

# For God's Sake!

-Karma Chamling, XI

New Kid On The Block:

Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela

Who is god? The answer to this question can delve into many discussions. The most oft heard reply to this over used question would result in the name of a deity from one of the primary religions of the world. We have been given unique ways in which we can connect with God. In our differences lie our many similarities. Hindus express their devotion to God through *kirtan* (devotional song) and *nitya* (traditional dance) and meditation practices that can go on for hours at a time. Christians also engage in song and prayer as an expression of their devotion to the Supreme as do the Sufis. Muslim read the Quran five times a day as do the Hasidics. Our difference in practices do not negate the fact that almost every religion requires us to bow our head in prayer and souls in submission. It does not take away from the datum either that most are hounded by age old dogmas that no longer facilitate a channel to the 21st century citizen of the world with his creator in a superior universe who in all probability is caught in the screen of his phone. History traces the path that society has forged to evolve to where it stands today. Religion was introduced as a means to control the joint consciousness of communities to meet political goals. It has since then worn and woven many cloaks each designed to suit the desires and dictates of a few.

++++The name of god has long been touted to make men build pyramids, dig rivers and burn at the stake free thinkers who dared to question. The ambiguity of the religious texts allows the existence of not merely versions of how heaven can be reached but also how it

becomes one's mortal obligation to ensure that there is but the acceptance of only 'one' version of the cherished goal. When the world of technology meets the dredges of religion, it becomes toxic. It has the capability of spreading ideas that turn cancerous the moment they hit minds that have long stagnated in futility.

The very minds that are vulnerable to becoming radical disciples of illogically selective and dangerously wrong interpretations of religious texts which inevitably have disturbingly distressing consequences. Spreading like wildfire all over the world is the concept of using religious connotations as justification

for committing unspeakable acts of violence and hate; the most recent attacks in Sri Lanka being one among several. What they fail to understand is the gravity of the frightening power they try to yield and the magnitude of the collateral damage that follows in the form of innocent lives. The power they try to yield is that of the 'Hand of God'-a desire forbidden to any form of creation.

The activities of Jihadist question the teachings of all religions. These activities are the core reasons behind the inclination towards atheism amongst the youth. Violent actions and such monstrosities question the very existence of the Almighty. In reality, these holy structures are just as common as any other. One does not need to go to temples and mosques to experience or follow God. People do not realise that there is something spiritual in them and all we need is to master the technique to experience God through self-love. Human existence and the survival of the world lay in the hope of peace, if not for the sake of survival then perhaps for 'the sake of God'.





# STARS OF THE WEEK

On the 7th of May, 2019, the ICSE and ISC Results were declared;

At the ICSE level, Ananya Singh secured the highest percentage with a remarkable 98.4% thus creating history in AVS.

At The ISC level, Lune Lakshmi Dai secured the highest percentage with a remarkable 98.25%.

Our best wishes to both of them.



## In Conversation

*Visiting AVS for the IC<sub>3</sub> regional forum, the first to be held in the North East, as a Keynote Speaker, The Assam Valley Express caught a quick conversation with the charismatic Mr. Ganesh Kohli, the Founding President and Chief Mentor of the IC<sub>3</sub> Movement.*



**AVE:** What made you switch from teaching mathematics to working in the field of counselling?

**Ganesh Kohli (GK):** I did not shift from teaching to counselling rather I did it simultaneously. I liked both but if I had to choose then I would prefer counselling because different people have different interests and that allows for some versatility. Work for me is like going to the movies. It's fun and exciting because it is full of surprises and challenges. Work has always been synonymous to adventure.

**AVE:** Would you please share with us your experiences in the TED X conference?

**G.K:** I have been to other conferences however it was my first TedX and it was an amazing experience sharing with people my ideas and my vision which will hopefully resonated in the crowd and will go beyond.

**AVE:** What led you to form the IC<sub>3</sub> movement and what is your vision for it?

**G.K:** Students are leaving school without a navigation system because they weren't guided by their teachers. I wanted counselling to be available for all students because it is essential. IC<sub>3</sub> aims to provide training to teachers to become counsellors in school free of charge in order to minimize the gap for the 1,76,000 schools without a counsellor in Asia.

