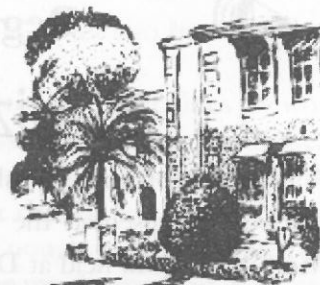


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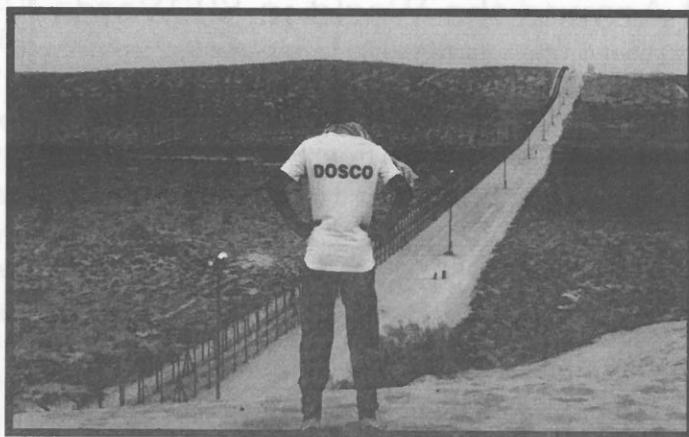
Pop Culture 6

The Great Indian Trek

Madhav Bhardwaj

The one question that I was most commonly asked during my recent desert sojourn was what on earth I was doing in that godforsaken place at this time of the year. Before long, by the end of the first day itself, I was left asking myself the same question! What have we landed ourselves into? I began to rue the decision of embarking upon the ambitious expedition which then looked glamorous and promised to be full of thrills.

My father was brought up with the heady cocktail of 'Doon School with its midterms' and a stint with the Forces- he had indulged himself with a number of national-level expeditions on water, on camels and the Himalayas. The hangover still remains. I seem to have inherited the genes. Besides, I have been exposed to some high-octane thrilling situations in extremely volatile areas throughout my life. Take for instance the scene of an officer driving the gypsy, with me sitting beside him, and a cocked, loaded naked pistol in 'ready' position placed on the armrest between us- the gypsy was tearing through the curfew bound streets and lanes of downtown trouble-torn Srinagar, with heavily armed escorting vehicles before and after us. We crossed Kashmir in this manner like lords, unmindful of the risk that existed in every nook and corner of the blood-soaked paradise. The valley was deserted and the picnic-spots seemed to be exclusively reserved for us where the fellow officers would assemble in a fashion befitting some army dictator- where we were fed on real stories of gallantry. Fear was banished.



Soon I found myself in situations where a nurse would be administering an injection or dressing up a wound, and I would be smiling, almost stupidly, to be bewildered at all present. "I may have to suffer gunshots later when I am in the army, so I am getting used to the pain now", I would say.

With this kind of a background, I had met the Director General, BSF during the summers last year with some suggestions for their Golden Jubilee. One thing lead to another, and soon I firmed up a plan to scale the desert part of the Indo-Pak border on foot, for the sake of adventure, and for the lure of seeing from close quarters the functioning of BSF- the worlds biggest and best border-guarding force, and most importantly, for holding aloft the Doon School flag in whatever way I could. The DG agreed and approved, and there I was, heading from Bikaner towards the border on a lovely road that seemed to go on and on, into wilderness, leading to nowhere.

We reached our destination Gajjewala at sunset - any later, and we would have got lost. A sand storm greeted us. There was this initial flush of excitement at setting foot on a real, operational BOP (Border Out Post) where our border-guards live and operate from.

We had had a long day, and a night-halt there would have been comfortable, but we were already burdened by the time lost due to Holi. So, like possessed men, we visited the temple and at 8 pm we bolted. The BSF men escorting us were taking long strides in the darkness leading to the border, and our minds were occupied by the fear of treading on the deadly reptiles. Soon we were facing the fence, well lit by sodium lamps. And before we knew anything, we hit *Everest*. Yes, that is what it was referred to by the jawans - that

(Contd. on page 3)



Regulars

Quizzing

A team comprising Aayush Chowdhry and Kanishkh Kanodia represented the School at the **P.G. Miller Memorial Quiz** held at **Daly College, Indore**. The team secured second position after losing in a closely contested tie-breaker.

