



The Assam Valley School

YEARBOOK 2017-2018

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With special thanks to the Head of School,
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Mr. Amit Jugrran for the logistics
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THE ASSAM VALLEY SCHOOL

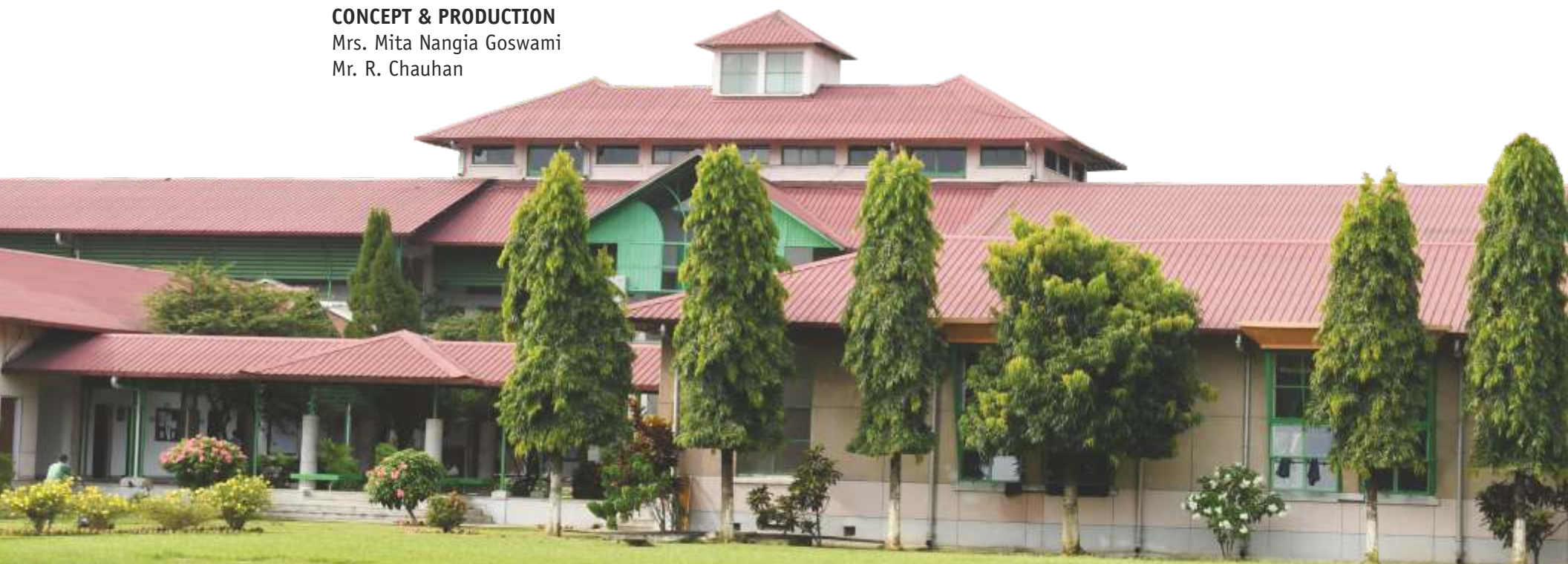
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Foreword

“The world is not of books and maps, but it is right out there”, said Gandalf the great wizard. Wisely said, yes, the real life and its challenges can be dealt only with experiential knowledge and not just merely a bookish one, thus our students need to step out and know the world around us and in the process pick up the life skills that will enable them to survive successfully in such a world.

We at The Assam Valley School believe that Education is an adventure; an Excursion or an Expedition is an experience, a great adventure, probably a one that the child will remember for the rest of his/her life. Part of our mission statement focuses on creating the 'whole child', a complete global citizen whose horizon goes beyond the four walls of the classroom and steps into the international arena of learning through experience.

This year our School has rightly lived up to its mission statement by introducing the Expedition and Excursions 2018 for the whole school, where the children got hands on experience in thrilling adventure, a peek into the domain of experiential learning, which in turn contributed in building leadership skills and global awareness in these young change makers of tomorrow. Expeditions provide opportunities to develop transferable skills such as budgeting, team-working and leadership, report production, composing and delivering oral and written presentations, negotiation with stakeholders from different cultures and provide scope for fieldwork skill development. Researchers found out that the expeditions provide real benefit to the communities that are visited and participation in expeditions can also contribute to a student's higher education achievement report.

