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Dial M for Murder

-Mr. Debnath Pyne, Department of Accounts and Commerce

Modi Magic; Mamata Myth; Minority Mandate: I have to stop before exhausting my alliteration of words starting with M but not before mentioning the change of humble Ma Mati Manush to symbolic Khela Hobe (let's play) and more vibrant Jai Shri Ram or very colourful Tumpa Sona series of parody songs coming from the Left-Congress-ISF alliance. Yes, it is the only entertainment for the stakeholders in the West Bengal Assembly Election 2021. The rest is not for them. They might be happy to know that for their safety 1,000

“It is a fight between ‘Left’ versus those who left versus those who are left, resulting in a pandemonium of political farce.”

companies of the Central force will be deployed during the epic 8 phase election month but I wonder how long this euphoria will stay when they get to know that ` 700 crores are being used from the taxpayers' money to nurture these forces to witness the game; though this fact is not much advertised.

The people are confused with the leaders changing colours at random more aptly named as 'Joining Mela'. The only problem remaining in this age of social media is their previous opinions being preserved and circulated by the netizens who refuse to give up the belief of a utopian world with loyal politicians. This time it is not only the refused candidates who are switching sides but even the selected ones are also joining the opposition

party. Perhaps these switching chameleons are better equipped to read the writing on the wall. What will be the situation if the same person gets the ticket from two parties for the same constituency? This will become a constitutional paradox in the history of India. Will the candidate be allowed to fight against oneself under two banners? If so, it will be really difficult for the candidate to manage two campaigns. It has not happened and probably will not happen but shows the poor state of political loyalty in West Bengal.

There is a third and silent force in this election, which is the Left-Congress-ISF alliance. It is really a feast to watch Left Front holding the so called evil, stained hand of Congress, which it had vowed to completely destroy in the past. If this is shocking to the conservative Left supporters, then to their utter dismay they are witnessing one Abbas Siddique joining the same hand in the name of an Indian Secular Front. An overcrowded brigade parade ground may bring some relief to the dwindling Left vote bank but its conversion to actual votes pose a huge question now. The old loyalists may have been reminded of a similar meeting where Jyoti Bose and Atal Behari Bajpayee stood as the two pillars holding up the rebellious hands of the ex-Congress leader V P Singh. One force from that alliance is now ruling the country and will we see another feat of history repeating itself in the future? It reminds me of the famous song 'Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head And pretend that he just doesn't see?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind

Weekly Newsletter of The Assam Valley Express

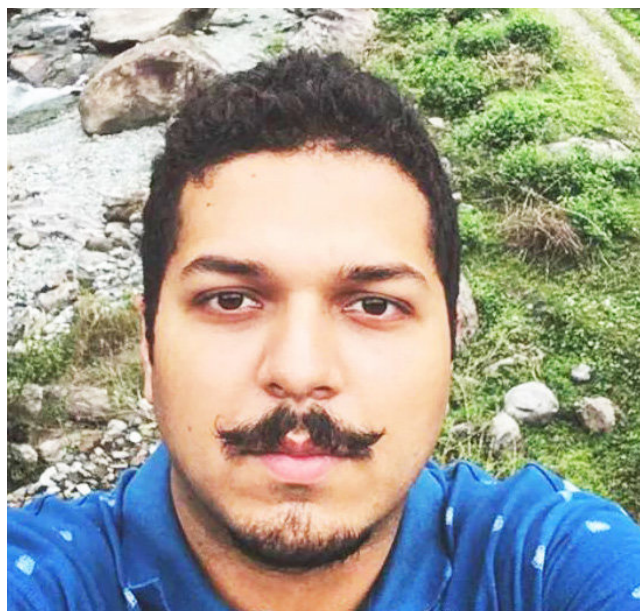
The answer is blowin' in the wind'

It is totally an understatement to tell that nobody can see through this alliance. TMC has a solid base among the minority votes and if ISF is successful in making a significant dent in that, the benefits will be reaped by BJP. The Asaduddin Owaisi factor in Bihar election is present through ISF in West Bengal. Strangely enough the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen has silently washed off their hands from West Bengal election after the finalisation of this strange and unstable relationship.

Whether it will be a continuation or a change of power, the fate of the common people will remain the same. No matter who comes to power Mamata or Modi it remains the same for the poor citizens; any 'M' will lead to the murder of their hope for good governance.

The assembly election in West Bengal can be summed up with the following line –

It is a fight between 'Left' versus those who left versus those who are left, resulting in a pandemonium of political farce.



Mr. Shantam Basu, English Department

Q1. What was your first impression of AVS?

