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# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## Jericho to Jerusalem

*Devang Laddha discusses attitudes towards the State of Palestine.*

The foundation of the State of Israel has constantly been a topic of contention. Having been established in the region of Palestine, the State has constantly been claimed by the Arab community. This has led to a lot of friction in the region and Israel being under constant threat from the neighbouring Arab nations. However, while most of us duly empathize with Israel's plight, one must also take into consideration the perspective of the Arabs.

The land of Palestine, under the care of Arabs since the late 15th century, was handed to the British in 1922. While it had initially been promised to the Arabs, who revolted against the Ottomans, the British seized the land with a permit from the League of Nations. Furthermore, the land was declared by the British in the Balfour Declaration in 1917, as a 'national home for the Jews'. The Jewish community at the time, constituted a mere ten percent of the population in Palestine. However, over the next twenty years, unregulated immigration made this number rise to 33 percent by 1947. As the large Diaspora of Jews migrated or rather escaped to Palestine, especially after the Holocaust, they encroached upon the land of the Arabs. They seized Arab land by force and also established their own underground militias such as the Haganah. Due to such actions, the Arab community started revolting. This led to the formation of the UN Committee on Palestine, who decided to give the majority of Palestine to the Jews.

Thus, the Arab community suffered great injustice by the UN, and protested by waging war on Israel. However, Israel, supported by various nations, especially the United States of America, won the war and in the process, ethnically cleansed Palestine of Arabs. Establishing dominance in the region, the Jews put the remaining Arabs under oppression, depriving them of their fundamental rights. Furthermore, in the war of 1967, Israel occupied neighbouring Arab territories of West Bank, Gaza, Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights. These events have posed two very important questions that need to be addressed. Firstly, why has no action been taken against Israel, for its aggression and secondly, why have we been apathetic to the Arabs' condition and their claims. There are, I believe, three primary reasons for our inaction and apathy.

The first reason is the lack of compassion we have for the Arab community. Condemned and generalized as a community full of terrorists and one who promote violence, we have ignored their suffering. While they have caused problems in society, not addressing their problems reflects on our sense of empathy. Their homes, lives and places of work are regularly destroyed and threatened by Jews. As a global community we need to stand for their human rights, and by not defending them, we are committing a grave crime. Understanding and addressing their problems is what we should as a global community strive for. We also need to understand giving a major chunk of the region of Palestine to a minority was unjust on our part. For that along with our inaction at their suffering, we need to compensate the Arabs. Secondly, what we need to look at is the inherent bias we have for the Jews. Having undergone the Holocaust, the Jews as a community have global support. Not stopping Hitler earlier certainly was wrong on our part, however, for that we cannot let them oppress the Jews. We cannot let them stifle the Arab voice and cannot ignore the injustice suffered by the Arabs.

However, a lot of nations have understood the plight of the Palestinians, and the reason they do not go out and help is because of the US. The United States of America has long been a staunch supporter

*(Contd. on page 5)*



## Regulars

### Smashed!

The **IPSC Badminton tournament** was held recently at **Pestle Weed College, Dehradun**.

In the **Under-14** category, the team comprising Mayank Kukreti, Namit Nagrath, Vansh Gupta, and Nishiketh Gupta reached the **finals** and were adjudged the **runners-up**.

In the **Under-17** category, the team comprising Lakshman Santhanam, Kabir Kochar, Shaurya Jain and Aradhya Singhal reached the **Semi-Finals** and **won** the **bronze medal**.

In the **Under-19** category, the team comprising Vansh Agarwal, Ashish Pande, Jehan Jhaveri, Atrey Guruprasad reached the **Semi-Finals** and **won** the **bronze medal**.

In the individual event Mayank Kukreti and Lakshman Santhanam reached the **Quarter Finals**. Both of them have been selected for the **SGFI National Camp**.

Kudos!

### A Midas Touch

Raghav Goyal **won** a **gold medal** in a consolation plate in **Indian Junior Open Squash Tournament** recently held at the **Jaipur Club in Jaipur, Rajasthan**.

Well done!

### War of Words

The following are the results of the **Inter-House English Debating Competition, 2016**:

#### Juniors

- 1st:** Tata
- 2nd:** Jaipur, Kashmir and Hyderabad
- 5th:** Oberoi

#### House

- 1st:** Tata
- 2nd:** Jaipur
- 3rd:** Kashmir
- 4th:** Hyderabad
- 5th:** Oberoi

Well done!