**AVE:** Would you tell us a little about the Aha Movement you are a part of?

**G.K:** The movement is basically a mission for people to have inner peace and outer abundance. People share insights on life and what are some of the best ways to deal with situations by learning to be in the present through meditation and being mindful.

AVE, Saturday, 11th May





-Jeremy Jahau, XI

On the 9th of May, 2019, The Assam Valley School hosted its first IC3 Regional Forum, the first of its kind to take place in Assam. 'IC3' is a movement taken on by modern educators to showcase the importance and benefits of skilled career and college counselling in education institutions across the world. The movement aims to "Sensitize, Glamorize and Develop" and applies these concepts to build awareness amongst the student and teaching community towards careers.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Abhinav Gogoi, Head of Careers Department at School and the champion of the IC3 movement in the North East. This was followed by an address by the Head of School, Ms. Sonya Ghandy Mehta, where she spoke about the significance of the 'IC3' movement and the importance of career counselling for students in grades 11 and 12. The Department of Dance then presented a performance depicting three different dance forms in celebration of India's myriad dance heritage. This was followed by a speech from Mr. Ashutosh Aggarwal, the Keynote Speaker for the event, and founder of Sanskriti, the Gurukul, Guwahati. He spoke about future careers and characteristics required by individuals to be part of the generation X workforce. The next speaker, Mr. Ganesh Kohli, founder of the IC3 Movement, elaborated on the aims of IC3 and the wonders an effective Counselling laboratory can have on the growth of students in schools.

After a short break, the second session commenced with

a panel discussion chaired by Mr. Abhinav Gogoi and the members were Ms. Pallavi Sharma, Regional Advisor for South Asia, Tiffin University, Ms. Lalchhanhimi Purkayastha of Ashoka University and Dr. R. Shridhar, Vice Chancellor of Kalinga University. The discussion centered around the importance of holistic development of a student and the impact it had in deciding the career path beginning with college applications. The audience actively participated in the discussion as they did in the Careers exhibition that followed thereon.

Post lunch break, the third session commenced attended by a larger crowd and saw Assistant Professor Mitul Baruah of the Department of Sociology, Ashoka University who spoke on Nature and Society. The fourth session had Mr. Ganesh Kohli speak on 'working with parents' and strengthening the school and parent relationship in order to facilitate better guidance programmes for students.

The final session of the day saw Mr. Sujay Paul, an Entrepreneur and Motivational Speaker, who spoke about reasons that kept us from achieving our goals in life and fears that we gathered from society as we grew. The day ended with an enthusiastic interaction between the visiting Universities and the audience. The success of the first IC3 Regional forum ensured that we will see many more of similar events organized in School allowing the student and teaching community a wider awareness of a world waiting to be ventured into.







-Arhata Saikia, House Prefect

The phoenix makes her way through the desert skies defying the fortune's spite, revived from ashes and rises higher than ever. This phoenix's fire binds and forges the "SuzeKnights" together. "SuzeKnights" is a word each Subansiri girl carries in her heart with pride and elegance. A Subansiri girl hopes to make her House brighter in every aspect and this very hope races in veins giving her the determination and fortitude to pursue excellence. The responsibilities that I bear as a Subansiri House Prefect has taught me to give my best effort under all circumstances and remember that effort shrinks the realms of the impossible. I joined School in 2015 and overtime have watched the Yellow House jump from strength to strength contributing to every aspect of School life. Under the tenure of each Batch who have lead Subansiri from the front, we have learned something new. Each time I stand to address the House I do so

bearing in mind the many traditions and hardwork that have gone to build this House of the rising sun. Being a part of this House instils in us a sense of sisterhood and camaraderie and holds us together through the thick and thin reminding us that friendships that grow within these walls not just last a lifetime but sustains lifelines. With the constant support of the girls in the diverse field of sports and culture we have come a long way and seen both success and failure. With focus and hard work Subansiri-Namdang took home the prestigious Athletics Trophy this year and we will continue to endeavour to bring laurels to the House by excelling not just in events but in the very spirit of sportsmanship and culture. We wear the colour Yellow with pride and keep alive within us the fire to excel and leave behind a blazing trail bearing the legacy of the phoenix which will for all times rise from its ashes to reach the zenith of glory.



