

Established in 1936



# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## The New Torchbearer

The Doon School Weekly recently interviewed the newly appointed School Captain, Tushaar Sharma.

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW):** The Headmaster in the Special Assembly brought up the matter of The Doon School 'currency convertor' and hyper competitiveness. What concerns do you share on this issue?

**Tushaar Sharma (TSR):** Honestly, I feel that blazers and ties are a way to honour a person's contribution to an activity in School, but what's happening now is that many people are taking these blazers or ties as a motive rather than as a landmark of achievement. I think there is no policy that the School can introduce that will abolish this materialism. According to me, the message that highlights the fact that achievement in School is not just about blazers and ties should be given to boys as soon as they enter School. Agreed - ties are important and it is an achievement indeed if one is awarded one, but the purpose behind doing any activity should be passion and love towards that activity. Ultimately, that is what will earn you more respect.

**DSW:** Where exactly do you see yourself as the School Captain and how do you think the prefectorial body should function in the forthcoming year?

**TSR:** Our School is currently going through a period of transition. With the trimester system, IGCSE board and numerous new activities; change in School is happening at a much faster rate. In a School like ours, where we have five sets of House Captains and prefects, I feel that the role of a School Captain is more of an advisory one. Furthermore, I think that a School Captain is one who overlooks the successful working of the prefectorial body and, if need be, help the House Captain or prefect if he is having any difficulties. The whole idea of what a prefect should be must also change. A prefect is not only a person who punishes, you but also a person to whom you can go when something is bothering you. Prefects are meant to be role models. My vision for this year is that the Housemasters and the prefects should complement each other and work with complete cooperation. Simultaneously, there should be a clear distinction between the jurisdictions of a prefect and that of the Housemaster. Another aim of mine for this year is that all authorities concerned should stay in the loop and be aware of what's happening in the respective Houses. This would allow for a better and more transparent administration at the House and School level.

**DSW:** Having seen previous School Captains, what inspirations have you drawn from them and what are some of their qualities that you wish to emulate?

**TSR:** One of my role models is Tushar Gupta, not because he is a namesake but because he was one of the most humble people I have met in my school life. As a D- Former, seeing an achiever of his standard being so modest and approachable gave me a really positive image about School. His humility was one of the qualities that I admired a lot. Another leader that I really admire and look up to till this day is Yuv Vir Khosla, for the simple reason that he was always himself. I remember seeing him in his S Form and in his SC Form, and even though he became School Captain he never changed. He was a really hard working person and someone who always aimed at perfection. Moving ahead in the timeline of School Captains, another person who has truly inspired me is my predecessor Sahir Choudhary. I have seen Sahir work overnight with juniors, go to classes, work on his portfolios for college and still find it in him to work relentlessly for the Founder's Day production. This is what I call resilience, and it is another quality I would like to imbibe. Another quality that I admire about Sahir is that he never ran after awards or blazers. Instead, he pursued activities that he genuinely wanted to be a part of and he always gave in his best, whether plays, AV, his college or his dream of becoming an architect.

**DSW:** What are the problems that exist in Doon that do not exist in other boarding schools?

(Contd. on page 3)



# Prefectorial Body '16

The following have been appointed as **prefects** for the year **2016**:

**School Captain**

Tushaar Sharma

**Hyderabad House**

Sasyak Patnaik  
Raghav Kumar  
Hamza Khan  
Nihal Singh Mann

**Oberoι House**

Vansh Agarwal  
Madhav Singhal  
Ishaan Kapoor  
Dhruv Madhav Johri

**Jaipur House**

Pratyaksh Sinh Parmar Angad  
Yasir Nizam  
Varun Sehgal  
Kanav Agarwal

**Tata House**

Singh Shergill  
Ashwin Agarwal  
Ujjwal Maheshwari  
Rahul Aggarwal

**Kashmir House**

Madhav Bhardwaj  
Rudra Srivastava  
Siddharth Jain  
Dhruv Ahuja

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

## AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

The United States has quadrupled its military spending in Europe to counter Russia's growing influence. The WHO has declared the deadly Zika virus as a 'global health emergency'. The Japanese Stock Exchange has introduced negative interest rates to boost trading. The Supreme Court of India has referred the review of Section 377 to a 5-judge panel. On Tuesday, Mumbai's air quality was worse than New Delhi. Manchester City has announced the replacement of its manager Manuel Pellegrini with Pep Guardiola.

