



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, August 20 | Issue No. 244 |



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## Standing Tall

**Mr. Amarnath Dar**, a former master, remembers his colleague **Hari Dang** who recently passed away.

I have just received a message from Yadu Nath Bhide and a call from Gursharan that Hari Dang, my former colleague in Doon, is no more.

I had joined Doon in 1962 just when Hari was away with Guru and Suman Dube on the First Indian Everest expedition in 1962. Naturally, I had developed a great admiration for all of them. After all, how many Indians could have then claimed to have attempted Mt Everest? As I joined Doon, I had known that Holdy, Jack Gibson, John Martyn and Chuckerbutty from Doon had been mountaineers. I too dreamt of joining this illustrious group.

The expedition returned with Hari missing the summit, perhaps with only 400 feet left – and with frost bitten toes. Soon, he was flown out to France for plastic surgery of his frost bitten toes. So, it was a few months more before I could meet Hari.

An old Modernite and Stephanian with a degree in Chemistry, he came out to Doon to teach Geography and English. Till I got to meet him myself, I had only heard stories about him from his students and colleagues. I formed a picture of him as an adventurer, but I was a little taken aback as he was also known to be an asthmatic, yet he went climbing.

He had his beliefs, sense of humour and purpose in life. His students and their parents found him to be an interesting character with a good command over English and a flair for writing.

Gradually, I got to know more about him. My family found him and his wife, Renu, to be charming and loveable people. My mother in particular loved Renu. My brother also worked with Hari when he was the Rector of St Paul's, Darjeeling.

After recovering from his frost bite, he planned the ascent of Jaonli (22,250'), a virgin peak in the Garhwal Himalayas. I too volunteered to join him (with my own dream of being an Everester one day). We could not make it to the summit on account of bad weather. The following year, he planned another assault on the peak, asking me to organize the same. He guided me into writing all those letters to various organizations and Old Boys for their help. The response was positive. We again narrowly missed the summit by 200' as the Sherpa and I were a little late and it had become cloudy by 2:00 pm. So, we had been advised to return. He also went on to design some beautiful post expedition cards.

I was really surprised to find him so fit on these high altitudes. Climbers are known to lose weight on these expeditions but to my surprise, Hari was said to gain weight. One day, we had gone on a recce to the area higher than our camp, when he asked a porter and me to meet the shepherd who had gone higher up and negotiate for a sheep from his herd for the cooking pot. The two of us brought it down on our backs by taking turns. Yes, this non-vegetarian food did taste good sitting by the campfire! We were indeed looking forward to a non-vegetarian meal and found that Hari took personal care of our needs even in these small ways.

His mind surely worked with clarity in the solitude of those cold heights and for the routine of the expedition. He had planned the hiring of the porters methodically and divided the loads fairly between them. He also planned our daily treks imaginatively, with us climbing the heights steadily, keeping in mind the rest days. He was able to keep us cheerful, looking forward to a successful day without any untoward incident. He also gave us a few lessons in skiing.

Together with the British/Indian Army, Doon staff comprising Gibson, Holdy, Martyn and Guru had pioneered mountaineering in India, and Hari took it forward by organizing these somewhat larger expeditions thrice to Jaonli. For his contribution to Indian Mountaineering he was honoured with the Padma Shree award by the Indian government.

Before Hari became a housemaster at Doon, he moved on to head The Air Force School in Subroto Park. From there he moved on to St Paul's, Darjeeling and then moved back to Delhi in The Army Public School. We did remain in touch. He loved going to Mussoorie, to his house there till sometime back.

Unfortunately, he had not been keeping too well for some time. My wife and I had only been able to meet him twice, during the Old Boys' get togethers in Delhi.

May God give rest to his soul!



## Regulars

### Laps Ahead

The School Swimming team participated in **The Invitational Swimming Competition** held at **The Lawrence School, Sanawar**. The following are the results:

In the **U-19 category**, Bhai Meer Singh won **one Bronze medal** and Rishabh Goel won **three Gold medals** and **one Silver medal**.

