

The Doon School WEEKLY



"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
September 8, 2018 | Issue No. 2512

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An Indispensable Identity

Aryan Bhattacharjee *advocates the continued need for nationalism in our times.*

The modern age has oft painted Nationalism as a substitute for hostility and an antonym for acceptance, even secularity. Ernst Haas, in his paper 'What Is Nationalism and Why We Should Study It', goes so far as to say that "it stresses the individual's search for identity with strangers in an impersonal world." That line of thought then leads one to believe that nationalism is merely an imagined sentiment to politically affiliate and control a populace in order to keep it together. One would then imagine, from this somewhat subjective picture, that nationalism is the antithesis of a united global community. This could not be further from the truth.

In the evolution of human society over the past 4000 years or so, there have been deep, most meaningful, interactions between humans - inherently thinking and contemplative beings within a particular space. Over time, a myriad of ideas and insights regarding the human condition were developed and exchanged through this vast, dynamic web of interactions. The function of this web was to act as the jury, deciding the fate of each idea against a constantly evolving benchmark of virtues it considered indispensable. Such rigorous 'natural selection' continually undertook the task of discarding, refining and granting

reverence to certain ideals. In this long process, each web, confined largely by geography, refined and enshrined its own unique view of the world - consisting of various religious, political, social, moral and philosophical ideas. These, in time, were refined and crystallised into a way of life.

For each such region confined by geography, a unique set of problems were presented. Thus, the prioritization of ideals, even their conception, was greatly influenced by its own peculiar predicament; making each region unique in its development. Neighbours too have been noted to have greatly varying cultures, despite their geographical proximity. India has witnessed eternally the incessant conglomeration of race, ethnicity and culture. Thus, in Tagore's words, "India has been given the problem of race." As a consequence of such 'incessant conglomeration', the dynamic, multifaceted, multilingual and multitheistic have flourished. Secularism and acceptance were therefore no longer virtues but necessities. The quintessential Indian way of life that some choose to call *Sanatana Dharma*, born out of these circumstances, was not 'dharma' as many tend to interpret these days, but rather, a way of living and coexisting - a 'weltanschauung' as the closest term to explain the idea. Though

it can hardly be called perfect, unity in multiplicity does remain a largely recurring and desirable trope in the Indian subcontinent.

Europe, however, is quite another story. Centuries upon centuries of flux in ideas and influence, all entities being largely similar in their faculties of trade and military, ushered a Westphalian peace into the continent, that is, when a balance of power created by a union prevents any one entity from gaining a disproportionate sway by uniting all others against it. This idea of sovereignty and mutual agreement formed the cornerstone for the modern 'world-order', which manifested itself over two centuries after the notion was conceived.

It is here that one could marvel at the ingenuity and incredible genius of the human being. For each such web, growing to be worthy of the term 'culture' was a vastly different process from the other. The central values that each treasured seemed often to have a world of differences from the others, yet each of them contained that quintessential element of wisdom that remains indispensable to the human race. Moreover, it is only when all these cultures are carefully pieced together onto one large canvas, that the truly overwhelming brilliance of human civilization pushes our evolution

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UNQUOTABLE QUOTES*He will meet with Juliet.***Rushil Choudhary**, romantic Romeo.*I am more short than you.***Adhiraj Singh**, reaching new heights.*Have a fantastic Friday full of feedbacks!***Divyansh Pandey**, a highly relatable statement.**THE BEASTS BEHIND THE BEAUTIES**Following are the results of the **Inter-House Art Competition, 2018:****Seniors****1st:** Tata**3rd:** Kashmir & Oberoi**4th:** Hyderabad**5th:** Jaipur**House Cup****1st:** Tata**2nd:** Hyderabad**3rd:** Kashmir & Oberoi**5th:** Jaipur**Mediums****1st:** Tata**2nd:** Hyderabad**3rd:** Oberoi**4th:** Kashmir**5th:** Jaipur**Juniors****1st:** Kashmir**3rd:** Tata & Hyderabad**4th:** Jaipur**5th:** Oberoi

Kudos!

“

If you want a happy ending, that depends, of course, on where you stop your story.