# Appointments

The following are the appointments for the year **2016**:

**Social Service Secretaries**

Saksham Goel and Mohammed Zaid Bin Shameem

**Astronomical Society Secretary**

Utkarsh Agarwal

Congratulations!

# Special Assembly

The following people received prizes during **Special Assembly, 2015**:

**Historical Circle Essay:**

**Senior**

**1st:** Sasyak Patnaik  
**2nd:** Dhruv Johri

**Junior**

**1st:** Salman Mallick and  
Pragun Agarwal  
**2nd:** Kanishkh Kanodia

**Science Masters trophy for Best Extra**

**Curricular work in Science:** Manan Dandhania

**Shantum Seth Trophy for Best Naturalist:**

Tushaar Sharma

**The VM Mahey Trophy for Best**

**Environmentalist:** Raghav Kumar

**Best English Debator:** Devansh Agarwal

**Navin Chandra trophy for best Hindi Debator:**

Arth Gupta

**Best Hindi Assembly Talk:** Divij Mullick

**RL Holdsworth Prize for Best Fielder:**

Ajatshatru Singh

**Ranjan Sawhney Award for the Best All-**

**Rounder Cricketer:** Akhil Ranjan

Kudos!

## Dosco Doodle

The Shock...  
Leonardo Pamei



(Contd. from page 1)

**TSR:** I have visited many boarding schools across the country and I feel that *Doscos* are not very well liked. When I ask people what is the reason behind this, they say that *Doscos* think they have it all. Just because their School is rated the best school of the country they think that they are superior to everybody else, and this translates into them being condescending at times. I cannot judge this objectively since I am not an outsider. People have been misled by awards and ties we get in School, because they begin to think that it's the same outside School, and that they are the best. They begin to live in a bubble, unaware that there exists competition outside this 70-acre campus as well. The problem is that we are restricted within our four walls, and this reduces our contact with the outside world. The life we lead here is a life of luxury, we get good food, hot water and we get to study at the best school of the country. One thing I have seen in the past years is that once we become seniors, we begin to take rules for granted. Just because one is a SC, one cannot do whatever one pleases, and this must be changed.

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## Knockout

Sasyak Pattnaik

Boxing has always been one of the tougher sports in the School, sometimes requiring an extra level of dedication with respect to other sports. This is perhaps why there are so many technicalities involved in the sport that many do not comprehend. In simple terms, boxing is not a sport played with rage as many people assume. It is however, a sport that requires mental strength and stability. Above all, boxing is all courage, and a little fear.

Last year, the School had a particularly good year in boxing. The School Boxing Captain, Ruhaan Dev Tyagi, won an individual gold medal at the district level, and was also selected to represent the district in the State Boxing Championship. Shubham Dhiman, Nehansh Saxena and Ruhaan Dev Tyagi represented the school in the IPSC boxing championship. The school won two silver and one bronze medals. Nehansh Saxena was also declared the best loser in the under 17 division.

This year, in the 77<sup>th</sup> Inter-House Boxing Competition, notable performances were seen in the likes of Inderveer Singh and Aviral Kumar in the juniors' division. Despite having the least experience in the sport, the juniors gave amazing and highly competitive performances, with Tata House winning the juniors' cup. In the mediums division, Shreshth Mehra, Aditya Saboo and Archit Barthwal showed extreme zeal and vigor. After the many closely fought bouts, Tata House and Oberoi House lifted the mediums' cup jointly. In the seniors' division, experience was distinctly visible. Tanay K. Agarwal put in commendable performance and won the award for 'the best loser'. Nikhil Chauhan

was awarded 'The Most Scientific Boxer' of the competition. Of the many bouts, one that really intrigued the audience was that of Nadir Singh and Samrath Bal in which both displayed tremendous enthusiasm and skill, which always kept the audience in suspense. In the end, Samrath Bal got the edge to what was a memorable bout. Hyderabad House shared the seniors' cup with Oberoi House, who eventually went on to win the House cup too.