On the warm sunny days of April 2018, the students and teachers of AVS had ventured out to enrich themselves with such unforgettable experiences through both domestic and international travel. I welcome you to savour the glimpses of these journeys, duly chronicled in this year's Yearbook through words and vibrant images. Our students have largely benefited from these Expeditions, while being presented with situations and challenges far beyond those which we typically come across in academic work; therefore our intention is to continue this programme every year as an integral part of our School Curriculum.

The year gone by has also witnessed two other new initiatives by the School; The Leadership Programme for the senior classes and prefectorial bodies and Value Education and Life skill training for the entire School. As an educator I know that our responsibility does not end in just educating the children in different subjects taught in school, but to teach them the Life skills which we need to deal effectively with the challenges in everyday life, whether at school, at work or in our personal lives. These two projects, which were spearheaded by the Life skill Department of the School, have largely contributed to the improvement and change in behavioural pattern of the students. I am confident that these skills will enable them to become more responsible and better decision makers of the 21st century. Students who are able to understand and use these skills, along with their educational qualifications, will not only be better placed to take advantage of educational and employment opportunities but also will be well equipped for the unforeseen twists and turns in life.

Yearbook 2018-19 brings to you the dreams, the efforts, the achievements of our dear aviators and the entire AVS community with promises of a better tomorrow where we can prove that there is no competition apart from the competition with our old self and no satisfaction than being better than what we were yesterday.



Contents

13	EDUCATIONAL TOURS AND TREKS
31	FOUNDERS' 2017
80	ACADEMICS
132	CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
167	PASTORAL CARE
186	SUNNYSIDE
193	SCHOOL LEAVERS 2019
205	SPORTS
222	PLACEMENTS





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L-R

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From the Editor In-Chief's Desk

'Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory.'- Dr. Seuss

Yearbook, an innocuous word that holds within it, the lived life of a school through a year. The education that The Assam Valley School strives to offer is a holistic one, maintaining a strong academic core and enriching it with multifarious activities that help draw out the best in every student. As we were putting the Yearbook together the vast canvas that we were painting on became evident very quickly and so too the different colours. From trekking to theatre, art to western and Indian classical music, sports, dance, debates, quizzes, film making, Olympiads, environmental audits, social service, science applications and literary festivals- the list seemed inexhaustible! Not forgetting academic achievements that were commendable! And we looked at the uniformed marvels walking around in school with a newfound respect and pride!

We present the Yearbook 2017-18 as a bouquet to its readers, a bouquet of all that our students (ably mentored by their teachers) performed, achieved and aspired to be. As you flip the pages we hope you get a whiff of the energy and excitement that our students experienced while accomplishing the myriad things they did, bringing glory to themselves and to their school. Both the staff and student editorial teams along with the designers worked very hard and cohesively to put this unique chronicle together and I would like to express my sincere appreciation for their efforts. One would also like to thank all the contributors who documented their experiences and shared it with us. Now, go ahead turn that page and enter a truly inspiring space!

Mita Nangia Goswami.



Nine years in this place we almost call home. The daily schedule and the everyday monotonous life. Years of this same clockwork like schedule and we never thought there will be a day where life would be different. The end of these days draws close. To add the last piece to complete the journey, in our last year we get to be a part of something truly beautiful. We get to be a part of a team that creates a book. A magical book that has gathered and etched the memories of all who belong here, storing it in the most beautiful way. We call it the 'Yearbook'.

Everyone on the yearbook team has worked very hard to put together this book. The many hours spent with our laptops, the hot afternoons we sat down to finish our work, the confusion and chaos faced to get everything right. All this feels worth it when we see the yearbook all ready with the most beautiful cover. Each one of us feels pride in our hearts to have accomplished the task we set out to do.

Founders is every student's favourite semester as the classes are shortened and every Aviator is given a platform to showcase their talent. This is also the semester where every student is recognised and awarded for their achievements in the year gone by. All students and teachers alike are fuelled with the Founders' air and are at their peak of happiness. The temperature seems to favour us, the trees turn many coloured beautifully and even the birds seem joyful. Amidst all the rush and excitement this is the time of the year when the yearbook is released. The reality of ones being is stored here in this book forever, as a proof that our time here was not just a figment of our imagination. When we will be old and grey one can have a walk down memory lane and relive all the cherished moments. It would proof to be an elixir that would show us that life was once so perfect and it can still be if we wish it to. A way to remember all our old friends that would have become distant with the passage of time. The journey has truly been like an Indiana Jones movie, full of action and adventure.

