps more importantly, conversation.

The visual nature of these platforms caters brilliantly to today's attention economy. Infographics, animation, and live

commentary often communicate more effectively than endless text. What once took a column can now be compressed into a thirty-second reel, and while purists may scoff, there is no denying the ingenuity. In times of crisis, social media becomes the people's microphone. It empowers citizens to bear witness, often challenging state narratives and corporate silence. For better or worse, it has flattened the hierarchy of information.

But every revolution carries its ghosts. The same platforms that inform can also mislead. Algorithms that promise personalised content often trap users in echo chambers. Opinions parade as facts, conspiracy theories gain traction, and the loudest voices drown out nuance. The democracy of speech ensures not everyone is heard.

The erosion of critical thinking is troubling. In a world where news is consumed in fifteen-second intervals, who pauses to verify or read beyond the headline? Young minds eager for speed risk trading depth for dopamine. Credibility is another concern: journalists are bound by ethics, influencers are not. A trending reel can sway elections or health decisions without factual backing. The line between educator and entertainer blurs. Doomscrolling delivers the world's worst headlines at breakfast, lunch, and midnight,

breeding cynicism, fatigue, and burnout disguised as awareness.

When I was in boarding school, we did not have laptops. Information came not with a click but with curiosity. Every afternoon, folded newspapers were slipped into our beds — our only real access to the world beyond campus. The library, with its dusty encyclopedias and magazines, was our portal to deeper knowledge. It was frustrating sometimes, but it shaped our instincts, trained our attention spans, and quietly planted a lifelong love for reading.

We were so absorbed in our books that we would often steal bathroom breaks after lights out and sit in the loos with flashlights or tiny reading lamps, just to finish one more chapter. Sometimes we stayed there for hours, our backs pressed against cold tiles, lost in worlds far removed from our own.

There was no buzz, no ping, no reel to swipe. Just silence and a story. That joy of reading alone, uninterrupted, and immersed is something many children no longer experience. The overstimulation of information has replaced the slow immersion of a book.

In the end, information is only as powerful as its interpreter. The challenge before us is not merely to stay informed, but to stay wise. It is up to you to choose your device, but may the smell of books find you otherwise.

# This Week in History

**1916 CE:** The tank is used for the first time in combat by the British in World War I.

**1937 CE:** J.R.R. Tolkien publishes *The Hobbit*, a fantasy that becomes a classic.

**1946 CE:** The first Cannes Film Festival begins after being delayed due to World War II.

**1972 CE:** Belize gains independence from the United Kingdom.

**1975 CE:** Papua New Guinea achieves full independence from Australia.

**1991 CE:** North Korea and South Korea are admitted to the United Nations.

## Around the World in 80 Words

Keir Starmer announced that the UK would recognise Palestine following Israel’s inability to guarantee a ceasefire. Flash floods across Uttarakhand caused infrastructural damage and several deaths. *Adolescence* won the most Emmys this year, with six wins. ABC announced that *The Jimmy Kimmel Show* was indefinitely suspended following controversial comments on Charlie Kirk’s murder. India beat Pakistan by seven wickets in the Asian Cup. British Boxer Ricky Hatton died, aged 46. Manchester City beat Manchester United 3-0 in the Premier League.

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*I am standing on my hands.*  
**Nishant Bagga**, world’s finest acrobat.

*He can play as both a defender and midfielder.*  
**Aditya Koradia**, describing a ‘versatile’ J3 substitute.

*Take an example of a bread of loaf.*  
**RSL**, baked to perfection.

*My nose hasn’t stopped running.*  
**Adhiraj Mann**, catch it if you can.

*I am the only tyre which never tires.*  
**AKM**, tirelessly working.

## MICROFICTION

Rain soaked the streets as Elena folded paper birds in silence. Each creased wing held a secret wish. She released them from the rooftop one by one, watching them vanish into the storm. A bird landed on the windowsill below. Inside, a boy stared, eyes wide, curiosity and wonder flickering across his face. He picked it up, unfolded it, and smiled. The note inside read: “You’re not alone.” Over the next week, more birds appeared, forming a trail through the city. Elena followed it, heart pounding. The final bird led her to the boy, standing in the rain, holding a dozen folded birds of his own. They laughed, the storm around them suddenly feeling warm, as if the city itself was celebrating.

- Manit Jain

## ARS RECITANDI

The following are the results of the Vikram Seth Junior Statesman Poetry Recitation Competition 2025:

