



Propose the Opposition

“370 ways to get your ex back”

FOR

- Naviya Chamariya, X

The history of Kashmir's accession is not one that doesn't spark enough controversy already. In fact, the justification for the revocation of Article 370 lies nowhere but in its own history. Back in 1947, when the instrument of accession was being signed by various princely states, the process was not as smooth for the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. While the political leadership in Kashmir led by Sheikh Abdullah was in favour of integration, Maharaja Hari Singh believed it would be of advantage to his reign to remain independent from both Pakistan and India. But Pakistan's infiltration

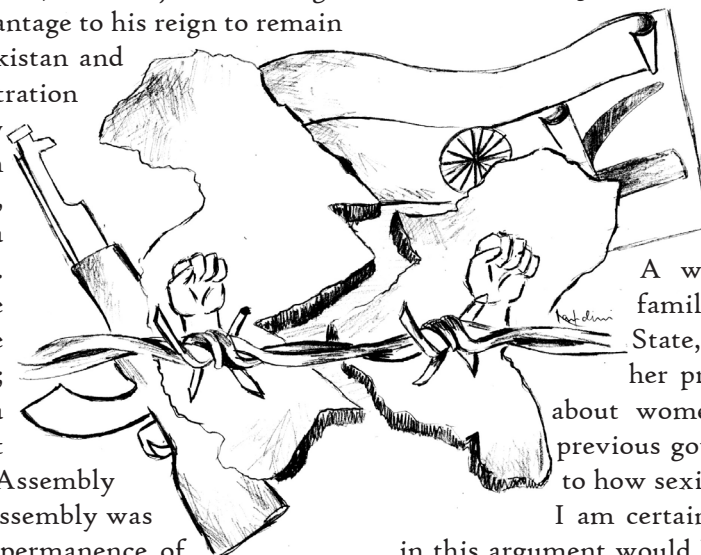
to its regions, which today is known as Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), led to the Maharaja appealing to India for help. This swift move gave rise to Article 370 in exchange for Kashmir's accession; however it was to be a temporary move, one that lasted until the Constituent Assembly of J&K was formed. The Assembly was ratified in 1956 but the impermanence of the Article remained sidelined. Revoking Article 370 was only a bold and honest measure which the 17th Lok Sabha has taken, finally fulfilling an age old clause which the previous regimes had conveniently ignored. What is 370? 370 gives special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, a heavily conflicted zone in Asia, contested for by India, Pakistan and China. The Special Status given to J&K is inclusive of the following: The Indian Parliament cannot make any law without the consent of the State Assembly of Jammu Kashmir which also has its own flag and Constitution. President's Rule cannot be proclaimed in that state; only

Governor's Rule can and Jammu Kashmir has its own criminal code, named Ranbir Penal Code. The one argument that comes to mind while understanding the Article 370 is that its very existence goes against the principles promised by the Preamble. The state of Jammu and Kashmir remains thus alienated. Unlike popular belief, the Article 370 which aimed at promoting welfare did everything otherwise. Industrialisation slowed down in J&K as compared to the other regions,

their economy was stunted, there was an absence of trade and businesses and it made the residents of the state identify themselves primarily and *only* as Kashmiris.

A woman born in a Kashmiri family who married outside of her State, would lose inheritance to her property. While we complain about women's position in India, no previous government has pointed out as to how sexist this Article was.

I am certain one of the prime concerns in this argument would be how the process in which this is being implemented is of major concern. We must remember however that a festering wound of over seventy years that has seen the loss of innumerable lives, will not be easy. The steps the present government has taken, done so after clearly winning the people's mandate with over 282 seats and with a manifesto that clearly detailed its intentions. This move therefore is clearly a reflection of the people's choice. In the words of the famous Roman General Vegetius, 'In order to have peace, there must be war'. Revoking Article 370 is one step closer to Sardar Vallabhai Patel's dream of One India. One step closer to 'Akhand Bharat'.



