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The Olympics' Biggest Loser

Arjun Singh critiques Rio's preparation for the upcoming Olympic Games.

An ironic situation has developed. While the world gets ready for the summer Olympics this week, Rio de Janeiro – its host – couldn't be further from the same. The issues are reminiscent of those faced by India not six years ago, and many will – especially the Delhiites – relate to the problems identical to those faced before the Commonwealth Games. The city's unpreparedness for the event has been clear for the past several months, and has revealed to the world why the decision to hold sport's most prestigious event in the city has been an awfully bad choice.

It was in 2009 when Rio won the bid to host the Olympic Games (the first ever to be held in South America). At that moment, officials knew that Rio would require large renovations and new infrastructure to turn itself into mint condition for the games. While it is common for cities to do this before major sports events (see Delhi), the amount of improvement that Rio demanded was massive. Several new stadiums would have to be constructed, transport lines repaired and renovated and the entire city be cleaned and beautified, notwithstanding the



favelas that comprise the entire landscape of Rio. Moreover, Rio has always been infamous for its share of violent crime and murder, making the safety of fans and participants another hurdle. That was seven years ago; today, Rio - despite all efforts – has not changed much, if at all.

To date, Rio still faces a list of big problems. While the risk of Zika virus has been declared a 'non-issue' by the WHO, health concerns are high. In particular, Guanabara Bay – the primary venue for water sports – is highly polluted with city sewage. Solid waste is widespread across the bay and serves as a dangerous obstacle in high speed races. In some cases, human faeces and even body parts were found washed up on Copacabana Beach! This problem of pollutants is in fact so tremendous that officials admit the bay will not be clean before the games, and athletes will be exposed to microbial diseases and viral infections as they compete. Furthermore, as tens-of-thousands of fans converge on the city, the threat of terrorism looms large while violent crime rates have only increased. The response to this has been a weak security apparatus, with the cash-strapped city Police force left unfunded and ill-equipped to secure the city for sixteen days. Even the basic requests for metal detectors and baggage x-ray machines have been unanswered. Strangely, these problems exist even with \$800 million dollars set aside for security with most of the money, just a mere week before the games, having not yet arrived.

Even though the Olympics will continue despite these problems, they will do so against a backdrop of a bad global image of the country. Brazil is currently in a deep recession, with a sizeable number of its people living in Rio's large slums. Plus, with the final deliberations of the suspended-President Dilma Rouseff's impeachment taking place, chances are high that a verdict could be announced soon and create a political distraction from the event. With so many problems to bear, most Brazilians themselves are not excited about

(Contd. on page 5)



Regulars

Cicero's Chosen

A team comprising Arjun Singh, Kanishkh Kanodia, Yash Dewan and Armaan Verma represented the School at the **16th Annual Shri Debates** held at **The Shriram School, Mousari in Gurgaon** from **August 25-29, 2016**. The team reached the **Quarterfinals**.

Well done!

Pioneering Research

Tejit Pabari's original research paper "**A Study on the Solar Illumination provided by a Water Bottle**" was published in an international peer-reviewed open access journal called **Journal of Basic and Applied Engineering Research**. With the same project, Tejit also became a **Regional Finalist** (one of the top 100 to be selected from thousands of entries from all over the world) in the **Google Science Fair 2016**.

Well done!

Around the World in 80 Words

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel resigned on Tuesday in the wake of massive agitations by the Patel and Dalit communities. An Emirates aircraft crash-landed at Dubai International Airport on Wednesday. North Korea's latest missile landed close to Japanese waters, alarming Tokyo. Nepal's new Prime Minister is Pushpa 'Prachanda' after the time limit for nominations expired with only his name on the ballot. Narsingh Yadav was cleared by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to participate in the Rio Olympics 2016.

"The best way to find out whether you can trust someone is to trust them"
-Ernest Hemingway

'Sahityakar'

The results of **Kanwar Rani Tara Devi Hindi Essay Writing Competition** are as follows:

- 1st:** Anant Jain
- 2nd:** Siddharth Gupta
- 3rd:** Kanishkh Parmar

The results of the **Hindi Short Story Writing Contest** are as follows:

- 1st:** Vishesh Khetan
- 2nd:** Suyash Chandak
- 3rd:** Amritansh Saraf

Congratulations!

Enriched Scholars

The following were awarded scholarships for scoring the highest aggregate marks in their respective forms:

- C Form:** Pranav Goel
- B Form:** Kanishkh Kanodia
- A Form:** Advait Ganapathy and Harshit Bansal
- S Form ISC:** Kanav Agarwal
- S Form IB:** Rudra Srivastava

Kudos!