To end we must let go of this place and walk into our future and hope for the best. Blow the dust off your clock. Your watches are behind the times. Throw open the heavy curtains which are so dear to you. You do not even suspect that the day has already dawned outside. Yet another chapter has come to an end.



From the Chief Student Editors



School Captain

Abhijay Hazarika

As I look back at this amazing journey, I really do not have any words to describe it. Being nominated as the school captain will forever be one of my greatest achievements. My journey started in November when our Head of School announced the nomination for the honoured post of the School Captain. At first I was taken by surprise as I had never tried to aspire for such designations but after that I thought very hard and realized that people have nominated me because they see potential in me and it is my duty to fulfil their expectations and lead the school. From then onwards my mind-set completely changed and I took charge of my responsibilities.

I have learnt a great deal, lessons which we probably cannot learn even in our classes. Throughout the year it has been an incredible journey with so much to take in, making new friends and of course taking the school forward. The thing about leadership is that there is no book on how to be a leader. Either you are a leader or you are not. And I am a leader. A leader first of all is always ready to sacrifice himself and puts the school in front of him. His main objective is to keep the team united through all ups and downs. A single person can never do the job easily. He needs a cooperative group and I would like to acknowledge my efficient co- leaders, the Head Boy and the Head Girl, both of whom gave me their constant support.

Keeping it short I really do not have any advice on leadership because as I said it is a natural thing but of course one can look up to others and learn. All I can say is that it has truly been an honour for me and I am grateful to the school for bringing out the leader in me.

Times change, but our most treasured memories find ways to stay with us. nine years ago, had you told a lonely, weepy boy on his first day in a boarding school that he would have come this far, I would have never believed it.

AVS is not a mere boarding school, to some of us, it is more. It is an emotion. I know that whatever happens in my life, this journey, my longest yet, is the journey of my life.

In these nine years at AVS if there is one thing that I have truly realized it is that TIME REALLY FLIES! I have personally felt like these nine years have flown by in the blink of an eye. Yet, I realise that it has been long enough to teach me so much about life. During these swift years I have learned all that I could have ever imagined. I cannot say that life here has always been smooth. Like every other journey, this too has given me my share of highs and lows. There were times when I felt like I could not ever achieve anything in life. I felt worthless and broken. However, one strong value that this school has taught me is that of self-belief. It has kept me going and I believe it will keep me going throughout my life. In my last and final year at AVS, I was entrusted with the responsibility of leadership. And finally, I had the chance to repay my immeasurable debt to the school.

Being completely honest with myself, serving as the Head Boy has been the pinnacle of my AVS tenure and at the same time has also been a most humbling experience. Getting the badge has really taught me how to balance out my time between all aspects of my life, be it at academics, sports or cultural pursuits. It has taught me that even the smallest and simplest of things can make a huge difference in our lives. My journey at AVS would have never been the same without TIHU and LOHIT House. It is in these two Houses that I learned the true value of friendship, loyalty, fraternity and most importantly, hard work.

Sometimes situations pushed me to my limits and I felt like I could not succeed. However, I now realise that those moments made me the person I am today. It was an honour and a privilege to serve the school along with Head Girl Uroolee Changmai and School Captain Abhijay Hazarika. I can only hope that I have done my position the justice it deserves and that future Aviators entrusted with the same responsibility will continue to do so to and bring honour and glory to the Assam Valley School.



Head Boy

Vijayratna Sumshree Thapa



Head Girl

Uroolee Changmai

Infinite lessons learnt about life and friendship,
Individuals I meet every day,
Seven years of my life,
One moment to describe it all.

The very instant I joined AVS, I hated it. I hated the arrangement of dormitories, the strict schedule to be followed, the morning bell, the food and the smell, all of it. I was terribly homesick (I cried for over a year!). Seven years down the line, I find myself crying for entirely different reasons. I had come to love everything about the school that I initially disliked. That is how AVS grows on you.

One is so familiar with the pattern of narrow roads through the tea garden that leads to the mighty institution, its Herculean gates and the bumpy speed breakers, the vigilant signboards of 'murong' and 'tsuki', the majestic WMH that tells many a tales (both on and off stage) and the dearly beloved boarding houses which in the course of time we learn to call our home; that when you sit to write your article as the 'Head Girl' for the yearbook you do not know where to start.

