

Established in 1936

# The Doon School

# WEEKLY



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## Editorial

It is that time of the year when everyone in school is busy preparing for the various events that School hosts. Starting with the inaugural Sub Junior Soccer Tournament last week, this weekend School will be flooded with delegates from 28 different schools. The very magnitude of the event makes it impressive.

While preparing for these events, we generally tend to forget other dates that are important. Case in point: 15th August, Independence Day. While one always looks forward to this day due to the fact that it brings a welcome holiday, I hope, this year we have been able to celebrate the day with the right motivations.

Speaking about Independence Day, it saddens me to know that most students are ignorant of things taking place in the country. Even though we might have cheered the Indian contingent at the Olympic Games, no one really bothers about the other political, social and economic issues that affect the nation.

Thus, this week the Weekly has decided to run articles which only pertain to India. This is our way of expressing the belief that we need to start knowing what is happening beyond the walls of Chandbagh. While we have carried the regulars that we carry every week, we have also assembled some contemporary issues regarding India and we sincerely hope that you will go beyond the sports section in this issue.

The Weekly does not generally print such an issue, it is meant to revolve around School almost entirely. This is why in this issue we have limited internal matters and looked beyond Chandbagh. This is an attempt to ignite that interest in you to start reading and following matters of national importance. After all, this issue is being distributed during DSMUN. Isn't that what UN and MUN are all about?

## The 'Spin Doctor'

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Kanwar Vishwajit Singh (ex 361T '64) who was the chief guest for the School's Independence Day celebration. He is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha.

**Doon School Weekly(DSW): How was independence celebrated during your time in Doon?**

**Kanwar Vishwajit Singh(KVS):** Frankly, I do not remember much. I can only recall that The Headmaster, Mr Martyn, used to wear a white Gandhi cap like I had worn today. He would never hoist the flag without his cap. I don't remember his speeches however, as we were young boys at the time. We were more interested in the holiday. At that age we used to be hungry all the time. In terms of years, we were a really young nation.

**DSW: Is there anything that you remember from the time that you spent as a member of the Editorial Board of the Weekly?**

**KVS:** As part of the editorial board, I started rewriting what other people wrote. Here is where I learnt how to construct better sentences. Another thing I learnt was how to format the page which went for print. Even now, I teach my staff how to go about it. But the more important thing was that I learned how to write. It happens subconsciously and not consciously.

**DSW: After your vast travels do you believe the perception of India has changed since Independence?**

**KVS:** We stood up for the common man and for the Korean nation. The change in the perception of India came with the liberalization of the economy. We saw the inner strength of India coming out. In this bipolar world, if you were not on the side of the Americans, then you had to be with the Russians. You could be non aligned as we were. The whole world was skewed. America on the other hand had already decided who its allies were going to be and they made a conscious decision that India would not be their ally. We found ourselves out of the loop. They asked us whether we wanted technology, planes etc. and we said yes, but it cost us much more than it costed the other allies. Once the Soviet Union had collapsed, the American's perception of the world changed. We had to stand up for the poorer nations again.

**DSW: What are your views on India becoming a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council?**

**KVS:** India has to become a permanent member of the United Nations. This will happen and we don't have to be paranoid about it. It has to happen, the strength of the numbers and the economic strength will ensure a place in the UN. When India and China get up and speak, they speak for the majority of humanity.

**DSW: Is there anything that you found in common between The Doon School and the Parliament?**

**KVS:** There is a certain amount of camaraderie which we can attribute to the parliament. You feel like you belong to an institution. There is a feeling of commonality and comradeship. We understand that we are a part of a great institution because of the grandeur of the place. The flasks, the flowers, the Doon Valley itself has an effect on you. The building itself and the grandeur of the ceremonies has an effect on me. So yes, there is a similarity between the parliament and school.

**DSW: Considering that you fought elections from Maharashtra, what are your views on the farmer suicides in the Vidharbha region?**

**KVS:** The farmer suicides were not due to crop failure or anything else. The banks had started giving loans for no exact reasons. There was an ease of access of credit for the

(contd. on page 4)

## BADMINTON UPDATE

The School Badminton Team participated in the **12th District Badminton Tournament**. In the **Under-15** category Vansh Agarwal reached the **Quarter-Finals**. In the **Under-19** category Vidit Sidana and Kabir Sethi reached the **Quarter-Finals**. Abhishek Parasrampurua won **Gold** in the **Under-19 Boys Doubles**.