Congratulations!

Hindi Debating

Shikhar Trivedi, Mihir Gupta and Anant Jain represented the School at **Padmashri J.K. Kate Memorial Hindi Debate** held at **Daly College, Indore**. The team secured third position in the competition while, Shikhar Trivedi was adjudged the **Third Best Speaker** and Mihir Gupta the **Best Interjector** in the preliminary round.

Kudos!

Around the World in 80 Words

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton secured comfortable victories in the New York primaries this week. The death toll from Saturday's devastating earthquake in Ecuador rose to 525. France planned to extend a state of emergency imposed after the Paris attacks in November to cover the Euro 2016 football tournament. Meanwhile, the death toll rose to 64 from a Taliban suicide bombing in Kabul. Mitsubishi confessed manipulating fuel economy test data for more than 625,000 vehicles sold in Japan this Wednesday.

"Insults are the arguments by those who are in the wrong."

-Jean-Jacques Rousseau

THE WHO?

Who is Svetlana Alexievich?

Ansh Raj: A model

Raghav Saboo: A baker

Raghav Dalmia: A Russian actress

Aryan Bhattacharjee: The CEO of a company

Nehansh Saxena: A civil war spy

Aryan Chhabra: A tennis player

Yash Dewan: A gym instructor

Pritish Duggar: An F1 racer

Aviral Kumar: Stalin's daughter

Svetlana Alexievich is the Belarusian author and journalist who won the **Nobel Prize for Literature** for the year **2016**.

This Week in History

753 BCE: The foundation of Rome was laid.

1492 CE: Christopher Columbus signed a contract with Spain to find a passage to Asia and the Indies.

1521 CE: Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church.

1775 CE: The American Revolution began as fighting broke out at Lexington, MA.

1889 CE: Adolf Hitler was born.

1902 CE: Scientists Marie and Pierre Curie isolated the radioactive element radium.

1938 CE: Superman made his debut when he appeared in the first issue of Action Comics.

1945 CE: Soviet troops began their attack on Berlin.

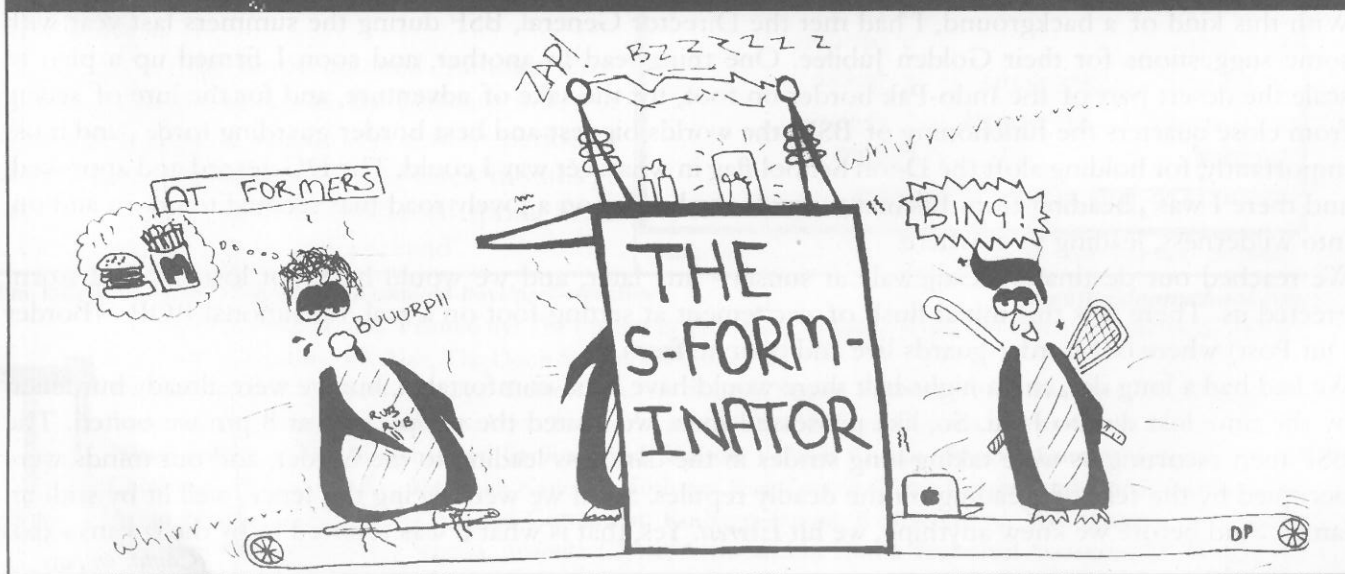
1975 CE: India launched its first satellite with aid from the USSR.

