

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
August 17, 2019 | Issue No. 2543



## LEGACIES

A tribute to three stalwart women, who have recently passed away.

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A humorous account of this week's happenings.

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A crossword on Indian freedom fighters and politicians.

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# Harmless Little Stories

Varen Talwar

*"As the world becomes more and more confusing, we tend to focus on the things that are right there in front of us, while ignoring the massive forces that actually change and shape our lives. With people working longer and longer hours, for less and less, when we do have free time, the last thing we want is complicated analysis of our government, lobbying, international trade agreements, and tax bills." - Vice, 2018*

There's just too much going on with the world, it's hard to keep pace, isn't it? I mean, you just finish understanding the problem of immigrants, and then you read that some maniac killed children in El Paso. Once you finish with that, you remember that there's another madman who thinks that this happened because that maniac was, literally, a maniac, and that reducing the number of maniacs would solve the problem.

After you realise this horrid truth, you are confronted with another reality – the madman is the rival of two other madmen – one whose sole motive in life seems to be to test nuclear missiles, and the other who pulls off more shady stunts than a fox in a dark forest. What's even worse, however, is the fact that the first madman doesn't even think that he has a rivalry with these people, both of whom know that he doesn't know, and are smart enough to use the knowledge of his not knowing to their maximum advantage, without his knowing that they know.

Then there are conflicts in other areas, too. Kashmir is more volatile than ever, and the opposition and proposition both reek of *ad hominem* fallacies. Brexit is now in the hands of a smart guy who won the election as a dumb guy's *doppelganger*. The Syrian Civil War is about to reach a decade of its ceaseless fighting.

And then, most importantly, and in classic human style, lastly, is climate change – the existential threat to this planet, the *magnum opus* of our genius.

Since we are working so hard to tackle all these problems, and giving each of them so much time and thought, especially the last one, I think you deserve a break. So, I want you to take your mind off so much stress and have some down time when you don't think at all, about all this brain-racking stuff; and instead, read this harmless little story, which has no hidden meanings whatsoever, and is definitely not a comment on our unbelievable complacency.

There were six people, all about eighteen years of age, in the room. They were waiting for the teacher to bring their forms so they could formally begin their participation in the 'New Bangladesh Project'. Outside, in the scorching August heat, was a small boy, his ribs forming clear outlines on his stretched skin.

The people didn't know each other. There was an uncomfortable silence. There was an air of embarrassment among them – maybe because they were uncertain how to begin a conversation because of the huge cultural

gaps among them. You could feel them thinking hard about the complexities of their differences, their eventful countries, and the things that joined them in the intricate maze of the globalised world.

The Indian could have said that he detested the wave of Hindu nationalism in his country, or that he didn't think it was a problem at all. The American could have explained any of the countless things happening in his land, or that he thought everything was alright. The Britisher could have expressed his views on his new

Prime Minister and the course his nation was taking. All of them could have talked about global warming. However, there was a sense of tentativeness about them – the kind you have in an examination when you have read about the topic, and you have always thought you knew it inside out, until now.

So they talked about the latest Nicki Minaj single.

"Bro, Megatron is so LIT!", the American burst out with enthusiasm, while the others concurred with equal zeal.

(Continued on Page 3)

## FALLING IN SYNC

The School participated in the **Inter-School Performing Arts' Competition, 'Harmony'** held at **Unison World School**. The following are the results:

The School Dance troupe was declared **Runners-Up** and the School Band won the **First Prize**.

Well done!

## ERRATA

In Issue 2542 of the *Weekly*, the **Around The World in 80 Words** wrongly stated that "Real Madrid had completed the signing of Giovanni Lo Celso from Real Betis". Instead, Tottenham Hotspurs loaned Lo Celso from Real Betis

The *Weekly* regrets this error

## WELCOME!

The *Weekly* welcomes all delegates and guests to The 13th Doon School Model United Nations Conference, 2019. We hope you have a memorable experience at Chandbagh.

“

Freedom from fear is the freedom  
I claim for you my motherland!  
Freedom from the burden of the ages,  
bending your head, breaking your back,  
blinding your eyes to the bekloning  
call of the future.