### Senior Category:

**Winner:** Ayaan Mittal  
**Runner-up:** Veer Duggal

### Junior Category:

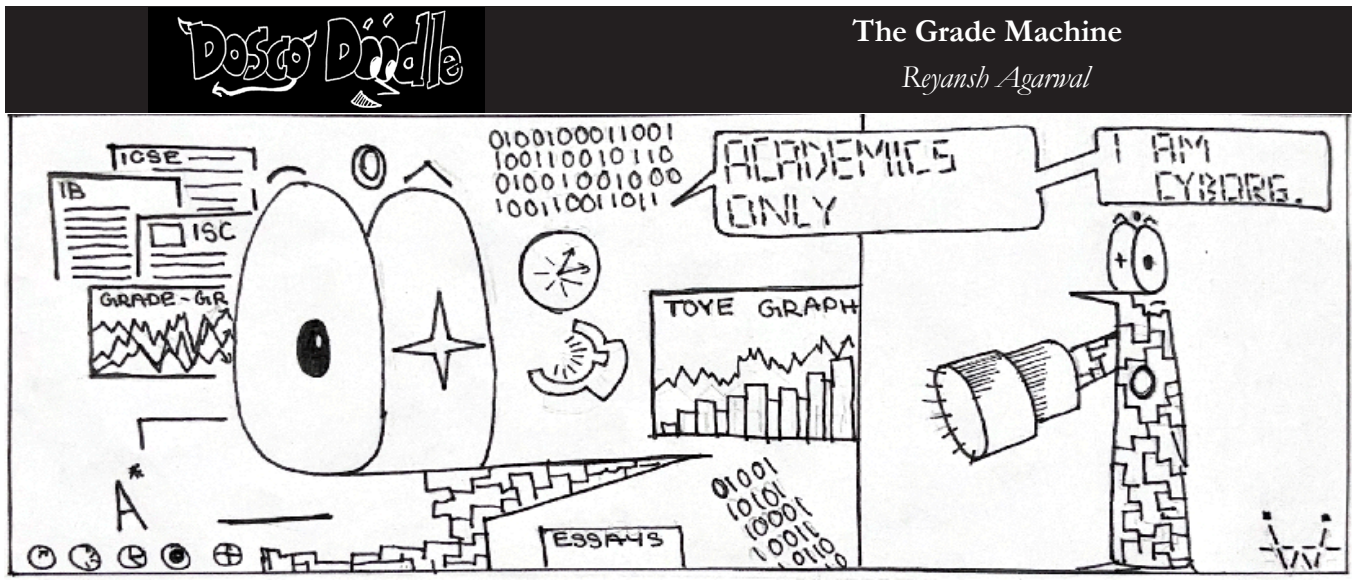
**Winner:** Yuvaan Grover  
**Runner-up:** Shrey Gulati

Well Done!

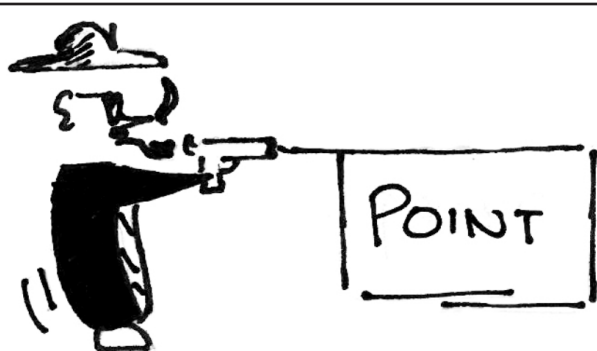
“

It is never too late to be what you might have been. The only limit to our realization of tomorrow is our doubts of today. In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count, it’s the life in your years.

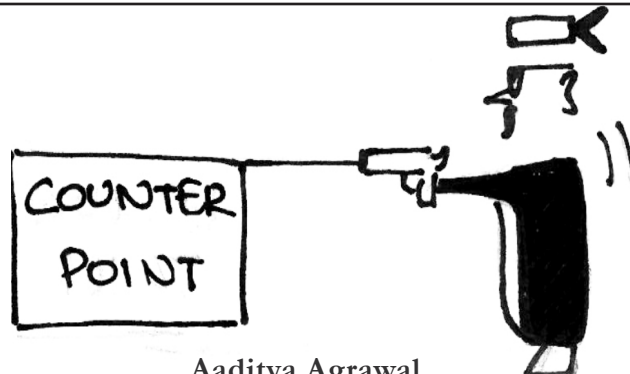
Abraham Lincoln



# Has the proliferation of initiatives compromised their quality?



Agastya Mehrotra



Aaditya Agrawal

The problem at hand is not only about stress or jam-packed schedules. It is about how School, in its pursuit of widening its scope of expertise, may slowly be taking away the innate meaning and joy behind initiatives.

In the past few terms, we have all seen a sharp rise in the number of activities, publications, and societies. These initiatives perfectly underscore that Doscos were never meant to focus only on academics, rather, have always prioritised all-round development. Nonetheless, in trying to achieve so much at once, Doon may be achieving very little.

Many activities feel rushed and repeated. They overlap with academic pressures and leave Doscos feeling exhausted by the end of the day. What begins as an exciting, new experience suddenly turns into a burden. Yes, articles are written and experiments are performed, but the problem is that most Doscos no longer do such activities for their own happiness. Instead, extra-curriculars have become a way of measuring one's social standing. I am sure many of the readers have heard people use adjectives like *vella* with disdain and mockery. Recognition has now replaced curiosity. The joy of discovery, which should be at the heart of all co-curricular pursuits, is quietly fading into the background, replaced by the relentless pressure to be seen everywhere.