In the **U-17 category**, Anish Bhide won **three gold medals** and **two Bronze medals**. Rishit Thakur won **one Silver medal**. Mayank Sojatia won **one Bronze medal**.

In the **4x50m Medley Relay**, the team comprising Anish Bhide, Rishit Thakur, Karan Sampath and Mayank Sojatia came **second**.

In the **4x100m Freestyle Relay**, the team comprising Anish Bhide, Rishit Thakur, Karan Sampath and Mehraab Pannu came **second**.

The team won a total of **42 medals** and was placed **second** in the overall championship.

Congratulations!

### Mural Maestros

The School took part in the **All India Inter School's Cultural Festival** held at **Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar**. The following are the results:

Yash Mittal was placed **first** in the category '**Paint Your Imagination**'.

Ojas Kharbanda secured the **second** position in the '**Free Lens Photography competition**'.

Tarang Garg, Mayank Agarwal, Nehansh Saxena and Ameya Shawak were placed **third** in the **Outdoor Installation**.

Kudos!

*"Holding onto anger is akin to drinking poison, and expecting the other person to die."*  
-Gautama Buddha

### THE WHO?

Who is Tim Bergling?

**Vihaan Bhatnagar:** A software engineer

**Aarsh Ashdhir:** An author

**Samarvir Mundi:** A politician

**Shourya Agarwal:** An athlete

**Dilip Maurya:** A golf player

**Shreeyas Bhatia:** A YouTuber

**Moulik Seth:** A bowler

**Tim Bergling**, better known by his stage name **Avicii**, is a Swedish electronic musician, DJ, remixer and record producer.

### UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*Nor is me.*

**Prabhaav Swarup**, gladly not.

*Explain us!*

**Vedant Mehra**, explain your English.

*You are worsing the situation.*

**Shantam Gilra**, if you say so.

*Will you listen me?*

**Armaan Thapar**, not with that grammar.

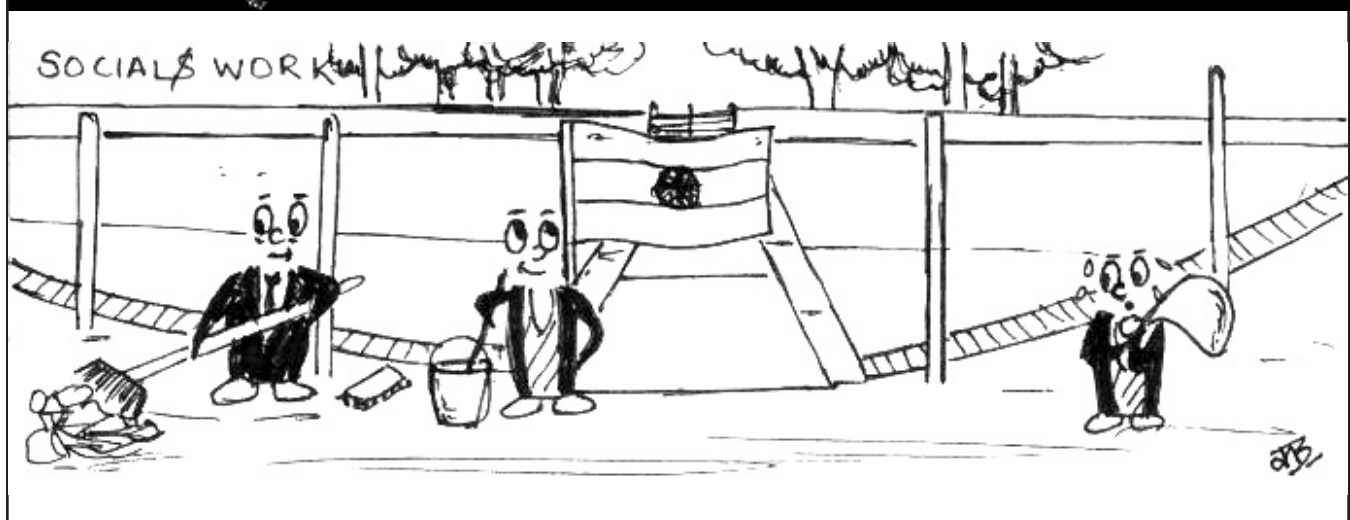
### Around the World in 80 Words

An accidental explosion at a South Korean naval base resulted in the death of three soldiers and an injury to one. For the first time Russia announced that it had carried out air raids against jihadist groups in Syria from an Iranian airbase. Heavy rains in Uttar Pradesh have claimed thirteen lives and have wrecked havoc in various regions across the state. PV Sindhu reached the finals of the Women's Singles' Badminton at Rio after defeating Nozomi Okuhara of Japan.

### Dosco Doodle

Socials Work

Kushagra Bansal



# Cutting Edge

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The Doon School Weekly interviewed Dr. Mrinal Pande, a journalist and academic who was the Chief Guest at the School's Independence Day celebrations.

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Being the Editor In-Chief of the National Daily, what are your views on the recent attacks on LGBT activists, journalists and other such social activists in Bangladesh, and what do you think is the role that the media can play to empower these individuals?**

**Dr. Mrinal Pande (MLP):** In my opinion, the media should bring this into public domain and knowledge because there are more supporters for these groups than one thinks. These people are usually in the margins because they don't think they need to come out and speak. If the media makes it necessary in a way for these people to stand up and be counted, then I think that that would really help. As soon as this happens in Bangladesh even the Hindi poets would be protected. Even Indian newspapers and media houses reported on it and then there was the usual backlash on speaking against attacks on all kinds of unnecessarily marginalised and illegalised groups. The media is, I think, mostly in favour of the discriminatory articles in our own constitution to be removed.

**DSW: Do you think that the current government views criticism as being anti-national? If so, then what could be the reasons behind it?**

**MLP:** I think any reaction of the sort that we have seen by some groups comes from deep insecurity. I also fail to understand why a government that has been elected with such a huge majority in the Lok Sabha should be adopting such an unbending stance towards its people. It does not pay in the long run, and they are realising it. You may have seen that there is now a 180 degree turn from their side on the issue of cow killings, on the issue of beating up dalits and on the issue of persecuting Muslims. This is the beauty of democracy. Once it starts going, then even if you want to do something non-democratic, you cannot do it, because in every five years you need to face the public. I am not saying that there won't be periodic clampdowns on free speech, but at least they won't last for too long. I have seen three Prime Ministers attempting to bring in a bill to restrict the media, but all of them had to step back.

**DSW: What do you think must be done to empower women residing in small villages when it comes to providing equal opportunities in terms of education and employment?**

**MLP:** It is important for us to look at education carefully. There has been a marked change even in small towns. Initially it was difficult to recruit female journalists, because society thought that all journalists were dissolute human beings. My being a journalist did soften these views a little, at least in our circles, and slowly over the past twenty years I have seen the number of women in the media increase. The first hurdle, which was to convince the public that there is space for women in the media, has been crossed.

**DSW: What inspires you the most to work for the betterment of underprivileged men and women?**

**MLP:** I feel that I cannot be equal until they too are equal. I have tasted inequality but I have been very lucky and I feel that anybody who has been able to break the conventions must help others to do so too. I have spoken numerous times to women in villages and asked them whether they would like to send their daughters to school. This was in the 1980s, and not once have they said no. I feel that the desire is there but we need to help them fulfil their dreams.

**DSW: Virginia Wolf writes that women need a space of their own in order to succeed. Do you think that this has to be applied in India and we need to make specific jobs only for women?**

**MLP:** The room of one's own can be in your mind and not a physical space. My mother raised four of us and wrote simultaneously. Numerous cousins and school children were sent to our house because my father was an educationist and my mother a writer. People asked my mother to show them the desk where she wrote and the pen she used. She replied that she wrote on the dining table using her children's copy books and often had to steal their pens when her pen ran out of ink. When one showcases the act of writing, one can say that she is far from being a writer.

