

# Explosive Situations

-Ngukivi Chishi, XII

While the rest of the world celebrated Valentine's Day, the Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir was struck by a sinister and cowardly attack on the afternoon of the 14th of February.

Forty Jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force were killed when a suicide bomber belonging to the terrorist group 'Jaish-e-Mohammad' targeted a convoy of seventy CRPF vehicles. As the situation invariably tends to be, there is reason to believe that the terrorist group in question and its founder, Masoor Azhar is aided by the Pakistani Army and funded by the Pakistani Government. Typically, the Government of Pakistan has issued a statement refusing to acknowledge its involvement in the attack. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has condemned the attack and apparently revoked Pakistan's status of 'most favoured nation' in terms of trade. The Prime Minister has recently issued a statement claiming that our armed forces have been given 'full freedom' to punish those behind the attack.

However, besides the question of whether we ought to retaliate immediately like hot-headed reactionaries or plot a prolonged revenge in cold logic, the crux of the matter draws a parallel between the Valley and the situation that has kept the North-East India in turmoil for decades. Kashmir, since the independence of our country has been caught in a tug of war between

India and Pakistan. China borders a great part of the disputed state as it does the state of Arunachal Pradesh and her stance on the latter has long since threatened India's sovereignty. Whether the indirect funding of terrorism in Kashmir or the insurgency in Nagaland, Manipur or Mizoram, the hand of the red dragon has stayed constant and its involvement has been unearthed persistently.

So, there are two sides to this crisis and China's hands are dug deep into both- on the external side, it continues to fuel tension on our borders. However, the other side of it is what primarily complicates matters for China and Pakistan continue to

take advantage of the internal tensions brewing within the country. The BJP government with its clarion call of a Hindutva state could alienate the Valley even as the unease spreads through the North East. The country mourns the death of its brave even as it sails into difficult waters while there poses the possibility of a change of guards in the upcoming General Elections. What must remain at the end of the day is the certainty of our democracy and the strength of our Republic. In the words of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, "Satta ka khel toh chalega, sarkare aayegi- jaayegi, partiya banegi-bigadegi. Magar ye Desh rahna chahiye. Is Desh ka loktantra Amar rahna chahiye."-A Democracy necessitates winning or losing elections and parties will come and go. But our nation must remain united. Our democracy must remain eternal.





# CAMPUS NEWS

On the 19th of February the Social Service League accompanied by Mrs. Lipika Bora, Mr. Anil Yadav, and Mrs. Debjani Bora visited the Missionaries of Charity where the students spent the afternoon interacting with women and children who were differently abled. The team had also taken along a few necessities for the women and children in the home. The team then proceeded to the Tezpur Mahila Samiti where they made interacted with the women who worked there as well as made them snacks and decorated the board for the weavers.



The regular P.D session organised for teachers every Thursday saw a new twist in the tale when Mr. Abinav Gogoi, Head of Careers took to the stage and organised a session on Inquiry Based Learning. The library rumbled with laughter and teachers left happy eager to try on another experiment in their respective classrooms.

