

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, May 13, 2017 | Issue No. 2468

What We
Debate 3

Ensemble,
la France! 4

Preserving
Tradition? 5

The *Baabubali*
Craze 7

A Tale of Two Mafias

Aryan Chhabra explains the need for abolishing School Captaincy Elections.

Perhaps the most democratic feature of this institution is giving students the right to choose their own leader. Until recent times, this power was assumed to be integral for a truly democratic setup to function. However, after a thought-provoking discussion in the School Council that questioned the necessity of elections, this 'right-to-vote' for all has been put under review. This article will take a step forward and examine the various alternatives which could replace the *status quo* and proving why such a change is needed.

Before that, let's first understand who has the right to vote in our School. Currently, boys in all forms can vote during the School Captaincy election. While an outside observer may appreciate the 'universal franchise' that our School has established, the fact remains that boys in Junior forms (i.e. D, C and even B-Form students) don't possess a proper understanding of the electoral process. For one, they are often influenced to vote after incessant campaigning by seniors, which leads to voting based on hearsay as juniors don't know the personalities of candidates well enough. Since these students could be easily manipulated, it's clearly a bad idea to include them in the electorate. In fact, the franchise of these juniors often leads greater misconduct on the part of seniors – who resort to back-biting, threatening juniors to vote for one candidate, spreading fabricated information or even open confrontations to unduly influence the results in favour of their friends.

As far as elections go, they all work on the assumption that people cast their vote with the hope that a candidate may lead in an efficient and just manner. However, is that really the case in our School? While voting, do juniors really contemplate whether their candidate will be good for the School? Or are they too busy wondering who will be the most 'lenient' senior and will give them the least number of punishments after doing something wrong. When seniors vote, do they really consider who they believe will act in the most just and effective way? Or do they price other factors like friendship and personal preference over leadership and responsibility? While growing up, I have seen many people (at times even myself) fall prey to their own selfish interest instead of thinking about the greater interest of the School community. Going by my experience, it can be reasonable to conclude that while there are Doscocs who vote responsibly, a sizeable number select a candidate based on illegitimate factors that lead to results which aren't always beneficial for this institution.

Another important factor to consider is the adverse effect such elections have on the relationship amongst batches. During the infamous 'Scoping Season', a viciously competitive environment is formed negatively impacts relations between form-mates. This hostile environment leads to what I'd mentioned earlier: campaigning, politicking, sycophancy and back-channelling to further their own endeavours. It is these tensions that give the 'S-Form Second Term' the negative connotations that it currently has. The question to ask is this: Is any election on campus, even for School Captaincy, worth the tensions and fights it causes? I think not.

The discussion that we as a community must now have should be less about debating principles and more of viable alternatives. Certain members of the School Council propose that the Senior Management should have a greater say in selecting the School Captain, with some arguing these four Heads should be the key factor in determining the outcome – a policy which would just increase the sycophancy that exists during S-Form. Maybe a public application process would resolve the impasse, and remove the excess politicking that currently exists between an eager boy and his eventual appointment.

I'm sure there are other solutions, but in a democratic manner we students should pass them up through our School Council representatives, where the matter is set to be discussed on Thursday. Come January, it is hoped that the process is reformed to remove the problems it now faces. If not, then to paraphrase George Santayana, we are condemned, for history always repeats itself.



Regulars

Diplomatic Debuts

A delegation of ten boys participated in the **3rd SelaQui Model United Nations Conference** held at **SelaQui International School, Dehradun** between **May 6-7, 2017**. The results are as follows:

Best Delegates	Most Outstanding Delegates
Aarsh Ashdhir	Rishabh Verma
Ansh Raj	Shatayu Patil
Aryan Bhattacharjee	Vikram Jain
Shourya Agarwal	Honourable Mention
Sidhant Shyam	Raghav Kapur

Additionally, the delegation was adjudged the **Best Delegation** at the conference.

Congratulations!

Obituaries

The *Weekly* regrets to inform the School community that Justice (Retired) Leila Seth and Mr Govind Ram Ahuja have passed away.