Well done!

## SPORTY WEEKEND

The School played friendly fixtures of Squash, Badminton and Tennis between August 8 and 10. The School **won** all matches it played against **The Army Public School, Dagshai** and the **Pinegrove School**.

Well done!

## SCHOLARLY

The following students have been awarded the **Nikhil Gupta Charitable Trust Scholarship 2012** for scoring the highest marks in the respective subjects:

**ISC**

**English:** Tushar Khurana

**Mathematics and Science:** Nipun Batra

**ICSE**

**English:** Raniz Bordoloi and Arnav Joshi

**Mathematics and Science:** Ritesh Shinde

Anshul Tibrewal has been awarded the **Jaidev Singh Memorial Award and Scholarship** for securing the highest marks in **Science** in the **ICSE Board Examination, 2012**. Congratulations!

## SNAPSHOT

A photography exhibition by Sanjiv Bathla (SJB) took place between August 7 and 14 in the Art and Media School Museum.

## SOCCER

The School Soccer Team played a match against the Old Boys on August 11 and won **4-0**.

The School Mediums Soccer Team participated in the **Sant Singh Memorial Soccer Tournament** held at the Pinegrove School. The School Team **won** against YPS Mohali **1-0**, **drew** with Mayo College for Boys **2-2** and **lost** to Sherwood College **1-3**.

The School Soccer Team played a match against the Old Boys on August 11 and won **4-0**.

Congratulations!

| Poetry |

## DSMUN

*Madhav Dutt*

O' it has finally begun

The epic DSMUN

Suits, ties, skirts and shirts

Everyone's dressed up and ready to flirt

From arduous Committee sessions

To phone numbers being exchanged

Delegates, a lot can be gained!

## Opinion oll

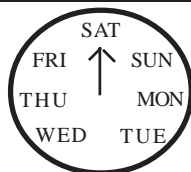
Do you think we should be allowed to play in the rain?

Yes 72%

No 28%

(342 members of the School community were polled)

**Next Week's Question:** Do you know the words to our national song, *Vande Mataram*?



## The Week Gone

By...

*Kunal Kanodia*

It seems that DoscOs are all geared up for what seems to be a very demanding term. The past week witnessed a variety of events such as boys gearing up for DSMUN. Last Saturday, most students of the School headed out for their tutorial night out. To all of you who did not have to go, let me tell you I envy you. One set of boys who had the liberty to stay back was the School Soccer team, but they truly justified this privilege by beating the Old Boys Soccer team 4-0. It literally poured during the night out, and while travelling some boys even had to face a leaking bus. If one ended up in Mussoorie, all one could see were DoscOs – some were haggling over the price of roadside *bhutta* while others could be seen lounging at the fast food joints that have been established in the town.

On Independence Day, DoscOs finally got to do what they have wanted to since D form – explore (or rather clean) the *khad*. Cleaning up the area was no easy task, but the extent of work done was evident in the garbage collected by the end of the morning. The Independence Day Assembly saw a brilliant performance of the National Song by the School choir and orchestra, one that was much appreciated not only by the school community but also by the Chief Guest, Kanwar Vishwajit Singh. Well done PRY and all students involved.

An announcement at lunch, which caused much shock, was that a hundred and fifty two boys had been excused classes on Saturday because of DSMUN. People looking busy and important can be seen strutting around school this weekend with suits and ties. It will be most interesting to see who ends up sending the funniest chit and who receives it during committee session. The chit boys in this sense are one of the most important part of MUN, providing humour in the usually somber committee rooms. To the delegates visiting school, I would like to say - have a good time but just remember to keep sending those hilarious chits and don't let this article affect you.

## ERRATA

In the article "Staffed Up", printed in Issue No 2317, dated August 9, the *Weekly* incorrectly referred to the musical instrument as the *kathaal*. It should have read as the *pakhawaj*. The *Weekly* regrets this error.

| Interview |

# Going Nuclear?

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Praful Bidwai, an eminent journalist, who gave a talk in School on the Energy Crisis on May 5

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): In your long tenure, which journal have you enjoyed writing the most for and which journal have you enjoyed reading?**