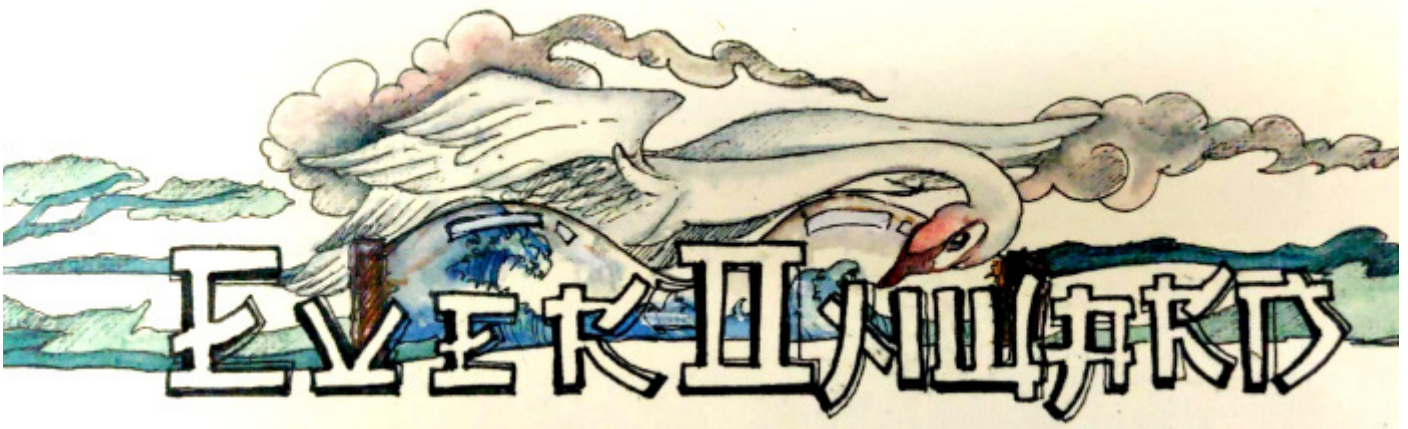


## THE OUTPOST

After Pulwama, the nation's thirst for revenge grows, creating a 'do-or-die' situation for the BJP. Meanwhile, Imran Khan's six-minute speech threatening India, reinstated his tag of a puppet PM. The London Fashion Week create an uproar with the likes of Victoria Beckham and Burberry showcasing their best. The rat race towards Artificial Intelligence intensifies as Xin Xiaomeng, world's first female AI news reporter is set to go on the floors soon. The Ram-Ayodhya dispute is scheduled for a 26th February hearing at the Supreme Court, a stint that may decide the dicey future of the saffron wave.







*This feature endeavors to illustrate more of the School's life and spill onto paper the ideas and thoughts of each House that forms the pillars of this institution. With each colour painting their own columns, we strive to record the tales and reveries of those who are willing to share.*

*-Nandini Garodia, Editor-in-Chief*

# BHOROLI HOUSE

*-Sieyina Meru, XII*

Bhoroli House has the distinction of being the oldest House approaching its 24th year on the 1st of April. The House has been a hallmark of shaping students into Aviators of today and citizens of tomorrow. Nestled in the far reaches of the School, the House has always held a place of pride in being one of the best kept buildings with its manicured lawns dotted with plants. Bhoroli has a rich history of exceptional alumni ranging from the prolific writer and Sahitya Akademi Award winner Janice Pariat to Sneha Khound, a graduate from the University of Oxford. The House has always stayed close to its roots sprinkled with activities that range from water fights to singing in unison to Jamelia's 'Superstar'. The art that adorns the walls of the House is reminiscent of a need to leave imprints on a structure that has been a home to generation of girls. It evokes the spirit of 'Ever Onward' a motto that is the guiding light for all who live and grow within the walls of blue. The House has had a legacy of young women who have excelled at multiple fields simultaneously drawing

accolades and appreciation while leaving behind a tremendous benchmark for other to live up to. While Bhoroli had once been the den of sportswomen who ruled the greens, today the girls enjoy an eclectic range of interests with culture and the arts taking a primary lead. While the House prides itself on its number of scholarly achievements, the drive within has always been to help girls discover their innate abilities and contribute towards the many House activities in every way they can. The essence of Bhoroli has been to groom girls and help them evolve into confident young ladies who can hold their own and face the uncertainties of life head-on. The ledgers of history of The Assam Valley School has on its Honour Boards innumerable Bhoroli girls who have left their imprint as much as a student leaders as they have of being students of acumen.

They say, once a Bhoroli girl always a Bhoroli girls, and where ever she ventures to seek countless horizons, may she continue to 'blue them away', as she did here, as an Aviator.





# In Conversation

**A**HSM's position can turn into a thankless job if the continuous motivation to inspire and educate, were overrun by paperwork and mundanity. Without the support and help of the Dame, the herculean job of the HSM could well turn into an impossible one. An HSM is to be an epitome of grace, language and dignity whom students emulate. The post was therefore traditionally reserved for teachers with a rock solid English foundation. Dr. Lesley Fox, the second Headmaster of AVS, chose to see beyond this stipulation when he appointed Mrs. Meenakshi Bora Gogoi, an Assamese Language teacher, the HSM of Bhoroli, the first Girls Boarding House at AVS. Bhoroli caught up for a quick conversation with this legendary teacher.

1. *Bhoroli*: How was your experience of being one of the oldest HSM's of Bhoroli ?

Mrs. Borah Gogoi (MBG): My experience of being one of the oldest HSM's has been a period of extensive and exhaustive learning. Having been a sportsperson myself, I bonded with my girls particularly on the games field where we played everything from football to table tennis. I always encouraged a curious mind hence there never was any dearth of topics for our conversations. I remember especially with great fondness the evenings where Ms. Atia Khan (who was then the Dame of Bhoroli) and I spent singing softly in our office after a long grueling day.

2. *Bhoroli*: How was Bhoroli different from other Houses ?