In this kind of a setup, genuine personal interest is sacrificed. A student who once loved music is now kept from the Music School, because he is too busy preparing for another event. Assembly speeches that are meant to give a voice to the student body are now giving ChatGPT an opportunity to be verbose. Activities that once carried meaning are now being diluted by other newer endeavours.

When designed with focus and care, these initiatives can, without a doubt, bring a positive change towards our community but the problem lies in excess. The sheer pace of School is too brisk and we must stop and ask ourselves if this is truly what we wish to be. Times are changing, and we must too.

People say School's rapid growth across so many ventures has caused it to lose its way, straying from the steady rhythm it once followed. But when I look around, I don't see anything being watered down. It feels more like evolution. A Dosco's time here was never meant to be a narrow path. It has always been about immersing oneself in diverse pursuits, ideas, and responsibilities that shape us in ways a single focus never could.

There is often the instinct to believe that more initiatives must mean less quality, that new projects somehow draw away from the core traditions. But that misinterprets the essence of Chandbagh entirely. Our foundations were never built to keep us stuck in the past. They exist to support growth and allow it to flourish. Fresh ideas are not departures from our identity, but re-imaginings that refresh and strengthen it. Each new endeavour whether intellectual, creative, or in service of others becomes woven into the shared fabric of School life. They push us to balance competing demands, to adapt quickly, and to step beyond what is easy or comfortable.

In truth, the greater risk to School lies not in embracing change but in resisting it. The world beyond these gates moves forward each year, demanding people who can juggle responsibilities, thrive under pressure, and persevere through competing challenges. Only by engaging in a wide range of experiences does a Dosco develop true resilience. Consider the boy who dashes from the sports field to a Society meeting, then from rehearsal to a research discussion. He is not scattered or unfocused; he is embracing the full spectrum of opportunity and emerging stronger from it.

So the question is not whether these innovations dilute our heritage. The real test is whether we dare to welcome change without hesitation. To me, the answer is clear. In every part of School life, the richness we experience today is not aimless drift — it is the sharpening of our very foundations, preparing Doscos for whatever lies beyond these walls.



# The Week Gone By

Krishiv Jaiswal

Almost serendipitously, a *Weekly* kid comes to my room on Thursday to ask for a *Week Gone By* just as I open my chemistry book, giving me the perfect excuse to start with the syllabus the next day. Amidst heavy cloudbursts and countless checks by your family about your state of being, ironically, DoscOs seem to be having the time of their lives within the lamented four walls.

The week kicked off with a flurry of events, from intellectual feats across the Bakhle Essay and Vikram Seth Poetry Competitions to the last Inter-House Quiz before the delayed academic comeback, where the Swans showcased their IPL 2025 knowledge. From Miguel

de Cervantes to Penicillium, the competition reminded us that life is unpredictable and that you and I are far from omniscient. Kudos to Tata House, who displayed exceptional grit and were “true as steel” (even if steel is not a pure substance).

On the sports front, this year has seen remarkable performances from our teams, from now holding IPSC records and ‘three-peats’ in the U-19 category to a win at the Football IPSC after fifteen years. To their dismay, this leaves them with a total of four days to prepare for the exams, but it’s always an inverse relationship between your percentage and your athletic capabilities.

Alongside an influx of DS90 publications, the School has also seen a spike in reading culture as Sc Form gears up for Founders in hues of black (and blue, of course). With a new Centre of Excellence for lost and found (friendly-fire?),

the meal announcements are something the streets won’t forget.

The pressure of ‘predicted,’ college essays, and DS90 has left the Sc Formers groggy-eyed. Although all-nighters may not suffice, negotiation can. My tip: get your internal grades and let your effort grade do the talking.

The Main Field tells a different story: a forgettable hockey season, oblivious to the upcoming exams, where rain has been MVP for some, a real competitor for others. While the Gentlemen comfortably clinched the Juniors Cup, the Eagles are still creeping toward a much-awaited Grand slam.

For me, writing has always been to impress, not express, and I’ve realised this is my penultimate *Week Gone By*. I know the thought of the Co-Senior Editor’s last looming will make you sad, but on the bright side, there’s just one more from the Editor’s end. You are almost at the finish line!

## Wordsearch | Characters with titles of “Captain” or “Doctor”

- 1. A Marvel villain who rules Latveria from behind a cold iron mask.
- 2. A former surgeon turned sorcerer who defends the multiverse using mystic arts.
- 3. A time-travelling alien known simply by a title and a blue police box.
- 4. A Spider-Man enemy distinguished by the four mechanical arms fused to his body.
- 5. The brilliant scientist whose anger unleashes the monstrous Hulk.
- 6. The fearless commander of the starship Enterprise in *Star Trek*.
- 7. A skilled pilot who became the cosmic Avenger otherwise known as Carol Danvers.
- 8. The super-soldier Steve Rogers, famed for carrying an indestructible shield.
- 9. The eccentric, rum-loving rogue captain of the Black Pearl.
- 10. Tintin’s loyal, gruff sailor friend with a fondness for whisky.

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

4. Octopus	8. America
3. Who	7. Marvel
2. Strange	6. Kirk
1. Doom	5. Banner
10. Haddock	9. Sparrow

Key:

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