A former parent, associate and friend of the School, Justice Seth was an eminent jurist who was appointed Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh in 1991, become the first woman in history to head an Indian High Court. She served on the prominent J.S. Verma Commission formed after the Nirbhaya Case in 2012. At School, she was Chairperson of the Scholarship and Bursary Committee of School and mother to Vikram (250-J, 1968) and Shantum. She passed away on May 5, 2017 and will be dearly missed.

Mr Govind Ram Ahuja was the father of Mr Kamal Ahuja, and passed away on May 9, 2017. We offer our condolences to his family.

“Anticipate the difficult by managing the easy.”

- Lao Tzu

Stars of the Stage

The following are the results of the **Inter House Hindi One-Act Play Competition, 2017:**

- Best Play:** Kashmir House
- Best Director:** Akshat Jha
- Best Actor (male role):** Aarsh Ashdhir
- Best Actor (female role):** Aryan Bhattacharjee
- Best Supporting Actor:** Karthik Rathore

Kudos!

Cracked It

The **School Hockey Team** participated in the **David Inglis Memorial Hockey Tournament, 2017** held at **Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie**. The team **won** the tournament by beating the host School in the final with a score of **3-2**.

Well done!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I am so happy I didn't took IB.

Aryan Chhabra, ISC English.

He's been writing for the past many years.

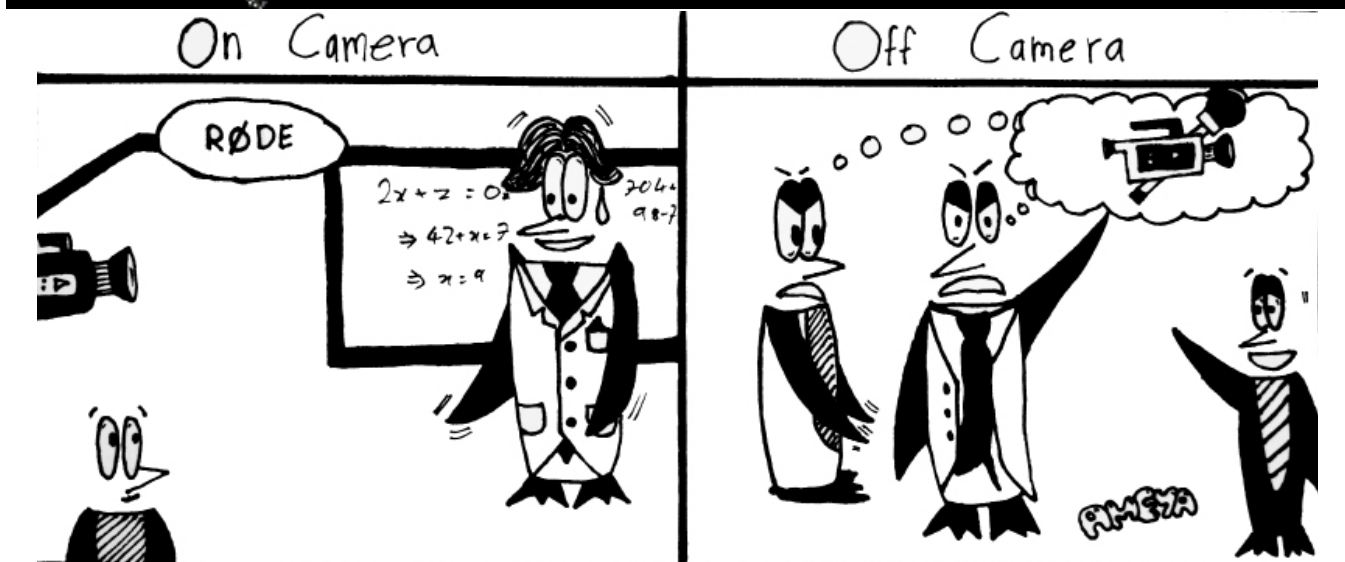
ANI, edits essays.