1990 CE: NASA launches the Hubble Telescope into space.

Posco Doodle

The S-Form-Inator

Dhruv Pais



(Contd. from page 1)

sky high wall of sand. It took a lot of care and all of our energy to negotiate it. After two hours, we were relieved to reach our first night-halt.

The next day was a frightening revelation. We had clearly underestimated the extent of difficulties we would be facing. Our big undoing was our timing of the expedition. You can't mess with nature. By all means respect it. We began to doubt our capacity to continue in such heat. To walk early in the morning didn't practically work out. We were left to bake in the open sun and sand, day after day. If that wasn't enough, there were blisters, muscle pulls, bruises, stomach disorders, and headaches. Enough to bog us down. But that couldn't happen - there was a lot at stake. Our word and commitment. The involvement of BSF, at no less than the DG-level. The School's name.

And so it carried on - each step painfully forward. The gradient was against us - for every 10 meters down we were climbing 50 metres. We reviewed our position and took a decision of how far to go, come what may.

The BSF personnel were characteristically most hospitable. I am fortunate to have seen in person their working, and to have eaten and lived with them. I am glad we could exceed the recorded maximum distance covered so far in lesser time, in foul weather conditions. I have fullest regard for our Indian Army, but am thankful to God for enabling me to edge past them.

Panama Papers

Gunvir Paintal

The Panama Papers are a set of 11.5 million documents leaked by an anonymous source using the pseudonym 'John Doe' to the German newspaper 'Suddeutsche Zeitung'. They give us detailed information about more than 214,000 shell companies listed by the Panamanian law firm and corporate service provider, Mossack Fonseca & Co.

A shell company is a device used to hide money or wealth for numerous reasons, the most common being evasion of taxes. What separates a shell company from a regular company is that it does not produce a good or provide a service. It acts as a barrier for a company or an individual who puts his/her money into a shell company which further invests into another one which in turn puts it into another shell company and the process continues till the paper trail is so long that the identity of the original investor is totally obscured, thus making the wealth untraceable right back to him.

The Panama Papers include names like Lionel Messi, Sigmundur Davio Gunnlaugsson (Icelandic Prime Minister who resigned after being named in the controversy) and many other high ranking officials of the already maligned FIFA. But the most shocking expose` was of several high ranking Chinese officials of the National People's Party (NPP) and of close associates of Vladimir Putin. The list has been extended to include companies and banks such as HSBC (having more than 2000 offshore companies) and Barclays Bank (with more than 300 offshore companies) taking the scandal to an industrial magnitude! All these people are world leaders and extremely influential in our global society and if we can't expect them to act as ideal citizens and perform the most fundamental of duties then

Presently, the most educated guess about the percentage of money that has evaporated from global circulation and is trapped in offshore companies is 8% of the entire global wealth. It translates to approx. 8 trillion US dollars. Gabriel Zuckman, professor of economics at the UCB

estimates that more than US dollars 200 billion are being lost annually in global tax revenue. US and Europe alone lose about 113 billion US dollars in taxes.

For over the last three years the Syrian Air force has rained terror and death upon its civilians with economic backing from these offshore companies with the names of the benefactors obscured behind all the false paperwork. In Uganda, a company changed its name to avoid paying 400 million US Dollars to the government which is greater than the country's medical fund, in certain parts of Africa, hospitals struggle to treat even the most basic of ailments due lack apparatus and medicines having to turn back patients if they aren't able to bring necessities like sterile gloves and cotton. Imagine if this money flows back into the global economy, ailing economies of Europe can get a new lease of life, several aid programs critical for the progress of third world nations can be revitalised. We can even support all the refugees trying to find a safe haven in neighbouring countries.