**Praful Bidwai(PFB):** I enjoyed writing for the *Times Of India* in the 80s. At that time it was very different from what it is today and I could write both as a straightforward commentator and as an analytical reporter. Luckily, I joined the paper in a privileged position. There was a two-way division, those who handled the editorial page and those who handled the news gathering part. The two never connected. But I breached the gap. I said I would only join if they let me travel. So those days the *Times* was a very different paper from what it is now. There was a lot of freedom, whether it be regarding our writing, or something we were exploring as a possible subject for writing, like the environment, feminism, social problems etc. For instance, I wrote a series of articles on pesticides; six articles of about two-three thousand words each. Today the maximum display you will get is five hundred words. I wrote a series of articles on environmentalism of the poor and also on renewable technology, way back in 1982. I used to get very good responses to these articles. The other publication I enjoyed writing for was the *Economic and Political Weekly*. It gave you a certain kind of exposure to the kind of intellectuals and academics you wanted to be aware of. I like reading *The Guardian* a lot because it's a serious paper and it is fairly easy to read. I still like reading the *Economic and Political Weekly*.

**DSW: Regarding your talk today, do we require technological innovations, or discovery of more resources as an answer to the global financial crisis?**

**PFB:** The two go hand in hand. I think discovery is not the point; discovery is a new way of using things and employing them with a degree of community involvement and social support. In most countries renewable energy has been promoted through what are called feed-in tariffs. Initially the cost of renewable energy may be slightly higher than conventional sources. So we let them feed into the grid at a slightly preferential price. Give them seven percent or ten percent more than you would offer others. Secondly, you give them privileged access. In case there is a surplus of power in relation to the demand they should get the first claim so they can sell them, that kind of stuff. That way, in five-seven years the problem can be solved. That is the kind of surge we need. We know where the sources are. Innovation in using renewable technology is required. If we take the example of a fan, it probably consumes seventy-five watts. Today we have advanced fans that consume only twenty-three watts, they are slightly more expensive but we don't have a scheme via which manufacturers can produce more of these and provide more people with them. You will have to pay fourteen hundred rupees instead of eleven hundred rupees for a more efficient fan. However, you will recover your money in a year's time. The payback time for these technologies depends on innovative skills. It is not new technology; it is new ways of promoting this technology. You have to get communities involved, if you just build a biogas plant and leave it is useless. That is what has happened to quite a lot of renewable energy projects so far. If you build a solar power system and don't look after it, after some time the batteries dry up and it stops working. So get communities involved in actually running and managing renewable projects. That is the kind of innovation we require.

**DSW: What is your view on India's stand on non-proliferation nuclear treaty?**

**PFB:** I think India is hypocritical. India did not sign the treaty because it wanted to acquire nuclear weapons. To start with, this was a bad bargain. What India could have done was to build in structure to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty so that they could have stronger obligations to keep them pressing on. All you have now is a five year review. Had India played a very different role right from the beginning; we could have been in a much better position now.

**DSW: What do you think is the future of energy, in terms of consumption and utilization in the future in India?**

**PFB:** The government is already working in this area and a lot more projects are being approved now. Some of these are private investments too. The wind power sector is improving rapidly. I am not too sure about hydel power. One of the good things about using turbines to produce energy is that they do not disrupt the flow of the river. They produce small quantities of energy but they are good enough for lighting up a Panchayat Office or a school, and they are very cheap. We also have the highly efficient biomass energy. Such projects are growing in number. The question is whether we make the right decision at the right point of time. Which of the two courses do we choose; do we stay on the traditional centralized course which is inherently biased towards large scale centralized and lumpy generation: you know coal, five hundred watts, one thousand watts, or do we move to renewable energy, which is what is happening in the West. We are still in a position where our regional power grids are poor, so instead of that course we can try to build another type of grid which is, right from the beginning, suited to the needs of renewable resources and where some centralized energy sources can also fit in. So there you will not have to go through the process of unlearning and relearning. That is the kind of situation we will face in five years time when we will have to take this decision.

**DSW: Do you think the Indian Government's energy policy should put more emphasis on production or distribution of energy?**

**PFB:** In the first place, I think we need to make it our first priority to supply power to those people who are deprived of this resource. That is the top-most priority. If it means that you have an infinite amount of money and you put in a hundred crores into providing energy to those who don't have it, I would also put a hundred crores into energy efficiency improvement. I think that the Star System which applies to refrigerators and some other things should now be generalized to many other appliances. I do not see why we should use florescent lamps anymore, now that we have CFLs. I think that is the real issue and adding to the power generation is not going to deliver the results we need. Very few people are actual energy planners, but fortunately, because of the National Action Plan, Plan of Change and a few other initiatives taken under pressure from the international community, have, to some extent, led to the rethinking of renewable energy. So I see some high hope there.



| Viewpoint |  
**Being  
Independent**

*Raniz Bordoloi presents his views on the mindset that is required for us to be truly independent.*

You can hear patriotic songs playing and feel the nationalistic fervor rising, the national flag fluttering in the neighbourhood and heroic deeds of martyrs being recounted. Although I joined the celebrations, I have had something else in mind. It is something which every Indian should answer before celebrating our nation's independence. Is India truly independent today? Is it the nation that our freedom fighters visualized?

