

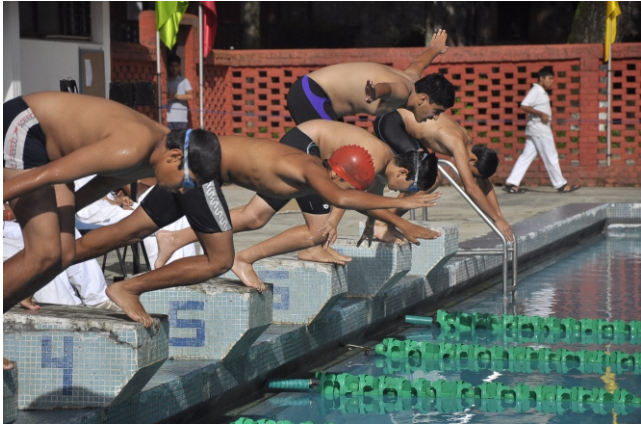
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Life In The Fast Lane

Varun Sehgal and Nehansh Saxena report on the recently concluded Inter-House Swimming Competition.

Don't count the laps, make the laps count- School Swimming Captain

Many thought that after being postponed by a week, the Inter House swimming competition would not match up to previous years' standards. However, this year's swimming competition not only met, but also surpassed competitions of the past in terms of speed, quality and intensity. The competition was packed with nail biting races and witnessed a phenomenal number of records being broken; the most in the School's swimming history. It wasn't only the Senior swimmers who impressed, even the Junior swimmers showcased excellent techniques and the attitude required to win a tight race.



The primary highlight of the competition was clearly the large number of records broken. Anish Bhide of Jaipur house set up a delightful display as he broke two records, the 50 metre Freestyle and the 100 metres Butterfly, in the juniors category. Other credible performances were witnessed in the form of Shiven Dewan, Kushagra Kar, Zoraver Mehta and Zoraver Bhatti. In an exciting conclusion, Jaipur house managed to claim the Junior Cup, overcoming their competitors by a single point.

Further, another impressive performance was displayed by the Hyderabad House mediums relay team that broke both the Freestyle and Medley Relay records by more than 25 seconds! In addition, Raghav Kumar

of Hyderabad house electrified the spectators when he broke the 100 metre Butterfly record in the same category. Nehansh Saxena, also of Hyderabad House, went on to shatter the 50 metres Backstroke record while Pratyaksh Parmar of Jaipur House overcame the 100 metre Breaststroke record. Emerging potential was showcased by Nihal Singh Mann, Tanay Gopal Agarwal, Dhruv Johri and Rishabh Goel. Conclusively, Hyderabad House emerged victorious in the mediums category, courtesy their performances in both the medley and the freestyle relays.




Even though all records broken were in the juniors and mediums category, the seniors category did have its own share of breathtaking performances. Martin Kruger, an exchange student, made the hearts of the spectators skip a beat when he thrashed the 50 metre Butterfly record in the seniors category by over three seconds. Jaipur House emerged victorious in both relays as well as the 12X25 open relay, narrowly defeating Tata house's relentless team, but missing the record by a narrow margin. Veteran performances were displayed by Rohan Agarwal, Vinayak Choudhary, Josh Pasricha, Abhishek Pai, Ritvik Kar, Gaurav Kothari, Tanmay Gupta, Arunabh Utkarsh and Dhruv Kharabanda. Jaipur House raced away with the seniors cup, winning by over a hundred points. Consequently, they also managed to lift the House Cup.

After this thrilling Inter-House competition and a convincing victory in the 3rd Doon School Aquatic Meet, we hope that juniors are encouraged to perform even better in the years to come. All we can say is that next year's Inter House Swimming Competition has high expectations to live up to.