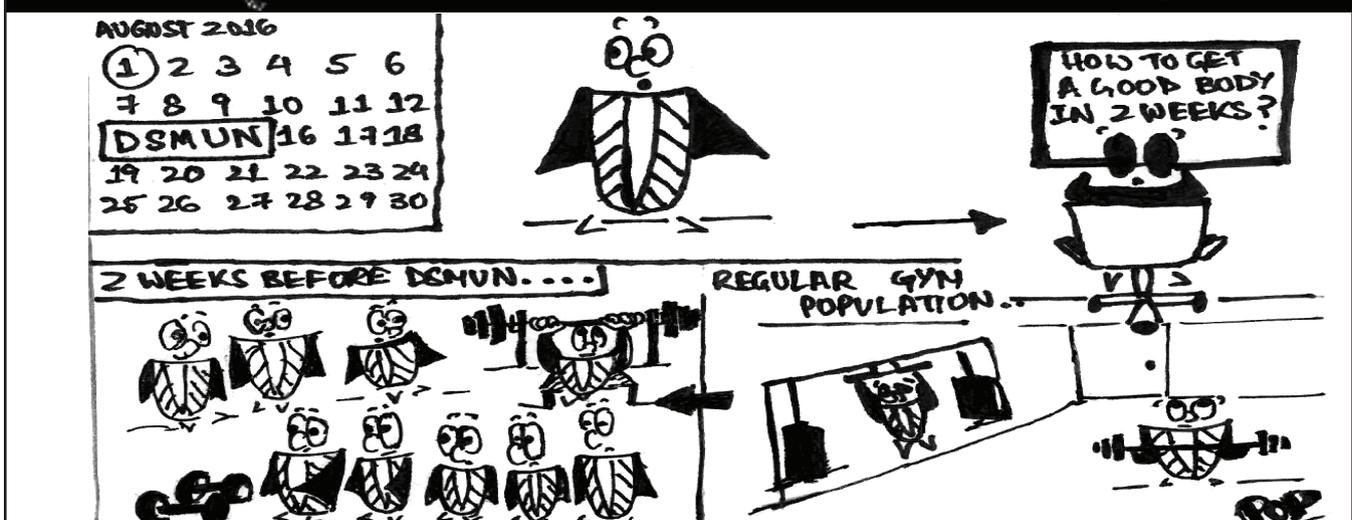
Capture Moments

Boys are invited to send photographs of different facets of school-life for this year's school prospectus. The chosen photographs will be printed in the prospectus and the photographers will be suitably rewarded. All submissions must be made to Mrs. Jayanti Chatterjee (jct@doonschool.com) by the 15th of September.

Doosco Doodle

Diplomatic Skill Enhancement

Anirudh Popli



Prologue

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Can you tell us a little about yourself?

Mr. Supratim Basu (SPB): I have worked in a couple of schools before. I started working in the Assam Valley School- I worked there for four and a half years, followed by a very short stint in Kasiga. I then worked in Pathways World School, Aravali, where I taught the IBDP and IBMYP.

DSW: Are there any interests and hobbies that you would like to pursue in School?

SPB: Working in a boarding school gives you the advantage of contributing to the holistic environment of the school. It's a very good opportunity to exercise your own hobbies as well, something you normally don't get when working in a day school. I have worked with the school publications and the debating and dramatics society for almost six years – anything basically to do with my subject. I am not a very good sportsperson- I did play some cricket, but since the last two-three years, I stopped playing since really there was no opportunity to play in the previous institutions I worked in. But yes, if I am given the opportunity to join the School Staff team, I would definitely do that.

DSW: What made you consider Doon as an option?

SPB: I had always wanted to work in a boarding school, and when it comes to Doon, it is one of the biggest schools in India, and I have very high regards for the school, which has maintained its tradition for over 81 years. I know a lot of students, teachers and other members of the Doon School family, and their stories have always inspired me. So you see, I really wanted to be a part of this institution, where I could significantly contribute to the life of young children.

DSW: What do you think of the boys in Doon and the environment of this place?

SPB: Well, the kids are always kids. Across the globe, they are the same. There is not much change in the quality of the boys, although it's a very short period to comment on that. Although I must say, it has been a really great experience so far. I find the students very articulate- they could talk to the teachers about different things, not only related to the subject. I really enjoy my breakfast and lunch in the CDH and I believe that in the coming days, I will be more comfortable with the environment.

DSW: Do you have any message that you would like to convey to the community at large?

SPB: My advice for the students of this community would be that this school has always been a hallmark of education in India and it is a matter of prestige for a student to come to this level when he's called a dosco, and I think that this sense of pride should be instilled in everybody, and everything they do in their walk of life, they should remember that this is their true identity- they should carry a badge forward so that they can be a true

ambassador of the fine legacy The Doon School has established.