Orson Welles

BEATING THE CLOCKFollowing are the results of **Inter-House Swimming Competition, 2018:****Seniors****1st:** Kashmir**2nd:** Jaipur**3rd:** Tata**4th:** Oberoi**5th:** Hyderabad**House Cup****1st:** Kashmir**2nd:** Tata**3rd:** Oberoi**4th:** Jaipur**5th:** Hyderabad**Mediums****1st:** Tata**2nd:** Kashmir**3rd:** Oberoi**4th:** Jaipur**5th:** Hyderabad**Juniors****1st:** Hyderabad**2nd:** Oberoi**3rd:** Jaipur**4th:** Kashmir**5th:** Tata

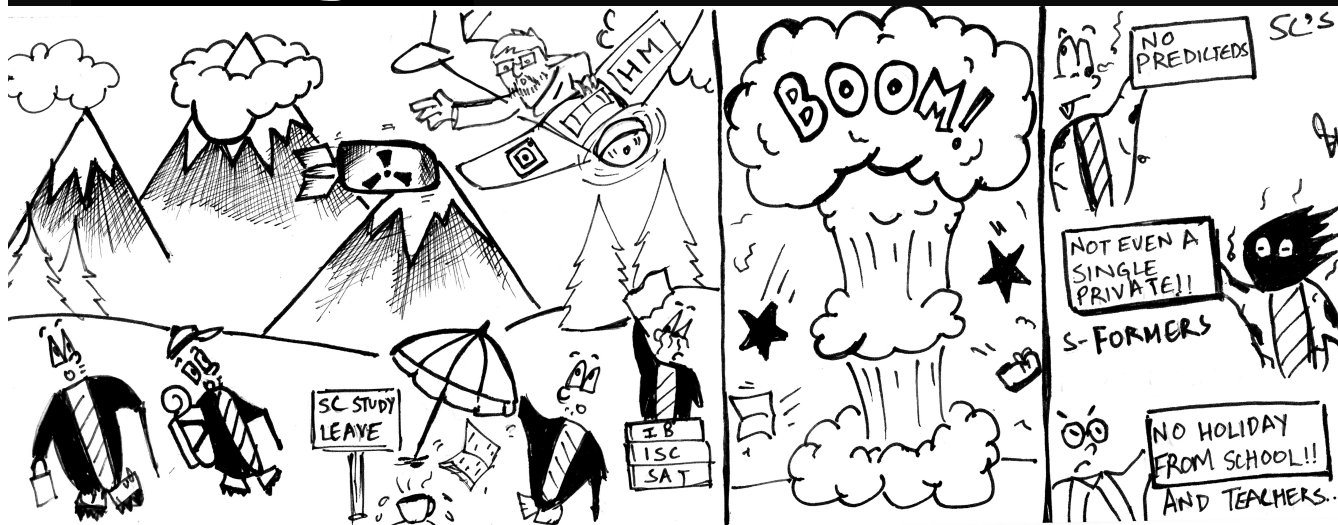
Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

The Indian SC decriminalised Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. An earthquake of magnitude 6.7 hit Hokkaido, Japan, killing eight people. Thousands of workers and farmers participated in a protest for higher minimum wages, support prices and more loan waivers in Delhi. In France, using mobile and other hand-held devices in schools has been banned by the President. India won a total of fifteen gold, twenty-four silver, and thirty bronze medals at the 2018 Asian Games held at Jakarta.

Dosco Doodle**No Hills to Climb**

Pratham Bansal



(Continued from Page 1)

forward. It is thus that each culture is required for globalization in its truest sense – that of a truly cosmopolitan culture drawing upon the best of all humanity. Or else we run the risk of one culture, at most a few, trampling upon all others and establishing itself as the dominant, if not the only, way of life. This, indeed, would be quite akin to the grave danger we face at this very moment, in the present nature of our globalisation.

True humanitarianism requires each culture, each doctrine to bring forth its pearls of wisdom and gift them to humanity. For, at the end of the day, a certain popular culture cannot represent cosmopolitan humanity unless it incorporates the best of all humanity; and it cannot incorporate the best of

humanity if each culture does not preserve itself. But it is here that the intention of that preservation must be to benefit humanity, accepting simultaneously the cornerstones of all other cultures. For it is only when one can revere the teachings of the Buddha and Zeno, regardless of being a Buddhist or Stoic, that our world would have really been transformed. Truly, somewhere down the road, many ideas and doctrines base themselves upon similar things. And this is what makes humanity so wonderful, that despite all inequity of predicament, incomparable geography and unrecognizably different ages there is an eternal element of unity in the human belief system. What better foundation could there be for a truly globalised society?

It is possible that in the near future, we create a world where every individual recognizes and grasps every culture; it is then that the idea of preservation of uniqueness would grow obsolete. But until that happens, we need that word – nationalism. In the context of the contemporary world therefore, nationalism should mean the preservation of the finest aspects of each culture in an intrinsic manner.

