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Affairs of State

Saurav Sethia, Abhaas Shah and Shoumitra Srivastava interviewed Navtej Sarna, the official spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs



The Doon School Weekly (DSW): There is a common perception of India as the Big Brother in the subcontinent. What has India done to get this rather negative image?

Navtej Sarna (NTS): I think it is only natural that you begin with that image, when a big country is surrounded by so many small nations. We are part of the SAARC, which is based on every country having equal sovereignty, equal role and equal power. We deal with each country as an equal and don't try to impose on them. The fact is, whenever there is a small nation next to a big one, suspicion arises and we have to be aware of that and deal with it accordingly.

DSW: What is your take on the issue of the Dalai Lama and Tibet?

NTS: Since the Dalai Lama came to India, he has been an honoured religious leader. There has been a clear understanding with the Tibetan community that they will not undertake political activity. The Tibetans, our guests, should not take part in any political activity. We regard the Dalai Lama as a religious leader and respect him duly, giving him high honour. Further, we are distressed by reports of the unsettled situation and violence in Lhasa, and by the deaths of innocent people.

DSW: You said, "This is one of the ways how diplomacy works: being non-committal." Do you think it presents an accurate picture of what diplomacy actually is?

NTS: Diplomacy cannot be defined in such a narrow fashion. It is actually promoting your country's interests; a diplomat is non-committal because he doesn't want to offend anyone. A common meaning of a diplomat in the old times used to be that he is sent abroad to lie for his country. In-

stead, diplomacy is the art of being non-offensive. Sometimes, diplomats have to convey strong messages too. Your very first job is to make friends, so you can't start with inellegant language. A diplomat has to build bridges, and ultimately people start trusting you when you speak the truth in a non-confrontational and pleasant way. A diplomat does have some discretion though you have broad lines defined for you. A lot depends on the situation.

DSW: What do you think of the effectiveness of the United Nations, and also its important organ, the Security Council?

NTS: The UN is in need of reform, especially the Security Council. The Security Council must reflect the realities of 2008, and not 1945 when it was born. This is what makes us feel that we deserve to be a permanent Security Council member. The UN needs reforms to fulfil its promise and existence.

DSW: Who do you think are India's best allies?

NTS: Our constant effort has been to expand our network of cooperative relationships with every country; we are trying to build excellent bilateral relationships with every country. Globalization and interdependence have created a new world that demands new responses. Out of my personal experience, it doesn't help to grade friends.

DSW: Since India has become a major hub of economic growth, do you think a slight change in it will affect the whole world?

NTS: The world is interdependent due to globalization and India carries importance in this globalizing world. India indeed is a major hub of growth, a major market and has an important role to play in the IT sector. If India's economy grows, India's profile in the world will surely increase.

DSW: What effect will the post-election scenario in Pakistan have on India?

NTS: We are waiting for the new government to form. The Indian government is ready to continue the composite dialogue process.

DSW: Coming to a hypothetical question, what would India's reaction be if Israel declares Iran a rogue nation with the USA's backing?

NTS: The first rule of dealing with journalists: do not answer hypothetical questions (*laughs*). We have excellent bilateral relationships with all these countries: need I say more?

News-in-Brief

APPOINTMENTS

Vishal Verma has been appointed the **boy-in-charge** of **Hindi Dramatics** for this year.

Shiwaj Neupane has been appointed **boy-in-charge** of the **HAM Radio** STA for this year.
Congratulations!

VISITORS

Henry Ford visited the School to give us a talk on 'Effect of Climate on Species' and also gave a concert in the Music School on Sunday, March 23, where he performed on the Northumbrian bagpipes.

Lord Karan Billimoria visited the School on Thursday, March 27, and spoke on 'Entrepreneurship and Leadership' to the boys of the A and Sc forms in the A.V. Room.

SCHOLARLY AWARD

Abhaas Shah has been awarded the Scholar's Blazer.
Congratulations!

Unquotable Quotes

You don't wrote it.

RSF taking credit.

Jaipur House is full of debacles.

RSF, Mr. Malaprop.

Run to under my pillow and get my watch.

Ayyappa Vemulkar, in Lilliput.

I couldn't get it stitched because the barber wasn't there.

Akash Binrajka cuts corners.

I want to become an architecture.

Sidhaant Gupta, monumentally certain.

He only me only know.

Nikhil Bhushan, the investigator.

The ball went rolling for a six.

Mohit Seth, the cricket analyst.

I am playing the batting.

Chandra Narayan Deo, the ultimate batsman.

I bowl an overpitched yorker.

Chandrachuda Shukla, the ultimate bowler.

You intellectual mafias!

PKN, The Godfather.

The thefts came and robbed the man.

Shreyvardhan Swaroop loses it all.

Buy a Sony VIVA.

Angad Singh, technologically challenged.

You allowed us not to talk.

Ranjana Adhikari, sshhhh...

I have notice you.

MLJ pays 'attention'.

I am not lying to me.

Himmat Singh, pants on fire.

