

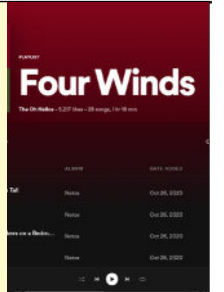
1972, the year that invited a great calamity in the Middle East, had also planned some festivities for the Indians as it gave birth to three North-Eastern states

50
AND COUNTING
Lavanya Jindal, XI on Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura
Pg. 3



THIS WEEK'S
THE QUARANTINE PLAYLIST

Featuring:
The Oh Hellos
Marina
Nina Simone
Patrick Watson



REPUBLIC

-Riarti Sohliya, XI

“Freedom of mind is real freedom. A person whose mind is not free- though he may not be in chains- is a slave, not a free mind.” ~ B. R. Ambedkar

On the 26th of January, 1950, India awoke as a new republic. Since then, the day is remembered as a sacred one, marking the very foundation of our country’s political history. This year India marks her 73rd Republic Day, a day of celebration of India’s history as well as the achievement and resilience of her people.

Republic Day marks the transition of India from an autonomous Commonwealth realm with the British Monarch as the nominal head of the Indian Dominion, to a fully sovereign Republic in the Commonwealth of Nations with the President of India as the nominal head of the Indian Union. A significant feature is the fact that the day has gone beyond the mere recognition of this changing of guard. With the parade at Rajpath to look forward to, and the multitude of events that pop up across the country, it has also become a day where national pride is reinvigorated and rejoiced in.

So, how did we get here? We all know that India achieved her independence from the British Raj on 15th August 1947, but independence was achieved as a constitutional monarchy with George VI as Head of

the State and Earl Mountbatten as Governor-General. India- having no constitution yet- had laws revolving around the modified colonial Government of India Act 1935. In 1947, on the 29th of August, a resolution was passed, stating that the Constitution would be drafted with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. This led to Constituent Assembly working for 166 days, debating and deliberating as much amongst themselves as through public sessions before completing the handwritten Constitution. The 308 members of the Assembly signed two-hand written copies of the document on 24th January, 1950. Two days later, our Constitution came into effect throughout the nation.

While India’s Independence Day celebrates its freedom from British Rule, Republic Day celebrates the birth of our Constitution and the spirit of a nation that unitedly cherishes its diversity. This Republic Day we give homage to the sacrifices and bravery it took to get this country and its people to where we are today and enjoy the rights we do. It is an opportunity for us to remember our glorious past and immerse ourselves in the Constitution and the many stories it has to tell. Above all, Republic Day helps us celebrate what it means to be an Indian today.

Sisters Reunited



-Vasundhara Sanjembam, IX

I opened my eyes and was struck by the blinding lights. I blinked a few times to adjust to my surroundings. The moment of confusion passed when I saw her.

“My sister!” I exclaimed, brimming with happiness.

“I can’t believe it is you. Finally!” My dear sister however stood strangely aloof. Instead she asked in an incredulous voice, “What are you doing here?”

“I came to see you. I couldn’t stay away any longer.” I responded with an anxious smile.

“No, no, no!” She wrought her hands in distraught her eyebrows in a deep furrow.

It was my turn to be shocked. I asked, trying without success to keep the hurt from showing, “Aren’t you happy to see me after all these years?”

My beautiful sister covered her face with her hands and shook her head.

“I have wanted to see you for so long. Waited to see you happy, with grey in your hair and endless stories to share. Waited to know how it all fared at the end of the day. Waited to ask you all the many questions that I seem to lose track of. I have waited to see you yes, but not like this!”

“I haven’t seen you for five years! Do you even realise how I have survived all these years without you? Five of your birthdays! Five of mine!” I told her quietly. She wrapped her arms around herself like she was bracing for what she was going to say next.

“What I did to you, mom and dad was unforgivable. No matter how sorry I am

today the truth is, I cannot do anything to fix it.” She spoke with such sorrow that the air between us seem to grow heavy with it. I remained quiet. My thoughts caught in their own loop.