It is true that from time to time, deformed nationalism is the foremost tool for violence and extremism. It is also true that a corrupted, selfish pride in one's culture breeds populism. But dispense with the illness and not the patient, especially since that patient is indispensable for a noble tomorrow.



UNDER THE SCANNER

Arrests of Non-Violent Activists | Jaiveer Misra

The Maharashtra police recently accused and arrested five activists for allegedly having links with the Communist Party of India (Maoist), and supporting unlawful activities against the nation. The five arrested are Sudha Bharadwaj (member of the Indian Association of People's Lawyers), Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves (Maharashtra based activists), Gauttam Navlakha (member of People's Union for Democratic Rights) and P Varavara Rao (head of the Revolutionary Democratic Front). The police stated that the activists were taken into custody based on concrete evidence that was found in the form of e-mail exchanges between the activists and the Communist Party of India (Maoist) which indicated that they were planning to orchestrate anti-national activities. They were accused of having alleged links with Maoists. As well as plotting to overthrow the government, and have been booked under the

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Sources in the Home Ministry state that a report prepared in 2012 identified 128 organisations that had links with, or were acting as fronts for the Communist Party of India (Maoist). These organisations were responsible for gathering funds and recruiting youths to support Maoist activities across India. The activists who were arrested are said to be associated with such organisations. The ministry said since 2001, 6,956 civilians and 2,517 security personnel have been killed by the Communist Party of India (Maoist) and that violence has also caused massive damage to infrastructure and hindered development activities in parts of the country.

The UAPA, implemented in 1967, aims to safeguard the integrity and sovereignty of India. The law is controversial as it authorises raids and arrests of people who are purportedly associated with terrorist organisations. These raids

can take place without warrants, and the accused cannot apply for bail. A number of prominent personalities across the country have expressed their outrage against these arrests on the basis that the law is biased and it heavily favours the state and feel that the most threatening aspect of the law is that it gives the authorities the power to label "unlawful associations, terrorist gangs or terrorist organisations" according to their judgement. They have raised questions about the credibility of the evidence collected by the Maharashtra Police linking the activists to the CPI(M). The National Human Rights Committee has also asked the Maharashtra government to submit a report to ensure that there has been no violation of human rights during the arrests.

The Supreme Court and the High Court have been closely observing the developments. The activists have been kept under house arrest and not police custody. This has given hope that they will not be imprisoned without evidence and investigation. The next hearing of the Supreme Court is now awaited.

Deep Waters

Karan Sampath reports on the recently concluded Inter-House Swimming Competition, 2018.

There are a few sports which require the development of nearly all the muscles in the body. Swimming exemplifies this reality. It not only requires a near-complete body development but also an unwavering determination and willpower, for one does not hear or see anyone apart from oneself while inside the water.

Although swimming in School does not take place the entire year, this does not stop houses from putting their best foot forward each year. The indefatigable effort we all witnessed was indeed commendable. Practices for the Inter-House Swimming Competition began in the spring term itself, as opposed to conventionally beginning in the autumn term. Houses were seen focusing on training which was not restricted only to the pool, but also took place in the fields. Numerous muscle-building exercises were employed. Training ramped up in the autumn term, and was not even bogged down by the juggernaut of DSMUN. When the competition commenced, most houses were reasonably confident about their chance of victory.

The competition itself threw up several surprises; most of them being pleasant. The most notable one was the shared camaraderie across houses, with Doscos often seen congratulating victorious participants, regardless of their house affiliation.

There were many notable performances as well, with Tarun Bhide, Aryan Prakash and Jayaditya Dahiya all breaking records in their respective events. The School Swimming Captain, Shiven Dewan, also broke his own record in a thrilling race. The 25m underwater event was a sight to observe as well, with several SC formers enjoying their last Inter-House Swimming Competition.

On a larger level, this Inter-House also reflected a shift in how the School has come to perceive sports with relatively lower participation than others. For many years, certain houses have exclusively only focused on competitions which were considered to be 'prestigious', and did not even use their practice time for competitions like swimming. This year reflected a change in this attitude. This was evident not only in the practices, where all houses wanted more extra time, but also in the results, where houses which were previously confined to the bottom of the table emerged at the top. This is a cause for celebration, for it ensures that Inter-House competitions serve one of their core purposes-identifying and developing talent for the School team. In the end, I can only hope that this leads to greater exposure and participation in swimming, something which will ensure that the bar of Inter-House competitions is raised even higher in the years to come.

Leading Craftsmanship

Bhai Kabir Singh reports on the recently concluded Inter-House Art Competition, 2018.