**DSW: Do you feel that after seven decades of independence, freedom is limited only to the elite?**

**MLP:** I wouldn't agree entirely. On one level it is limited to the elites, but if you go to the villages now and listen to the way villagers talk, it is very different from how they would talk thirty years ago. I feel that democratic institutions have slowly but surely sent the message of equality across. With the advent of the social media it is wonderful to see how everybody has begun using a smartphone, charging it at the tractor's battery, keeping a tab on their government and downloading the movies and songs they want to listen to and see. They are now politically informed. They also realize that the work they do has value. Everybody is aware of their minimum wages and more assertive of his or her rights. After all, we are only seventy years old, and that is very young for a republic.

# International Affairs

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The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr. Pavan Varma, a former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer who was the Chief Guest at the 10th DSMUN Conference.

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What inspired you in your time to join the IFS?**

**Mr. Pavan Varma (PVM):** I think I joined the Foreign Service because at the very mundane, even amateurish level, I wanted to see the world. But I was always fascinated by the subject of diplomacy. How do you interface and interact with people from different countries, with agendas which could be different from yours, and try persuading them towards the possibility of reaching a consensus which is in their interest, as well as in mine- that process in itself was always fascinating, and it is the very subject of diplomacy. Diplomacy also gave me the opportunity to represent my nation- ultimately, no diplomat works in a void. And I also felt that India, as a nation, needed to make its presence felt in the international community.

**DSW: What advice would you like to give to the budding diplomats who are currently in School?**

**PVM:** Firstly, I would say that you should study your subject very carefully. It depends on what you are doing in diplomacy and everything should be known to you beforehand. No diplomat ever succeeds by just a superficial knowledge of the issues at stake. Secondly, learn to represent your country; not a clone of some other country, but somebody who is rooted to his nation, without any sense of exaggerated pride- because people respect people when they speak as who they are. So my advice to everyone is that don't over-glamorise diplomacy. It's a subject that requires study and application of mind. If you are an Indian diplomat, be Indian.

**DSW: Today, what constitutes 'Indianism' is being constantly revised. With the communal card being played all over the nation, it is often questioned as to what it means to be Indian. What is your take on this issue?**

**PVM:** In the real world, there is a gulf between the knowledge that is truly your legacy as an Indian, and the manipulation and devaluation of that knowledge. I believe what the cow vigilantes are doing is the

**“ I believe what the cow vigilantes are doing is the devaluation of that knowledge. Nowhere does my religion, or any other religion, teach you to kill someone on the suspicion of what he or she is eating. ”**

devaluation of that knowledge. Nowhere does my religion, or any other religion, teach you to kill someone on the suspicion of what he or she is eating. No religion will teach you to take the law into your hands. And certainly, nowhere does Hinduism teach you that one Hindu can beat, kill or mutilate another Hindu. So you must understand, and this only comes from study and knowledge, what is the legacy of India which has endured; what are the principle tenets of the great religions which have been born in India- be it Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism- and even Islam, the second largest population in the world and in India. What is it that you represent in terms of culture, spirituality, knowledge, history, tradition, folklore, literature- all of this

should be somewhere part of your psyche in terms of your definition of being Indian. Remember, any definition of who you are in terms of nationality cannot be confused.

**DSW: What do you think are the effects of Indophobia, which has gained popularity in the West, and what is your response to this mentality?**

**PVM:** There is a new phrase which has been coined in the eyes of the ultranationalists, which seems to be, in some respects, a global phenomenon. Certainly it's a response to certain developments, including terrorism. There is a phrase called - responsible nationalist, where you take pride in what your nationality is, but do not use that sense of pride or that sense of identification with that nationality in a manner that becomes inimical to somebody else's interest. That responsible generalism must follow or be a part of this new emphasis on nationalism.