Around the World in 80 Words

Donald Trump fired his FBI Director on Tuesday. Emmanuel Macron beat Marine Le Pen in a landslide to win the French Presidency, while Moon Jae-In was elected President of South Korea. Tensions between Turkey and the USA increased after the US sold arms to Kurdish rebels in their fight against the ISIL. Elsewhere, the Kings XI Punjab beat the Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL, while Juventus beat AS Monaco 2-1 to reach the Champions League final against Real Madrid.

Dosco Doodle

Camera Blues!
Ameya Shamak



What We Debate

Vivek Santayana (Ex- 369-O, 2011) *offers his views on the issues we debate.*

In competitive debating, one may often find oneself defending views with which one disagrees. But there is a difference between playing devil's advocate and advocating devilry. This is why I noted with some alarm while reading Karan Sampath's report on Slater's (issue no. 2467, May 6 2017) that the semi-final motion there was 'THBT feminism might do to men today what the past did to women'.

This is a proposition which goes against facts: at no point does the movement for the equal treatment of all people regardless of their gender entail the treatment of men like property, denying men the vote, treating widowers like outcasts or cremating them alongside their deceased spouses. Moreover, defending this motion requires teams to advocate views held by so-called 'Men's Rights Activists', an abusive fringe group in reactionary corners of Reddit whose *raison d'être* is to undermine women's rights by capitalising on patriarchal anxieties surrounding women's empowerment and viciously attacking feminist activists striving for it. When one expects a team to represent such views on the floor, one cannot ignore the ideological contexts from which these views originate.

This reminds me of a motion which was debated in the Kamla Jeevan Hindi Debating Competition while I was in School, which was roughly along the lines of how violence against women is women's own fault. The victim blaming and moral policing that one would require the proposition to adopt is along the lines of the same patriarchal ideology that oppresses women in Indian society today. These views do not just actively harm women, but they also put in place systemic barriers to them seeking justice for crimes committed against them. The motions we set and the subjects we consider still open for debate reflect our values as a community. This is why, for example, we do not have motions where teams have to defend slavery or deny the Holocaust, controversial though they may be. The views that one would represent here are from a context of oppression and violence which led to the death and suffering of millions of people. We reject the paradigms of colonialism and anti-Semitism that form the basis of these positions. We have moved on as a society.

Similarly, with the Slater's and Kamla Jeevan motions, I hoped that we had moved on from a time when feminism is seen as harming men, gender empowerment as a zero-sum game between men and women, gender itself as an essential binary between male and female and women at fault for the violence against them. The fact that we have not exposes the persisting misogyny in our society. This is a question that concerns not just our School, but all other institutions that are members of this debating circuit.

Of course, having these views debated is not necessarily an endorsement of them. This is where the issue is double-edged. Debate on university campuses in Britain and America has been chilled by the anxiety around 'causing offence', with policies like 'no-plat forming' and 'safe space' being used excessively to censor views with which people disagree. I do not believe that these views must be censored, but that they must be engaged with in order to persuade others over to one's side. But while this makes sense for how people within a broader intellectual community engage with fringe views, it seems unfair and pointless to impose such a burden on teams within competitive debating.

The point of debating, as an intellectual sport, is to test one's knowledge and skills of persuasion. But when we have debates where teams must perform as so-called MRAs or advocate reactionary, patriarchal views of gender which contribute to the oppression of women, we are essentially setting one side up to fail. Even if they do make a persuasive case and win the debate, the victory would be hollow: there is nothing either side can learn from this discussion. It might be an entertaining verbal tennis match for a couple of hours, but nobody really gains anything worthwhile from it.

Rather, if one would want a productive debate on gender, one could have more nuanced discussions on current debates within the subject, for example an interrogation of mainstream feminism today and whether it is adequately diverse or it delivers a solipsistic, western-centred white feminism. One stands to gain a lot more from this conversation rather than one on men's rights. We should be asking questions that provoke teams to think deeply around issues and inform themselves better, rather than having them rehearse a reactionary opinion just to score points.

As someone who has both debated and helped organising competitions, I think it vital that we as members of the debating circuit reflect upon the kinds of motions we set and the values that they reflect. We need to have a greater sense of the responsibility of setting motions for tournaments and framing discussions where we can learn something. If we cannot get past these reactionary views on gender, and if the best we can do when it comes to having a debate on feminism is the spectacle of two all-boys' Schools discussing men's rights, then I think the debating circuit has missed the point of the activity.

