

The Shifting Balance



The DoonSchoolWeekly (DSW): India imports approximately 85% of its oil, with nearly 45% of it coming from the Middle East. When you joined Mr Manmohan Singh's team in 1991, the Gulf War triggered an oil shock, which pushed India to the brink, making it pledge its gold. 34 years later, India remains heavily dependent on the Middle East, with analysts predicting it to be among the most susceptible to global disruptions. Have we truly become more resilient, or have we simply replaced one fragility with another?

Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia (MSA): The economy today is more resilient in many ways than it was in 1991, but as far as petroleum imports are concerned, we remain vulnerable. We would be affected by the rise in global oil prices, and also by disruptions in supply if that happens. If the uncertainty in the Middle East is resolved within the next few weeks as far as oil is

concerned, the disruption might be minimal. However, that is highly unlikely, leading us to hope for the best.

The problem with the current situation is that the uncertainty on the oil front is only one of many aspects. The real problem is that the world has become much more uncertain in many dimensions, which affects all countries, not just India. I would draw your attention to four probable changes in the world that will have major implications for us. First, it is important to address the changed geopolitical situation which affects international security. It is quite clear that we will have to spend far more of our budget on defence than we have in the past, having serious implications on the national funding.

Second, we are facing a geoeconomic situation in which traditional rules that governed trade and investment are being overturned and even weaponised. We have to work out what approach

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The Weekly interviewed renowned Indian economist and former civil servant, Mr Montek Ahluwalia, during his visit to the School on the 7th of March for the Farewell and Prize Giving Assembly.

to follow in trade policy. We have signed FTAs with the U.K. and the E.U., among others, which is good. Discussions are being held with the U.S., but we don't know exactly where they are heading. Asia is also becoming increasingly important in the world economy. We opted out of joining the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) agreement because of China. This raises the question of whether or not we should apply to join the CPTPP (The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) which includes the major Asian powers, excluding China. I personally believe that we should, but this also entails accepting all kinds of conditions that we haven't yet been willing to accept. Climate change is also becoming a major problem, and we will be very badly affected across all spheres. This poses the challenge of moving to renewable energy in a big way and getting out of fossil fuels. Climate change also forces us to make stronger policies to adapt to the changing face of the Earth. Finally, we face a major challenge because technology, especially Artificial Intelligence, is evolving very rapidly.

We need to be clear on what technological policies we should

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UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Be silent when the teacher is on.

NAS, speechless.

I'm so deeply locked in that I feel unlocked out.

Daksh Singh, in the zone.

I'll give them a family.

Aryaman Shilswal, kididdy.

You have to run like the catwalk.

JTR, moving dangerously.

Throw away the kela wrapper.

Nirvair Ahuja, what's a peel?

PTM CHECKLIST

The *Weekly*, serving its role as an advisor, provides some tips to the School Community for the upcoming Parent-Teacher Meeting:

1. Convince your parents that, 'the exam was hard for everybody' and the Hindi topper only got 60%, making you just below average.
2. Don't forget to mention that IB grades were out of five, the last time you checked, in the case of a dearth of six and sevens.
3. Emphasise the 'academic comeback'. 'New Form, new me'.
4. Make sure your parents are aware of the sudden rescheduling of the Math teacher's conference, making them unavailable for the PTM.
5. 'Actually, the physics block is shut down for maintenance right now'.
6. 'Mama, guards purse check nabi karte, pakka'.

Good luck dear Penguins. You will certainly need it.

This Week in History

1861 CE: Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, attempting to display the value of balloons, makes a record journey, flying nine hundred miles from Cincinnati to South Carolina.

1865 CE: President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by actor, John Wilkes Booth. Three hours later, Vice President Andrew Johnson is sworn in as President.

1961 CE: A group of Cuban exiles, financed and trained by the CIA, lands at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba with the aim of ousting Fidel Castro.

2014 CE: NASA's Kepler space telescope confirms the discovery of the first Earth-size planet in the habitable zone of another star.