Illustrator: Nandini Garodia

AGAINST

- Imna Jamir, XI

I believe that the manner in which Article 370 was abrogated was grisly and highly undemocratic to say the least. A lot of people are and will be saying that it was the only way to reintegrate Kashmir and that the festering issue of over seventy years must be dealt with a firm hand. However, if all problems such as this could be resolved by force then the pride of being the world's largest 'Democracy' falls flat. The point of electing political leaders become futile if they fail to resort to diplomatic solutions for volatile situations such as this. As Bill Clinton once said that Kashmir is "the world's most dangerous place" and negating Kashmir's special status overnight, is inadmissible. Any dictator with the IQ of a 15-year-old would simply use force to curb matters that do not comply according to their wishes however in a democracy such as India things look bleak if one was to draw a parallel to a authoritarian government or even an totalitarian one, to say the least. That's the price we pay for being a democracy. The least the government could do was give the Kashmiris a heads up before cutting off all sources of communication and imposing a curfew. "Many people had to go to bed hungry due to the abrupt manner of this event," was stated by an anonymous citizen of J&K. The fact that the Government bypassed the State Legislature by imposing Governor's rule is unprecedented and uncalled for as it literally means that the Parliament took permission from itself to repeal

Article 370.

The situation with J&K has always been 'complicated' and the special status it got through Article 370 was 'needed'. Let's get this straight, the special status given to J&K was not a gift but a right promised to them by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. It was a contract agreed to by the J&K and Indian leaders and the removal of it is in violation of that very contract. The Indian government agreed to give temporary special status to the state of J&K but in 1957, due to the dissolution of the State's Constituent Assembly, it was considered to have become a permanent feature, which was confirmed by the Supreme Court of India and the J&K High Court. Hence the Government's decision to erase its existence without paying any heed to the wants and needs of the people of the state of Kashmir almost overnight, is illegal. How can people support a Government that is not willing to work out a rational solution, for instance, amending or replacing such a huge article while keeping the Kashmiris in mind? The curfew and ban on media cannot continue interminably for normalcy must return.

Alienating the people without making a conscious effort to win them over will only worsen situations to a point of no return. While we wait and watch if we have elected a jester to be our Leader, Kashmir for long has been our Tibet.



- Hriidaii Raj Chettri, The Delhi Public School, Siliguri

The lush, sprawling gardens of The Assam Valley School first bore witness to our arrival. We were in a school on alien territory which was soon made familiar to us by the students of AVS, brimming with hospitality and the zeal to assist, they made us feel at home. The 15th edition of the East India Debates entailed not only a

competition but also a myriad of experiences. The topics for the debates ranged from topics with a philosophical overtone to topics that dealt with controversial issues and national problems. The spirit of competition was vibrant and vigorous. The Assam Valley School drove home the point of learning from our losses, growing

stronger with our triumphs and most importantly, speaking our mind and engaging in healthy competition. The Assam Valley School which was unfamiliar and strange, ironically reconfigured itself into something pleasant and familiar. The arduous work was always

performed with lopsided grins and utter sincerity. It was in truth a job well done. As the 15th edition of the East India Debates draws to a close, we hope that The Assam Valley School will continue to foster the spirit of competition. By seeking and blundering, we learn.

IN DETENTION

- Ojas Jyoti Hazarika, XII

The National Register of Citizens was a step taken by the Bharatiya Janata Party on the order of the Supreme Court to cull out illegal immigrants who had continued to cross the borders post 1971.