“You should be the first person to know how painful and difficult it was for them. You knew first-hand what mom and dad went through when I left, how broken they were. How broken they still are putting up a front each day to get by to make sure they did everything right by you. For you to discount all of that is tragic”. I felt my shoulder stoop with the burden of it all. My own failures as much as my sisters. “Its not your time yet darling. Not by a long chance. You need to go back. You need to make those memories and take care of mom and dad and fix old Betsy and take her for a ride on your graduation. You need to live not just yours, but my life too. And to be happy for both of us. The time for us to be together will come. I shall wait and do so without a complain. Wait for you and Mom and Dad. This wait is my company for now”. I looked at my sister, and saw her frail body her short hair the deep dark eyes, eternally 17 when she ought to have been 22 years old. I gulped down my tears and tried to take a quick deep breath but felt it catch in my throat.

“Breathe. Its alright, we have got you”. I heard the voices before I opened my eyes, the siren of the ambulance tearing the still of the night. I was back and my sister receded to my memories like a dream.

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Illustration: Sidhhi Gupta, IX

50 AND COUNTING

-Lavanya Jindal, XI

Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura

celebrate 50 years of statehood

1972, the year that invited a great calamity in the Middle East, had also planned some festivities for the Indians as it gave birth to three North-Eastern states: Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura on its 21st day, bringing the tally to 20 Indian states. It should not be much of a surprise that on the same day and in the same year, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were acknowledged with union territory status, and NASA's Space Shuttle Program was launched respectively. This year, these three North-Eastern states jubilated their 50th year of Statehood with lively events and functions while maintaining the Covid safety norms.

Before the creation of the popular seven sisters with the statehood of Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland, the North-Eastern region was said to be as incomplete as a flower would be without petals. At the time of independence in 1947, the regional composition consisted of the Assam plains of the old Assam Province, the hill districts, and the North Eastern Frontier Tracts (NEFT) of the North-Eastern borderland. In the modern world, from the centuries-old tribe in Nagaland to the Himalayan

crowns of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh to the traditions of the cloud state of Meghalaya, each of the North-Eastern domains has some absorbing facts. In today's society where almost 79% of the activities are influenced by men, Meghalaya's Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo tribes are some of the very few tribes in the world to practice matrilineal tradition. In the land of waterfalls, women, are the dominant steering factor in all matters, social, political, and economic. The land of Maharajas or Tripura has been the home to the only floating palace in the Northeast for decades whereas when it comes to Manipur, the state has always been forward to compete with the world as it has produced various sporting talents, is home to the oldest polo ground as well the only floating national park to name a few. The happy occasion of this golden jubilee demands also retrospection over a history that has witnessed one of the longest ongoing border conflicts and a dilution of native practices lost over decades. The 50th year anniversary celebrations upholds not merely the unique identity of this region but also its legacy as an indelible and cherished part of a united India.

Campus Caricature

BACK TO SCHOOL

-Shrutika Parajuli, XI



PADMA BHUSHAN

Mr. Victor Banerjee, the renowned and versatile actor-director, and a cherished and important member of the Board of Governors of The Assam Valley School, was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the President of India on Republic Day this year. Mr. Victor Banerjee, is also the President of the Moran Blind School, an institute of remarkable repute whose contribution to society through its students has been extraordinary. AVS has had the privilege of sharing a close association with MBS for over a decade. We extend our heartiest congratulation to Mr. Banerjee and his family for this prestigious national recognition and honor.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

, VIII



Photo Credits: Mr. Rajendra Chahar, Anam Aivva Ahmed

The School came together to celebrate India's 73rd Republic Day on the 26th of January. The auspicious occasion was conducted by Ms. Ishita Malhotra. The Chief Guests for the occasion were Mr. Panchanan Roy, of the Electrical Department who has served the school for 26 years and is set to retire next month. The second Chief Guest was Mr. Hareswar Gogoi, an Ex-serviceman who joined the Laundry Department and has served the school for 14 years. Mr. Gogoi who is set to retire at the end of the year addressed the gathering reminding them that perseverance and integrity shape our actions which in turn help shape our country. The event was accompanied by a beautiful presentation by the Music Department led by Dr. Parinita Goswami. The choir sang the patriotic melodies 'Hind Desh ke nivasi' and 'Aye Watan tere liye' filling the audience with a sense of purpose and pride. The event ended with Donovan Figg leading the congregation in taking the national pledge.