## HOUSE DAME:

**Mrs. Neeta Hazarika**

*The lifeline of the house, making sure the girls move on time with her suspiciously 20-minute early watch. Loved and respected by all. A person without whom the House would feel empty.*



# BEHIND THE REFLECTION

-Deirdre Basumatary, Associate Editor (ISC Batch of 2018)

My childhood passed by in a blur and all through my adolescence I worked in the fields with my mother. At the age of 18, I had already circumambulated 7 times around the holy fire. Now I have a family of my own. My wife, five years younger to me, at 20, is the mother of two. I was sent to a local school and know how to read and write. My wife, Hema, doesn't. So I take the time after I come home to teach her the little that I know. Hema understands. She observes and absorbs. From a very young age I had learnt to acknowledge my own liberty and cherish that of the others. For this reason, I allow Hema to have her own thoughts rather than imprinting mine on her. I say this again. Hema understands. She knows the seasons don't understand. She knows that it is not everyday that the crops in the field bring home bread. For years, we lived off of debt to feed the family. Then Hema began stitching. We managed to get a cheap sewing machine and slowly began to pay off our debts. It brought home bread. We taught our children whatever we knew till we were confident enough to send them to school. I worked twice as hard. Hema worked twice as hard. I know we could've left for better but I had been taught to never trade our ancestral land and the fields that my forefathers had tended. For years I have been taking trips to the field back and forth. I had taken those trips with my father till I was about ten. Now I take the trips occasionally with my son and in those trips I'd share stories my father had left me

as heirloom. He loves the one where I met a Mr. Patloon who had come all the way from the city for a survey. My son giggles every time I mention how Mr. Patloon out of despair and drowning in sweat couldn't hold it any longer and took a dump along the side of the road. No sooner did he sigh with relief than a toad appeared before him making him run away screaming. I love taking trips with my son. His amused eyes almost reflect my own childhood. Soon enough he'd be of an age when his trips to the field would become a daily chore.

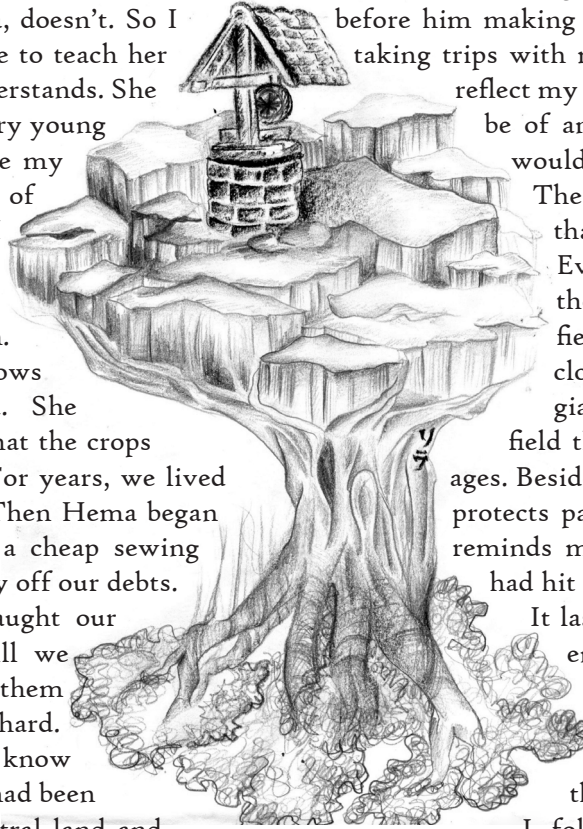
The thought upsets me. I want more than just this arid land for him.

Every year, the village barely sees the rain. Most days I stand in the field looking at the sky hoping for clouds that refuse to descend. A giant well lies on the way to the field that has been devoid of water for ages. Beside the well is a big banyan tree that protects passers-by from the raging sun. It reminds me of the time a terrible drought had hit the village. It was a time of crisis.

It lasted a short time. But it was long enough to rob people of their will to live.

After the drought had passed, my father decided to check on the fields. Curious that I was, I followed him. I watched from a distance as I saw my father stop by the well, standing under the banyan tree for a moment. As I blinked, he was gone. All I heard was a thud.