Ensemble, la France!

Raihan Vadra *comments on Emmanuel Macron's victory in the French elections.*

May 7th. The second round of Presidential voting commenced and the French had to decide between two extremely contrasting candidates: Emmanuel Macron, an Independent - Centrist standing for elected office for the first time; and Marine Le Pen, the leader of the National Front - France's far-right wing Party. Macron was offering the electorate a youthful, pro-business, pro-EU liberal leadership while Le Pen was looking to capitalise on the transatlantic right-wing wave - nationalistic, anti-Europe, and anti-immigration - weeping elections in Western nations. In what turned out as a breath of fresh air for the world, and a sigh of relief for the French, Macron comfortably won the election in a landslide with 66% of the vote. Despite being seen as an inexperienced

maverick, Macron has proved his political acumen by overcoming a brutal campaign to win the presidency – touted as one of modern times' greatest political upsets. However, it's only after a closer look at the two candidates that the significance of this election is revealed, and we can predict what President Macron shall mean for France, Europe and the world beyond. Prior to his campaign, Macron was an elite-educated, 39 year-old civil servant. He was Minister of the Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs in outgoing president Francois Hollande's cabinet before quitting to start his own party: 'En Marche!' (French for 'On the Move!'). A novice politician, Macron was initially



written-off as a real contender before catapulting to frontrunner status. Ideologically, Macron describes himself as a combination of left wing and liberal, yet is more similar to Bill Clinton and Tony Blair: a centrist who supports businesses yet reforms for national welfare. If his campaign slogan 'Ensemble, La France' and his victory speech are anything to go on, his vow to fight right-wing divisiveness would mean an inclusive government, bucking the trend of Donald Trump and Theresa May's inward looking politics. However, although Macron may have won a landslide, his victory is tainted by the lowest voter turnout since 1969, abstentions and many spoilt ballots to express dissatisfaction with the choices on offer. Even more taxing is the upcoming parliamentary election, where En Marche will require another upset victory to execute Macron's reforms, which include reforming the EU and strengthening the army and police against terrorists.

However, his election to president is most significant because of his opponent: "the priestess of fear" as he'd remarked at the last Presidential debate. The woman he referred was the worldly infamous Marine Le Pen, the National Front's candidate. As the political heir to the party (her father also lost the presidency in 2002), she had spent most of her life working in the shadows of another right-wing legacy. However, as party leader, Le Pen shed its anti-Semitic image and made international news when the National Front secured victory in local, European and provincial elections. Similarly, this election presented Le Pen the chance to establish herself as a fringe political force to be reckoned with – which she certainly did. Although coming second, she won over a third of all votes cast and, symbolically, pushed the National Front to the final-round of the presidential elections – turning the party into a major player in European and French politics. She ran on a France-first, nationalistic and anti-immigrant platform similar to Trump and the Brexiteers across the English Channel. In using fear and anger to sway French voters, especially after the Charlie Hebdo and November attacks in Paris, Le Pen remained the front running contender for a long period before slipping down shortly before the election. Indeed, many thought (and feared) she would win.

If that'd happened, then the world would've most likely seen a French exit (Frexit?) referendum from the European Union similar to the British folly, a cut in immigration by 80% and the alignment of France with Putin's Russia, which would cripple the post-WWII Western world order and radically change global politics – France being a nuclear-armed nation with veto power at the UN. The most radical of all, however, would be a shift to Islamophobia, which would erase the secular character that has been a core French value since the revolution of 1789. With such contrasting candidates, the election campaign was brutal right to the end, with Macron overcoming a hack into his private e-mail server a mere two days before the last round of voting. With the election now over, the world has turned its eyes away, but Macron needs results, and quickly since far-right nationalism in Europe isn't dead. Should he be successful, Europe may renew its faith in the liberal order that propelled its economic rise, and reject the fringe politics that threatens the world at large. If so, then to paraphrase Napoleon, this victory would be a suitable one.

Preserving Tradition?