—  
Rabindranath Tagore

'On the Soul of Countries and  
People'

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*Top it up till the bottom.*

**Aarnav Bahl**, your top seems quite empty.

*Stop overshooting the time.*

**VKL**, in extra time.

*I want to be an architecture when I grow up.*

**Rajveer Singh Machre**, building castles in the air.

*I'll eat paper cuts.*

**Krishang Arora**, hungry for more.

*If you go back to the future...*

**Vinayak Singh**, in a different time zone.

*My tongue sleeps a lot.*

**Bir Singh Uppal**, tongue-twisted.

## EN PASSANT

The **Doon School Chess Tournament 2019** concluded on **August 11, 2019**. The following are the results:

The Doon School A Team comprising Harshvardhan Agrawal, Shathaayu Patil, Arnavv Jain and Aryan Kasera emerged as **Winners**.

Aryan Kasera and Arnavv Jain also won the **Board Prizes** in their respective boards.

Kudos!

## Around the World in 80 Words

Five Russian nuclear engineers died in an explosion while testing a new rocket engine. The Hong Kong airport cancelled all departures due to mass protests inside it. 32 people were reported dead while a million were evacuated as Typhoon Lekima hit China. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi starred in an episode of 'Man vs Wild.' Heavy rains in Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat caused widespread damage and killed over 200 people. Manchester United defeated Chelsea 4-0 in the Premier League.



(Continued from Page 1)

The conversation about the song soon transformed into one about the new *Fast and the Furious* spin-off, where everyone expressed a similar awe for the muscular characters and their superhuman exploits.

“Yo man! ‘Hobbs and Shaw’ is literally the BEST movie ever made!”, someone, probably the American, said, and while people didn’t really agree with the statement, they didn’t feel that they disagreed either, so they stayed quiet and nodded their heads.

The door opened and the teacher entered – empty-handed. “My apologies, lads. I seem to have misplaced the forms. Please give me a few minutes to find them.

I’m sure you guys have a lot to talk about!” And then, misjudging the nature of their enthusiasm, he added, “You know, Bangladesh is speculated to be one of the first countries to be submerged due to rising sea levels. It also has a refugee crisis with the Rohingyas coming in from Myanmar. You all are doing the people here a great service. Thank you!”

Again, there was an uncomfortable silence. The teacher had disturbed the sanctity of their conversation: now they felt obliged to change the topic to the country they had paid so much to travel to in order to help; or even to climate change.

The problem with both options was that they had been in the

middle of a very interesting conversation about *The Rock’s* physique, and it would be a shame to replace it with a small boy with ribs forming clear outlines on his stretched skin; or, in the case of the latter – a blank screen.

So they talked about Griezmann’s transfer to FC Barcelona.

“Man, that guy’s overrated!” the Britisher moaned.

“Ae!” the Indian rose furiously, “Griezmann’s God!”

The American laughed, and the others joined in. Outside, in the scorching August heat, the small boy, his ribs forming clear outlines on his stretched skin, heard them; and he too, joined in.

## Legacies

**Aryaman Kakkar** honours the memories of Ms Toni Morrison, Smt Sushma Swaraj, and Smt Sheila Dixit.

The world lost three influential women recently, each changing their domains of action for the better, and each leaving behind a body of work that will inspire for years to come.

Toni Morrison passed away on 5th August. A literary colossus in her own right, she articulated the voice and vision of the world of the African-Americans. Ms. Morrison – inspired by African authors such as Bessie Head, Aimé Césaire, and Chinua Achebe sought to correct the perspective that history held of the blacks. During her time as an editor at Random House, she nurtured black authors like Henry Dumas, Angela Davis, Gayl Jones and Muhammad Ali and advocated for them. She re-set the filter through which African-American authors had been previously viewed and, fought for their readers who needed this affirmative voice that acknowledged the wrongs of history. An inspiration herself to other black writers, she held aloft the banner of ‘political correctness’ with her acceptance speech for

the Nobel Prize. By drawing a distinctive picture of the African-American life, she stipulated how “Oppressive language does more than represent violence; it is violence; does more than represent the limits of knowledge; it limits knowledge...” She leaves behind an enduring legacy; one of breaking white narratives and parameters and nurturing a new generation of voices from the margins, a revolutionary act.

Srimati Sushma Swaraj was the former Minister of External Affairs under the BJP government. With her passing this 6th August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of her with great reverence, describing her as an assertive leader and someone who remained grounded despite her position. Mr. Modi recalled how during a UN meet, she had asserted to him how he could not give an impromptu speech as he had to speak about India, and not as he wished. Making her mark in the world of politics, she was a woman of many firsts, becoming the youngest cabinet minister

at 25. A State President of her party at 27, she grew to become the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi and first woman Minister of External Affairs. With her career decorated with many laurels, she remains an inspiration to women in politics and till the end, an example of an accessible politician.

