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, next week, this weekend School will be flooded with delegations 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 to run articles which only pertain to contemporary issues regarding India. The Weekly has decided that it is of national importance. After all, this is an issue, it is meant to revolve around 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 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. 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.

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 Indians, 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: 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 flags, 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 farmers. (contd. on page 4)
Badminton Update


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
- Mathematics: Tushar Khurana
- Science: Nipun Batra

ICSE
- English: Raniz Bordoloi and Aman Joshi
- Mathematics and Science: Ritesh Slunde

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 Sanjeev 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

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 Vishvajit 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 could be seen strutting around school this weekend that a hundred and fifty two boys had been excused classes on Saturday because of DSMUN.

It was 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.
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: 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 an infrastructure 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 active role in the process of unlearning and relearning. That is the kind of situation we will face in five years time when we will have to re-examine the whole 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: Do you think the Indian Government’s energy policy should put more emphasis on production or distribution of energy?

PFB: 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. You can hear patriotic songs playing and feel the nationalistic fervor rising. The only apparent solution is to participate in violent protests, strikes and bhurat hain. 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 bankruptcy 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 incase 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 which needs illumination is unethical journalism. You see news. 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 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.

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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: That is true. Sometimes people ask us to clean up the sports. 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: 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 of the Asian Games, 1982. What do you think went wrong with the preparations of the Commonwealth Games, 2010?

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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.

4. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, August 18
Is this the Freedom Our Forefathers Fought For?

Sudhanshu Bhandari

Our khadi-clad leaders dressed in spotless-white ‘kurtas’;

The bigger the leader, the larger and heavier the garland;

The men in granite get a make-over, at least once a year,

The statues have recently been scrubbed clean of the multitudinous avian droppings

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

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

Our political subserviency ended three-score years ago,

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, 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 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.

The statues have recently been scrubbed clean of the multitudinous avian droppings

The bigger the leader, the larger and heavier the garland;

The men in granite get a make-over, at least once a year,

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The India We’ve Seen

Kunal Kanodia

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 daughters to a La Martiniere, Sherwood or a Wellhams,

Why 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,

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, 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 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. Knowing 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 tried her best to make amends, they would just look away. They would look away to kill their brothers, who would in turn kill them, while she wept. But she kept calm.

She realized soon enough that she needed new resources that the tormentors do not return. Her children were given weapons; her home was equipped with deterrents. Knowing 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 tried her best to make amends, they would just look away. They would look away to kill their brothers, who would in turn kill them, while she wept. But she kept calm.

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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 Phelp'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. Its 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.
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.

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.
THE WAY A DEMOCRACY FUNCTIONS

Shashvat Dhandhania 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 newspaper 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?

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Answers:
1. Independence Day
2. Independence Day was a highlight every year from 1947 till his death in 2006.
3. No significant incident.
4. Delhi, to the Viceroy of India.
5. Lord Mountbatten.
6. Delhi.
7. Mahatma Gandhi.
9. South Korea and Bahrain.
10. Sri Aurobindo.
11. Ustad Bismillah Khan.
12. Red Fort.