A Beautiful Mind

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What made you choose Teaching as profession?

Mr. Manoj Sharma (MKS): Teaching has always been my passion. It was in that spirit that I started my career. When I was in school, the teachers were extremely dedicated about their work. I still feel it was God's grace that I got such understanding teachers. As time passed, I thought this might be the profession I would like to pursue but my father was an Electrical Engineer in the Railways, and he wanted me to go towards the engineering side. So I tried and cleared IIT but due to some circumstances I left it in two months and came back to Dehradun. Then I started my graduation in Physics, Maths and Geology followed by a further Post-Graduation in Physics and Maths. When I was in college, my Physics professor, Mr. G.K. Gupta suggested that since I was preparing for the IAS, I should work part-time as a teacher to pay for my studies. So I took the job as a part-time Physics teacher and felt that teaching was what I was destined for, so I gave the written examination and started teaching as a full-fledged Physics and Electronics master in 1994. After a few years, I got an opportunity to work in Welham Girls. Teaching is like a passion for me, if you say 'Sir teach for 14 hours', I can do it continuously, my energy and enthusiasm will remain the same throughout.

DSW: What has been the most drastic change you have witnessed in your career as a Maths teacher?

MKS: I started my career in 1994. At that time technology was far removed from teaching. Mobile phones were very rare. We had no internet. We used to teach while writing on the board and followed the chalk-and-talk method for many years. In 2000 computers were installed and we moved to multimedia presentations. Now, we have so many interactive boards and new softwares to aid our teaching. In students too I have seen great changes. The students at that time were not aware of the world like they are today. With access to internet, they are able to research on topics that are being taught by us. Hence, what a teacher says now is not the final the word, like it used to be in our days. This, I think is one of the most drastic changes I have experienced in my career.

DSW: What are the qualities you look forward to seeing in your students?

MKS: I believe in punctuality and hard work. I feel if a person is punctual in his work and completing the assignments he can do anything. I tell my students to be punctual in everything they do, because through punctuality and regularity one can achieve the toughest of goals. So I want my students to be punctual and do well in their lives with all the blessings in the world.

Tokyo Trotters

Aneesh Agarwal reports on the recently concluded School trip to Japan

'The Land of the Rising Sun' - the first thing that popped up on my window about Japan during my research just before my visit to this unique country. Escorted by SBL and PKN, a group of 14 boys headed out on the 8th of July to experience and understand Japanese history and culture. The trip was organized by Asahi Travels and we were guided by Mr. Praveen. It was he who taught us various Japanese greetings, numbers, its history and even how to use chopsticks! It was indeed fun getting to know so much about Japan.

Some of the main highlights of the trip were the Universal Studio at Osaka, a Tea Ceremony, the Hiroshima Museum, Mt. Fuji, meetings with a Nobel Laureate and a member of parliament, and the Asimo robot.

I think that the Universal Studio was amazing even though some of us had already visited the one in the U.S. It was quite different and I have no doubt that everyone enjoyed this part of the trip.

A tea ceremony was conducted by Kabaishi Sennu, the champion of tea in Japan. It was an amazing experience. We were served Macha Tea, known to be the most famous tea in Japan of a net worth of 500 USD per kg. The visit to the Hiroshima Museum was, by far, the most emotional of all. With tears in our eyes, we saw images and videos about the suffering of people when an Atomic Bomb was dropped onto the unsuspecting people of Hiroshima.

Mount Fuji, the highest peak in Japan, with its snow-capped peak provided a mesmerizing view. Though we did not even go up the mountain, the sight was enough to stun us for a while. Rooted, it took us a few minutes to absorb the breathtaking scenery: the lush green meadows, the surrounding hills, the valleys with their sparkling rivers. We were also very lucky to meet Nobel Laureate Dr. Omura, renowned for the discovery of avermectin and ivermectin. These drugs are used to treat several diseases including river blindness, elephant foot and other parasitic infections. We were even provided with an opportunity to meet the Director of the Budget Committee with whom we discussed political affairs like the effect of Brexit would have on Japan's economy, relations between Japan and India, etc. We had heard that Asimo was the only robot in the world which could climb stairs and it was one of the most eagerly awaited moments of the trip. We soon found out that he could walk forward, backward and sideways, he could hop on one leg, kick a ball and even talk or sing. Other memorable experiences were the ride in the bullet train, the origami and kimono wearing class and the bonsai making class. Though there was a language barrier, we found Japanese people extremely honest and hospitable. As a country, I found Japan to

be very developed yet expensive. It was really a very enjoyable trip and will forever remain engraved in our memories.