RECORDS

Juniors
Anish Bhide: 50 metre Freestyle and 100 metre Butterfly
Jaipur House: 4X100 metre Freestyle Relay

Mediums
Raghav Kumar: 100 metre Butterfly
Pratyaksh Parmar: 100 metre Breaststroke
Nehansh Saxena: 50 metre Backstroke
Hyderabad House: 4X100 metre Freestyle and Medley Relays

<div>  <div>Regulars</div> </div>	
<div> <div>FOOTBALL</div> <p>The School Football Team participated in the Colonel Shashi Memorial Inter-School Football Tournament and reached the Semi-Finals where they lost 1-0. Well Tried!</p> </div>	<div> <div>The Week Gone By</div> <div>Yuvan Kumar</div> <p>Test Week, a PTM weekend, two Inter-House competitions and a holiday: this has pretty much comprised the last two weeks in School! Is it too much, you ask? No. It gets better. Ever since the finale of test week, the campus has been buzzing with activities. Be it on the field or off it. The School has been visited by various universities from all over the world- all hopeful to scoop up some nascent talent from this part of the globe. This has truly been a boon for the enthusiastic SCs who are entering the hectic application process around now. In addition to receiving papers and haggling for marks, many boys have had to run onto the field soon after classes every afternoon; sometimes even for two or three consecutive afternoons! Despite this ‘Mission Impossible’ scenario, we have witnessed some commendable performances on the football field this year. The competition has been placed very close to the mid-terms. Hopefully, this will not cause much exhaustion for everyone. May the best team win! The final leg of the Inter-House Music competition concluded this week. The School witnessed several harmonious performances over two days. Surely, the hard work and commitment paid off, as the culmination of the competition saw Oberoi House emerge victorious. Kudos! A high degree of credit must be given to all those as well who organized and managed the evenings. On the whole, we have had a great amount of activity in the past fortnight; and this is sure to continue! With mid-terms and Founder’s creeping up on us, we surely have some prepping to do. It’s time to go into overdrive!</p> </div>
<div> <div>EXCHANGE</div> <p>We welcome Mitchell Sennitt, an exchange student from Scotch College, Australia. We wish him a fruitful stay!</p> </div>	
<div> <div>TEACHERS AWARD</div> <p>Mr. D. M. Sharma, ex- Master at The Doon School was recently awarded The National Teachers Award by Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resources Development, Mrs. Smriti Irani on Teachers' Day. He was one of the thirty three teachers to receive the coveted award. While Mr. Sharma is currently serving as the Principal of the G.D.Goenka Public School, he credits The Doon School for much of his success, having served the School in various capacities for more than twenty years. He taught Commerce and Accounts and headed the department for three years. He was also the Housemaster of Kashmir House for a period of eight years. On behalf of the School community, it gives <i>The Doon School Weekly</i> great pleasure in congratulating Mr. Sharma on receiving the prestigious award and we wish him greater success in the years to come.</p> </div>	<div> <div>UNQUOTABLE QUOTES</div> <p><i>All those who have interested.</i> Azan Brar, we are not. <i>You should dis-include me.</i> Udayveer Sekhon, we will take that into account. <i>I have not even a eaten a crab.</i> Aryan Chhabra, avoiding seafood. <i>Your humour is very funny.</i> Prabsharan Mamik, we think yours it too. <i>I want to be an architecture or a maths.</i> Suryansh Nevatia is highly ambitious.</p> </div>
<div> <div>AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS</div> <p>Fourteen people were injured in a subway explosion in Chile this Monday. Since its military coup in 2006, Fiji witnessed it first elections, and approximately 600,000 people took to the polls. Thirteen students were killed in a Nigerian college by two gunmen. A 93-year-old man has been charged with being an accessory to murder for over 300,000 cases whilst working with the Nazis at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Scotland organized its referendum recently, the results of which are eagerly awaited.</p> </div>	
<div> <div>Dosco Doodle</div> </div>	<div> <div>Midterms, galore.</div> <div>Dhruv Pais</div> </div>
<div> <div>For the rest of the school...</div>  </div>	<div> <div>For the SC formers</div>  <div>DP</div> </div>

India: Under the Scanner

Arnaav Bhavanani *evaluates and critiques the UPSC controversy, which has gripped Civil Service aspirants since 2011.*

Before I begin an analysis of the new, controversial and much-debated UPSC syllabus, it is imperative to take note of the phenomenon that has been condensing all regions of the world into one fundamental unit: globalization. While considered a bane by many, its boons, especially for the short term benefit of consumerism and job demand, have proven to be the cause for its worldwide acceptance. With the opening of trade routes and cross-country services, both in terms of supplies and communication, India has integrated itself firmly into the economic and social fabric of the world. It is this very fact that has promoted educationalists to understand one paradigm: the international citizen is best equipped to deal with the uncertainties of the future.