MBG: Bhoroli was then the only girl's House and participated in everything with a single-minded focus and determination. The House would be divided into half and would participate as Bhoroli-Manas & Bhoroli-Lohit during the annual Athletics day until the second girls House, Subansiri was established. The House since its inception was etched to pursue excellence and I take pride to have left an imprint there.

3. *Bhoroli*: If you could implement any change in Bhoroli, what would they be ?

MBG: As we race through the years and the generations and even as we encourage ambition to burn in the hearts of those who can chase it, I believe it is essential that students learn values that will hold them fast throughout their lives. The transition of a student from early years to a young adult must have the foundation of a strong value system that teaches them everything from wishing the time of the day to the art of introspection.

4. *Bhoroli*: Having spent nearly 24 years in this school, how does it feel to be finally leaving ?

MBG: AVS has been a constant for more than a decade



now. I grew as much as a professional as I did as a person. It was here that Mr. Paul Carling gave me the opportunity to organize 'Asom Divas' where the guests were Dr. Biren Dutta, Pranav Swarup Neog, Dr. Lakhi Goswami and the Guwahati Doordarshan telecasted the programme.

I am ever grateful to Mr. D N A Mounford who insisted that I work on the 'Assamese Ballet' (now Ballad) that has become an eternal part of the Founders' Day celebration. I have been extremely fortunate to have enjoyed a wonderful support system at School whether from the Infirmary and the staff who took great care of me during my illness or the administrative block who with great patience gave in to my eccentricity of moving my furniture each time the Assamese classroom was changed. I will miss my students who have now grown to be my friends and all the many ventures the HOS Ma'am Sonia Ghandy Mehta has allowed and encouraged me to pursue.

5. *Bhoroli*: If you were to describe Bhoroli in three adjectives, what would they be?

MBG: Spirited, Creative and Special.

6. *Bhoroli*: What message could you like to convey to the students of AVS ?

MBG: In the words of Marcus Gavey, " If you have no confidence in yourself you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence you have won even before you have started." Stay confident and stay true Aviators, for Truth must always be your strength.

New Kid on the Block;

# TRAPPED IN FREEDOM

-Tarana Lama, XII

Missing three months of school sounds like a dream came true. But it wasn't in my case. I was stuck in Kathmandu for three months instead of preparing for my Boards in Kalimpong where my school was. I didn't choose to miss school, especially since it was a deciding year for me like hundreds of others in my hometown which was engulfed in unrest.

I had gone to Kathmandu to visit my father for only a week during my summer vacations in June before

settling in to the rigors and demands of a Board class. I did not know back then that I'd be stuck there instead, for three months. Two days into my vacations, I was informed that a strike had begun at Kalimpong fanning the embers of the everpresent demand for Ghorkhaland. It was not as if I was taken by surprise since strikes were common place almost woven into the mundanity of our lives. I began panicking

however when the strike continued remorselessly over weeks showing no signs of easing and I had to cancel my flight four times in a row. There was no

way I could go back to Kalimpong and I was stuck here without a single notebook to try and pursue the syllabus we had barely begun at school. Considering I would be in Kathmandu for only a week, I had chosen to ignore the wise words of my mother and flew out sans books, sans notebooks and sans syllabus. I didn't know I would regret this decision so bitterly. The strike went on relentlessly and all the news I could get was over sporadic phone calls. They had cut off the internet throughout the district. None of my friends could send me notes to study. Every day I stayed in fear about the safety of my family. There was no supply of food and the people had no money. Transportation was totally cut off. Returning

home seemed like a distant possibility. Things got worse when I learnt that my school in Kalimpong had discretely started classes for the Boardies in class ten and twelve without the knowledge of the authorities. Even though it was very risky, all of the students nonetheless went for these classes. My father and his few friends who had their children studying in Kalimpong started to look for safe methods to get into town. He found out that only military vehicles were allowed to pass through.

He called up his friends in Siliguri to find out if they could arrange a military vehicle for me and a few other boys for a safe passage to Kalimpong, who were also studying there. He was finally able to arrange for one. On the 15th of August, after exactly three months in Nepal, I was finally able to return to India. The military vehicle along with a few other Nepali families reached us safely to Kalimpong. My mother came to get me and we had to walk back home tugging my luggage which

turned out to be literally, an uphill task. The strike went on for another month. We existed in a world of our own without the usual luxury of the internet. The busy streets of Kalimpong lay silent. All that we could see were students with their head down ploughing to their tuitions doggedly through circuitous routes and I was one of them. It was something I never imagined I would do. Despite the odds, we completed our syllabus and got Board-ready. The strike finally came to an end and the people felt the relief of having avoided a near starvation situation. Although life went back to normal, the experience I had left a deep imprint on me and will be something I will always remember.