To be honest, I had never seen a school as enormous and well-built as this. Quite naturally, I felt awe-inspired and even petrified to a certain extent. When I arrived here on 26th January, I had to quarantine myself for three days inside my flat, with only my imagination with

me to figure out what the beau monde outside is like. I remember being called over for dinner by Mr. Daniel on day 3 and having an anxiety attack thinking about stepping outside and into this overwhelming world that existed beyond the doors of Dhansiri's Flat-3. But I did make it to dinner, couldn't have missed it for the world.

Q2. Tell us about your experience of being a part of the founder's play.

I think the Founders' play is the best thing that has happened to me in AVS thus far. The last time I had stepped into a theatre was back in 2016. That was when I performed for Dr. Ananda Lal in a production of Aristophanes' Lysistrata. I missed the energy of the stage, but I missed being in the control booth more. So when the Headmaster asked me to come for the rehearsals, I couldn't say no. The play became a smooth medium for me to get to know a lot of my senior colleagues, people I otherwise wouldn't have been able to interact with, this informally. It also gave me a chance to observe and learn a lot from Dr. Vidhukesh's dedicated involvement and the sacrifices that he made day in and day out during the rehearsals for the play.

Q3. Your favorite movies and what do you like about them?

Whoa! That's a bear of a question you've just asked. It is difficult for me to name a "few" that I like since I've seen more than 2000 of them. But certain movies make it to the top of my long list, like Solaris by Andrei Tarkovsky, because he created a metaphysical masterpiece without spending 165 million dollars like most directors do today. To me, it is one of the most intellectual, groundbreaking, and thought-provoking movies that has ever been made. I'm also a big Kurosawa fan so I must name Seven Samurai and Throne of Blood because I love how he blends traditional Noh and Kabuki acting techniques with modern cinema. I also feel strongly that The Godfather is one of the best, most impeccable movies ever made. I would like to conclude by not taking up two whole pages of AVE with this answer and mention a few more movies that I'd like to take to the moon owing to their incredible storytelling technique: Twelve Angry Men, Rear Window, Pulp Fiction, Saving Private Ryan, Goodfellas, Where is the friend's home, The Darjeeling Limited, Into The Wild, Boyhood, and Trainspotting.

Q4. Your expectations from AVS?

This school is a progressive one and I feel that under the guidance of enigmatic people like Mrs. Shakila Banu

and Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj who are always ready to lend their ears to listen to and consider new ideas, I will be able to bring in and implement novel and improved methods to teach and train the children here. I am sure there will also be ample opportunity for me to grow as a teacher.

Q5. What do you think your contribution to the AVS community be?

For now, I am only breathing out and contributing CO₂. Haha! But on a more serious note I plan on involving myself with a particular activity, and I do have something in the works. We'll just have to wait and see how things pan out.

Q6. What has been your favorite part of your AVS journey?

It is too early to comment on this because there are a lot of things that I haven't seen and experienced. But if I had to name one favorite part of my journey here so far, it would be meeting the people who have looked out for me during my first month here. People like Mrs. Figg, Mrs. Talukder, Mr. Benjamin, and Mr. Daniel showed me the ropes and ensured that I don't get left behind. I've also realized that beyond the impressive infrastructure of the MSB, the passionate teachers, and the bright and breezy students, lies a microcosmic bubble that is a universe within itself and one that that I've begun to call home.

Ms. Ishita Malhotra, Humanities Department

Q1. What was your life before AVS?

Ans. I was preparing of UPSC. Working in NGOs and educating the under-privileged. Growing up in tea estates, I have known about AVS since I was in class 5 and it has been an amusing and educational experience so far.

Q2. What has been keeping you busy in AVS?

Ans. I am the residential tutor of Tihu, I have been assigned a house, Kopili and an activity, Social Service. I am the MC for Table Tennis so there's a lot of work going around for me but I am enjoying all of it thoroughly.

Q3. What activities do you enjoy doing?

Ans. I play sports, almost all of them. My favourite however is badminton. I love dancing and I also write; in fact, I have written an article for AVE this semester.

Q4. What has been your AVS experience so far?

Ans. It has been remarkable. Every single day is different from the rest. I learn something new every day and it has been an enriching and interesting experience.



I have no expectations as such from AVS, I only want to be a part of this prestigious and loving community and contribute to it in every way possible.

Q5. How has it been being a tutor in Tihu?

Ans. It has been great. All my tutees are class 8 girls and since I only teach senior classes, being their tutor has given me an opportunity to connect and work with the lower school. I hope to be able to work more with both upper school and lower school students in future.