To every Aviator who will be playing their first Inter-House match, performing on the stage for the very first time, voicing out their opinions in councils and all of those who will lead their teams in the games field, guiding an individual through their first one-act play and addressing juniors on numerous occasions, I would like to say, be brave and do not hesitate to do what you think is right. My take away from being in such tough situations is to always make your own decision and stand by it. If it takes a toll for the worst, accept the consequences gracefully. Do not let ANYONE take that power from you.

All my predecessors have left some advice to 'the girl who will follow'. To mine, I have none. One day, you will be walking up the stage to receive two metal pieces with few odd scribblings. The oath, the ceremony, the hugs and wishes will all pass by in a blur. The badge of course will come with a lot of privileges. But as I graduate, I realize that it all ceases to matter. What remains is the feeling of joy you get when you see your junior finish the last lap in the pool, the rush of victory you feel when you see your school score a goal, the sense of pride coursing through your veins when you hear the unfamiliar crowd in the hall of another school chanting "AVS! AVS!" as we wait for the chief guest to announce the winning school's name or the sheer thrill of sneaking in a plate of momos into your room. That feeling of being a true Aviator.

It is a difficult journey, telling people what not to do when I used to do the same things and living up to the expectations of all those who believed in me. I have been part of a batch that has made several mistakes, yet we have learnt to rise and correct those.

Unlike many public schools in the country, we do not have hundred years of glorious history, a heritage palace as our main school building or school traditions that have been upheld for generations. Time has offered us an opportunity to create such legacies. Legacies, which should live beyond the wooden boards with names and mere documents for archives.

It is in this school spirit, I wait for the day, when to command respect in any part of the country, the world, it will be enough to say, 'I am an Aviator'.

Academic Captains

Education encompasses all spheres of life and is seen as growth in an individual in all these spheres. In a world such as ours, we believe that education focuses primarily on mark sheets and grades and this is all that one sees when they hear the word academics. However, it is so much more than that.

When we shoulder the responsibility of overseeing the academia of the school, it becomes much clearer to understand the mind of an Aviator. We complain throughout about our hectic schedules but at the end of every semester we never fail to procure results that exceed expectations. The little metal plate that is fastened to our blazers weighs much more than it seems, for with it comes a task that requires us to be role models in the field of academia. Like every year in AVS, we have managed to try out numerous techniques and schemes that aid in our studies. The teachers take initiative to provide a spark of interest in each class they teach. There have been numerous workshops which stand to prepare us for the future. We have managed to lace Interactive learning through our daily classes.

The few students who have not been able to cope up have always been reminded that in our country, academics is a must for any field one might want to explore. With that in mind, it is only rational that the gap between teachers and students be bridged and this is what we have strived to do throughout our tenure as the School's prefects and more importantly, as students.

We hope that with every year that passes, we see a change in the way one perceives excellence in academics for it is not the percentage you acquire but the understanding that one absorbs from the classroom while managing to enjoy every minute of it.



Rashi Lal



Pratham Saharia



Chou Liang Wan Choutang



Isheeta Hazarika

Sports Captains

Sport does not build character. It reveals it. Sports has helped many students to reveal their talent in AVS, it is a place where students give their hundred percent and secure victory, they also express their joy and happiness and sometimes even anger. Girls in our school take boys as their role model and work hard as much as the boys. The sportsmen and sportswomen have gone for inter school events, IPSC events, district and have represented the states. With their determination and passion students have achieved a lot and have put the name of our school high.

Inter-House events allow the students to participate in new games and find the one sport that they might fall in love with. Sport is necessary for every single student and with the excellent sports infrastructure and coaches who work as much hard as the students give the students equal chance to participate. Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is. There are others in the school that have the same mindset and cherish sport.

Never give up! Failure and rejection are only the first step to succeeding- To all the future sportsmen and sportswomen of AVS.

With the contribution, co-operation, hard work and dedication of all the games captain we have had another successful year in the field of sport for AVS. We wish luck for the upcoming sports captains and AVS in the field of sport. It was always an honour to be a part of AVS.

Message from the Sports Captain- 'Train like you must win and play like you can't lose'.



Educational trips and treks 2018

“The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.” – Saint Augustine

A Splendid State

With great joy and enthusiasm I pen these thoughts on paper and recount the memories of our journey to the heart of 'Incredible India', Madhya Pradesh. Our team of 29 pupils and 4 teachers was called team PSB which meant Panchmarhi, Sanchi, Bhimbetka, Satpura and Bhopal.