I feel that even though India has completed sixty-six years of independence, it is not independent in its outlook. Women have to think twice before going out on the streets of the country. Female infanticide is on the rise and honor killings have become common. Although India is said to be a secular nation; that secularism is quickly swept aside whenever communal tension arises. The only apparent solution is to participate in violent protests, strikes and *bharat bandhs*. If the government decides to implement bold policies, it is met with resistance by either an opposition party or an association. Additionally, ethics and morals seem to be at an all time low. Furthermore, corruption is breeding in every possible way and bribery is prevalent. Gandhi's statues are cleaned on *Gandhi Jayanti* but very few follow his ideals. In fact, non-violence is viewed to be the method of cowards. Indians do not hesitate to litter the country but keep themselves in check when they are in foreign lands. When the underlying attitude is faulty, how can we fool ourselves into thinking that India is truly independent?

Let me take this opportunity to recount an incident which has left an indelible mark on my mind. Undoubtedly, you would be aware of the incident where a teenage girl was publicly molested in Assam. And in case you have no knowledge of this incident, it would come as no surprise because the alienation of the North East has become an old issue. The case at hand here is that of a seventeen year old girl who was molested in full view of the public on one of Guwahati's busiest roads. While the atrocity was being committed, it was recorded for a local news channel. The reporter turned a deaf ear to the girl's cries for help and did not feel the need to either stop the crime or call the police. It was only when the police came that the girl's horror came to an end. Later, the footage was aired on the local news channel and all I can imagine is the glee of the editor when he saw the TRP ratings. It is absolutely repulsive.

Apart from the issue of the obvious violation of Human Rights and ignorance on the part of the people, another issue which needs illumination is unethical journalism. You see news of what happened in the last episode of *saas bahu* serials but the death of hundreds during riots goes missing. People are more interested in knowing their horoscopes than paying attention to bomb blasts, until or unless they are directly affected. Even the regular news is altered in order to fulfill the audience's daily quota of entertainment.

Agreed, every nation has its own share of bottlenecks, but if the very attitude of people is the cause, then freedom has not been achieved. We are prepared to criticize the government but are not willing to look at our own flaws and care to stand

up. Its almost like a case of 'all bark and no bite'. There is no independent outlook prevalent amongst most. The female gender is in dire strait, as seen by the molestation case and other innumerable examples which may be too horrific to narrate. We are saying that we are modernists but are conservative in our ways when we view the female gender. A few days ago, I was shocked when I saw a popular television serial. The debate was regarding the rape cases in India. One of the men present expressed that rape occurs because of the 'inviting' clothes that some women wear. It is precisely this kind of attitude that I am trying to point out.

The '*chalta hai*' attitude only makes the situation worse. We have come a long way and we have a long way to go. India has achieved independence but is not sovereign in its soul and spirit. The solution is not apparent and the road ahead, just like the roads in India, is full of potholes. The government might do its bit but we, as Indians, should make the change. It is now time to act. Like every Indian, I too dream of the day when India will 'awake to life and freedom at the stroke of the midnight hour when the whole world sleeps', 'into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.'

\* \* \*

*(contd. from page 1)*

farmers. The bank manager has a lot of money. So the word would be spread and farmers would be asked to take huge loans. Years later when the banks asked for their money the farmers were helpless. Thus they would come under pressure and commit suicide.

**DSW: You worked with the organizing committee of the Asian Games, 1982. What do you think went wrong with the preparations of the Commonwealth Games, 2010?**

**KVS:** During the Asian Games, there was an organizing committee which did not work properly. So, we formed a special organizing committee because of which we did not suffer the same fate as the Commonwealth Games. At these games, there was a culture of 'let's just go with it.' But I must take you to a different perspective. All these Games, even the Olympics, are seen as a means of corruption. Agreed, the London Olympics was a great success, but if you read the reviews you will see how people are talking about the rampant corruption during the run-up to the Games. That is when people ask us to clean up the sports.