2018 CE: King Mswati III of then Swaziland announces that his country's name will change to Eswatini.

Around the World in 80 Words

The United States of America and Iran agreed on a two-week ceasefire based on a ten-point proposal submitted by Iran. The Central Government proposed a constitutional amendment to increase Lok Sabha seats to 850 and allow delimitation. India is set to host a meeting with foreign ministers of BRICS in May. Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, to reduce commute time to three hours. Atletico Madrid beat Barcelona 3-2 on aggregate to advance to the semi-finals.

LISTENERS' CHECKLIST

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

Asvarya Thapa: *Other Side* by Brent Faiyaz

Reyansh Agarwal: *All the Love* by Kanye West

Nanda Karumudi: *Bully* by Kanye West

THE RIDDLE?

Located in the haven of scholars,

Where the sins of man are recognised.

Not a classroom, yet lessons are learned;

Not by books, but discipline earned.

I am not a place you seek to reach,

Yet most of your paths converge to me.

You will not linger,

Yet you will remember me.

The answer to the previous Issue's riddle was the tree in front of the Oberoi House Nets on the Skinners. The first person to solve the riddle was Nihal Bhatbal.

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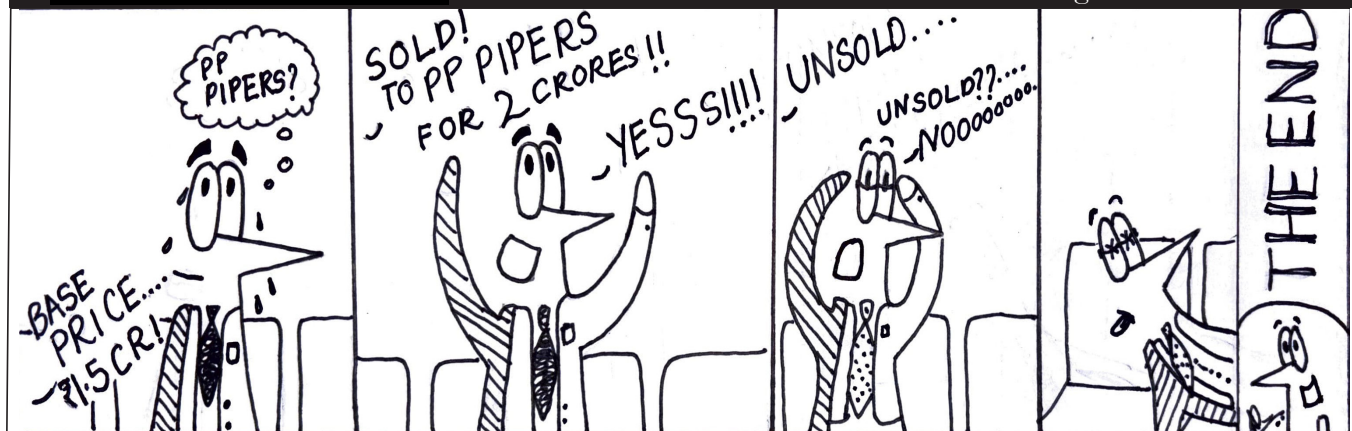
Do the one thing you think you cannot do. Fail at it. Try again. Do better the second time. The only people who never tumble are those who never mount the high wire. This is your moment. Own it.

Oprah Winfrey

Do Sco Doodle

Unfortunate Circumstances

Aarav Singla



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follow and how much we need to depend on self-sufficiency as opposed to relying on international cooperation with trusted suppliers. The rise of new technology also presents rising threats of cybersecurity, and we need to be directly involved in addressing it. I am listing these things because our economic policy has to address all the known weaknesses of the economy and also reflect our judgment on how each of these things will play out. We also need to recognise that the solution to a particular problem is not always clear. There are alternatives on which the government must deliberate upon.

DSW: India has been deemed fairly susceptible to an oil price shock. What are some steps the government can take to better protect itself over the next five years?

MSA: Firstly, anything we do that makes the economy stronger will make us more able to bear any shock, not just due to oil, but in other aspects as well. So, strengthening the economy, which also means addressing the changes that I have listed, is very important. As far as protecting ourselves against an oil shock is concerned, we clearly need to diversify supply chains, providing us with alternatives to sole dependence on the Gulf. This is already happening to some extent but if we have to do more, it may involve higher prices — something consumers will have to bear with.