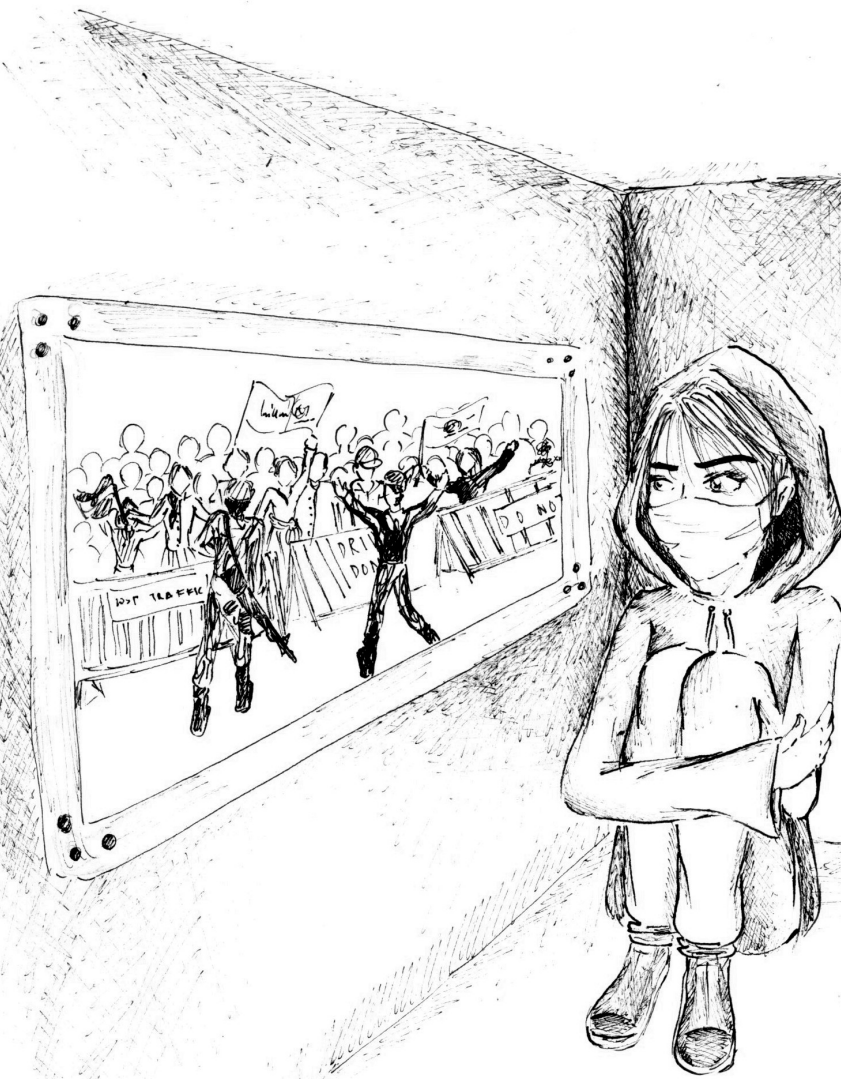


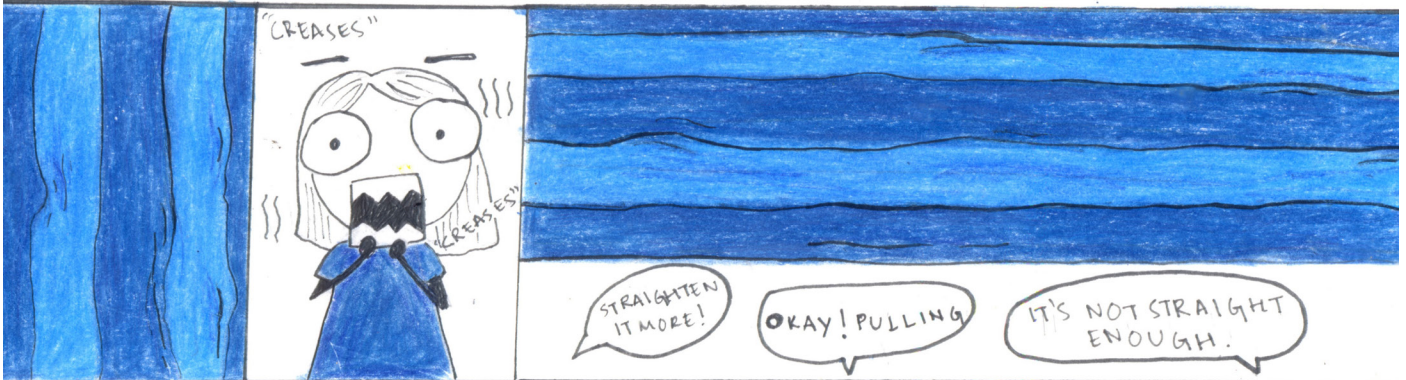
Illustration: Takhe Tamo Reela



# Comic Strip

-Srishti Pegu & Jirmeen Tok, XII

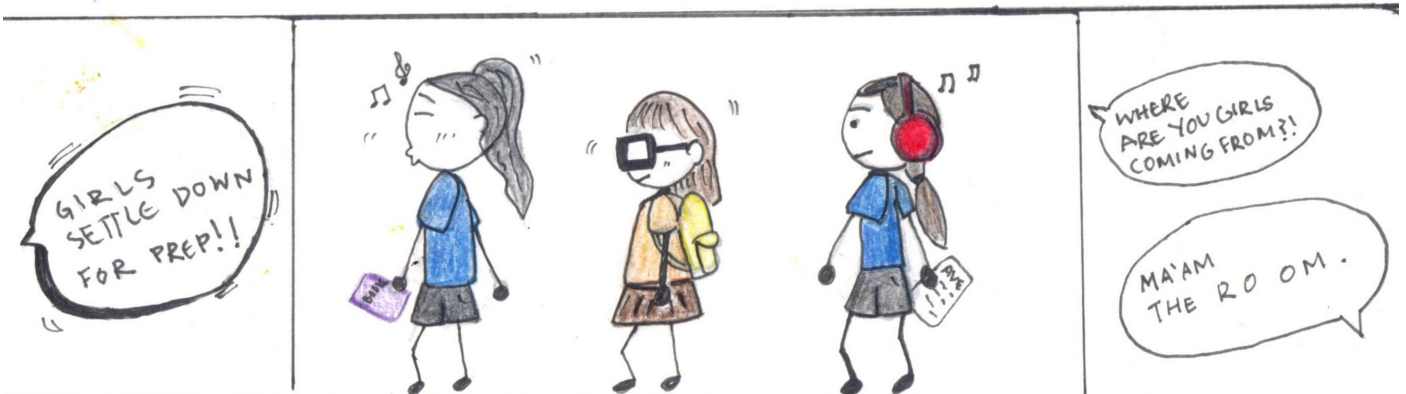
"NEVER ENOUGH"



"JOURNEY TO THE EAST"



"AVE-TORS"



"A QUIET PLACE"





# HOME

-Moom Lego, X

Let's go back  
Where flowers bloom  
Every spring  
And love is a daily boon

Let's go there  
To smell the rain  
Of summer monsoons  
And heal ourselves again

Let's meet them  
Sit together for tea  
In the autumn evenings  
As the leaves fall to glory



Let's stay there  
Huddled together  
Away from the winter wind  
Embracing the hearth's embers

A year will pass  
And spring will come by  
Rainbows will emerge  
And birds, with joy, will cry

Let's go home  
Let's go there  
And stay  
Forever more

Illustration: Moom Lego



## ROUNDING OFF

-Jirmin Toko, XII





## Ripple #95

-Saziia Selvia, XII

On the window side  
of the bus,  
the wind pulls hard  
on her hair.  
"Better this way," she  
thinks,  
"than the weight of  
the ornaments  
which would chain  
me to him forever."

## Tongue of Slip!!

1. You're take outing something? - Pranjal Saha, XII (Yeah, but not you.)
2. The viceroy has excretionary powers - Saptarishi Acharjee, XII (Hope he keeps it to himself.)
3. Atleast I have pass of hoping - Stuti Agarwal, XII (Not in English.)
4. Even I does - Veronica Choudary, XII (You're not Bambi.)
5. Please get up your head - Sempisang Toy, XII (Isn't yours bigger?)
6. I sleep five days in an hour - Naviya Chamariya. X (Sweet dreams.)

## Keep It Reel!

### Flock Flight

-Himangshu Baruah, XII



Editor-in-Chief: Nandini Garodia

Deputy Editor: Sieyina Meru

Associate Editors: Aakangsha Dutta & Saziia Selvia

Correspondents: Sempisang, Jeremy, Eloziini, Sanjana & Moom

Design & Layout: Jeremy Jahau & Moom Lego

Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

Publisher: The Assam Valley School, P.O. Balipara, Dist. Sonitpur, Asom-784101, India

E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

Telephone: 09678074320/08812009627 Website: www.assamvalleyschool.com