After much anticipation, this year's Inter-House Art Competition began on August 1. Still rather new in School, the Inter-House Art Competition has regularly been tweaked, and this was the case this year too. This year saw the addition of Photography and Drawing as two brand new categories. Much to our delight, there was also an increase from five to seven days per category.

Since the first day of term, practices could be seen in full swing as students swamped into the Art School and tried to squeeze out time from their hectic schedule.

This year the Seniors Poster category was assigned the topic 'Sholay, 2018'. While every house tackled the topic differently, my favourites were Hyderabad and Kashmir House's posters. They took on a unique angle and compared the characters in Sholay to the current political situation of India- something which I have never seen or heard of before.

For the first time in School, we witnessed the making of a round teapot in the Ceramics

department. With no proper equipment to make a round teapot, the Dosco *jugaad* came to the rescue. To make a rectangular slab round, it was wrapped around a rolling pin! Though it didn't succeed first, the effort and creativity put in was highly laudable.

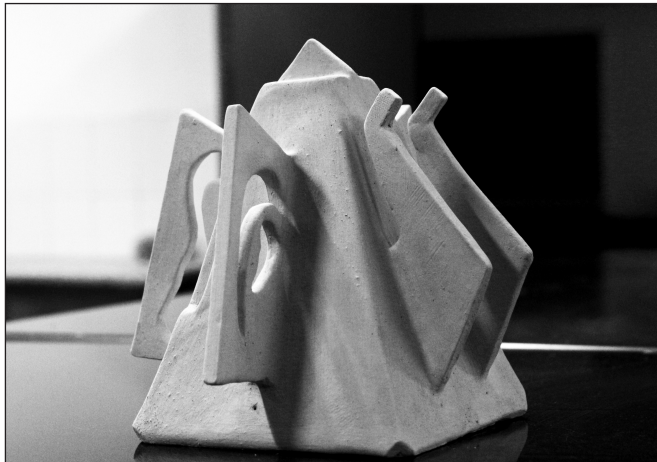
In the Mediums Painting category, Tata House bagged the first position. The topic for the category was 'Beauty and the Beast'. Tata House painted two doors; inside one of the doors was a lady, while the other door had a beast. I thought of it as a great way to depict the antithesis. It was a personal highlight of the competition for me.

However, above all, my favourite art work was in the Seniors Sculpture category. Oberoi House sculpted a bird and wrapped metal chains around it, illustrating the cruelty of humans against birds.

Though art can never really be judged with a standard metric, the Inter-House Art Competition is becoming more popular in the campus. Hopefully, in the coming years we will see art flourish even further in School.

SNAPSHOTS...

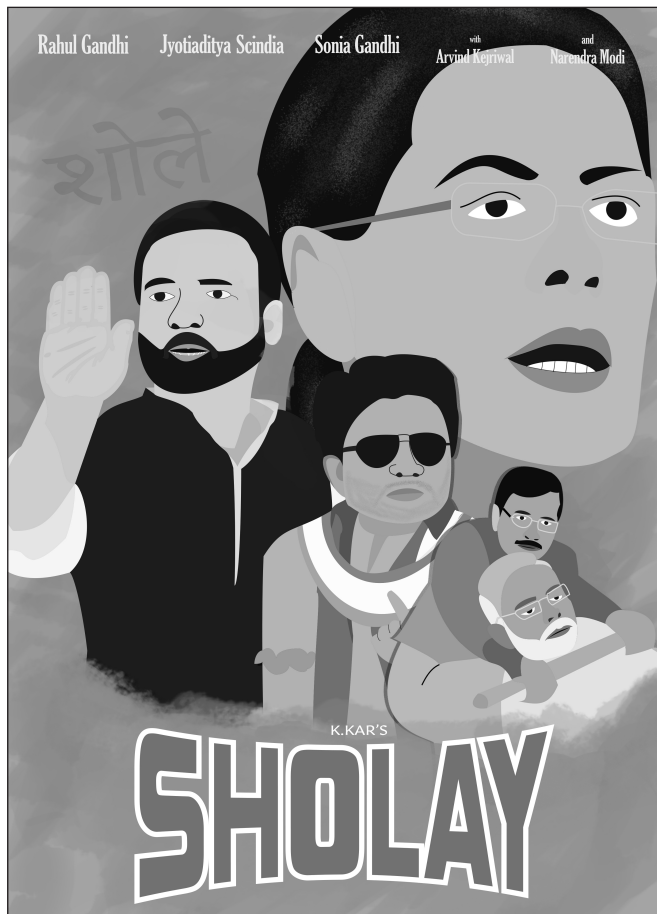
Our favourite moments from the Swimming and Art Competitions.