*"Failing to prepare is preparing to fail."*

- Benjamin Franklin

### Harmony

The results of the **Inter-House Music Competition, 2016** are as follows:

- 1st:** Kashmir
- 2nd:** Tata
- 3rd:** Oberoi
- 4th:** Hyderabad
- 5th:** Jaipur

Congratulations!

### This Week in History

**1519 CE:** Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan sets off on the first successful circumnavigation of the globe.

**1789 CE:** The establishment of the US Supreme court

**1796 CE:** George Washington's farewell address as president.

**1889 CE:** Nintendo was founded by Fusajiro Yamauchi.

**1937 CE:** J.R.R Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' was published in London for the first time.

**1994 CE:** 'The Shawshank Redemption' released in cinemas for the first time.

### Around the World in 80 Words

Devendra Jhajharia won a gold medal in the on going Rio Paralympics. Violence erupted in areas of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu after the Supreme Court modified its earlier order on the Cauvery water dispute. Experts confirmed that North Korea will have enough material to create about 20 nuclear bombs by the end of 2016. Streams of blood were seen on Dhaka streets after Eid celebrations. Former US Secretary of State Powell called Donald Trump a 'National disgrace' in hacked emails.

### Dosco Doodle



### Football Frenzy

Ujjwal Jain



# Different Strokes

**Karan Sampath and Kushagra Kar** report on this year's swimming season.

The swimming season started with a rigorous training camp organised by school for the team. The training did see many an aspiring Michael Phelps swim lap after lap and train as if they were getting ready for Rio. There were some who moaned and groaned but it all paid off as their hard work bore fruit and the swimming team have brought home a lot of medals and done the School proud.

The School swimming team started the season with a splash at the XXXI IPSC Swimming Competition. The highlight of the competition was the performance by the team in the Under-14 and Under-19 categories. Adit Chatterjee won a silver in 50m Butterfly and Tarun Bhide won a silver in 50m Freestyle. He also won a bronze in 50m Butterfly. Our Under-19 team won four bronze medals in total. Raghav Kumar for 200m freestyle, Pratyaksh Parmar for 200m Breaststroke, Uday Nath Behl for 50m Breaststroke and Nehansh Saxena for 50m Backstroke. The team continued their sterling performance at The Invitational Swimming Competition held at The Lawrence School, Sanawar on 13th and 14th August 2016. The team won a total of 42 medals and was placed second in the Overall Championship.

The team then returned home, all charged up to give their best at the Inter-House Swimming Competition. The highlight of the swimming season was marked on the last day of the competition, with the many record breaking relay performances by Hyderabad House Senior Medley team and the Jaipur House Freestyle Relay team. The pool area resounded with cheers and the wave of applause encouraged the swimmers to give their best performances. A total of 10 new records was set at this year's Inter-House Swimming Competition. Nehansh Saxena set a new record in 100m Backstroke in Senior Category by clocking 1:18:18. The previous record was set by Akshay Sikand (431-TA) in 2004. He also set a new record in 50m Backstroke in Senior Category by clocking 00:35:22s. The previous record was set by Pratham Mittal in 2008. Tanay Gopal Agarwal became a joint holder of the 50m Butterfly in the Seniors Category with Dilsher Kairon who set it in 2005. Raghav Kumar set a new record in 200m Butterfly in the Open Category by clocking 2:54:62. He broke his own record set in 2015. Jayaditya Singh

Dahiya set a new record in 100m Breaststroke in the Juniors Category by clocking 1:39:84. The previous record was set by Pratyaksh Parmar in 2012. In 4x100m Freestyle Relay-Seniors Category, Hyderabad House team comprising Raghav Kumar, Nihal Singh Mann, Nehansh Saxena and Tanay Gopal Agarwal set a new record by clocking 4:35:84. The previous record was set by Jaipur House in 2008. Anish Bhide set a new record in 100m Butterfly in the Medium Category by clocking 1:22:19. The previous record was set by Raghav Kumar (295-H) in 2014. Shiven Dewan set a new record in 50m Breaststroke in the Mediums Category by clocking 0:38:53. He broke his own record set in 2015. In the 4x100m Medley Relay- Seniors Category, Hyderabad House team comprising Raghav Kumar, Nihal Singh Mann, Nehansh Saxena and Tanay Gopal Agarwal set a new record by clocking 5:16:44. The previous record was set by Tata House in 2004. In the 12x25m Freestyle Relay Jaipur House set a new record by clocking 3:05:06. They broke their own record set in 2008.