A debate on whether Physical Training (PT) should be discontinued.

Point

Divyansh Nautiyal

P.T started out as an activity in school that aimed to provide DoscOs with coordination and fitness purely physical in nature. P.T intended to provide numerous other elements of unity and house spirit amongst the DoscOs. However, with the form that P.T has now taken in school, it has become a concept that is outdated and an activity that should altogether be discontinued.

Talking of the time that P.T consumes in our daily schedules, we already heard the School P.T leader stating that some houses had gone up to practising P.T for up to five times a day. The time that P.T consumes (especially before the competition) is significantly high. In the race to win the gong, the houses go up to an extent where P.T is practised innumerable times. This results in DoscOs coping through their daily schedules devoid of any rest. Moreover, due to P.T, DoscOs end up compromising on the time that they sought to utilise on the activities of which they were a part of. While some might argue that the completion of the P.T table takes hardly any time, we must not forget the endless times that the house squads spend in order to get every element in a pitch perfect condition.

More importantly, I will now highlight the futility of P.T in a Dosco's life. P.T fails in one of its main goals of providing physical fitness. P.T is an activity where the house squads keep on practising monotonous exercises over and over again. These exercises fail to fulfil their aim as no actual and solid fitness is provided. Besides, the P.T table, when performed in one go hardly lasts for even fifteen minutes.

Additionally, with the multitude of viable options (such as the year-round sports, seasonal sports, the gym and yoga) being present in school, it can be said that these activities truly accomplish the goals (helping an individual to become fit and acquire skills that can actually be put to use) which P.T had initially set out to fulfil. Another problem which DoscOs face along with P.T is the wave of punishments that comes along with it, with individuals getting punishments for committing the minutest of mistakes by their P.T leaders.

DoscOs should not be blamed for their hostile attitude towards P.T simply because it is something that is ineffective and obsolete in concept. P.T has boiled down to nothing in school but only an incentive for the houses to add more glitter to their trophy cabinets!

Counterpoint

Aviral Kumar and Nirvair Singh

Physical Training has always been an integral to the Doon School experience for generations of DoscOs both past and present. Many believe that PT, like other traditions, is being continued for 'old times' sake'. However, there are reasons why it has endured, which hold true today and make PT essential.

Waking up early in the morning may be something most do not enjoy, research conducted by Harvard biologist Christopher Randler proved that early risers are more productive throughout the day, which is especially beneficial for academics throughout the day. While boys may complain about the 'lack of sleep' they get, the new Weekly Schedule ensures they receive at least 7.5 hours of sleep per day, which is more than enough for a full day of work. One may argue that boys could get up in the morning and do something else (i.e. play a sport), but at the crux here is the intrinsic value of PT and exercises. The activity not only tests discipline but also one's skills at coordination, cooperation, leadership and efficiency: forcing people outside their comfort zones (unlike proficient sportsmen) to showcase a display of different exercises in perfect order. It's the same reason why the military continues to hold morning PT; the benefits are parallel, and ought to be imbibed by the School. There's more to PT, however, than the individual benefits. Due to the squad requirements, PT is one of the only activities that elicits participation on a near-complete scale (unlike hockey and football, where only 44 students of a 100 member House end up playing). This allows many boys who don't contribute to their Houses in sporting activities to do their fair share. Furthermore, such mass participation also provides a chance for all boys to bond over - something that other do with less scope. Thus, not only does PT add value to lives of boys at School, but the experiences they receive benefit them outside these walls. As many Old Boys have proclaimed, PT has helped them in many fields.

Finally, perhaps PT's most integral importance is its cultural value. While this may seem a traditionalist statement, it is undeniable that PT has grown to become representative of the School's values, and is held dear to generations of Old Boys. Change is inevitable and sometimes necessary, but PT is not something that we should cast off. Doing so may bring us into the 'modern age', but we will lose a quality that makes the Doon School what it is today.

Ragas by the River

Aryaman Kakkar reports on the *Sankat Mochan Music Festival*.