**DSW: Coming to our country, do you think that Narendra Modi's initiative to establish ties with a large number of foreign lands will be successful in the coming years, especially in the form of economic growth and development?**

**PVM:** I think that the Prime Minister has formed a great deal of activism in foreign policy. Ultimately, I have a point of view that activism per se means very little unless it's embedded in a strategic framework.

It's not mere visibility but it's also carefully worked out and calibrated substance. So I think Mr. Modi has been very visible on the international stage, but we have to see what the verifiable outcomes are of the visibilities which are good for my country, and which serve my national interest, and particularly, as far as our neighbourhood is concerned, certainly I believe we need to go beyond slogans which say "Neighbourhood first" and work out carefully revised strategic policies to make this slogan sound true.

**DSW:** For some time now we have been witnessing the increasing prominence of regional parties, be it the state elections or even the national elections. Is this a trend that the nation, in terms of its polity, should be proud of, or is it a trend which can lead to a division and lack of understanding between states?

**PVM:** I think you have got to look at politics, not in terms of desirability in accordance with some transcendental goal, but rather in terms of what the reality is on the ground. When the so-called national parties begin to cede space, you will find various regional leaders beginning to emerge. These leaders will speak for the interests of the people there, and many of the states from where they come, and send a great many seats to the parliament. So they will also have a bargaining leverage. At the same time, the definition itself needs to be looked upon- what is regional, and what is national. For instance, the BJP is considered to be a national party; but there are many states in India where the party does not have any presence in the legislative. It does not have a single MP from the said states- so its concentration is, in the case of BJP, largely in North India. If you look at the recent elections, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal have almost no seats for BJP members. So what a national party is needs to be redefined. In the case of regional parties, like my own party, JDU- we have an MP from Kerala. We are making strides into the Eastern states of India. We have a government in Bihar and an alliance in Jharkhand as well. Similarly, take Mayawati, who is largely concentrated in UP, but also has her own formations in many other states. So I think somewhere, we need to be careful about the definitions.

**DSW:** What do you think are the steps an ordinary person should take to become a responsible citizen of this nation?

**PVM:** I think that the first great gulf we have to bridge, is to understand that the relatively privileged in India cannot succeed to form their own Republic. "Jeena yaha, Marna yaha". We have to swim, or sink together, and for that there needs to be a far greater sensitivity towards the many layers of society. For

all the achievements India has won, we still have the largest number of people who can't read or write, we still have the largest number of malnutrition children. And there is a sense that those who are somewhat privileged become blind to this 'other' India. They want to leave behind the unprivileged, but, at the end, we are still part of the same nation.

\*\*\*

| Poetry |

## Creation

Salman Mallick

As dawn came about  
 Not a soul was to be seen.  
 Not a soul was supposed to be seen.  
 As the earth was fresh, fertile.  
 However, as Adam, the first of the men, descended  
 to the earth.  
 Along with Eve.  
 The first storm clouds gathered.  
 The world echoed with the first sounds of thunder.  
 The mischief makers had arrived.  
 They strutted about, at peace with everything at first.  
 Equal to the rest of the beings.  
 But they had a destiny to fulfil.  
 As they clothed themselves.  
 Built themselves homes.  
 Made weapons.  
 Nations.  
 They made the earth their dominion.  
 Silencing the rest.  
 Ruled by fear.  
 Destroying everything in their wake.  
 And now even Earth asks for forgiveness.  
 As it heats up with man's mischief.

## Shadows

Harshit Bansal

The pleasant morning had turned  
 Into a dreadful mourning.  
 All had collapsed into debris and fire,  
 Nothing was left by the hollow dawn.  
 Nothing but shadows on the wall.  
 Shadows so blunt,  
 That they could barely even whisper,  
 What had happened the other night.  
 Nothing could be traced back to its origin,  
 Except the solace and the scars by the doorway.  
 Accusing history, that was now hardly hidden,  
 Of the damage that could never be repaired.  
 The survivors wanted something said,  
 Something that could give them back their lost.  
 But even the shadows of the blooming flowers,  
 Seemed deaf to the endless cry.