The swimming season came to a close with our boys participating in the 6th Mr. P.A Kidd Inter-School Invitational Swimming Competition held in Wynberg Allen School. Kudos to the team for their performance at this competition. In the Juniors category, Tarun Bhide won a bronze medal in 50m freestyle. Aditya Jain won a silver medal in 50m backstroke. Jayaditya Dahiya won a gold medal in 50m breaststroke. Advaita Sood won a bronze medal in 50m breaststroke. The medley relay team comprising Aditya Jain, Jayaditya Dahiya, Aryan Agarwal and Advaita Sood won a silver medal.

In the intermediate category, Anish Bhide won two bronze medals in 50m backstroke and in 100m freestyle. Shiven Dewan won a silver medal in 50m breaststroke. The medley relay team comprising Rishit Thakur, Adithya Kapoor, Bhai Meer Singh and Shiven Dewan won a silver medal. In the seniors category, Rishabh Goel won a silver medal in 50m backstroke.

This year's swimming season was an exciting one and showed promise of many more years of a continued strive for excellence.

## Records

Jayaditya Dahiya	100m Breaststroke
Shiven Dewan	50m Breaststroke
Anish Bhide	100m Butterfly
Nehansh Saxena	50m Backstroke
Nehansh Saxena	100m Backstroke
Tanay Gopal Agarwal	50m Butterfly
Raghav Kumar	200m Butterfly
Hyderabad House(Seniors)	4x100m Freestyle Relay
Hyderabad House(Seniors)	4x100m Medley Relay
Jaipur House(Open)	12x25m Freestyle Relay



# 'Concert' or 'Competition'?

**Samarth Mehra** writes about the competitive element in the recently concluded Inter House Music Competition.

The Inter-House dance and music competition stretches across the summer and autumn terms, and September saw the culminating two days, where the soloists predominated the concert platform. With six categories, each featuring five performances, it certainly isn't possible to do descriptive justice to them all, but each one of us has carried back memories of certain performances that particularly appealed to us. For the Scs, it was their swan song on this particular stage: Anuvrat Choudhary, the School Music Captain's, fiery interpretation of a Beethoven sonata, Madhav Singhal's sparkling Mozart, Anant Mohan's mighty drum and tabla solos, Vihaan Bhatnagar's soulful ghazal, 'Ranjish hi sabi...', were some of these swan songs that will linger in the listeners' memories. At the other end of the spectrum were the juniormost musicians who overcame considerable performance nerves to present polished renditions of music- D former Vedant Gattani on the santoor and C form's Sparsh Garg and Rushil Choudhary in the light classical vocal section with a melodious and well-synchronised presentation of an old Hindi film favourite 'Puchho na kaise maine rain bitayee...'. While many gave farewell performances, there were as many stage debuts- Zoraver Mehta and Anshuman Singh (piano), Rajveer Singh Kochar (tabla), Anant Kuriyal (vocal), Aryaman Kakkar (violin), to name but a few. Prabhav Maheshwari showed his versatility in performing in two categories, tabla and vocal. The House choirs, dressed in holiday-mode Goa-style (straw hats, garishly printed shirts) infused the final day with infectious joy. They sang traditional folk songs with their unmistakable and catchy rhythms, and were accompanied by an ensemble consisting of the School's music faculty. It seemed that even our teachers were enjoying themselves as much as the participants and audience. From Tata House's refrain of 'Ghe-ge-Saiba' (made famous by Bollywood) to Oberoi House's equally memorable 'Ya-ya-mayaya' and Jaipur House's declaration to go on a 'picnic-ekun', it was music that was pure entertainment.

While the results were being announced, each one culminating in cries of triumph from the winning house, I pondered over something that the music faculty has always said, that there are no winners or losers in music. It's all about the dedication and hard work that you put in. I decided, therefore, to ask some of the faculty members and this year's performers to share their views on music at a competitive level. The answers were as interesting as they were varied:

*"Each young musician in School who addresses this art with engagement, dedication, a willingness to put in hours of practice, and approaches great music in a spirit of humility, is a 'winner'. Music is always a desire to reach perfection, and with this attitude, there are no winners or losers, no rankings, but only the satisfaction of sharing the joy of making music with a community of listeners."* – Ms. Priya Chaturvedi, Director of Music.

*"I feel that mass participation performances do not happen in School out of the inclination of students. It is necessary to give them either recognition (Founder's) or competition. That changes the purpose of music from something worth cherishing to a cut-throat fight for the glory."* – Anuvrat Choudhary, School Music Captain.