Mrs. Deepanjali Figg, English Department

Q1. What has been your favorite part of your AVS journey?

The On-boarding: the warm welcome and the people that make up the community, be it Admin, Teachers, Estate, Auxillary staff who were so gracious and helpful and the discovery of each acronym, thrown around here like confetti! It took me a while to play this totally AVS style 'Name, Place, Thing...' game

Q2. How are you liking the girls of Kopili?

They are lovely! Caring, confident and well-turned-out young ladies who support each other and know how to balance out academic and personal goals, while having fun.

Q3. What are your expectations from AVS?

Ethical work practices, opportunities for continuous professional development and scope for applying my specialization in Inclusive Education and Differentiated Curriculum for the holistic development of all children enrolled here, so they thrive as happy, responsible and contributing individuals during their school journey



and carry a sense of self-worth, community spirit and resilience when they step out into the world.

Q4. How are your interactions with the students of AVS?

Some interactions have been formal with guidance sessions for Language Interventions and teaching study-

skills as per their preferred Learning Style; others have been informal, much like a friendly chat. Overall, both styles of interactions have been insightful in getting to know the individual – and their relationship with their peers, world views and their choices - a little better.

Q5. *How are you liking the staff of AVS?*

They never cease to amaze me! Talent and spontaneity in abundance! And their incredible balancing act with regard to their formally entrusted roles and responsibilities and those taken on in the course of an evolving school year is contagious energy that is inspiring.

Q6. *If you were an Aviator, what activities would you have engaged yourself with?*

Horse-riding, CDT, Western Dancing, English Publications, Book club – gosh, I would have been spoilt for choice!

Q7. *Do you like ‘The Tempest’ or ‘The merchant of Venice’, better?*

I like The Tempest for personal reading and for playing ‘Guess Who’ or ‘Taboo’ – classroom-based games for active learning and The Merchant of Venice from an English Teacher’s point of view, as it explores the themes of friendship, love, financial wisdom and mercy or justice besides the father-daughter relationship of key characters in a very different way from the ones depicted in The Tempest.



Graduation

-Neelabh Kashyap, XII

On the 16th of March, 2021, the students of Class 12 donned their graduation gowns and caps and made their way towards the WMH, an assortment of feelings rippling on their countenances. The ceremony began with the congregational hymn One Moment In Time. Five graduating students gave their speeches, with Ex-Head Girl Indrani Nandy taking to the stage first and giving her own rendition of the best graduation speech. Parikhit Baruah then came up and recounted his experience in AVS since Class 3. He ended his speech amidst applause and cheer, signing off as the ‘Last Head Boy of Tihu.’ Anahita Stephen recounted similarly, stating how she would come to miss the small things about AVS, both loved and loathed. Shashank Agarwal spoke about his experience working as the Head Boy

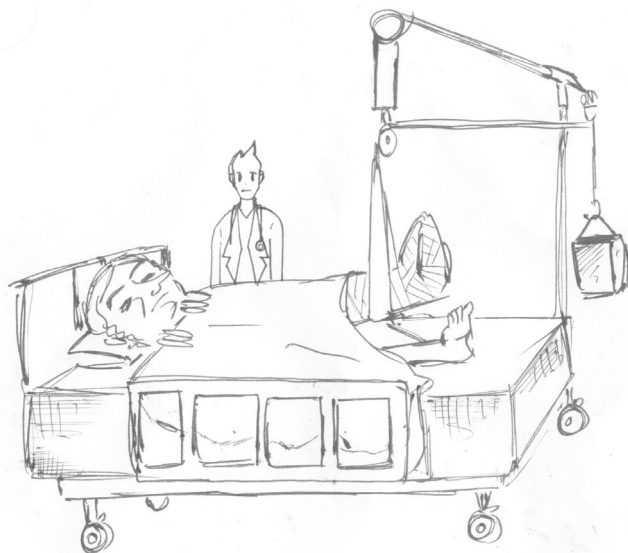
in the turbulent time of the pandemic, and how his past self wouldn’t believe where the present Shashank now stood. The evening was sanctified by the School Choir singing One Direction’s Night Changes which brought tears to the eyes of the Class 12s. Ex-School Captain, Param Singh Nongmaithem, reminisced about his time in Tihu – the memories of the mishaps and merriments that made up the jigsaw puzzle of his life in AVS – and ended his speech by saying that it was his pride and joy to be a part of this particular batch. The Silver Elephants given out to the graduates, the newly elected School Captain, Naviya Chamariya then took to the podium and bid farewell to the graduating batch. The Chief Guest of the evening, Lt. Gen. Ravin Khosla, addressed the gathering, taking a trip down

memory lane, as he gave anecdotes from his own life of his experience in his previous school; following which, he and the Headmaster, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal gave out the prestigious School Colours to the students who

had made outstanding contribution to the school. The graduates then remained back for the group photo while the rest of the gathering made their way to the tennis court for the jamboree.