**DSW: Why do you think the Congress lost the State polls of Uttar Pradesh earlier this year?**

**KVS:** We were fighting with our hands tied behind our backs. We did have meetings with Rahul Gandhi. But on the other side was Akhilesh Yadav. We had nobody we could project as chief minister. The central command decided that Rahul Gandhi would not be projected as chief minister. Had he been projected we would have won the elections. But because they were campaigning everywhere and we were not doing anything, they got the response and won.

**DSW: As you have been nicknamed the 'spin doctor', could you tell us ways to avoid anyone from escaping our questions?**

**KVS:** In an interview you should ask a question which is related to but not directly focused on the subject. Then towards the end of the interview you ask the crucial question. The contradictions which he has made earlier which you have not questioned so far, you question now and get him on to that. So you have to lay out your questions very carefully. You have to lull the person into admitting to a few things and if the person does not answer, then you have got your answer.

## Is this the Freedom Our Forefathers Fought For?

*Sudhanshu Bhandari*

Statues of granite adorn the hallowed portals of the  
Indian parliament;  
Which celebrates itself as the world's largest democracy;  
Our khadi-clad leaders dressed in spotless-white 'kurtas';  
Jostle for prime-time space to prove their infinite  
devotion.

The bigger the leader, the larger and heavier the garland;  
One has to show to the world that they care for these  
nation-builders;

The statues have recently been scrubbed clean of the  
multitudinous avian droppings  
That have dropped over them for 364 out of 365 days.

The men in granite get a make-over, at least once a year,  
for a gala ceremony;

To celebrate the nation's victory over forces of evil;  
We are a land of Ramayana—there is either Rama or  
Ravana;

We paint our canvases in black and white: the hue of  
grey is a stranger to our collective memory.

The immaculately dressed 'netas' are lined in a queue  
which itself is a rarity  
in a nation where everyone is free to do everything the  
way he desires it;

Ours is a truly freedom-loving nation, our citizens are  
free to spit, urinate and despoil  
Every nook and corner of our vast fabulous nation, we  
are a 'free race' in every sense of the term; Free to toss  
every civic rule over the moon.

Our roads allow the perfect freedom to not only man  
but beast,

Thus, we jostle shoulder to shoulder with bovine,  
asinine, equine, canine and a myriad of other animals;  
For space to travel along our urban arterials which are  
the wonders of modern engineering ;

Let the autobahn be put to shame, Our PWD engineers  
have built the 'Golden Quadrilateral' that can withstand  
'Three Monsoons';

Franco-German engineering is challenged to duplicate  
this feat.

Lord Dalhousie; I bet you must be the happiest spirit in  
town;

Your assessment of us stands vindicated, Wise men say  
that Time assuages all pain;  
Yet the great leveller Time could not assuage the cutting  
irony of your prognostications.

My heart bleeds to see the mad rush of parents in  
getting their child enrolled in a St Mary's or a St James';  
Even two-roomed schools in villages are putting these  
tags;

The Convent status sells like hot pancakes amongst a  
civilization which prides itself at its antiquity and cultural  
profundity;

Why blame the dream-sellers? They too are free to make  
hay as long as the sun shines.

If the Gandhian apostles can send their sons and daugh-  
ters to a La Martiniere, Sherwood or a Wellhams;  
Why the common man be penalised to bear the cross of  
cultural nationalism;

Let him too live out the 'Maya' of having done his little  
bit to make his child a 'Sahib' or 'Mem';

Our political subserviency ended three-score years ago,  
what now begins is mental impoverishment;

This cultural dependency is here to stay; let Kipling and  
his acolytes have the privilege to make the last hurrah.

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## The India We've Seen

*Kunal Kanodia*

And hence she was reborn. Her age was not as age is to  
you and me; she was more than three millennia old. She  
was, and is, much more diverse than what a human being  
can be. Diverse in every sense of the word; she cajoles,  
creates, realizes, understands and makes each and every one  
of us understand. She was a prisoner, a victor, rendered  
homeless at some points in her long life and made others  
envious with her prosperity at many other times. She has  
aspirations, successes and troubles. Forever accepting and  
taking in anyone who needed a home into her fold, she has  
different children. They are as different as they can get –  
they speak different languages, invoke different gods and  
even look different. In spite of all the differences, they're  
all her children.