# The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

Extended holidays, DSMUN, career fairs and sporting events packed this week – another example of how Doscos can manage their time and get various things done.

The first Parent Teacher Massacre begins this weekend, and as our eager parents make their way through the campus in search of their sons, the boys will be hoping that the weekend comes to a quick close, and may even be looking forward to the holiday after the PTM with a degree of trepidation. Let us hope that the Masters go a bit easy on us and forgive and forget any minor trespasses that might have occurred during the term.

The Careers Department hosted its third careers fair yesterday, and as always boys were seen walking around in search of their ‘dream’ college. The major attraction every year somehow turns out to be the brochures given out by various universities which strangely play a major role in deciding a Dosco’s college choice. However, apart from being excused classes, the majority of us found interacting with college representatives quite useful and are grateful to the counsellors for organising such an event at the right time.

Inter-House Swimming took off but was marred by the number of people admitted in the hospital due to fever. Our school swimming team performed extremely well in a recently concluded competition and brought home a record 42 medals in total! Swimming is always an exciting sport to watch and most people will definitely take inspiration from Michael Phelps who has accumulated more medals than all the contingents from India put together. Nevertheless, we do expect a good show and wish our swimmers the very best of luck in their endeavours!

Although the extended holiday came to an end, the DSMUN hangover persists even a week later as sore heads and colds continue to top the list of excuses at the hospital. We do hope the School community enjoyed the brilliantly hosted event and made the most of the opportunity to witness intensive debate and discussion. Our Sc formers enjoyed their last ever conference here at Chandbagh and took full advantage of the chance to socialize with people from the outside world. More information about the intricacies of the conference will be published next week in our very own Roving Eye.

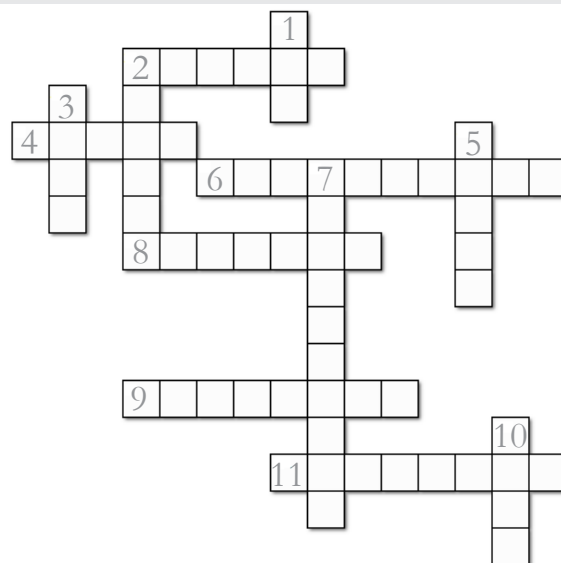


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# Crossword

Rio Olympics



Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

### Across

2. The athletes of this suspended nation were allowed to participate as ‘Independent Olympians’.
4. Rio 2016 will be the \_\_\_ time in Olympic history that a South American country has hosted the Olympics.
6. Language of the Rio Olympics slogan.
8. In which city did the torch relay of the Rio Olympics begin?
9. The mascot of the Rio Olympics.
11. Women’s 100 m Sprint Gold winner.

### Down

1. Total number of medals won by Phelps in Rio Olympics.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and South Sudan are participating in the Olympics for the first time.
3. This virus outbreak in Brazil has caused uproar among the participating athletes.
5. The Rio Olympics was officially inaugurated by \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Artist of the Olympic theme song.
10. Which sport has returned to the Olympics after a 112-year long absence?

9. Vainicius	7. Thiaguinho
8. Olympia	5. Temer
6. Portuguese	3. Zika
4. First	2. KOSOVO
2. Kuwait	1. Six
11. Thompson	10. Golf
<b>Across</b>	<b>Down</b>

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

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