In the age of globalisation, we must realise that this is global issue and that the Panama Papers are just the tip of the iceberg. The shadowy world of offshore companies and tax havens still lies beneath the murky depths of loopholes and a matrix of false paperwork. In the last G8 meeting, the British PM highlighted the issue of tax havens, and with the Panama Papers going public, the need for immediate action seems the order of the day. The ICIJ (International Consortium of Investigative Journalists) hopes to publish the names of all those involved by May 2016 and we all await to see who else is involved...

Tungnath

Aditya Reddy (B-Form)

Accompanied by DKM and PTV, Jaipur house B-form embarked on a twelve hour journey to Duggalbitta. Our journey did however hit a bump, quite literally when our bus broke down, then our front suspension malfunctioned and we were stranded. This added an extra 2 hours to our journey.

The next morning we trekked six kilometers on a steep track to Tungnath. This trek was special for all of us because just as we reached the top, it began to snow and we witnessed the Himalayas in their full splendour and beauty. That night was a great one too as we realised that the girls from Welham's camping close by, so we went across to meet and greet them.

After a good night's sleep we boarded the bus which took us to the point from where we were to start our trek to Deoria Tal. On reaching the lake, we were left spellbound by the beauty of the emerald green lake reflecting the magnificent silhouette of the snow-capped Himalayas.

Luckily for us, we didn't have any trouble on our journey back and passed our time talking to each other or, for some sleeping was a better option. We had lunch at the Pacific Mall and then set back for school. It was truly one of the best mid-terms we have been to and it shall be fondly remembered.

Dayra Bughyal

Devang Laddha (A-Form)

On the 25th of March, a group of boys escorted by SNA and ARM headed for a trek to Dayra Bhugyal. After a tiring seven-hour bus ride to our base camp, Barsoo, we got down to work immediately. We pitched our tents and then rested for the night. The next day we trekked five kilometres and rucksacks seemed to force many an A-former to groan and moan!

That night was an eventful night because we had hail stones pelting our tents and khachars kicking at our pegs, causing many of our tents to collapse. The sheer panic and chaos left us short of a few more minutes of shut-eye.

Our trek up to our final destination, Dayra Bughyal was another steep climb. Fifteen of us from the group decided to challenge ourselves and climbed further up to Bakhra top. We had to cross a stretch covered in ice, but the toughest was climbing a near-vertical cliff hundred metres up.

The journey back was perhaps the most exciting one as we slid down the snow and made it back in a third of the time we took to go up. The next day, we came down to Barsoo and went to a guest house and rested. We travelled back the next day, completing yet another exciting midterm.

Rishikesh

Shreyash Agarwal (SC-Form)

While the rest of the school explored the mountains during midterms, a major part of the SC Form took up the challenge of completing a rafting expedition along the bumpy river Ganges. Mesmerised by the thrill of the experience, the group of 26 boys escorted by four masters covered 80 kms. on the river in a span of 3 days. Having trained hard on the first day after reaching the base-camp, each one of us was well acquainted with the basic features of a raft and the skills associated with its usage. A special team of trainees and kayakers were employed for our expedition to aid us and ensure our safety in the process. Despite having prepared well, the enigma at the start of the trip was daunting; our group comprising a large number of non-swimmers.

As I relive those anxious moments, I can clearly recall the roar of the threatening waves on the Ganges clashing against the rocks as opposed to the soothing breeze in the clear sunny skies. However, one day of rafting was all it took to energise the entire group which was now booming with confidence as we reached our campsite for the night having survived a long day on the river. We covered close to 30 kms. discovering various aspects of the rivers such as eddies, whirlpools and rapids of various grades. The highlight of the day was our first dip in the holy river and the numb feeling that followed. It was only after swimming in the freezing waters of the Ganges that I realised what washing off one's sins actually meant!