On April 17, ASA and PRY escorted a group of students to the *Sankat Mochan Music Festival* is hosted in Varanasi. With its timings of dusk to dawn, we heard exceptional music after a skewered sleep cycle! The first performance of the day was by the famous Sufi singer Hamsar Hayat Nizami, whose beautiful renditions of *Qawalis* and Sufi poetry were quite unlike anything we had previously heard. Our evening was also graced by the great percussion trio of Pt Kumar Bose on the *tabla*, Dr Yalla Venkateshwar on the *mridangam*, and Pt Bhavani Shankar on the *pakhawaj*, which showcased their virtuosity and rhythmic mastery. Our next day started with a treat at the famous Kerala Cafe, following which we headed towards the temple, to hear a *santoor* solo by the great maestro Pt Shivkumar Sharma, with *Raga Bageshri*. Accompanied by Pt Ramkumar Mishra, its energetic improvisations blended in well with nature. Next, Pt Suresh Talwalkar and his daughter performed *Jhaptal* (10 beats) in *Vilambit Laya* (slow speed) and *Ada Chartal* (14 beats) after which Padma Shankar on the Violin and S Aakash on the flute performed *Raga Hamsadbhwani*. Near dawn, we witnessed *Haribaran*, equally well-known in the popular music genre, who sang *Raga Abhogi*, a light classical piece along with a many compositions, including choices from his film repertoire selected by the audience. The last performance was that of Pt Ulhas Kashalkar, a renowned vocalist of the Gwalior *gharana* (stylistic school) who put up a rendition of *Raga Bhatiyar* and a rare composition in the light classical *tappa* style. Our last day included a *santoor* solo by Abhay Rustam Sopori, showcasing various musical impressions, and a final performance by Pt. Ajay Chakrabarty who sang one of his favourites, *Raga Jog*, - ending on a light note with his famous *thumri* before ushering his and our departure. Truly, it was one memorable, musical week!

A Twelve Year Record

Arhant Khullar, the *School Basketball Captain*, chronicles the recent *Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament*.

The 27th Afzal Khan Basketball tournament showcased skill, endurance and dedication as never seen before. This year the School hosted ten teams who competed in a league cum knock out basis spanning across 4 days. The Doon School White Team won its first match against Doon International School with a score of 21-44, and skimmed through the next two matches with equal grit and vigour. The match against The Lawrence School, Sanawar proved to be an action-packed event, with our team scoring 22-0 in the first quarter. Our other group stage match against RIMC again saw the team winning a margin of more than twenty points. Advancing to the quarter-finals, the team faced The Punjab Public School and again secured a twenty point victory, and proceeded to play The Asian School (the defending champions) in the semi-finals.

Well prepared for the important round, the semi-finals proved to be an exhilarating game. With the whole school to support us, and a final score of 47-45, we all rejoiced the victory after the whistle was blown. The team deserves credit for impressive technique, strategic defence and admirable game play under high pressure.



But victory aside, the more important match was yet to come. After twelve years, we had reached the finals and that too against Welham Boys' School – which has won the tournament for the most times in since it began. As the starting whistle blew, the encouraging cheers, bells and marching drum began, and we proudly played with the whole School behind us. However, fate and anxiety had brought in the worse for the team. The finals started poorly, and we were down 8-0 after the first few minutes.

Yet, players such as Jaideep Gill and Suryansh Kainthola did not give in and scored the majority of our points, chased the lead and motivated the other players on the court. We played to the final minute, yet finished runners up with a score of 39-57.

Although we didn't win silver and lost gold, one of the spectators rightly said "We did not lose; we just did not win the match." While it's inexcusable that we didn't perform as we should've, I am nevertheless proud of the School Basketball Team and hope that our feat will be recalled and out-matched by the generations to come.

The Baahubali Craze

Ansh Raj analyses *The Baahubali* movie duo's unprecedented success.

After nine days of running, grossing over \$150 Million worldwide and shattering all records for an Indian film, Baahubali 2 has produced wonders which could not truly be assessed in monetary values. From being the first South Indian Film to garner pan-Indian popularity, appeasing both critics and the masses, the Baahubali duo has revolutionised Indian cinema, and set a precedent of its own.