Boxing has always been the last sport of the calendar year, which is perhaps why there are always high expectations from the sport. This year, there was a record number of boys who participated in both boxing practices, as well as the Inter-House competition. Our coach, Mr. Anil Kandwal put in immense efforts to make this season worthwhile and successful. Without him, this season would not have been as great as it was. In the end, boxing has always been a painful sport. However, for a boxer, the pain is just a part of the fun. As long as you land the next punch harder than your opponent, all is well.

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## Under the Scanner

2016 Iowa Caucuses | Arjun Singh

Across a cold and snowy America, the political mood remains red hot. With the upcoming Presidential Elections, candidates across both parties have already campaigned for months in hopes of securing their party's nomination. The first test of their efforts came on Monday, with the primary elections held in the state of Iowa. Being the first state to hold primaries (that too, in a caucus format), it has long held the reputation of being the 'filter' state: separating the more serious candidates from the rest.

For the Republican Party, the spotlight was narrowed down to the top three contenders. The state delivered a victory to Senator Ted Cruz of Texas with eight convention delegates (who vote for the party nominee). Mr Cruz has campaigned on a deeply conservative platform, tapping into the chunk of Christian evangelicals. He was followed by the media-tycoon and national frontrunner Donald Trump, who has gained international attention following controversial comments and heavily-populist messages. In third place was Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, whose mainstream promises have made him the party establishment's favourite. Trump and Rubio both received seven delegates each, leaving little numerical difference between them and the state's winner.

On the Democratic Party's side, the race ended with a virtual tie between two remaining candidates. Former First Lady and Cabinet Secretary Hillary Clinton gained a narrow victory to Senator Bernie Sanders, the populist candidate whose socialist message has propelled his meteoric rise. Despite a seven delegate lead, Hillary Clinton saw herself struggling to victory in many caucuses, where in some cases the winner was declared

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# Kim Dynasty's Toys

**Kanishkh Kanodia** *writes about North Korea's recent development of Nuclear Weapons.*

Jutting out of the Manchurian plains in East Asia is the Korean peninsula; home to the world's most secretive and reclusive nation: North Korea. It was formed after Japan relinquished its seizure of the Korean peninsula but became independent only after a ferocious battle over sovereignty with South Korea in the Korean War. With the help of Russia, North Korea invaded South Korea but this victory was short lived. The United States led a coalition of 16 UN nations and pushed the aggressors back to the North. However, the struggle came to a stalemate after China's entry into the war, and ended only with an armistice agreement that split the peninsula into two different countries. This began an antagonism, between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which would go on for decades.

The seeds of North Korea's mistrust for the United States were sown during the Korean War when the US continuously supplied weapons to the helpless South Korea. In fact, according to North Korea, the US was “the strongest imperialist force in the world and the successor to Japanese imperialism”. On the other hand, the United States viewed North Korea as an “international outlaw”, having accused it of killing two American soldiers, downing an American reconnaissance plane and bombing a South Korean passenger jet. These series of events culminated when in 1994 the two nations were at the brink of war. During the summer of that year, US planned to send missiles and fighters to



prevent North Korea from acquiring raw materials to build a new nuclear reactor. Many anticipated that this provocative action would result in another war in the Korean peninsula. Imposing sanctions would have also carried a similar risk given that the UN was a belligerent factor in the Korean War and there was an armistice in place. All the options were unpalatable but not to choose one would have been catastrophic. Before any decision could have been taken North Korea decided to haul its nuclear reactor in return for two light water reactors. This was the first meaningful bilateral attempt to halt North Korea's nuclear program.

However, tensions escalated in 2002, when George Bush labeled North Korea a part of the 'Axis of Evil' with a hostile stance against the nation. All the treaties broke, relationships soured and attempts of preventing North Korea from becoming a nuclear capable state failed. In 2006, it successfully conducted its first nuclear test followed by three more tests in 2009, 2013 and 2016, the last one being a hydrogen bomb allegedly. This test was condemned by the whole world including China; North Korea's strongest ally. It was yet another dubious step by the impoverished nation raising suspicion over the material of the bomb claimed by North Korean officials. Not only did this unexpected nuclear test set off international alarm bells but also triggered a 5.1 magnitude earthquake. While these figures raise skepticism over the nation's claim, it asserts that North Korea will try to acquire more weapons of mass destruction in near future (if it hasn't already). In the past, numerous measures had been taken to prevent such a situation from occurring. Be it in the form of the Six Party talks, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or the innumerable negotiations, all failed in their purpose of denuclearizing the cloistered nation.