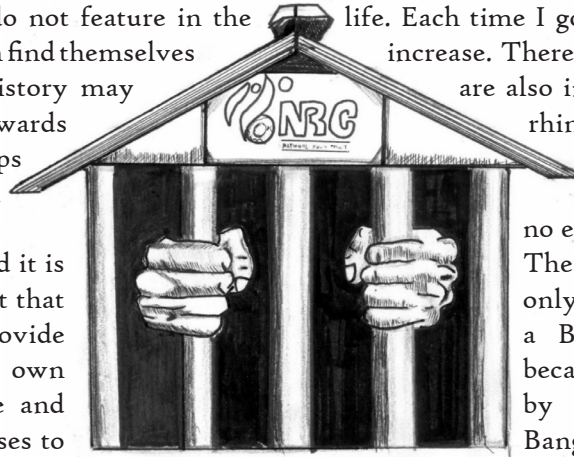
The Government has invested into building refugee camps for those whose names do not feature in the NRC list. As of now nineteen lakh find themselves stateless. While the pages of history may point its fingers dangerously towards a Nazi Germany, for those camps set up at Goalpara, may still have a different purpose. While Human Rights must be preserved it is also equally essential to point out that a state cannot function nor provide for the multitude it calls its own while also feeding innumerable and an unaccountable mass that refuses to slow down.

While Goalpara now houses six of these detention camps, the Government has made clear that those who wish to appeal to the tribunals may do so within the next ten days.

I remember as a child I enjoyed seeing the one-horned

rhinos of Kaziranga thrive amidst the lush, green tall grasses that was synonymous to the National Park. Twelve years down the line all one can see are houses that have cropped up along the borders of the park often intruding into spaces that clearly belonged to the wild life. Each time I go there, the people and the houses increase. There are also chances that these people are also involved in illegal poaching of the rhinos. The future of the state and its rich diversity depends on population control and there is no easy way of doing this.

The palpable communal distrust has only increased in the state where a Bengali is frowned upon solely because of the language also spoken by the illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The discontent arises not from communal disharmony but from the loss of land that is taken away and divided amongst immigrants in return for votes. The NRC must be supported despite the shadows of detention camps for the existence and greater good of the people of Assam. It is a blessing despite the disguise.



The Wandering Mind

- Aanya P. Sarkar, VI

Jane looked out of her bedroom window wondering what lay ahead. After all she was just a young girl in a huge world which seemed to be getting bigger with every passing day. Jane had a knack for inventing things much to the disappointment of her mother. She wanted her to focus on her studies rather than roam around searching for scraps to make a device to stop mothers from discouraging children to invent. Jane had a laboratory which actually was the garage no longer in use as their vehicle had long been sold. She kept all her precious gadgets there.

One starry night as Jane was teaching her dog- Jimmy the 'stay' command, she saw a figure walking by. At first, she did not bother but when she saw the figure entering her laboratory she rushed down to the garage and flung open the door to find a tall lady of average build observing Jane's work and nodding from time to time. The lady swung

around to see a little less infuriated Jane staring at her with eyes as curious as her own. 'Oh, hello there', said the Lady. 'This must be your garage'. 'It is', answered Jane haughtily, 'actually it is my inventing laboratory'.

There was a strange sparkle in the lady's eyes at this. 'Ah', she said. 'I am extremely sorry to intrude. It is just that it's raining outside so I thought about taking shelter here for some time. By the way you have some lovely work in here'. This compliment pleased Jane and the conversation began. After a few minutes which seemed like hours, the lady bid goodbye and was just about to leave when Jane called out to her. 'Wait!' She cried, 'you did not tell me your name!'.

The lady looked over her shoulder, smiled and said, 'Marie Curie'. Before Jane could recover, the Lady had walked out into the rain and very strangely left no footprints behind.



LOSING THE GAMBLE

- Pranjit Goswami, XII

The National Register of Citizens, famously abbreviated as the NRC is a register maintained by the Government of India containing names & certain relevant pieces of information for identification of all genuine Indian citizens. The purpose of NRC update is to identify Indian citizens amongst all the present residents of the state thereby leading to the identification of illegal migrants residing in that state, who entered into it after the midnight of 24 March 1971.

The decisions of the Government regarding immigrants has been a complete irony because during the initial years of India's Independence the Government was lenient with its immigrant policies to show its support to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Little did the then Congress Government realize that this convoluted policy would lead to Assam being unable to fend for those who truly belong.