The second day was eventful too, having many challenges in store for the team. While cruising through 25 kms. of the day's stretch, we encountered a phase in which the raft had practically ceased to move forward due to the presence of currents opposing our movement. This monotonous peddling to get the raft going stretched us to our limits not only physically but mentally too, testing our resilience in the scorching heat. The end of the day was marked by a grade 5 rapid famously known as "The Wall." This is known to be a risk-to-life rapid and immense safety measures were required before attempting it. However, the enthusiasm with which we approached the hazard was incredible. Cheering to the voice of our guides, we were energised and managed to cross the hurdle with extreme caution, though, also enjoying the process at the same time. As one of the rafts

(Contd. on page 5)

(Contd. from page 4)

overturned on this rapid, my heart came to the mouth as we waited in anxiety for their rescue. Keeping in mind the unpredictability of the situation, the experience of falling off the raft in a rapid or even merely viewing the rescue of these boys was a unique one in itself.

The last day was the most enjoyable stretch of our expedition being dominated by rapids falling into the categories of grades 2 and 3. Manouvering our rafts over these tricky rapids was an enriching experience. Moreover, these rapids were also named like those of rides in an amusement park: "Golf Course", "Three Blind Mice" and "Roller Coaster" to name a few. As we came to the end of the expedition, the idea of having rafted through 80 kilometers on the river Ganges gave us immense satisfaction as we returned with tired limbs but a bag full of memories.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It has recently come to my attention that our School's web site has a page 'why a specialist boys' school' (<http://www.doonschool.com/about-us/why-a-specialist-boys-school/>). This letter has nothing to do with the question of co-education: that is a different issue entirely which may never abate. Instead, my purpose is twofold: primarily to call for the removal of this page and subsequently to open a wider conversation that we should be having as a community about what ideas about gender we abide by. Putting it bluntly, this page is sexist, peddling unsound stereotypes of gender roles in our society while masquerading as scientific.

To begin with, much of the research presented seems suspect as it does not provide working links or consistent citations to the original publication to verify its credibility. Besides, fMRI data on gendering brains has been incredibly inconclusive, and a recent study of over 5,500 individuals led by Daphna Joel published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America in December 2015 (<http://www.pnas.org/content/112/50/15468>) argues that there are no clear-cut distinctions between male and female brains. And while there are some characteristics that are internally consistent within genders, it remains inconclusive how many of these are socially-conditioned rather than innate. All this set aside, I still find the other arguments rather spurious. They are hasty generalisations, many of which rehearse persisting stereotypes within our society that seem to have little credibility given the ubiquity of counter-examples. But there is a more pernicious issue that underlies this: many of these stereotypes are a few short steps away from more damaging discourses of sexism that prevail in our society. Take for instance the idea that boys are better leaders and risk-takers: this merely rehearses gender roles that cast boys as authoritative and girls as passive. This has especially strong resonances with the glass ceiling women encounter while ascending the ranks of any organisation, as they are perceived to be inferior to equally-competent, equally-qualified male counterparts. Women who defy these roles are seen in pejorative terms as 'bossy' or 'impulsive', for showing the same kind of 'leadership' or 'risk-taking' that their male colleagues would. Moreover, many of the pressures of masculinity and achievement for male students are deeply toxic to boys' mental health, so this is harmful both ways.

And this might be a controversial example, but consider the claim that having girls around boys would distract them from their studies: this sounds a lot like the reasoning that motivated a university from banning female students from its library. While there is a significant difference between the two cases, this appears to be one of degree rather than substance, as there is clearly a continuity in the basic premise that is common to both, a premise of institutionalised gender segregation in order to allow boys to be boys without female disruption. The attitudes expressed on this web page are symptomatic of much deeper problems of gender inequality in our society. Rather than take these ideas for granted, we should reflect carefully on how we view the relation between boys and girls in educational contexts (and also reflect on what we post on the web).

What I find most puzzling is why we have the need for such a page on the web site in the first place. Whom does the School need to keep justifying itself to for being an all-boys' institution? And if we must justify this decision to remain all-boys', surely there are perfectly viable practical reasons we can offer that make enough of a case for doing so without repeating these stereotypes?