We also need to increase the size of our petroleum reserves by building the necessary storage capacity. This will require major funding, and the additional cost will have to be borne by the consumer. Finally, considering a larger picture, we need to phase out fossil fuels such as coal and oil. That means building renewable

energy capacity at a large scale. This will pose many challenges, but it is necessary if we want to reduce our dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.

DSW: A lot of India's policies are based on compulsion rather than choice by conviction, such as the current situation in Punjab regarding the electricity crisis, hence the 'Freebies policy'. In the past, the reforms of 1991 were also made due to a crisis. Do you worry that the India of today is waiting for crises to make more reforms instead of reacting and making reforms with more anticipation and proactiveness? Would you also say that our ambition today is aligned with the action we are taking on a global level?

MSA: I don't think we should wait for a crisis because there is no guarantee that it will lead to the right response. For example, I don't think the reforms of 1991 happened simply because of the crisis. The crisis forced Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to bring in a technically competent person, Mr Manmohan Singh, to handle the crisis; and the reason we did well is because Mr Manmohan Singh knew exactly what needed to be done. He used the crisis to bring about a lot of changes. There were others who felt the crisis could have been managed by further tightening controls on imports, rather than liberalising. Following that route would have been disastrous. Mr Manmohan Singh had to argue a lot with the other members of the Congress party so that the solution lay in wide-ranging reforms. Unfortunately, very few political personalities actually understand the complexity of economics. As for your question on whether our ambition is aligned with the action we are taking on a global level, I think the real question to ask is

whether the actions we are taking at the domestic level are actually aligned with our domestic and global ambitions. The actions we take at the international level are also important, but our leverage there is very limited. We should therefore focus on whether we are doing as much as we can domestically. Globally, we should look for ways in which we can strengthen a commitment to multilateral rules.

DSW: This year, we saw the crash of the Rupee against the Dollar. If weak private investment persists in India, what is the first lever the Indian government should pull to work around that?

MSA: I am not sure I would describe what has happened as a 'crash' of the Rupee. Yes, the Rupee has depreciated rather sharply against the U.S. Dollar, but so have the currencies of other countries. In fact, the Chinese Yuan has depreciated more than the Rupee. There is a view that earlier, the RBI was actually preventing the Rupee from depreciating, whereas more recently, it has allowed it to do so. Given the weakening of our external environment, it was the right decision. Exchange rate movements are always politically sensitive and there is a tendency to think that a strong currency reflects the true strength of the economy. It is true that a strong economy will translate into a strong exchange rate, because a strong economy is competitive and focuses on exports, suppressing the need for imports. There is therefore no shortage of foreign exchange so the currency remains strong. However, if the economy is not strong, with vulnerabilities on the external front, then trying to maintain a strong currency instead ends up weakening the economy.

How were your first two weeks in School?

The piece below serves as a record of the first fortnight spent by the new C and D Form in School.

Life here in School is quite an experience, to say the least. Sharing the excitement with like-minded individuals and a new set of teachers, as well as the stress of coping with everything that is going on, has been a struggle and an achievement at the same time. From the extremely early morning PT, to late-night debating practices, getting sleep has been a bit of an issue. At the same time, getting to see and learn all these new sports and co-curricular activities has been quite intriguing and has been keeping me occupied all day long. Overall, I would say that my first two weeks at Doon have been — although quite hectic — a wonderful experience. My Formmates have been really kind and friendly, and I am really enjoying everything so far.

-Sanay Saraf

Once I walked through the Main Gate, a mix of fear, dread, and excitement came over me. I found myself wondering whether Doon would truly become my 'home away from home'. In just a short time, I have already started learning hockey and cricket, as a large part of our day is dedicated to sports and co-curricular activities like debating, quizzing, and art. What stands out to me the most is the constant drive to improve. Every practice demands effort and discipline. At the same time, one of the toughest adjustments is keeping up with your well-experienced Batchmates, especially in sports you once thought you were good at. The initial days were challenging, but once you settle into the routine and adapt to the pace, it becomes genuinely exciting. This experience feels unique and formative. The enjoyment of sharing it with friends makes it even more meaningful, and the memories I have made in just two weeks already feel more vivid and lasting than those from the many years spent elsewhere.