She has had many losses, many victories. She struggled to  
make ends meet after her reincarnation, when those who  
held her captive were finally thrown out of her home by  
her children. She made friends with various other men and  
women who faced similar situations. They got together to  
ensure the safety of their homes and their kith and kin. She  
realized that she needed to secure her home to make sure  
that the tormentors do not return. Her children were given  
weapons; her home was equipped with deterrents. Know-  
ing the pain of being incarcerated, however, she vowed  
never to use destruction unless her home was attacked first.  
Her children fought at many points in her lifetime – and  
one of the most bloody of these fights were when few of  
her children wanted to break away and build their own  
homes; she wept copiously. Many times, when she cried  
and cried and tried her best to make amends, they would  
just look away. They would look away to kill their broth-  
ers, who would in turn kill them, while she wept. But she  
she kept calm.

She realized soon enough that she needed new resources  
commodities that could only be provided by other men  
and women around the globe. She allowed her children to  
trade. She has made her name known among the great  
men and women of the world – and desires a permanent  
voice in international matters. She faced many tragedies,  
learnt many lessons and has always lived on. And shall con-  
tinue to do so. She is India.



# Sporting Reality

*Madhav Dutt and Rakshit Sinha comment on the deteriorating state of sport in India in light of the recently-concluded Olympic Games held in London*

India, the largest democracy in the world: a billion people capable of producing only six medals? Though people will say it's the highest we have ever collected in a single Olympics, the facts are clear - in terms of the amount of hard work and funds put into preparing for the Olympic Games, the returns are rather miniscule. A few of us can play the role of the optimist saying that these six medals are equal to India's accumulative tally in the past four Olympics, but isn't it high time we reflect on our future capabilities rather than past shortcomings?

At the opening ceremony itself, controversy struck in the form of a lady in red and blue! She managed to sneak through security and lead the contingent, alongside Sushil Kumar. Reflects rather poorly on us, doesn't it? However, we tried to compensate for the embarrassment by showcasing our individual Indian talent. We saw Sushil Kumar win back to back silver medals. Abhinav Bindra, on the other hand, crashed out early in the qualifiers. Gagan Narang won a bronze in the 10 m air rifle shooting event in the men's category. Vijay Kumar went one better than Narang and won the silver in the 25m rapid fire pistol event. Saina Nehwal, despite losing in the semifinals, did not lose heart and overcame Wing Xang of China to earn her first Olympic medal. Mary Kom won India its fourth medal at the Games by winning a bronze in the women's flyweight category in boxing. Yogeshwar Dutt won India its fourth bronze and its fifth medal overall by attaining a position in the men's 60 kg freestyle wrestling category. On the other hand, the tennis and archery teams failed to impress. Though it was the nation's best performance at the Games, this surely calls for the bar to be set even higher for the next Games. Better facilities and infrastructure must be provided to ensure we reach a higher level in the next Games. After all, till when can Mary Kom win boxing bouts surviving on rice and vegetables (in contrast to Michael Phelps's diet of more than 12,000 calories daily)?

But the most disappointing was the shambolic performance of the men's hockey team. The Indians were riding high after winning their last qualifier against France, but failed to perform at the Games, crashing out in the worst possible fashion at the bottom of the table. The 'national game' (if I may call it so) was once a source of pride for the Indians, having won eight gold medals in the sport. Who is to blame for this? I doubt if it's a monetary issue as the same country is doling out lakhs to cricketers for single shots. Maybe there's an outright misallocation of resources? But, statistically, in the recent years the Indians have failed to perform. Was the Indian team prepared for the Games? The answer is in plain sight.

The squad lacked vital coordination; the midfield was inconsistent, backline was weak and the front was not

up to the mark. Some say the Indian team has too much individual talent, which is why it doesn't shine. I, and I'm sure most of you, would laugh at that. If that was the case, then we should have witnessed some individual skill, which, sadly, went unnoticed. Though the team was provided with adequate training and a lot of chances to play in various tournaments for exposure, this event was a big disappointment for them and the country. Nearly a fortnight of glorious sport is now over. It's high time for India to set her eyes on Rio de Janeiro. Four years down the line, will India succeed in catching that elusive golden bird? Well, we'll just have to wait and watch, and pray.