Many have been pondering over plausible solutions for the prevailing scenario. To bring a halt to this chaos will require collaborative effort, as seen before while dealing with Iran. China would play an important role in mediating the whole situation, as any decision would impact the nation –which shares its north-east border with the totalitarian state – greatly. Even though China has firmly opposed the nuclear test, it is far from ready to abandon North Korea. The United States and its allies, South Korea and Japan, are likely to push for stronger sanctions on the already heavily sanctioned nation. However, even in the past we have observed that sanctions by themselves haven't had a real impact on the regime, partial blame also goes to the Chinese for this who were committed to seek a solution through dialogue rather than a punitive measure. Lastly, negotiations will always be a trump-card in solving issues like this.

After all, it seems unlikely that only a handful of people in a penniless country such as North Korea could wield such power and stymie entire governments and yet three generations of the Kim dynasty have done precisely that. Pyongyang's nukes are both a guarantor of the survival of the Kim dynasty and a conundrum for the international community yet to be solved.

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a former debating-*wala* myself, I followed the discussion between Arth Gupta and DEB in the last two issues of the last year (issues no. 2423 and 2424) with great interest. There is little I can say to disagree with either of their views, although I would like to nuance this conversation a little further and make an important distinction.

I would stress the need for us to bear in mind the difference between debating, which as we all agree is the exchange of ideas through rational dialogue, and Debating, which when capitalised I take to mean the competitive rhetorical blood sport that engages, excites and entertains so many of us. I, too, was told on a number of occasions that not everything was a debate: incidentally, I was told this by teachers who were the most enabling of my Debating habit. That is because, at some level, the competitiveness and bravado that was becoming on stage — when we attempted to score points against Matter, Manner and Method — is perhaps not the most congenial to sincere, scholarly pursuit or learning — times when humility and mildness would be more valuable. It is all a matter of context. And while debating is fundamental to our being and our functioning in a democracy — be it a School, nation or larger community — it might be worth paying closer attention to the limitations to where the competitive Debating ends.

And that is because, like every sport, the ability to play the game and our opportunities to excel are contingent on a number of privileges that we enjoy, privileges that are outside of our immediate awareness or control. Consider, for example, the kinds of schools that are engaged in the competitive circuit (of which we are no doubt a part). It is a small circuit of a number of elite institutions with long histories and debating traditions. It is also a narrow section of a society, and we should ask ourselves whether this subset is truly representative of the larger collective. Moreover, if we were ever faced by speakers from outside of this circle — say speakers who may not have been groomed to speak with the kind of flair and finesse that we are accustomed to see at a Chucks final — how would we respond to the difference in style and manner?

I say this from experience, really, in that the very debating societies we come to revere as historic institutions (the Oxford Union or the Cambridge Union) are all institutions that have not just a reputation of intellectual excellence, but also one of elitism. It is why 'Oxbridge' is a shorthand in British political discourse of leaders or politicians who are privileged and disconnected from the experiences of common people. Conversely, somebody like Jeremy Corbyn, the newly-elected leader of the Labour Party, makes a massive stir in British politics because he engages the grassroots, because he acts like a real man of the people and is, unlike the Conservative front bench or the other Labour leadership candidates from months ago, outside of the Oxbridge clique.

But coming closer to home, I have volunteered to judge a number of school debates while I was active on the scene, and there was a palpable difference between debates from state schools and debates from public schools. It was seldom a difference of intellectual ability: it was a difference more of the way they played the game. The former did not know the minutiae of role fulfilment, tactical points of information, strategic framing of parameters and arguments or, more controversially, what buzzwords the judges were expecting in order for them to win the debate. The latter, by virtue of having played this game for longer, did and won. It did not matter what they said, but how they said it.