As a Dosco on a private outing, it was an absolute disappointment to digest that we would not be able to watch Baahubali, considering the tickets had sold out in a very short span of time. Such was the unprecedented fervour of a Hindi-dubbed Telugu film in the far North-Indian city of Dehradun. However, if one were to think that for a Telugu movie to have the nation showing such zeal is a boastful achievement in itself, one wouldn't be surprised to know that Baahubali 2 has shattered historic barriers in Hollywood as well and bagged the third spot in the US markets as well, finishing right behind *The Fate of the Furious* and *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol II*. Along with Baahubali's exemplary reach, the aforementioned claim also challenges the age long stereotype of low standard Indian movies, as compared to the 'superior' Hollywood ones



The inherent question that arises after listening to these claims is- "What is it that sets Baahubali apart from other Indian movie sagas, and at par with proclaimed international blockbusters, when judged in terms of commercial success?" While convention proposes that such movies usually have an extraordinary plotline, Baahubali follows a rather unique plot of an epic fantasy which unveils in a mythical setting. It has often been compared to the Hindi comic *Amar Chitra Katha* - characterised with princes competing for the throne - warriors displaying Herculean strength, and a complementary romance, which were the central themes of both movies.

A more satisfying answer to the question is given by the visual effects in the movie. These can boost any production's appealing power, and when blended with Baahubali's fantasy displays, the result was truly mesmerising. Therefore, it is more appropriate to conclude that Baahubali's success is credited more to its production than its plotline. Even with a conventional and predictable plot, Baahubali manages to grip the audience's attention till the very end.

Many accredit the production's success to the clever allocation of the film's budget. It had become a tragic pattern in Indian films to cast a renowned actor (forget lead actresses) with an astronomical pay in a bid to boost the ratings. Rajamouli, the director, was quick to realise that this is not the way forward: that for a movie to earn a success of epic proportions, one should focus budgets and efforts on the strength of the production rather than the cast's fame. Elements of Hollywood fantasy movies also attributed to the film's success. The fact that the *Kalakeya* tribe in the movie had an invented language of its own, quite similar to productions like the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *Avatar*, proved the extent of the movie's sophistication.

However, the movie was also received with surprising detest. The first criticism came along the religious grounds, with the movie being branded as too Hindu centric. Yes, it may have provided some respite from the usual North Indian cultural context by shifting to a new South Indian one, but the movie was certainly set against a Hindu cultural background. In response to this supposed vehement Hindu centrism, a poster was also designed with the main actress and actor holding the weapons and standing in Islamic attire; in contrast the original poster had them dressed in medieval Hindu clothing. Furthermore, the movie was also criticised for certain elements which are typical of Bollywood movies, such as the prominent (and infamous) 'item songs' that objectify women. For a film like Baahubali to have an item song as part of the movie, and being distributed widely and internationally (where foreign viewers catch a glimpse of Indian cinema) is disheartening.

For what's it worth though, Baahubali has certainly initiated the process of change in Indian cinema. While the industry has been branded as one of nepotism, corruption, sub-standard movies with minimal artistic values (and copying Hollywood productions), and is thus in dire need of cleansing, I believe this can be brought through the Baahubali craze. Both the movies have undeniable flaws, but for a movie to secure an IMDb rating as high as some of cinemas most iconic productions, I believe that the Baahubali's domination of India's screens and hearts is sign of a fruitful beginning.