-Amey Sood

Life is just a long and winding road between birth and death, and in a place like Doon, time flies. I remember when I first stepped into Doon fourteen days ago as a curious explorer ready to face the difficulties of life. Now, fourteen days later, I have made adjustments to finally work out the puzzling nature of School. On Midterms, I realised how fast time passes, eventually tiring you out. Yet, five days later, I realised that life passes by in a flurry of wings, tiring one out along the way through the 'relaxing' Midterms. Every Dosco's life will pass like this; doing something productive just makes it worth it. As they say: keep your head held high, because a lot more is to come!

-Naman Jain

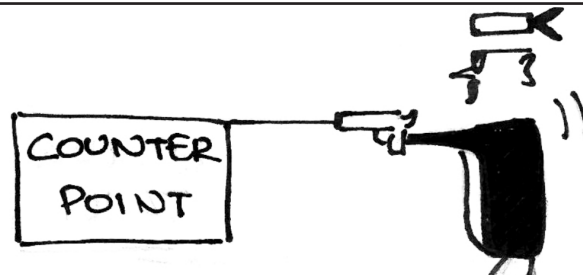
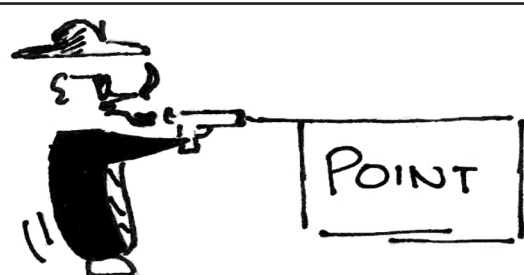
My first two weeks in Doon have been brilliant! They have been filled with adventure, jubilation, and unforgettable experiences. I've been kept on my toes these past two weeks due to the packed, yet streamlined schedule. Our first few days kicked off with the fabled Midterms, which consisted of activities such as tree climbing, and a six-kilometre trek uncovering the mountains of New Tehri, with the summit having a breathtaking view. After Midterms, I was thrown into School's demanding schedule, where I finally witnessed the 'infamous' morning PT for the first time. I also participated in various Inter-House competitions, such as debating and J3 cricket for Hyderabad House, and am preparing for the upcoming swim meet. In conclusion, my first two weeks at Doon have been much better than expected. I can't wait for what School is yet to bring.

-Maahin Kapoor

When I first entered Chandbagh, I was feeling a bit nervous, but was extremely excited to be a part of this great institution. I met my Formmates and we had a blast. We were joking around all night; absolute chaos ensued. I cannot even recall if we even slept that night. The next day, the Headmaster announced a half-day in the Assembly. After the fifth School ended, everyone rushed to pack; only I was roaming around and enjoying the beauty of what Doon has to offer. My Midterms kicked off, and the journey was scenic and splendid: rounded hills and lush greenery everywhere. My experience in Chandbagh so far has been terrific, and I know there is a lot more still left to come.

-Aarav Koradia

Do you support 'Legacy Admissions' across institutions worldwide ?



Nanda Karumudi

Never have so many arguments presented themselves as intuitively convincing at first glance, but then proved to be weak after a detailed examination, as is the case with arguments against legacy admissions today. The ideal expected argument put forth in the counterpoint would demerit a child of legacy confined to the identity of his predecessor.

It is a narrative that can be easily taken for granted and is even easier to sympathise with. But is it true? Should legacy admissions be dismissed altogether on this basis alone? It is a strong question, but like many other powerful questions, it hides a more complex answer.

Opposing views are often based on the underlying assumption that the presence of legacy in the admissions process automatically distorts merit. Put differently, if legacy is factored in, then merit is certainly compromised. However, this is a false conclusion. To understand this, one must first ask: what does the selection process look like? The selection process for admissions in institutions like ours, and for the majority of institutions worldwide, is more often than not, never linear. Academic ability, co-curricular promise, character, and institutional fit — all of these form part of the equation. Legacy, if factored, has to be, and often is considered the least important variable.