Seniors Ceramics Winner 2018



Juniors Photography Winner 2018



Seniors Digital Art Winner 2018



50 m Breaststroke



100 m Butterfly

Kashmir House winning the House Cup



The Week Gone By

Ansh Raj

With Monday being declared a holiday, the week kicked off on a relatively relaxed note. Having skipped three consecutive Sacrosanct Toyes due to Kamla Jeevan and Inter-House Music, many had pledged to use this holiday for all constructive purposes, including rest. However, this failed to come to fruition as many mid-day naps were disturbed with lightning and thunder that seemed to tear the skies apart.

The Careers' fair, smartly scheduled after this holiday, led to more class time being sacrificed at the altar of career exploration. At this rate, and given the constraints of so much to be done, one

wonders at the viability of School's commitment to greater academic focus.

In any case, many smiling faces were seen in the MPH as boys scurried around with colourful prospectuses, along with the welcome presence of friends from Dalanwala.

Wednesday saw the celebration of our teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day. In order to appreciate their efforts, a few members of the student community decided to surprise the teachers with a late-night decoration of the Masters' Common Room. However, all the merriment was somewhat dampened by the sorrowful news of Midterm expeditions being canceled this term, in light of the blanket ban on trekking in Uttarakhand. Special condolences must be offered to the batch of '20, who were once again denied

private midterms. Also, with bans on both rafting and trekking, we wonder if our exorbitant outing budget will be the only thing sustaining the state's economy.

On the sports front, kudos to our U-14 football team as they put in laudable efforts, and with a slight nudge from Lady Luck, managed to reach the finals. The same Lady wasn't so helpful, however, to the Swans as their chances of seeking redemption were quashed with a (fairer) repeat of History. Speaking of quashing, a series of setbacks 'slammed' all prospects of the rumoured blue varnishing of benches, again.

As all activities come to a break, Chandbagh breathes a sigh of both relief and anxiety. For, as of now, all that remains for us to do is drown our stress in a nice cool cup of milk!

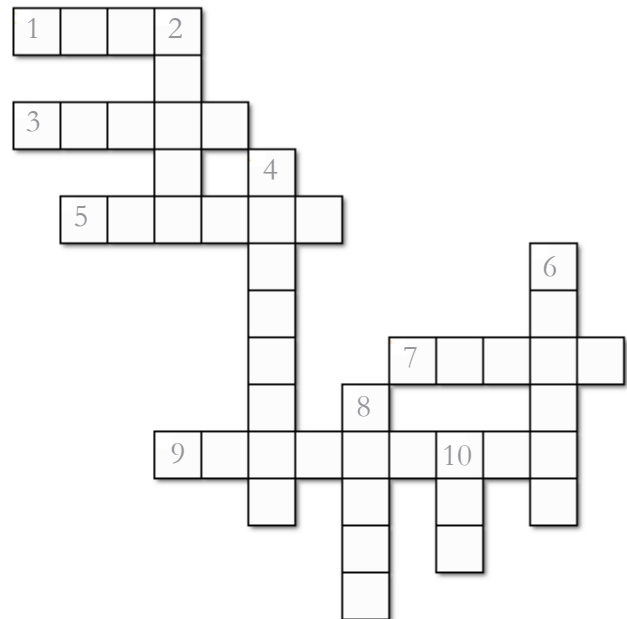
Crossword | Indian Sportspersons

Across

- This tennis player became the oldest man to win a Grand Slam in the mixed doubles category at the Australian Open 2015.
- This athlete was offered German citizenship by Adolf Hitler and his birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day in India.
- In 2015, this badminton player reached world number one in BWF rankings, and is also the first Indian female badminton player to win an Olympic medal.
- Known as 'Captain Cool', he led the Indian team to a World T20 victory and an ODI World Cup victory.
- Nicknamed the "Little Master", this cricketer is known for being the only player to score 100 centuries, and reach a total of 10,000 runs.

Down

- In 1958, this Indian athlete, nicknamed the 'Flying Sikh', won India's first ever Commonwealth gold.
- This former badminton player won gold at the Commonwealth Games in 1978 and is also the father of a Bollywood actress.
- In 2008 this shooter became the first ever Indian to win an individual gold medal in the Olympics.
- In 2012, this wrestler became the first Indian to win two individual medals in the Olympics.
- The only Indian female athlete to have won a medal in each of the six world boxing championships.



Note: All answers to this crossword are the concerned persons' surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	1. Pao 3. Chand 5. Nehwal
Down	2. Singh 4. Padukone 6. Bindra 7. Dhoni 8. Kumar 9. Tendulkar 10. Kom

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

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