In the beginning, it was just a name, team PSB and we wondered whether it would all be worth it? How would the seven nights and eight days pan out? On the evening of 4th of April, as we landed in the city of lakes, Bhopal, and soaked in the air, something told us all that it was going to be amazing.

Each day unfurled a new facet about the rich and cultural heritage of this fascinating state of our country. We discovered that it is a state unlike any other.

A peek into the past:

In Bhopal we saw the Museum of Tribal arts and the State Museum. 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever', summed up our views about the beautiful and intricate work displayed there. We realized that in the history of Bhopal, four powerful women have been the protagonists.

Buddhist monuments in Sanchi:

The world heritage site of Sanchi Stupa stands testimony to the golden Buddhist age during the reign of emperor Ashoka. The interesting chatter of the guide took us back to that era.

Wildlife safari:

Madhya Pradesh is home to nine national parks. We had the opportunity to visit the Satpura Tiger Reserve and the exciting part was the night safari. The joy of watching the rising moon, hearing the calls of the wild animals, knowing they are around you and cruising under the stars. It was surreal to say the least! The sight of the 'barasingha' the state animals was the icing on the cake!

Jatashankar Temple, Bee falls and Dhoob Garh:

We walked down many steps to the shrine of Lord Shiva. The myth of this cave was explained by the guide and the stalactites and stalagmites are a proof that once upon a time it happened here.

The day ended at the beautiful Dhoob Garh, where the striking beauty of the sunset over the seven ranges of the Satpura left us all speechless.

The Bhimbetka Caves:

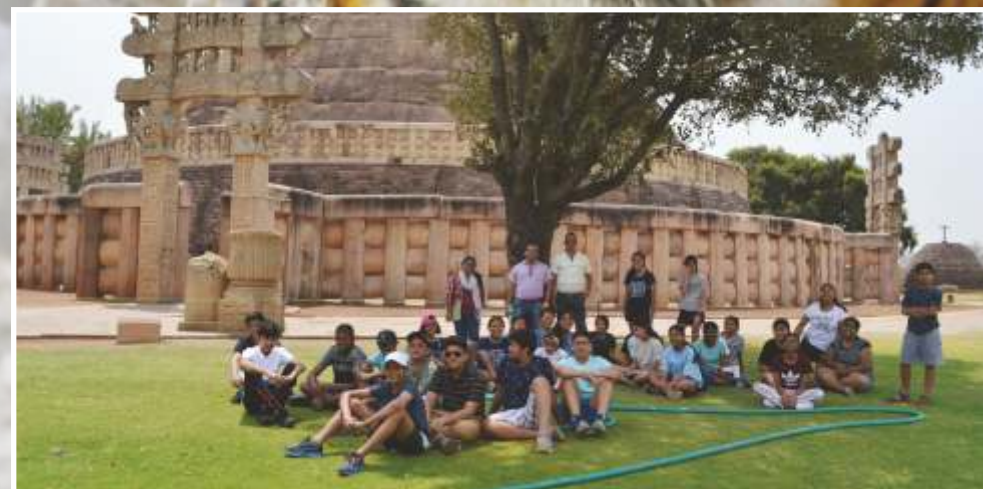
The Bhimbetka caves are an evidence of the beginning of the Stone Age in India. The name Bhimbetka comes from 'Bhima', a hero of the epic 'Mahabharata'. The rocks were a perfect backdrop for our very creative photographs.

A touch of Nature, a slice of culture, Madhya Pradesh; a place that touched our souls.

Like all good things the trip too was coming to an end. We had made new friends, forged closer bonds with our classmates and teachers. We enjoyed each day as they were filled with amusement and learning. Back in school a smile crosses our faces when we ask our friends, "Do you know what the 'Kark Rekha' is?" The pleasure is all ours when we inform them that it is the 'Tropic of Cancer', the vision of the dotted line marked on the road to Sanchi from Bhopal, flashes across our minds.

'To Travel is to Awaken', is a unanimous thought for us all!

The next trip is eagerly awaited!



Discovering Bhutan

The tour provided a great opportunity to discover and explore the heritage and traditions of Bhutan's timeless thriving culture. Furthermore, it gave us a deeper insight into the lives of diverse people of Bhutan. This tour comprised sightseeing around the valleys, short trips to visit Dzongs and temples, viewing art and architecture and exploring the ancient living culture of Bhutan, its tribes of people, ecology and the religion of the country.