Deep in the Alps

Devang Laddha reports on the WSDA debating camp.

On the 25th of July, four students escorted by MAG headed to Slovenia to attend the World Schools Debating Academy in Kranjska Gora. The four of us flew to Venice and then had a three hour journey to our little Mecca of reasoned argument. Throughout the journey, we were speculating as to what lay ahead of us over the course of the next week. In the end though, the experience was beyond our expectations.

The mesmerising landscape of Kranjska Gora is reason enough to visit it, leave alone the debating experience. Slovenia has a reputation of being one of the most scenic and picturesque countries in the world and Kranjska Gora certainly lives up to that. Nestled amidst beautiful hills and valleys, the place gifted us a lot of memories to pack our souls with before we left. From lectures, debates and coaching sessions all day, to interacting with people from across the world, this was a life-altering experience.

Over the course of the week, we went through rigorous training with lectures in the morning and electives in the evening. While the lectures taught us the fundamental things in debating such as argumentation and refutation, the electives covered more specific matters. The electives covered a myriad of topics, from how to speak better to learning about foreign policies. Every day we had a practice debate, where we could apply our learnings and also had a final competition in the end. However, the week also included recreational activities such as the visit to the beautiful lake Bled, one of the most famous places in Slovenia, as well as a trek into the mountains.

However, my most cherished memory of the camp was not any session or lecture I attended, but rather a treasure hunt held there. One night, the hosts organized a treasure hunt for all of us which took us throughout Kranjska Gora looking for certain treasures. All of us had to team up with people of different nations and I was teamed up with two Slovenians. The instructions were simple, we had to simply go out and find these specific things that were located around the town and click pictures with them in the background as proof. Throughout the night we searched the town looking for these things, and in the end we did manage to track them all down.

Be it visiting castles or just learning about new cultures, or developing an understanding of how to put our points across, the camp gave us all this and more. In the end, this trip has given us all good experiences, trained us as better debaters and left us with fond memories.

(Contd. from page 1)

an event of this scale, as barely half of the domestic tickets reserved for Brazilians have been sold. Just two years ago, the soccer World Cup brought the same set of problems that Brazilians had to bear; now, they are unsurprisingly fed-up with attention diverted from their problems to these events and their colossal planning.

All in all, the decision to select Rio has not reflected well on this year's Olympics. Impossible as it is to predict such developments; the rampant corruption and the condition of the city's infrastructure at the time should have been taken into account before making a decision. In lieu of Rio, a safer option would have been Madrid or Chicago, which at the time were better developed than the former and would find making Olympic improvements easier. Finally, as the Games begin, we hope that future Olympic cities (Tokyo's next) will build on Rio's mistakes to ensure that such events don't have a poor start like this one.

| Creative |

Sundered

Ansh Raj

The boy gazed at the night sky. His eyes showed a longing for them, their silence, as if they were the only things keeping his world together, and that at any moment, the world would collapse into a din of voices. Perhaps, life had already shattered for him. This state of wan silence, was broken by a sudden loud shriek. Quickly coming out of this blankness, his eyes searched for the source of this shriek. Immediately, they caught sight of a boy, about the same age as him, clinging tightly to his father's arm. He was followed closely behind by his mother, her face almost as radiant as the moon itself. When his brain formed the complete picture of this exuberant family, he lost control over the multitude of emotions which he had been trying to suppress for so long. Slowly and silently, tears of despair, remorse, wrath and jealousy came running down his face, blurring his eyesight.

His father and mother had always fought. It was nothing new. However, in the past few weeks, these fights had grown in their frequency. These fights would usually commence in the form of a dispute over a minor issue, and would then gradually start taking a hideous shape, with filthy abuses being flung at each other like arrows. And these arguments would almost always end with his father hitting his mother, causing her to flee the scene with tears rolling down

her face and a red bright mark on her cheeks. His parents would have their meals separately, and would only talk to each other when absolutely necessary. It seemed that the connection they once had, had been torn apart, once and forever.

However, the boy's true horrors were aroused at dinner today. He was quite surprised, even shocked, to see his parents having their meals together in a complete state of harmony. He allowed a small glimmer of hope to arise in him, a hope that his parents had sorted their differences. But life had other plans for him. After finishing their meals, his parents calmly informed him about their plans of divorce. A surge of emotions flooded his heart the moment those accursed words fell in his ears. For a minute, everything seemed to have drowned into oblivion. When he finally regained some of his consciousness, he immediately took flight, trying to seek refuge from life itself. With his eyes staring into the heavens, and his heart pounding, he prayed to the Almighty that he had never existed.

| Poetry |

Tranquility

Shourya Agarwal

In the farthest known lands,
On top of the world Vesuvius stands.
Sees the valleys stretched below,
As his feet are washed by Mediterranean's flow.