Debating, as a sport, is a lot like polo: it is a sport that has its origins in forms of elitism of which we must be cautious. I fell off the competitive bandwagon a few years ago. Nevertheless, as an academic in training, I, too, am a firm believer in debating and dialogue being central to culture. But I am weary of the forms of privilege and social hierarchy in which prominent educational institutions are themselves complicit. And likewise, while I laud Arth's convictions about the freedom of speech and the need for debate, I would also like to remind all of us to be sceptical of the limitations of what we do, who our audiences are and indeed who the other participants of this debate are. Does Debating reflect and engage with the plurality and diversity — in terms of class, ethnicity and background — of the society we hope to represent? If not, the debates we will have will be within a reified echo chamber of a schooled elite, which can be a dangerous thing. I hope, like Arth, we will all continue to use our voices in a manner that is conscientious and critically self-aware.

Sincerely,

Vivek Santayana

Secretary, Senior English Debating Society, 2009 and 2010.

Ex-369 O'11

(Contd. from page 3)  
by a coin toss.  
With Iowa now having passed, the race's focus shifts to New Hampshire – the other 'filter state' in the primaries. Despite their recent victories, the winners of Iowa are deeply constrained in the state. Hillary Clinton trails Bernie Sanders by over 18 percentage points across all polls, the latter's lead having increased. For the Republicans, Donald Trump and Ted Cruz hold the top-two positions, yet are threatened by the rise of Gov. John Kasich of Ohio (possibly the most liberal Republican in the race). Marco Rubio occupies the lowly fifth place. As the polls closely approach, the campaigns continue to turn up the heat, with no telling which candidates will pull through to the second leg of this race.

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# The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

The first week after vacations signaled the beginning of the Dosco grind, characterized by the blitzkrieg like beginning of classes, activities and sports. Certain teachers even took it upon themselves to give us homework in the first class itself! Most of us were hit by the severe cold as soon as we arrived, and the absence of heaters did not help the Dosco cause at all. However, meeting up with friends upon arrival took away a lot of the tension people were going through in the run up to the 'special' assembly.  
The first major event of the term was the swearing in of the new Prefectorial body for the forthcoming year. As always, there was a high level of suspense before the announcement of the names, a suspense that had been created as early as the beginning of the previous autumn term. As always, the expectations of some hopeful individuals were met, and one wishes the new Prefectorial body a fruitful tenure.  
Our cricket team had been sweating it out on the field much before most of us arrived from the holidays. House practices have commenced as well and with the senior cricket competition fast approaching, our cricketers seem to be making the most of their time in the run up to the first major sporting event this year.  
A major ongoing event is the pre board exams for the AT and the SCL formers over the next few days. The pressure is immense, but is always curbed by the enormous amounts of food that are stashed away or distributed every day; one of the many reasons for the success of our boys year after year. We wish our 'board-ers' the very best of luck.  
Another academic year has begun with a week that shocked most of us in various capacities. The three-term system goes into effect from this year, resulting in our holidays arriving much earlier than usual. For a few, the year signals the beginning of the end, while others begin a long, sought after journey. But what remains for most of us is a year full of surprises, so it is best we be prepared.

Crossword

Note: Guess the answers by filling in the spaces between the letters preceding the clue.

Across:

- 3. Y\_Y; the day preceding today
- 7. O\_O; the capital of Norway
- 10. M\_M; the lowest possible
- 11. T\_T; to have faith in someone

Down:

- 1. C\_C; a professional reviewer
- 2. W\_W; roll about in mud
- 4. E\_E; a short summary of anything
- 5. G\_G; an instrument of call or triumph
- 6. P\_P; a synonym of fat
- 8. R\_R; an uncertain or doubtful story
- 9. K\_K; strike something noisily to gain attention
- 11. H\_H; to travel by getting lifts

Answers to This Week's Crossword:

Across:  
3. Yesterday  
7. Oslo  
10. Minimum  
11. Trust

Down:  
1. Critic  
2. Wallow  
4. Epitome  
5. Gong  
6. Plump  
8. Rumour  
9. Knock  
11. Hitch

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