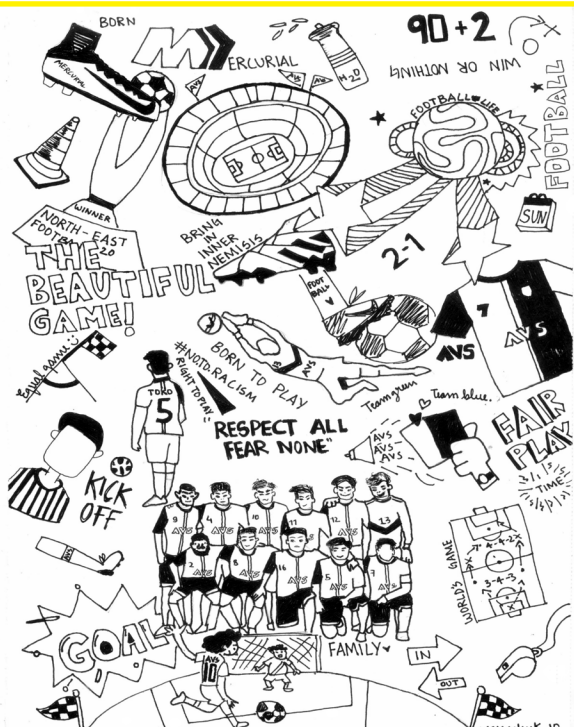
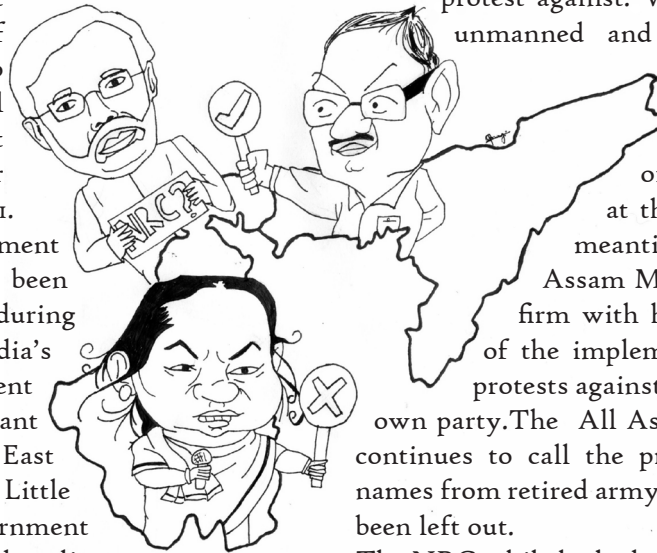
The question of NRC has evoked varied emotions across the state. The indigenous people of the state feel it a burden to prove the authenticity of their citizenship of a place they have belonged to over generations. The Opposition party use the same ploy to add to a narrative that protects their vote bank. While the ruling BJP stands answerable to these questions and more, the

decision to implement the NRC was the Apex Court's and this basic fact seem to stay lost in jargon.

'Indians or not, we are first humans' is what the West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee's Government's stand remains on the NRC which they vociferously protest against. While Bengal's borders remain unmanned and the tidal wave of human population continues to grow, only time will tell if this vote bank policy in the garb of a humanitarian stand, came at the cost of human lives. In the meantime, the Chief Minister of Assam Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal stands firm with his Government's undertaking of the implementation of the NRC despite protests against it from within the ranks of his own party. The All Assam Students Union (AASU) continues to call the process faulty where scores of names from retired army officials to sitting MLA's have been left out.

The NRC while looked upon clinically for a larger good, demands an error free as well and non-corrupt process. With the announcement of the final list which has left out over nineteen lakh names, the future of many stand at stake. The prudent move of the Supreme Court to strengthen India's border and citizenship policy must be handled with care by both the Central and the State Government as in stands to scrutiny, not only by the world but also bears the responsibility to ensure that this does not lead to a large-scale humanitarian crisis.

Illustrator: Moom Lego



KICK OFF!