Keeping this in mind, it becomes imperative to change our education systems to deal with this new demand the world has generated for a smarter and more complex worldview. Sir Ken Robinson one of the pioneers of education post globalization, argues that the prevailing education system is one that was created to cater to the needs of the Industrial Revolution, and we need to adapt to the 21st century in terms of educating our children if we are meant to equip them for a future that “we cannot predict”.

Now one of the many tenets of education has always been the standard of competitive testing. While many argue that it is flawed, it certainly allows for a system of segregation, at least on mass scales- such as the ICSE, ISC, and of course, the UPSC examinations; which brings me to my main argument. Last year, (though the process began in 2011) the UPSC introduced a new syllabus and restructured its papers to suit this growing need for the change that I have described earlier. Undoubtedly, it raised a furore amongst a multitude of students simply because of the fact that it prescribed a progress that they were unwilling or, in many cases, unable to adapt to.

To truly understand the controversy surrounding the CSAT examinations, we need to take a gestalt view of the issue. The UPSC induction programme is conducted in three stages: preliminary, main and interview session. In the preliminary round there are two exams: CSAT and CSAT II, which carry a weightage of 200 marks each. The controversy lies in disparity: some say that the CSAT paper gives preference to those with an Engineering background, while others debate over the 'unreasonably high' level of English in the CSAT II Paper. The regional language backgrounds of over one billion people (there are over twenty recognized Indian languages in the Indian Constitution) has proven time and again to be a breeding ground for conflict. Seeing as the UPSC qualifier is a national examination in which thousands of people participate, it is in removing this disparity that the paper setters face the most controversy. Why? Because the examination serves as a springboard not only for one national service, but three: the IAS, the IPS and the IFS. Thus, when proposing solutions, accountability becomes a real issue, because decisions made on such a mass scale can make or break decision makers.

However, when we talk about solutions for the issue, it is only the process of acclimatization that lies at the heart of bridging the disparity, not criticizing the system and its attempts at progressing. To quote Abhishek Raghuvanshi (from the Juanpur district of UP), “It is laughable that someone who wants to make his career in the civil services cannot solve problems of Class 10 level.” Furthering this, Bhanamma Aravinda Bai, from Hyderabad piques, “Apprehensions over the medium of instruction and subject discipline are only excuses to run away from challenges.” And many a time, they are. While it is true that it is the Government's responsibility to provide a level playing field for all aspirants, it is important that the bar be raised. After all, what is the point applying for the Indian Foreign Services if one does not even possess a strong command over the English language?

As I stated earlier, globalization has integrated us into a global society. Within this functioning unit, disparity has proven to be the bane of any society acclimatizing itself, and segregation on the basis of international level education and intellect has become not only a newly recognized concept, but a much needed one. We might offer equal opportunity to all those rural people with their diverse backgrounds and innumerable languages, but what we must understand is that the ideals of equality are achievable only when diversity is minimal. Take the example of the USA. One of the main reasons that country has achieved almost all of its libertarian ideals is because of a high degree of acceptability that came about due to a limited level of diversity (especially when compared to India). Cultures there are allowed to grow and permeate into the society without too much unhealthy competition; whereas in India, rigidity in mindset is far more prevalent because of the number of overlapping systems. It is essential to understand that we are not 'one'. We are diverse; we are many. And the sooner we realize that, the faster we will progress, and in the long run, the happier we will be. So let the Civil Services of our country consist of those more equal than others, and allow structures to be built within those existing. Let's not hide our preferences behind cloaks of 'equality'. It only slows us down.