Sheila Dixit rose into political prominence when she represented India at the United Nations Commission on the status of Women from 1984 to 1989. With her passing on 20th July, Delhi mourned the loss of a leader who left her mark on the infrastructure and design of the state, including the Delhi Metro Project. The longest serving Chief Minister of Delhi with three consecutive terms from 1998 to 2013, many development projects in Delhi were commissioned under her aegis. She also served as Governor of Kerala. Her political legacy is marked by tough decisions and personal engagement: she will be remembered for her simplicity and humility, as much as for her administrative acumen.

# The Week Gone By

**Aryan Bhattacharjee**

With two Inter-House debate finals, Independence Day, the intense run-up and commencement of DSMUN, all to the rhythm of the incessant patter of rain, the week that went by was perhaps the closest thing to the experimental 'Activity Week'. To all our guests on campus, I hope you are having a great time; the Dosco, truly, puts in a lot of hard work into the three days, which now will go by in a flash, so let us make the most of them!

On the sports field, the School Football Team, having suffered the absence of their captain, has put

up good fights against numerous other teams; we wish them the best in the upcoming matches. Junior Inter-House Basketball was delayed greatly by the rain. In what has been a well-contested tournament so far, the week to come, if rain allows, will witness some good games.

The rain, however, will do one thing good: it will enable the fast growth of the twelve trees that were planted around campus on Independence Day. The famous *Chinar* behind Kashmir House, there since the days of the FRI, which died last year, saw in its stead two saplings. We owe all this to those few members of our community who inspire the rest of us to be as passionate for this wonderful campus we have as they are; they truly are the ones we ought

to celebrate.

Despite the terrifying onslaught of the approaching Mid-Year Trials, most candidates still struggle to open their textbooks. Maybe the stress of an exam in the morrow will motivate us enough, as it so often does.

Pastorally, School has had more than a few chances to develop their 'soft skills', with Socials and MUN, packed within the span of a week. Who knows how many, having played the right cards, could do wonders with this ...

Finally, all the best for the two days to come, and indeed for the recovery thereafter. It is going to be the last DSMUN for many of us, so let second thoughts be the last to inhibit us.

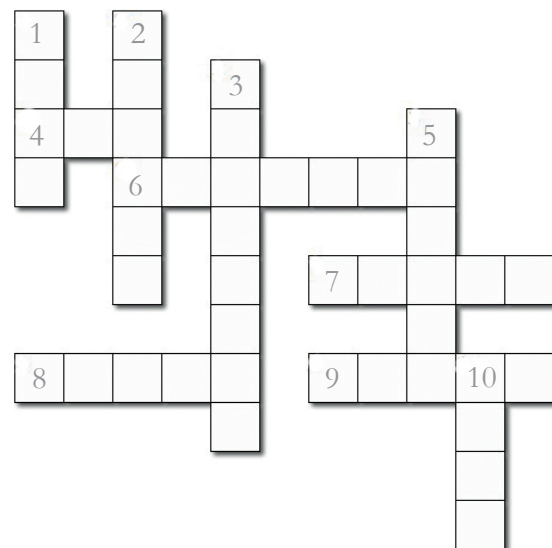
## Crossword | Indian Revolutionaries and Politicians

### Across

- This Bengali teacher and freedom fighter was the leader of the Chittagong Armoury Raid in 1930.
- This person is known for assassinating Sir Curzon Wylie while studying in Britain.
- Named by Mahatma Gandhi as the 'Maker of Modern India', he is also hailed as the 'Father of Indian Nationalism'.
- He was the constitutional advisor to the last three British Viceroys.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Singh is known for the assassination of Michael O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab.

### Down

- Khudiram \_\_\_\_\_, one of the youngest Indian Nationalists was arrested for throwing a bomb at a carriage in an attempt to assassinate a British Judge.
- She won the 1967 Lok Sabha elections from Raebareli, and went on to become one of the most controversial Prime Ministers of India.
- She was the first Indian female to hold the title of a Chief Minister, doing so in the state of Uttar Pradesh from 1963 to 1967.
- He fought in the Battle of Plassey as the last independent Nawab of Bengal under the Mughal rule.
- He was involved in the Kakori Train robbery and was the Commander-in-Chief of the Hindustan Socialist Republic Army (HRSRA).



Note: All answers to this crossword are the concerned persons' surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	7. Tilk
4. Sen	6. Dhangra
8. Menon	9. Udhani
Down	1. Bose
2. Gandhi	5. Daulah
3. Kiplani	10. Azad

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

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