*"The standard of music in school has surely been refined; however, the competitive approach of Doscos towards music in school has reduced the room for self-improvement in skills at the cost of self-confidence and self-satisfaction. A competition gives you a position, but a performance reveals your standard, your appreciation of music and reflects on the nature of your motivation towards practice. So, it is for Doscos to decide. A position or an applause?"* – Vihaan Bhatnagar, School Choir Leader.

*"The competitive element in music is something that I personally frown upon. However, because this is a school event, the competitive element can motivate certain individuals to work harder. Having said that, for people who truly enjoy the art, striving for perfection while doing so is far more rewarding than winning a trophy."* – Zoraver Mehta, pianist.

*"Having a competition brings out new talent and an incentive for the musicians to practice. However, the school community is more interested in whether their House wins, and would be much less interested if the competitive element was removed. Personally, I would prefer a concert over a competition."* – Karthik Subbiah, Hindustani instrumentalist.

*"Competition is very necessary, but it must be in a healthy spirit. Competition does many positive things- working with a goal in mind, in a focused manner, and being encouraged by knowing that the effort will be recognised."* – Mr Adarsh Saxena, Vocal Music Master.

I feel that the months and weeks, the dedication and effort that the musicians put in, cannot be defined by mere trophies and positions. I have seen musicians helping each other with their performances, showing their immense love and passion for the art and leaving the competitive element much behind. So, I leave you with a question for Inter-House Music, 2017- concert or competition?

(Contd. from page 1)

of Israel. The primary cause for this has been to protect the image of the ruling administration of the country. Showing support to one of the most oppressed communities helped Truman, in 1948, to further his political agenda and that trend has continued. The US being a superpower, has been able to let Israel off for its crimes. However, we as a global community cannot afford that. Our prerogative has to be to recognize the wrong being committed here and fight it. Along with that, we need to make the US realize the oppression it is promoting by supporting Israel.

In the end, the onus, does indeed, lie on the global community to recognize the plight of the Arab community. We need to recognize the injustice the community has suffered and continues to do, and extend a hand to them. The allocation of land was unjust and so was our inaction and it is high time we identify our mistakes and correct them.

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| Creative |

## The Divide

Shaurya Agarwal

Purohit Ji hailed from a small town in Bengal. The town had withstood many struggles and strife. This was evident as it stood quiet and anchored. Purohit ji, the oldest resident of the quiet little town was known for his critical comments on the history of this town.

He had a twisted logic behind his beliefs, such as the sole reason for the British to come to India was for the water of the Ganges, or his archaic view that women should perform 'Sati'. Although he was one of the wisest men in the village, yet he did not care about the belief that people were created equal and that we are all human beings with their own belief systems.

He was one of the many people who still believed in the practice of communalism. He had a butler, a proud member of the lower caste. The 'shudra' - that's what they called him for so long that his real name was forgotten - would clean the mess the drunk Purohit would make. However, he would not touch Purohit in any way as he was prohibited from doing so. It was a common belief that even the shadow of a 'Shudra' falling on the body of a Brahmin would make the Brahmin 'impure'.

Having consumed too much alcohol for a lifetime, his liver now burned from the sips he took to drown his loneliness. He had no known relatives. Perhaps, he had outlived them all. Though the medical advancements of the time were sufficient to make a successful transplant yet he had no

donor. A piece of liver was all that he needed.

Death was inevitable and he was shifted to the city where the medics tried to save him. His only hope was a last minute donor. After much trouble they finally found a donor. The donor refused to reveal his identity. Just before the operation Purohit Ji beamed with joy. He had lived a long life, but experience had not prepared him to accept his end. His thoughts raced, as he was elated on getting another shot at life. As he looked around, he saw the name tag on the doctor's coat. The sight left him pallid. He found that the hand that had given him a healing touch was that of a lower caste.

Before he could react, the anesthesia had numbed him to sleep. The operation was successful. However his mind focused on how his body had been at the mercy of that doctor. He despised himself. His body was trembling. He thought about the amount of 'gangajal' which would be enough to cleanse his soul. His insides burned with hatred. The ingrate was unaware of the donor who had given him life was possibly from a lower caste. His hatred consumed him. Little did he know that his own Shudra now walked with a lighter liver.