THE OUTPOST

Bengal drew all attention to it as Mamta Bannerjee lay in bed with her foot in a cast having resolutely laid the blame of the misfortune on the Opposition. The Opposition and primarily now the BJP have a wave of sympathy to counter. The QUAD begins to draw itself into a more serious and viable structure to ensure that the Chinese threat can be dealt singularly. Rahul Gandhi continues to flex his muscles at school children while the Congress flounders at the hands of its allies. Between Puducherry and Tamil Nadu the game remains heightened in the war between abbreviations.



Campus Caricature

Har-fest

-Karun Thapa, XII

The Hindi Debates

The Inter House Upper School Hindi debates, on the 13th of March witnessed a war of words on the topic 'Chhantron ko Rajneete se door rehna chahiye' (Students should stay away from Politics). Arguing for the motion was team Jinari-Manas and against the motion was team Subansiri-Namdang. From side Proposition, Humraj Jassal and Satakshi Singh talked about how students do not have enough understanding of politics to be involved in it and put forward instances like the unnecessary involvement of young slacktivists in CAA. The final Speaker from this side, Nilay Dhakal simplified the argument with a scientific approach. As for side Opposition, Anushcka Joshi, Vasumann Lohia and Aryan Khatuwala talked about the involvement of students in political simulations like Model United Nations and School Elections. This side emphasized on the importance of political knowledge to make children politically sound citizens of the future.

The deliberation ended with the announcement of results. We had Jinari-Manas in the 1st position, Subansiri- Namdang in the 2nd position followed by Kopili-Dhansiri and Bhoroli-Lohit taking the 3rd and 4th place respectively. The best Speaker of the competition was awarded to Naviya Chamariya from Bhoroli and the Most Promising Speaker went to Aryan Khatuwala of Namdang.



The State Equestrian Championship

The State Equestrian Championship, affiliated to the Equestrian Federation of Assam under the aegis of Equestrian Federation Of India was held in Numaligarh, Assam from the 12th to 14th of March. A good number of students from AVS participated in the championship and three of them brought laurels to the School. The Riding Captain, Saumya Jindal won a gold in the Girls' Hacks Open and bronze in Hacks Open. Riding Captain, Arjun A. Chaliha too won a gold and a bronze in Jumping and Dressage respectively. Kavya Bagrodia brought laurels in Jumping (Junior) and Dressage (Junior).

The Dhansiri Premiere League

The 15th Edition of the much anticipated Dhansiri Premiere League began on the 11th of April, 2021. Spanning over two days, the thrilling event saw nine teams competing against each other, each vying to earn a spot at the top of the table. The first day had the League matches and the first half of the second day had the continuation and completion of the remaining League matches. The semi-finals took place in the second half of the day, with The Senpais and The Bandits emerging as the Finalists. The Senpais, captained by Imnasenden Jamir and Vice-Captained by Jatin Jajodia, took home the gigantic trophy of the Champions of the Dhansiri Premiere League; while The Bandits, under the leadership of captain Nandan Agarwal and Vice-Captain Keshav Prithani, bagged the Runners-Up Trophy. Other honours and awards were given out, following which the Dhansirians made their way towards the Senior Common Room for the much awaited DPL Dinner.



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Ripple #157

-Marwati Imsong, XII

She plucked the string
of an icebound heart
With her gentle fingers
she played the taboo
gizmo
To fix a shredded fellow
To pull him out of his
misty abyss

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "I haven't seen it but I have watched it."
- Mr. Siddarth Batla (*Enough of your mind tricks, sir*)
2. "Where was I there?" - Dristi Rathi, XII
(*Everywhere you don't need to be*)
3. "I was the same old back then." - Ayang Borang, XII (*Nothing new happened*)
4. "They knew where to sat." - Prakriti Sharma, XII (*In the english class you bunked?*)
5. "Can you see the pain of face on her face?" - Tsoshenu John, XII (*The same pain your sentence has.*)
6. "How many laptops you have in your movie?" - Takhe Tamo Reela, XII
(*Enough for a sponsorship*)

Keep It Reel!

Endings

- Neelabh Kashyap, XII

Editor-in-Chief: Tanisha Bhadra

Deputy Editor: Moom Lego

Correspondents: Neelabh, Marwati, Lavanya & Ojas

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E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

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

Patron: Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School

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