POSTCARDS ON ZOOM BY ROUNDSQUARE

A Zoom Postcard Call was hosted by The Assam Valley School Round Square Committee on the 26 January, 2022 from 6 pm-7.30 pm. With an endeavour to connect music & poetry from the physical realm to the divine, The AVS RS Committee invited delegates of age group 16-18 years to be a part of this event themed 'Nirgun- Music & Poetry for Soul' based on the Discoveries of Inquisitiveness; Appreciation for diversity; Self-awareness; Inventiveness. The event was attended by over 175 delegates from 26 schools across 8 countries. The Keynote Speaker/Performer, for the session was Mrs. Sunita Bhuyan, an Indo-fusion violinist and vocalist accompanied by her son, Ronojit Bhuyan, a passionate and professional pianist, also an Ex-Aviator. The enthralling evening came to an end with an address by Headmaster Dr. Vimal who spoke about the transcendence from 'Ishk-E-Majazi' to 'Ishk-E-Haqiqi', the physical to divine love, through poetry and music, a phenomenon that remains an aspiration for all across ages.



BOOSTER DOSE DRIVE

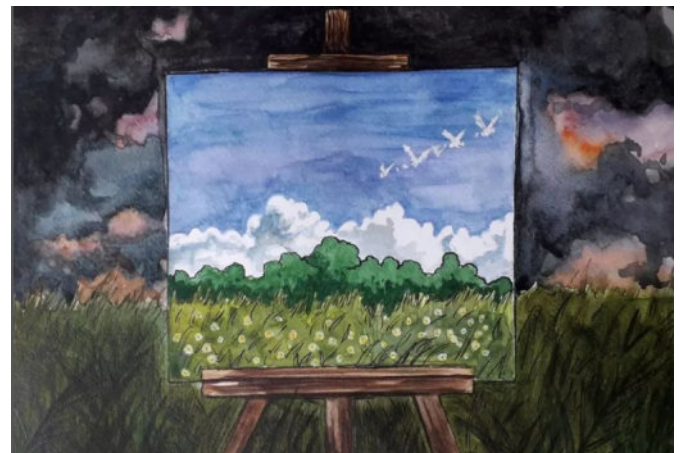
The School's Medical Team in collaboration with Balipada PHC carried out a precautionary booster dose drive for all qualifying adults on campus. The drive also saw eight Staff students between the age of 15 to 18 years who were given their first shot of vaccination. A total of 106 booster doses were given to the credit of the medical team.



STAR AVIATORS OF THE WEEK

An artwork by Elozini Senachena of Grade XII, Associate Editor of AVE, has been selected for the ICS Calendar 2022, as 'Special Mention.' Our heartiest congratulation to the young artist.

Mahita Jindal of Grade XI has won the 1st Prize in the FRAME 2022 - a Virtual portrait Photography Competition organized by the Fine Arts Society of Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, O.P. Jindal Global University. She has received a cash prize of INR 5,000/-. May her frames continue to bring her fame. Many congratulations.



CRICKET MATCH FOR STAFF

Photo Credits: Mr. Rajendra Chahan



-Abhinashni Baruah, IX

A Staff cricket match was organized by the Sports Department on the 26th of January. The Staff teams had "Power hitters" with Mr. Devesh Prajapati at the helm and "Electric currents" captained by Mr. Tapash Das. The toss was won by the "Power hitters" who chose to field. The match pleased the weather gods who eased on the dark clouds and allowed a spot of sunshine. The "Electric currents" set a target for 81 runs. Between chasing the target and snacks the friendly match left the viewers energized and cheering. The match was won by the "Power hitters" and the man of the match was awarded to Mr. Niranjana Samadar.

The Quarantine Playlist

Ripple #174

-Sampada Malpani, XI

I look up at the sky and wonder, if you too are kept company by only your thoughts.

The lingering light of that friendless moon apprises me that you are lonely too reassuring me that I am not alone.

Feeling sick and tired of the same four walls at home? Well grab your earplugs and immerse yourself in the world of music, here is a list of some of our artiste suggestions:

THE OH HELLOS: American Folk Rock duo that creates music not simply to listen to, but music to understand. Their music surrounds, but is not limited to, their faith.

MARINA: Also known as Marina and the Diamonds, the popstar has frequently been an advocate of feminism and equal gender rights, sharing her social views through music.

NINA SIMONE: One of the finest Jazz artistes of 1960s, Simone has covered famous pieces with a touch of jazz. Hozier released a song in her dedication in his album *Wasteland, Baby*, called *Nina Cried Power*.

PATRICK WATSON: With influences of classical music and indie rock, Patrick Watson is the go-to for a cozy reading session late at night. His works have been compared to Pink Floyd for his experimentalism.

Keep It Reel!

Circles

-Mahita Jindal, XI
Winning entry from FRAME 2022



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