For the students, it was a brilliant journey and we learnt new skills and experienced new things such as traveling in a train, helping each other during a strenuous hike and being responsible travellers in a foreign country. We also became proud of our own culture, religion and social choices. On the practical front we learnt how to spend money intelligently on a low budget, how to be responsible for one's own self and luggage and most importantly learning about safety of self and others during travelling.

These were achieved through visiting three major towns Thimpu, Paro and Punakha and everything in between. The entry point to Bhutan is at Phuentsholing, which is a frontier town and a thriving commercial centre, situated directly at the base of the Himalayan foothills. It was a fascinating place where different ethnic groups mingled, prominently Indian, Bhutanese and Nepalese.

Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan has a population of about one lakh and is the nation's largest city. It depicts strong national character in its architectural style and is the legislative, executive, judicial and religious centre of the government.

Places visited in Thimphu

— The Tango Monastery which serves as the monastic school for the study of Buddhist philosophy, metaphysics, mathematics, poets and many other Buddhist studies.

— We took a walk through Centenary Market and here we interacted with the local farmers and learned about organic produce.

— We visited the Thimpu Dzong and watched the daily ritual of the flag hoisting ceremony by the state heads.

— We visited the biggest Buddha Statue in the world

— The Thimpu market for lots of good food and shopping



Punakha is the old summer capital of Bhutan. This old town is located at a slightly lower altitude and was warmer than the other two cities we visited. Therefore, it was the perfect place to play with chilled water and have fun river-rafting down the rapids of the Po river. A picnic by the riverside ended the day on a sumptuous note.

The places visited in Punakha also included the Punakha Dzong, the oldest monastery in Bhutan and Paro which is a broad and beautiful green bowl valley surrounded by jagged Himalayan mountains and forested hillsides, crossed by beautiful rivers and dotted with medieval fortresses.

— The National Museum which familiarized the students with the Bhutanese way of life and acquainted them with the natural and cultural history.

— The 13th century Iron Chain Bridge which still stands strong. Hiked to the Tiger's Nest, enjoying nature and pushing the limits of the children's ability to trek in the mountainous regions, thin air and a million steps to climb.

— An exquisite evening of dances and songs, presented by the Bhutanese dance troupe, elucidating the myriad cultures that exist within this Himalayan nation and their deep reverence for Nature. Thus the trip ended with the students and teachers both having received an enriching experience in a majestic country whose beauty and heritage was truly impressive.

Three Jewels of the South-Bengaluru, Mysuru and Ooty

After a demanding year, a vacation was much needed and the batch of class 9 got exactly that! They got to visit the well-known places of southern India, Bangalore, Mysore and Ooty. We visited various place for enjoyment, historical knowledge, exploration but all of them had just one final purpose, education, and we did learn a great deal!

At Mysore we visited Tipu Sultan's very well planned summer palace a historical monument of great repute. It was made in such a way that it would remain unaffected by the weather conditions outside, making it a pleasant place to be in the summers. The palace also had old coins, paintings and furniture from his time. We also visited the very well maintained Mysore palace which is gigantic and is one of a kind, full of treasures from the past. Both the palaces were in contrast to each other and depicted how having relations with the British affected their wellbeing at that time. We also visited the beautifully laid out Brindavan Gardens which is next to the Krishnarajasagaradam. The architecture was classic and the light and sound show left us mesmerised.

While travelling to Ooty, we came across the Bandipur National Park which had lush green forests, the landscapes grew more and more picturesque as the altitude increased. . In Ooty we visited the Botanical Garden which was stunning and was inhabited by the only few remnants of the endangered Todda Dynasty. The students talked to them and learnt about their culture and way of living. It was a truly enriching experience!

In Bangalore we visited the Banerghatta National Park which was extremely fascinating as it shelters various kinds of animals and birds most of which were new to us the gorgeous white peacock for instance. During the safari we spotted various animals, the most unique one being the white tiger. We saw the Vidan Swadha of Bangalore which was spectacular. We also visited the Vishwashreya technological and science museum which was mind-boggling as not a single aspect of science had been. Everyone was intrigued by the different experiments and working models.

Now that we look back we realize we do not have an option but to hope that we owned a time turner, like the one Hermione had, and could go back to all the fun and enjoyment we had! The learning shall always stay with us because whatever we did, our teachers stood by our side and allowed us to learn from our mistakes. Moreover, what we are most certain about is that all the bonds we made shall always remain intact because we know that trying to pull us apart now shall be a difficult task to accomplish for even the strongest of all!