Duabus Vocibus

Devansh Agarwal and Pulkit Agarwal debate the need for Western intervention in 'ISIS-affected' areas

When considering the debate over whether the West should intervene in the ISIS inflicted regions, we must bear in mind that the ISIS is unlike any terrorist organization we have seen before. *Agreed, that the ISIS may be different; that still does not provide the USA with enough reason to intervene in the region and risk another debacle like that in Iraq.* As much as Mr Italics enjoys making statements that have no argument to follow, nobody is imploring only the United States to intervene, all I'm saying is that intervention must happen. *Well, in that case, Mr Regular (if I may), is it a NATO intervention that you endorse? Unfortunately, that is not in any way different from the United States, and nor shall it yield any different results.* As much as I appreciate premature conclusions (I honestly do), the past is to be used as anything but pretext based on which the decision for the future should be taken; different circumstances demand different measures and these circumstances are different. *How exactly? The fact of the matter is, an intervention in the Middle East will lead to exactly what it has done in the past: act as a catalyst to the rise of fundamentalist forces.*

Past interventions may have been fueled by ulterior motives; this time however, there exists one common goal, exterminating the largest threat to world peace presently. *It is important for us to not overlook that this threat is hardly going to be limited in terms of its efficacy by a foreign intervention; if at all it is, it will be at the expense of the rise of another tumultuous force.* But the ISIS is not an established government (as has been the case with Middle Eastern countries invaded in the past); another “tumultuous force” will not rise for this is not an oppressive government being put to rest, this is a force of pure evil. *But also, it is important that these nations figure out what it is that they want to stand for; repeated insurgency followed by curbing interventions is going to trap the Middle East in a self-perpetuating storm.*

What the other side fails to grasp is that as of now the ISIS is a separate entity in itself, it is fighting both the insurgencies as well as the government in Syria; the Middle East is already in a self perpetuating storm, the ISIS just adds to the chaos. *So therefore, considering the ISIS is already fighting other forces within the Middle East, such as the Shiite rebels, these will gain traction if there is a violent intervention. Similar circumstances had risen when Bush ordered the 'Surge' in Iraq during his Presidency.* There already exists a fair amount of ‘traction’ thanks to the ISIS; however if immediate action (such as an intervention) is not taken, then what about the procession of beheadings that the ISIS is undertaking; don't those innocent people deserve to be given justice? *War most certainly is not the way to achieving that justice. Once again I ask, why? Because it would lead to irreparable damage and further costs to civilian lives, as has been the case with Afghanistan and Iraq in the past. Furthermore, we will see Private Military Contractors take over the region to retaliate against the NATO.* Even so, the reason that an intervention remains necessary despite President Obama's skepticism, is that there is no other way to mitigate the already existing damage in the region, other than Western imposition of peacekeeping. *While at the same time, you undermine the side effects that it may cause.* But those side effects were caused due to an untimely exit of the United States, nothing else.

How do you then propose they time their exit this time round? They leave only when they have placed an established and robust democratic entity in power in Iraq and Syria, without leaving them in a precarious state. *And there's where the problem lies. With constant infighting in the region, it becomes almost quixotic for us to even expect that such a perfect time shall ever arrive.*

The crux of the matter lies in the fact that an intervention would have to be carried out, *but it cannot, simply cannot be a shadow of what the Bush administration ordered in the past.* And it shall not be, for the circumstances are different; I don't recall American warplanes being backed by Iranian forces during the Bush presidency. The temporary understanding between America and Iran in itself proves that the situation demands an urgent and immediate solution. *And it deludes us why the West must always act as a moral compass to the global society by imposing their ideals on the world.* Well, in this case, those ideals are universal: the ideals of peace. *And even so, they call for air strikes and military intervention?* If need be, then yes. The West will retaliate, for they are not prepared to let the ISIS play its gutter game while the rest of the world is expecting a miracle. Someone, for the greater societal good, will have to get their hands dirty, for the ISIS already have. *In that case, it is safe to conclude that we don't see eye to eye on this one.*

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