I sincerely hope, as do many others, that this page gets taken down for the reasons I have outlined above, and that we are able to have a serious conversation about all of these issues.

Sincerely,
Vivek Santayana
-Ex-369 O '11

Editor-in-Chief, 2010.

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

Our school is officially complete with the addition of the new D-formers who graced us with their presence at the beginning of the week. They stood out with their bright games shirts as they went about their induction in their new abode. For some of us, it's hard to believe that time has flown by so quickly, but I guess this is just another reminder of the approaching end to our 6 years at Chandbagh. As for our new entrants, we hope they enjoy their 'home away from home' for the next few years.

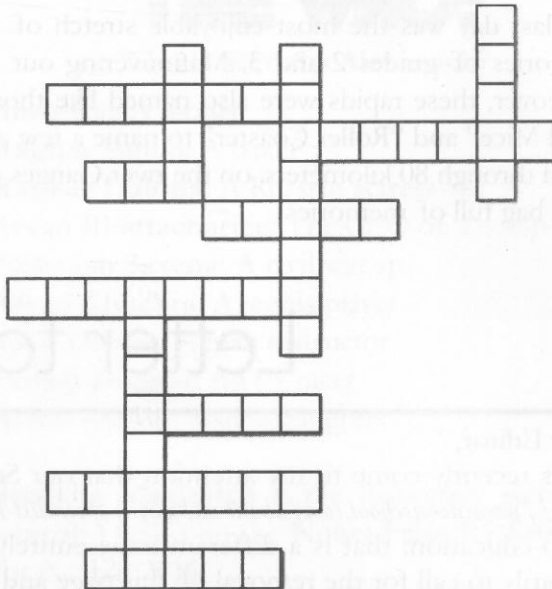
The heat got to most of us upon our arrival in school as we stepped out into the fields and picked up our hockey sticks. The hospital will begin receiving its fair share of injuries to deal with as the season goes on, some of which will involve fractures and sprained ankles. A certain individual whose services were required for various events this term, even ended up breaking a few bones before the term began. We wish him a speedy recovery.

On the brighter side, our 'MUNers' did us proud at the conclusion of the latest conference in Ajmer. The school took home the Best Delegation trophy for the fourth consecutive year after bagging several individual awards. All this was accomplished in the midst of intense heat, frequent visits to the nearby tourist hotspot to indulge in unfinished business and jam sessions that were cut short for certain reasons. The Parent Teacher Massacre has been placed on a day that is sure to bring back memories for most of us in our last year at school. Boys will hope that the scheduled career counselling appointments take longer than usual in a bid to consume time. A few lucky souls have the privilege of not attending the PTM because 'their parents could not make it'. However, over time we have come to realize that the MPH has actually been used for multiple purposes and is not reserved for academic endeavours only. What awaits us upon our return to school is an event that most of us have waited a long time for. A detailed report about our experiences at our first socials, will surface next week, so hang in for it.

For most of us, the newly initiated 'summer term' will prove to be hectic due to the constant flurry of activity taking place in school over a short period of time. One can only hope that the next few months go by as quickly as the recently concluded spring break did. Until then, have a 'wicked weekend'.

Crossword

Pop Culture



Note: All people referred to in this crossword are done so by their surnames.

Across

- Russell Peters performed his first ever show here.
- Leicester City's manager.
- According to the comics, he created Ultron.
- The only Justice League member shown in Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice who also has his own TV show starring Grant Gustin.
- Will Smith plays _____ in Suicide Squad.
- Barbara Jean Blank's pseudonym in the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).
- Quarrymen was the original name of this famous western band.
- Rihanna's last name.

Down

- Matthew Perry finished the American sitcom Friends off with this word.
- Brie Larson won the Oscar for the best actress for her role in this movie.
- Andrew Scott plays _____ in Sherlock.
- He plays Tyrion Lannister in Game of Thrones.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	Down
1. Toronto	1. Where
2. Flash	2. Room
3. Deadshot	3. Moriarty
4. Kelly	4. Dinklage
5. Ranieri	5. Fenty
6. Flash	6. Moriarty
7. Deadshot	7. Dinklage
8. Kelly	8. Moriarty

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

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/old-boys/past-weeklies/>

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