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## Presidential Pandemonium

*And that's how that ended*  
**Madhav Dutt**



# Permanent Seat in the UNSC?

*Rahul Srivastava writes about India's prospects of gaining a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council*

As India turns 66, it is propelling onto the world stage as a growing power; one that boasts of nuclear weapons, the world's third largest active military force and its ninth-largest economy. Domestically, there are a few hurdles that need attention, but internationally, no one can turn a blind eye towards India's growing political and economic clout. Be it the BJP or Congress, inflation or the currency holding India back; its role in international politics is continuously growing. Naturally, to cement its place amongst the most powerful nations of the world, India is currently lobbying for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, the premier body that acts on world security matters. With it, comes the power to 'veto', which will allow India to reject any resolution that goes against its interests. At the same time, it will be able to further its interests on a global scale. It has been placed among the G4 nations which include Japan, Germany and Brazil. These countries, strong in their own right, are also worthy candidates.

India makes a decent case as a candidate, perhaps the best amongst the G4. It is the world's largest democracy and will soon eclipse China as the world's most populated country. With this burgeoning population, India carries the world's largest Hindu population and the second-largest Muslim population. India is also the third largest contributor to peacekeeping troops in the UN. It is the ninth largest economy in the world (third if you consider PPP figures) and despite a recent dip; it is progressing at a steady pace. In India's recent election to the UNSC as a non-permanent member, it received 187 out of 192 votes in the General Assembly (one needs 128). The weight of its nuclear status and a large military is felt on the shoulders of both allies, and adversaries.

Unfortunately, despite its many claims as a growing power, India faces one hurdle after another in achieving such a status. Firstly, no country has ever been added into the list of the permanent members (Russia and China were only substitutes of recognized governments). To be granted permanent membership, an approval from two-thirds of the General Assembly is required which will require an alteration of the original UN charter.

Approval will also be required from all the current permanent members of the UN before any such proposal can materialize. This is easier said than done. While Russia, France and the UK have openly expressed their support for India's bid; US and China have not provided definitive stances. While China has only expressed its desire to see India involved in 'a greater role internationally,' the US initially denied India's bid citing its explicit rejection of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty. However, in Barack Obama's visit to India in 2010, where he addressed a joint session of Parliament, Obama endorsed India's permanent seat in the Council. Considering America's policy of using India to contain China, obtaining Uncle Sam's approval may be the least of India's concerns. Of course, Pakistan openly rejects India's candidature, citing their obvious differences, but they don't carry the influence that many other nations do.

So far, India's bid to permanent membership has remained entirely as a tossed-up by leaders from all over the world and has not been penned down into anything that the United Nations might consider. Prime Minister Nehru was supposedly (the Washington Post) offered a permanent seat in the Security Council by the United States. He rejected the offer, and asked that the Republic of China (not mainland China) take the seat. Such reports have never been confirmed by the United States or India. Momentarily assuming this as the truth, imagine how India's history, and the rest of the world's would have been altered had Nehru accepted that offer.

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## UPA's Fall

*Vikramaditya Kapur explains the shortcomings of the UPA government which is currently in power*

Since the UPA II took over, the government has been plagued by scams and reported setbacks. Be it the Commonwealth Games debacle of 2010 or the failure of the Jan Lokpal Bill, this alliance seems to have lost its popularity.

One of the biggest reasons for the demise of the UPA has been Anna Hazare's campaign. The government and Team Anna have always disagreed on the issue of rampant corruption. This is where I feel the government has failed. Even though it is said that the government has taken steps to appease Hazare, there is no change seen. The government, instead of trying to appease a small section of the society, should have enacted a bill, maybe not a perfect bill, but a stepping stone for the removal of corruption. This, for sure, would have helped the common man in his fight today.

Another point which I would like to make is that the UPA consists of 21 political parties and they have their own ideals and political agendas. As a result, any step taken by the government is met with resistance and governance is harmed. The central command has created these alliances without ever being sure if they could agree with their partners. This is another reason for the failure of the government which has caused problems with most of the major policies that need to be introduced and enforced. Thus, there is no certainty. Even during the run-up to the presidential elections, members of the UPA II government (namely the SP and the Trinamool Congress) were in disagreement with Congress's choice of candidate. Also, when we look at the Food Security Bill or the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the parties have had varied opinions. India's largest supermarket chain, Future Group had to shut down due to the backtracking of the government on its change in the FDI policy due to pressure by its coalition partners. FDI reforms would mean companies could receive more experience, expertise and training from foreign partners but because of the absence of cooperation with the coalition parties, no change seems to be forthcoming until the 2014 general elections are over. This is a serious blow to the Indian economy.