If legacy can only work at the margins, as a tie-breaker between equally strong candidates, then, legacy does not undermine meritocracy. For this argument regarding unfairness to hold true, legacy would have to be proved to have overridden stronger merits and unfavourably selected weaker candidates. Without such evidence, the argument becomes a speculation or a vague apprehension. Doesn't the presence of first-generation students in educational foundations already refute this claim? As long as systems continue to admit individuals with no prior connection to the institution, the concept of large-scale bias is buried.

This brings us to the more uncomfortable truth that merit, as it is often conceived, does not exist in isolation. Students who would fit into certain schools can often understand the metrics much easier, thanks

Ayaaz Ferozi

Two weeks ago, as the rain gods decided to punish Chandbagh, I was sitting in the CDH Gazebo, listening to the incessant rambling of the ScLs regarding college acceptances; rushing for shelter, talkative as usual. One of them mentioned, 'Did you know that about 25% of the entrants in Harvard each year are legacy applicants?' I heard a second voice mention how, during his dad's time, 'The same existed for Yale, where about one-third of the entrants were legacy admitted students'. Absolutely shocked by the staggering data, I thought to myself, as a student with aspiration, and with peers looking forward to applying to Ivy Leagues, Oxbridge and equivalents across the world, would I like for my merit and credibility as a potential candidate to be undermined by the fact that other candidates have a family full of alumni from the same institution?

As mere applicants, we cannot decide who is let into the universities; that is for the Admissions Office to determine and deliberate upon. The notion that someone's pre-existing connection to the institution merits a preference in their selection is, in my opinion, inherently flawed. The metric of 'legacy' adds a new factor to the admissions process, which seeks to keep up the expectations and legacy of their family members, giving the institutions an altogether richer history and past to preserve through each new cohort. The family members of the alumni acting as the conduits of the legacy of the institution.

It is not a question of whether the candidate is meritorious or not, but a question of whether legacy becoming a factor, if not the 'X factor', is beneficial to the community or not. This is the basis for my contention. Given the increasing push towards purely academic selection criteria, academic institutions across the world have become inherently 'blind' towards non-academic profiles of students. As we look at the IITs and DU which have entirely voided legacy admissions, we can see how abolishing this metric altogether leads to a meritocratic system, and not just a tokenistic one.

In the world of politics, there exists an unspoken reality: the son of a leader is often chosen as one himself,

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to the kind of upbringing that an alumnus of the institution would be able to offer to their child, which was likely aligned directly with the values instilled in them during their time there.

To dismiss it entirely is to assume the institutions are supposed to operate as if they do not have a memory. This does not suggest that legacy should be unchecked. Any factor can give distorted results if given absolute precedence. The real question, then, is not whether legacy should ever be, but whether it has undue influence. Until it is shown that it systematically displaces more deserving candidates, its presence remains logically defensible.

irrespective of his own capability. While the current selection processes do not exactly mirror this analogy, the ever-lingering fear of dilution continues to loom over the system.

I asked a friend if he believed he deserved to be a Dosco simply because he had legacy here. He said that while his father's legacy created a sense of expectation within him, it never made him feel more deserving than someone who might be better than him, and never once led to him flouting that privilege. Irrespective of if we have legacy or not, we have the same values governing us with the School acting as a neutral ground.

The Artificial Intelligence Mirage

Aarav Anand clears the air on the speculations of the direction in which AI is heading.

We wake up to it every day: an Instagram post, a scroll through LinkedIn, or a news headline screaming across our screens — each one echoing the same message. Artificial intelligence is no longer the future, it is the present that is actively redefining industry, replacing jobs, and changing how we live our lives. Since the launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, the total global investment in artificial intelligence has reached an astonishing figure of six hundred billion dollars. However, these staggering figures can be deeply misleading, raising a pressing question: “Is AI just another bubble?”

A widely circulated image on social media recently captured this concern perfectly. It illustrated what many now call the “AI investment loop”. Here, companies like NVIDIA invest billions into firms such as OpenAI, which then use that capital to purchase computing power, which is often powered by NVIDIA's own chips. The money, in effect, flows in a circle. In many cases, the massive independent demand is merely a tightly interconnected system of investments, partnerships, and long-term contracts.