CAREER CALL

The Careers' Notice Board will feature **Adventure Sports** as a career choice this week. All interested should check it out.



| Poetry |

The Guiding Light

Revant Nayar

It was a time despair, of hopes torn apart,
And dreams shattered.
Into the sea of despair I sank, with not a small mercy
at hand,
I was but a ship battered and torn, stripped of its
former glory.
The fall of the mountains, the wrath of the sea,
Raged in my life, relentlessly,
The valley of fear, the river of sorrow,
The blackness of death, seemed to engulf me.
Then it was, that a bright, serene light, shone upon me,
Led the way, and I blindly followed,
Onward and onward through mountains and valleys,
And boulders and rocks, through the sands of time,
At last to the valley of beauty and light.
I looked for the source, but it was gone.
I knew I still had some purpose in life,
And mountains to climb and battles to fight.
In hopefulness, my quest began,
Slaying all barriers, hoping for the best,
Then it was that I conquered the world
And thanked the light for guiding this soul.
Then, however, I turned my back on the light,
Arrogance and conceit instigated my plight,
From being the very ruler of the world,
I fell back into the valley of fear and sorrow,
Lost everything I had gained,
For disregarding, and ignoring,
The powerful light, the guiding light.

* * *

The Winner

Kanishka Malik

He falls
To the forever burning ground.
The winner looks at him from the cliff,
Still in position with his sword held stiff.
He looks at Him,
God roaring, "This is the result of your lies."
But the winner bends down after all his energy is used,
How did he win? It makes him confused.
He looks up at the heavens,
Racked with pain and with curiosity, he questions God.
God looks down from the sky,
Even to Him his victory appeared a lie.
But still He answers,
"That, boy, is my decision.
You will never understand this vision.
But I can tell you that since the beginning of this
world,
In front of the truth, the liars with fear have always
curled.
In front of the loyal even the strongest will die,
Even if the loyal are as weak as a fly."

Letter To The Editor

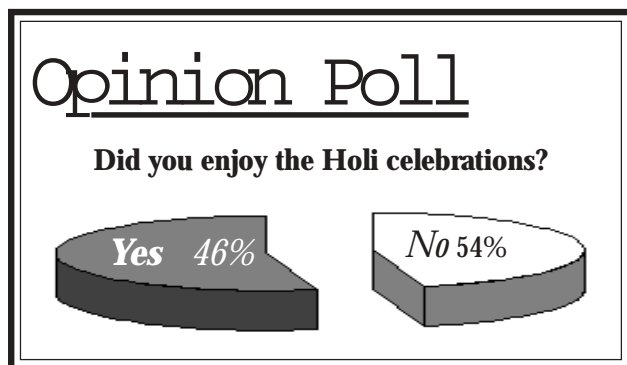
Subject: Colour

Thank you for the special Holi edition in colour! It came as a pleasant surprise, all the more because it was delivered at our doorstep on Friday evening, like the good old days! However, I must admit that having read the colourful edition, I began to miss the quiet dignity of your black and white *avatar*. While I do hope that you will spring these pleasant surprises on us from time to time, you will continue to make our Saturday mornings special in black and white.

(Priyanka Bhattacharyya)

Thank you, ma'am, for your honest opinion. Rest assured, The Doon School Weekly will continue to print in black and white. Last week's colour issue was in recognition of Holi falling on a Saturday, our regular publication day.

(Editor)



Votalysis

The results of this Opinion Poll, alongwith those in the previous one, reveal a very telling picture: the cynicism of the School community regarding the enjoyment quotient of an organized Holi celebration has been repudiated to a measurable extent this week. Had you been there like I was, you would have seen for yourself the spontaneous fun that everyone was having. The infectious beat of the *dholak*, the colourful *gulal*, the provision of good things to eat and the community coming together in the lovely setting outside the Rose Bowl, all added to the fun-filled atmosphere.

The entertainment programme the evening before set the mood for the revelry that was to follow the next morning. The festival-related folk dance, complete with *gulal* and *pichkaris*, the percussion and vocal groups and the sitar performance by GSS, all made the event an enjoyable run-up to Holi.

Last week's Opinion Poll and, to some degree, this week's, too, illustrates the Dosco's unwillingness to accept change. However, when change is executed, Doscos are responsive and show their uncanny knack of making the best out of any situation.

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The Eagle Has Landed

Sanjiv Bathla



*Chota hazri, a fall-in for P.T.,
Cutty and barter for butter and jam.
The lineup for Assembly, sitar and song.
A change-in-break, then a bun in sam.
The swords for cutting grass and the bajri path,
Wet in the rain, a soccer game,
The cheering hoots in cobbler boots.
Stealing mangoes and the bathing queue,
Grace at supper before the stew.
In time for toy, every boy,
Lanterns lit, time for bed.
Not a sound, the Housemaster is on his round..*

As an Old Boy, I am happy to take this opportunity and the responsibility as Housemaster Jaipur House. My thoughts flow and words leap out from the depth of truth, on how life was in school, and is today. It is time the scattered eagles came together, it is time for the boys to move into their brand new nest.

I have watched Jaipur House under renovation for the past two years. The bricks, mortar, the entire contribution and the support have come from the Old Boys of Jaipur House. I would also like to acknowledge the Old Boys of the other Houses who contributed generously to help bring this magnificent structure back into shape. It is time to express gratitude, it is time to reflect and say a big 'thank you' to all who gave their time, shared their wealth, and most importantly, gave that emotional glue that binds and brings back the smile on all those who sleep here tonight, safe in Jaipur House.