The mount who stands high and tall,
Is the volcano who destroys all.
Once in a while he unleashes his fury harsh,
To make wastelands of places marsh.

The giver of life lies at his feet,
Experiences the volcano's heat.
The cry of his people she does hear,
Bears the loss of all she holds dear.

The serene Sea does not fight,
Though the strongest known in land.
Makes with her waves caverns bright,
And beautiful beaches of sand.

When the mount sings a song,
Everyone jumps in fright,
But sound of waves at night,
Makes them smile and sing along.

Heart may contain infinite hatred
Mercy is essentially sacred

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

Compared to last year, this year's monsoon has made its presence felt with much more force and fanfare. Rains have not been shy of meeting the ground, especially after last year when murky mornings only threatened to spill over, but didn't really do much. However, as rainy as it might have been, the showers always stopped short when it came to taking a call on the cancellation of any schools. Whether too little or too much, I guess the monsoons are never too perfect.

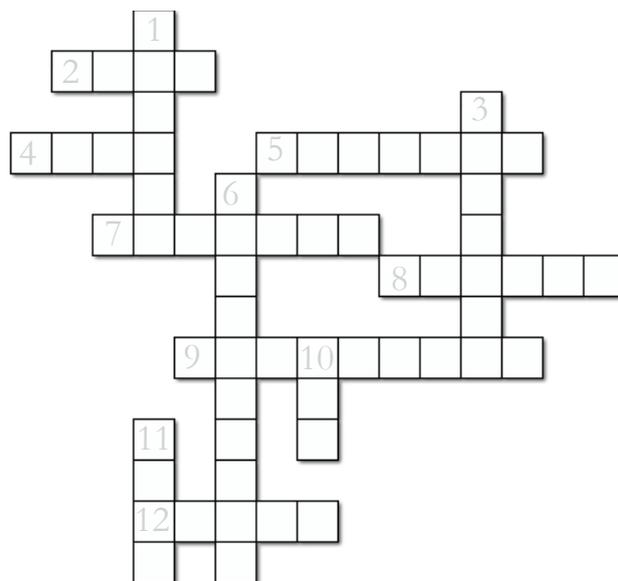
Apart from the rains, the start of the week also saw some well-deserved scholarships being showered on students for some exceptional academic achievements. Most of these awards were given for securing top marks in particular subjects, both at the ISC as well as the ICSE level. However, despite the academic accolades for an exceptional few, most of us, faculty included, are already beginning to think about the September Trials and tribulations. But, more on that in the coming issues.

There has been some talk of making a Dosco's appearance even more uniform, almost like identical bricks in a cemented wall. The plan is to issue standard Doon School watches, starting next year, so that one doesn't see a plethora of branded watches as may be the case right now. As discussions on the proposal gather steam, pundits have predicted that after watches, it might be the turn of the night-suits that boys wear to be brought under the uniformity umbrella. One can only wait and see where these discussions take us.

However, what has baffled one and all is the effect the DSMUN seems to be having on the exercise regime of boys. The School gym has never been busier, and heavy weights have never felt lighter. One can only assume that boys are gearing up to shoulder the heavy responsibilities and burdens that the DSMUN weekend brings with it. As the Headmaster rightly said, the reason behind such heavy-lifting may never be known. Having said that, the boys are certainly putting in a lot of effort as far as the organization of the event is concerned, and there is little doubt that it will be as grand a success as it has been in the past.

Crossword

Football



Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

Across

2. Zlatan transferred from PSG to Manchester United in a _____ transfer.
4. Portugal's part time captain after Ronaldo got injured in the finals of UEFA Euro 2016.
5. Most Valuable Player of the Copa America Centenario 2016.
7. Italy goal scorer in the Euro 2016 quarter final.
8. Captain of the Copa America champions; Chile.
9. This Belgian forward just signed for Chelsea.
12. Current holder of the Women's World Player of the Year.

Down

1. This team finished 3rd in the Copa America Centenario.
3. This team had the highest average possession in UEFA Euro 2016.
6. Captain of the Iceland national team.
10. Number of goals Griezmann scored in UEFA Euro 2016.
11. _____ was the second most expensive transfer this July window.

8. Braavo	12. Lloyd
7. Bonucci	3. Germany
5. Sanchez	1. Mexico
4. Nani	
2. Free	
9. Batshuyai	
6. Gunnarsson	
10. Six	
11. Hulk	

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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