This interpretation, however, is not quite true as it is with most viral narratives. The loop captures a structural reality in the industry, but at the expense of distortion. The need for more computing power is not a creation of the technology; such systems are in fact being utilised in training more complex models, driving applications and serving millions of users around the globe. The infrastructure being paid for is real and so is the usage of the infrastructure. AI is not an illusion.

Falsehood is not the point that the viral image fails to emphasise; it simply lacks emphasis on concentration. A few large players have become dominant forces in AI growth today, and the investment and consumption are now tightly connected in an ecosystem. This widens the market and makes it seem a lot broader and mature. The outcome is the creation of an exaggerated

narrative about the magnitude and urgency of the influence of AI, despite the fact that most industries are still relatively new to the adoption process.

It is not a new trend. It bears close resemblance to the dynamics of the ‘dot-com bubble’, where the promise of the internet saw the enormous amounts of money flowing into the industry alongside valuations that were overstated; most believed that change would be immediate. Businesses with no sustainable business models were major investment magnets just because they were linked to the future. When the expectations were higher than the reality, the bubble burst.

But, the ‘dot-com bubble’ burst did not spell out the failure of the internet. On the contrary, it proceeded to be one of the most revolutionary technologies in human history. Time was the difference. The infrastructure had to grow, business models had to stabilise, and actual, ubiquitous adoption had to keep pace with initial speculation.

This is a similar crossroads that AI finds itself in today. The technology is admittedly great, yet its present valuation and perception might be outpacing its realistic, viable effect. Rather than a straight uphill climb as the headlines appear to suggest, high costs and low certainty of profitability will mean that the road ahead will be a slow one.

It would be misguided to declare AI a bubble, however, and would be just as unwise as uncritically absorbing the hype. It is an emerging technology, one that will tend to change industries, but not immediately.

The most significant lesson in this respect is not the success and failure of AI but the reactions of people to it. There will not be a place in the future where people with knowledge about AI will survive; they will be able to keep up with AI. With the landscape constantly changing, the only skill that will truly stand the test of time is adaptability, not some particular tool or technology.

Let Us All Be Truly Thankful...

-Creative-

Vansh Nigam writes a satire on a hypothetical day in the life of the Catering Manager.

The alarm beeps at 6:00 a.m., which, in my eyes, should honestly be illegal. Nobody should be up at that hour unless there's food involved. By 7:00 a.m., I'm running around the CDH questioning my fate staring at the fifty kilos of *pav* knowing very well it's going to get finished soon and students are going to have to eat 'bread and *bhaji*' for breakfast. My first job, deliveries. I begin staring lifelessly at the vegetables, (I can see the trauma they have been through) just as the morning stampede starts. Hundreds of hungry kids enter, confident that they are going to consume at least five 'bun-tikkis.' Kid after kid comes in to my office, begging me for a pizza or for coffee powder; the buzz never ends. Oh boy! The mess after the stampede — one kilogram of wastage at the very least (to make the School look better, I had to write fifty grams). After my duty ends, I contemplate what Instagram trend I should feature in the next day's menu. Sushi perhaps, yes, that definitely won't go wrong. I think Kunafa is the answer to all problems. Next and most importantly, I must switch breakfast foods to lunch and dinner, and create the most 'uncle' playlist known to man for those rare Aqueduct days.

I then take my car and go to my house, which radiates the exquisite scent of garlic and onions. I think long and hard about what to name the next paneer, in the same old orange gravy —

Lababdar, *Lasooni*, and definitely *Shahi* for those lazy days. 'Mom's paneer' sounds nice, let's bless the boys with that. I stay at home thinking about food and padel — my rivalry with the Doctor is not to be taken lightly. What should I do with lunch? It really is the easiest meal for me. I mean the daily staple meal of *kadhi chawal* and *soya chaap* is the most cost effective! (Between you and me — it's not soya. I know everyone can tell, but, for one extra cupcake, please don't tell on me). After that comes my true love — padel. Actually, my true love is *daal urad*, oh the blandness, the delight! But, like I already mentioned earlier, my rivalry with the Doctor is no joke! I wait an entire day to destroy them. And then another day. And another day. It will definitely happen some day! I believe in my padel skills, if it's the last thing I believe in. The night is pretty calm until two dozen kids come with an ice cream chit. Braces, am I right? What part of no ice cream do you not understand! Also, since I'm already venting, no, you cannot get extra dessert! I mean how many times must I repeat myself? Before the day comes to a close, I must remind my staff to keep the food strictly mediocre and lukewarm; good food is for the Café only! For now, these are all of my feelings. I know I can always give the Editors some ice cream and tell you more of my feelings later.