Today, I walk down the same path with my son and his amused eyes almost reflect my own childhood. Almost.



Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela



# The Ageing Frame

-Aditi Thekedath, X

Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela

It was the month of January; the sun was out in full bloom and little Danny was turning eight that day. He sprang out of bed, hopped and fluttered from one room to the other squealing in delight at the thought of being all grown up. His parents were taking him to the Old Town toy shop to buy him a gift of his choice. Danny had been visiting that shop ever since he could walk and it was one of his favorite places to visit. His parents thought it was a rather dull choice for a child, owing to the dim lights and vintage architecture and suggested another shop with a wider range of toys. Regardless, Danny was adamant since he found the shop fascinating. It sat around the corner of the road on which they lived, a century behind its time. The ecstatic eight year old ran into the shop and began hunting for a present. He was darting through the cobwebbed shelves, when a painting on display caught his eye. It was of a young girl with long raven hair who looked about his age. The painting sat on a wooden frame and carved on the frame were some strange words that Danny paid no heed to. He had found his gift. His parents bought him the painting and when they returned home, Danny hurried

to his room and hung the painting on the wall opposite his bed. Gradually, he started to take keen interest in the painting. He'd have heartfelt conversations with it, often for hours on end, talking about his dreams and aspirations, his fears and hopes, everything and nothing. His mother did not render this habit of Danny's too much thought or unnecessary worry. Months flew by as did the years and Danny turned into a fine young man. Like two sides of the same coin, the little girl in the painting too had grown. She was now a beautiful lady with large eyes and symmetrical features. Danny continued to converse with the girl on the wall, for she was his closest friend. As the years passed, they seemed to grow older together. His parents had passed away and now she was all he had. Broken with age and sickness as he lay on his deathbed, his eyes remained fixed on the frame. He saw the little girl now an aged lady poised under the cherry blossom tree like she had been the first day he saw her. He watched her loosen her grip and fall to the soft painted grass at the foot of the tree. He closed his eyes and waited for his breath to leave his body. They would now finally meet.

## THE SUPER SUZEKNIGHT

Usually lost amidst the sea of other creatures you can see strolling across the campus, the Suzeknight has her own way of making her mark in the world. She is fierce and competitive and stands as tall as her Spartan brothers.

A force that is not to be underestimated.

Though they may not look it, always be careful and mindful of their wrath.

Caricature By: Anushcka Joshi





# THE OUTPOST

North Korea expresses annoyance over the 'failed Summit' with Trump by conducting an additional missile test. Baby Sussex, the newborn son of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry floats into troubled waters after US Authorities pronounce him a US Citizen by birth. Mamata Banerjee refuses to accept calls and disaster aid from Modi calling him instead an 'Ex-PM'. AAP's Atishi Singh is dragged into controversy after pamphlets questioning her career and morality is distributed marking yet another low in Indian politics this General Elections. Chandrababu Naidu promotes Mamta Banerjee as PM even as Bengal reels under Fani and 'Maa Kali'.



## SUMMER TALES: MENTAL FAILS

-Jirmin Toko, XII





## Ripple #100

-Hiya Harinandini,  
Deputy Editor (ISC Batch of 2015)

*The last time a boy  
scraped his knee, they  
stared at his blood and  
called him a man  
You could say he taught  
well*

*Because three drinks and  
a decade later, when they  
carved him like a pig,  
His son gathered a  
roomful of women to cry  
just for him*

## Tongue of Slip!!

1. I have a having a good idea - Mr. Thajeb Ali Hazarika (*Having a good time, Sir?*)
2. I don't want to be shorts - Rashika Malpani, XII (*You're short out of luck.*)
3. We'll go to British to study - Nivranshu Baruah, XII (*They prefer East-Indian company.*)
4. Every Dominos is a Pizza Hut - Saptarishi Acharjee, XII (*I thought the pizza was the only thing baked.*)
5. I have one legs - Tarana P. Lama, XII (*But no brains.*)
6. Failure is the success to the key - Mr. A.S. Huidrom. (*I'd rather not have the key, sir.*)

## Keep It Reel! Insomnia

- Sempisang Toy, XII



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