The UPA II has tried and failed and at the moment it doesn't look like they have chances of retaining power. If by any chance they do retain power post 2014 and continue governing the same way, the price paid will be India's future.

| Viewpoint |

# THE WAY A DEMOCRACY FUNCTIONS

*Shashvat Dhandhanian argues on why India's democracy is functional*

Whatever issues India may have faced- political, economic, communal, the nation has been able to work its way through them to keep the spirit of democracy alive. Even though we might want to introspect and look at the various problems our democracy faces, we cannot deny that the Indian democracy is functional. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh argued similarly, when he said, "We are not a perfect democracy, but we are a functioning democracy with mechanisms and safeguards that allow for the reconciliation of diverse interests and differences of opinion. It is the vitality and vibrancy of our democracy that keeps the nation united and moving on the path of progress." Allow me to look at various instances that resonate with this description of our democracy.

Firstly, we must understand that we vote our leaders into Parliament. The voting percentages may not be as high as in other countries, but there is a conscious effort to improve this drawback. Moreover, we have seen, even with the Uttar Pradesh elections that took place this year, more people have turned up to cast their votes. Not only is this a healthy sign, but it also shows us that our democracy is 'by the people, of the people, for the people'.

Secondly, let us look at the 2G scam. No one can, or will, deny the issue of corruption. We can understand that corrupt ministers were involved, but they have been put to trial. Also, what we cannot undermine is the ruling of the Supreme Court. It has cancelled all the licenses that were issued during the tenure of A Raja, and instructed the CBI to hold auctions for further spectrum allocation. Therefore, we can see that we have a functional, independent judiciary. On a similar note, the decision by the West Bengal Human Rights Commission (WBHRC) to compensate the two professors who were arrested and harassed by police officers for circulating online cartoons of Mamata Banerjee has also proven that politicians and leaders do not always reign supreme. Even though Mamata seems to be furious due to this decision, she is powerless to act.

Thirdly, protests take place in our nation. Whether it is the mass protests organized by Team Anna or the *bandhs* organized by the opposition, the constant protesting over various issues is important. Only if there are such protests, can we see the people standing (obviously not with arms) for what they believe is going wrong with the way the government is functioning.

The media has always played a role in the way perception is formed in a community, and the way this organ functions in our society is vital. Even they do not disappoint. NDTV caught onto the falsified TRP ratings and have now sued the private company responsible for the falsification. Also, the editorial carried in The Hindu, titled, 'Reaping gold through cotton, and newsprint' portrayed the inconsistencies of reportage in The Times of India, their competitor. Our democracy falls short in many areas, however, that cannot be any reason to distrust it as a whole. It is, as a matter of fact, functional in its entirety.

## From Nehru to Present Day India

*The following are a few questions from a quiz on India that was printed in the 'Young World' section on The Hindu dated August 14, 2012*

1. Why is July 18, 1947, a significant date?
2. Lord Mountbatten said the chosen date for independence came out of the blue but also was the second anniversary of what incident?
3. How was the country referred to between August 15, 1947 and January 26, 1950, when it became a republic?
4. Where and to whom did Jawaharlal Nehru deliver the famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech?
5. Apart from Lord Mountbatten, who else served as the Governor General of the Dominion of India?
6. Where was Mahatma Gandhi on that historic day?
7. What 'natural' Independence Day gift did Bapu send through an emissary to Nehru and Sardar Patel?
8. Which princely state in Gujarat initially acceded to Pakistan, after Independence, before becoming part of India?
9. Name the two Asian countries that share their freedom or liberation date with India.
10. Which Indian nationalist and spiritual guide, who is associated with a commune in Pondicherry, was born on August 15?
11. Which Bharat Ratna's performance on Independence Day was a highlight every year from 1947 till his death in 2006?
12. From where does the Prime Minister address the nation on August 15?

**Answers:** 1. The Royal Assent was given on that date to the Indian Independence Act 2. Japan's surrender after WWII; 3. Bharat Adhirajya or Dominion of India; 4. To the Constituent Assembly in the Parliament House on August 14-15, 1947; 5. C. Rajagopalachari; 6. He was in Calcutta (now Kolkata) trying to bring peace after communal clashes; 7. A dry leaf; 8. Junagadh; 9. South Korea and Bahrain; 10. Sri Aurobindo; 11. Ustad Bismillah Khan; 12. Red Fort.

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