The Week Gone By

Ayaan Mittal

“Hrishi I do not plagiarise my Week Gone Bys.”

Sitting in the middle of a crammed 3rd AC train on the way to Ajmer for the MCGSMUN, it really puts into perspective that which has inspired hundreds of years of creative thought. Staring at village after village from the carriage window pushes me to ponder over the general emptiness of this week (y'all can thank Jai and me later). Do holiday after holiday make the School a happier place? Yes. Should we have it more often? Yes. Will we have it more often? Well, no. Savour the blessing we just enjoyed. So, keeping that in mind, we enter Wednesday.

PT Squads seem to be ‘burning the midnight oil’ (we see you over there by the Library and Main Field) as the Inter-House inches closer with us entering our own equivalent of ‘Navy Seal Hell Week’. The rather

bright mornings are enough to wake my Batchmates (for the most bit) and drag themselves to the Main Field with most contributing as ‘observers’ and ‘emotional pillars’ of the Junior PT Squads while the Juniors of the Senior Squads woefully watch and pray that the Sc Form’s visible lack of practice doesn’t lead to ‘jam-ups’ on the day. If history delivers any lesson here, then I apologise on behalf of the Batch of 2027.

Before we skip forward, it’s important to recount certain defining moments of the long-long-weekend. We played host to the Old Boys who were inhospitably competitive as far as the game went. ~~Sound thrashing~~ Smashing performances by the teams led to (*cough cough*) ‘narrow’ defeats across the two cricket matches and the basketball match. The domination of *Instagram influencers* can never be overstated. However, we hope our teams enjoyed the ‘exemplary cheering’.

As we stay in the vicinity of the Basketball Courts, Inter-House Swimming also took place this week with the pool getting its yearly ‘time

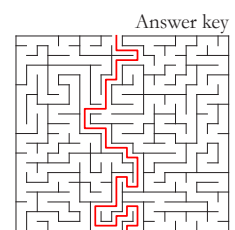
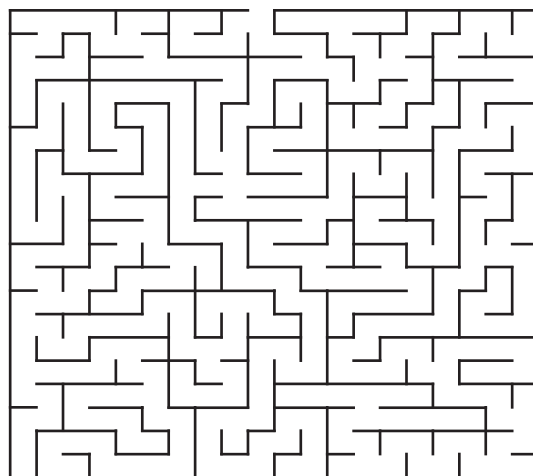
in the sun’ after the gloomy winter. Records are set to be broken and it’s the Swans’ time to win their only trophy of the year. Though, you never know what is in store.

In parallel, and funnily enough, the Junior Inter-House Debates saw the Swans reign supreme in a closely contested debate against the Warriors with several clueless faces in the audience wishing they could be anywhere but the AMC. We hope the fiery speeches and raw debate charisma don’t take anything away from the (re-)scheduled Hindi Poetry. Do however keep in mind that vernacular disdain has become something of an Assembly norm (do refer to the Bingo from the last Issue, we’re counting on it).

On a parting note, look through Page 2 for your own good as you read this with your parents. However, in most cases, we hope your parents enjoy flying two-thousand kilometres in times of intense fuel shortages and cancellations to discuss the weather with the same people for the fifth year in a row.

Enjoy the outing people and don’t let it be your *Last Supper*...

Maze



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