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## Under the Scanner

Triple Talak | Kushagra Kar

In 2002, the Supreme Court issued an affidavit that sparked much controversy. The affidavit was regarding the *Shamim Ara vs State of U.P. & Anr* case and addressed many legal and religious issues. The controversy surrounded the religious subtopics it addressed - Triple Talak

Triple Talak is a Quran vetted law, which states that 'if a man so desires, he may say the word *talak* thrice and divorce his wife on the spot'. These words need not be spoken directly to the woman, or even in her presence. The woman, essentially, has no say in this decision and cannot argue with its legitimacy.

Although the conclusion of the 2002 case brought about the illegalization and ban of Triple Talak, the practice still continues, mainly due to the inability of the women involved to fight against it. The practice itself has come under tremendous social media fire: Muslim and non-Muslim activists have voiced their concerns about this practice. As of the 10th of September, the All India Shia Personal Law Board (AISPLB) has declared the law invalid unless both parties agree upon the

(Contd. on page 6)

(Contd. from page 5)

divorce. Looking at the success rate of the past legal action, it is doubtful of any such chance.

The first issue that needs to be pointed out is the absence of any actual legal grounds for a divorce.

The stability of society balances on a thin edge that is only upheld because it is supported by a comprehensive legal system that demands a logical ground for any act. What Triple *Talak* allows for is a man to divorce his wife because he had been having an affair with another woman, and allows him to walk away with all the property, money and financial assets that the family owns. No court disputes, along with prevailing patriarchal norms, usually result in simpler methods of extortion and marriage for profit. Without a clear legal framework, men can do as they please and can leave women, multiple women in this case, jobless, homeless, and poor.

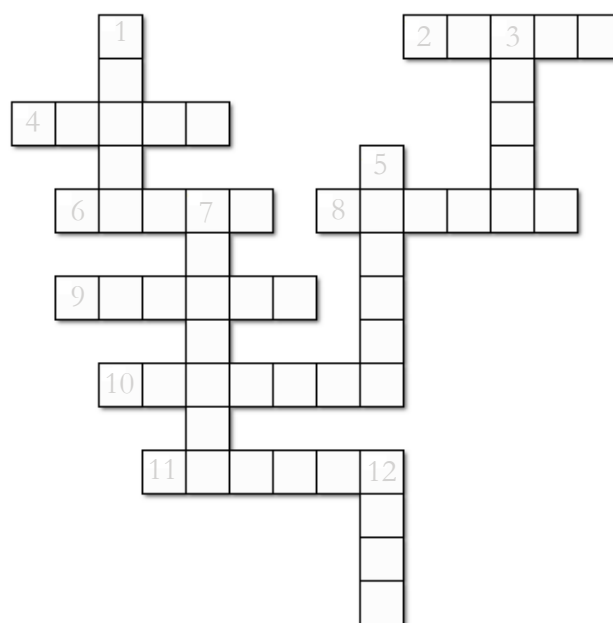
The next issue is that this system disregards the chance a couple gets at reconciliation. Understood the man may have other wives to look to, but the same cannot be said about the woman. She would have to fend for herself, without any support from anyone, her own family included.

Although most women in the Indian Islamic community have expressed their displeasure at the existence of this practice, they cannot really do much. Firstly because their husbands would still leave them, and as I have mentioned, her family wouldn't help. Secondly, disobeying Triple *Talak* would be considered blasphemy, simply because the Quran states that it is allowed. As we all know, women in India aren't given a pedestal high enough to bring about a change in religious belief, which is the third reason. Most communities, Muslim or not, in India do not consider the word of a woman as powerful as a man's word. Therefore, if a man decides he wants a divorce, his word is final.

In conclusion, I find it indeed terrifying to think that this form of suppression exists in our country, and isn't being challenged effectively by anyone. It goes to say a lot about, not only mindsets, but also our legal system and its capabilities as well as our apathy towards such matters. I find this alarming, to say the least.

## Crossword

### *Eminent Personalities*



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

#### **Across**

2. The first woman to climb Mount Everest
4. Record-holder for the longest speech in the UN Security Council
6. Highest paid music artist of 2015
8. The late Holocaust survivor who wrote 'Night'
9. Husband of Queen Elizabeth
10. Founder of the Coca Cola Company
11. Nobel Laureate for Economics, 2015

#### **Down**

1. Donald Trump's running mate
3. The first tennis player to win a Grand Slam
5. Acting President of UEFA
7. Won the Academy Award for Best-Supporting Actor, 2016
12. Host of 'The Daily Show'

8. Wiesel	7. Rylance
6. Perry	5. Villar
4. Menon	3. Budge
2. Taber	1. Pence
9. Phillip	12. Noah
10. Candler	
11. Deaton	

**Answers to This Week's Crossword**

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

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