The Week Gone By

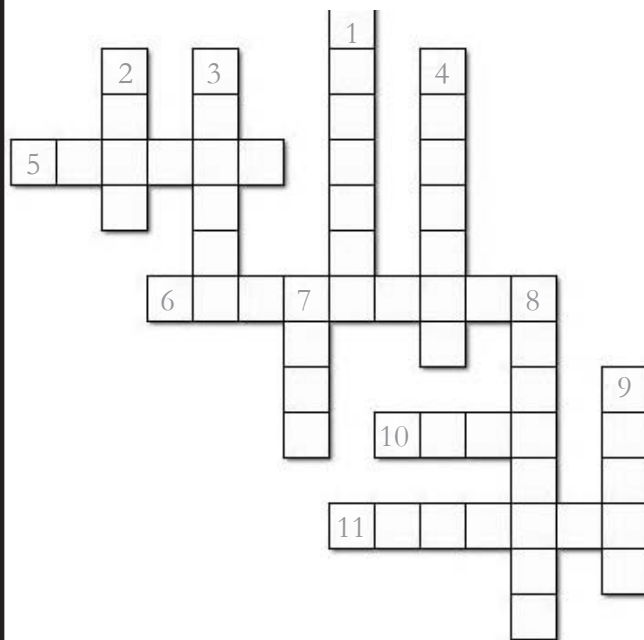
Salman Mallick

In a passionate moment for the School, we saw great levels of School and House spirit nearly everywhere this week. The final match of the Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament was marked by the roll of drums, the flourish of IPL Trumpets and ardent cheers from the whole school for our team. Considering we had reached the final after twelve years, it was apt. On a completely different platform, but not too far away from the Basketball courts, we witnessed an emotionally charged Inter House One-Act Play Competition, with the standard this year being higher than most. All the houses gave immaculate performances – with varying genres of comedy, satire, suicide and nationalism (including some from the ICSE syllabus). By the end of it all, we saw the least melodramatic play, *Ek tha Gaddha*, led by the drama queen king win the competition in a stunning upset. To be fair, in the arts, I would say there are no winners and losers, and considering the standard of plays this year, this is even more apt.

At the moment, we are seeing breakneck (literally) practices ongoing for the Inter-House Music Competition in the Dance and Band categories, with genres of hip-hop, electronic and rock music exuding from houses and livening up Toye rooms late into the night. The absence of P.T. from the morning schedule has led to slightly less groggy heads in classes during the first two schools, but in true tradition our boys have maintained their penchant for sleep. Meanwhile, the tardiness of the SC-Form is well documented, with Yellow Cards being doled out across the spectrum, particularly to members of a blue (and bruised) House. Regardless, in the midst of all work the heat becomes unbearable, with the Wellness Center requesting to reduce changes-in-break (to the Prefects' ire) due to the dangers of heat. Strangely though at the same time, nobody hesitates when forcing Doscocs through the horrors of 6th and 7th school and the never-ending wait for lunch. As with administrative issues, parallels may be drawn to the Hyderabad House One-Act Play, *Bhukkad*. After all this, with the Inter-House Hockey Competition drawing nearer, most players will hope for 'ice in their veins' to balance the fury of their game, which we shall hope to watch in awe very soon.

Crossword

Dramatics



Note: All answers in this crossword refer only to surnames.

Across

5. The majority of Shakespeare's 'Othello' is set here.
6. London's West End's longest running show.
10. The second longest running Broadway show.
11. The play write who wrote 'Cyrano De Bergerac'.

Down

1. This playwright was killed in a bar fight.
2. The Award given for excellence in live Broadway theatre.
3. This actor played Shylock in the film "The Merchant of Venice".
4. Shakespeare's Hamlet is set in this country.
7. This Irish playwright is considered by many to be second only to Shakespeare.
8. The Worlds' oldest surviving drama.
9. The British playwright who was famously imprisoned for his sexuality

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	Down
11. Rostand	1. Marlowe
10. Cats	2. Tony
6. Mousetrap	3. Pacino
5. Venice	4. Denmark
	7. Shaw
	8. Persians
	9. Wilde

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

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

weekly@doonschool.com



©IPSS: All rights reserved. **Printed by:** The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand– 248001, India. **Published by:** PK Nair, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Arjun Singh **Editor:** Aryan Chhabra **Senior Editors:** Nehansh Saxena, Omar Chishti, Salman Mallick **Hindi Editor:** Shubham Dhiman **Associate Editors:** Aayush Chowdhry, Devang Laddha, Kanishkh Kanodia, Kushagra Kar, Zoraver Mehta **Cartoonist:** Ameya Shawak **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Assistant Managers:** Anamika Ghose, Purnima Dutta, Arvandanabha Shukla **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya **Picture Credits:** The Daily Mirror (Page 4), Jaideep Gill (Page 6), YouTube (Page 7)