- Tsering Wangchuk, XI

THE OUTPOST



Trump finally found a way to go too far. It turns out that there might still be a line in American politics that he had not crossed. He has wasted no time in attempting to torch Nancy Pelosi's impeachment gamble. Hasan Minhaj, at his satirical best tweeted about how he did not get a chance to say 'Howdy, Modi!' at an event where PM Modi and President Trump addressed over 50,000 people. Curfew continues in Kashmir for the 52nd consecutive day. Greta Thunberg stunned the UN, as she posed the poignant statement to their inaction, "How dare you!"

CAMPUS NEWS

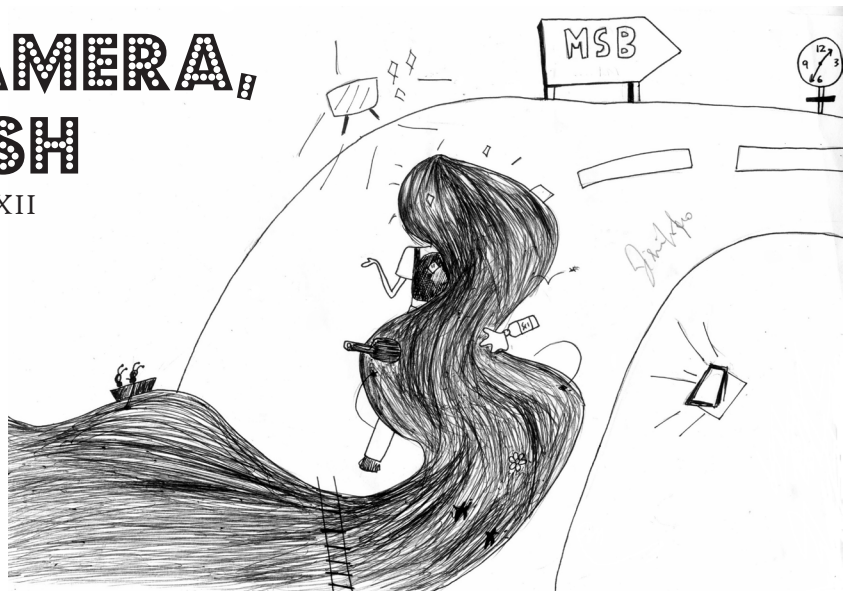
The 18th of September witnessed the School gear up for The Inter House General Quiz Competition to battle out for the Quiz Cup; testing one's knowledge on current affairs, politics, sports and various other segments which also encompassed a visual and audio round. The quiz concluded with Subansiri- Namdang lifting the Quiz cup. The runners up were Kopili-Dhansiri while Jinari-Manas and Bhoroli-Lohit placed third and fourth respectively.

The Assam Valley School bagged the 'School of The Year' Award at The Telegraph School Awards at Guwahati on the 29th of September '19. AVS also received Honours Certificates for excellence in Academics and Co-Curricular Education. Heartiest congratulations to the AVS community.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, UNLEASH

- Jirmin Toko, XII



Ripple #110

- Divyana Das, XII

The crown of gold and
silver was what they
wanted,
Nature offered them
clothes woven by the
light of the moon.
Dipped in the elixir of
sunlight,
She gave them the stars
as crowns,
Man chose instead
To wrench the coal and
darken life.

Tongue of Slip!!

1. I hate bee bites - Sempisang Toy, XII (*And your English stings us*)
2. Give me some silent times - Aakangsha Dutta, XII (*Speaks volumes*)
3. Give me some water to eat. - Krishnav Kanoria (*Food before thought*)
4. My leg increased - Moom Lego, X (*Not what we meant by a leg up*)
5. There is too much chicken in this bone - Ojas Krish, IX (*So would you prefer boneless chicken?*)
6. Is holidays tomorrow for debate shooting - Nandini Garodia, XII (*The motion is lost*)

Keep It Reel!

SMALL BLESSINGS

-Priyangsha Chittaranjan, ISC Batch of 2016

Editor-in-Chief: Nandini Garodia

Deputy Editor: Sieyina Meru

Associate Editor: Aakangsha Dutta & Sempisang Toy

Correspondents: Saziia, Jeremy, Anoushka, Letminlun, Parthiv, Eloziini, Moom & Ojas

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E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

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

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