

THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN MANIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, GOA AND PUNJAB

- Srishti Bajaj, X

“The EC is unlikely to make such a decision of postponement alone even on grounds of emergency. The government, political parties have to be on board for any such move.” Mendiratta said.

The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Goa and Punjab. Voting for the elections in these states will be held between February 10 and March 7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been the head of the government for almost eight years and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been winning elections and hearts all across the country. The BJP is in power in three of these states while the Indian National Congress, which has held power intermittently in the country for decades since India’s independence before being ousted in 2014, is in power in Punjab.

Uttar Pradesh has been the epicentre of BJP’s Hindutva politics for decades, focused around the controversial issue of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya city. Winning this state over is very important for the party to maintain its popularity. However, news has erupted about rebellion growing amongst members within the party. Recently, ten legislators, including three ministers, have proclaimed themselves out of the BJP and most of them have joined their main rival, the Samajwadi Party. Last year in Punjab, the biggest protest against the

BJP government took place in the form of the farmers’ agitation. This might also affect the upcoming elections and its result. The Goa elections will happen against the backdrop of a series of attacks against Christians in India. With advocacy groups claiming that the BJP government has led to this, Christian Goans, forming 25% of the population, will keep these attacks in mind as they enter the polling stations.

We all know the present condition of the pandemic. India’s daily COVID graph saw a worrying upward curve when the elections took place last time. The states of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal conducted their assembly polls around the same time. Obviously, large gatherings of people without masking and physical distancing, no matter the purpose of the gathering, can transmit the virus that causes COVID-19. However, what is different this time is that the Election Commission has banned all roadshows and rallies, asking for all the events to be held virtually. Perhaps this will create a difference. But only if Indians follow protocols on a daily basis, which doesn’t seem like it is happening. As multiple states of the world’s largest democracy go ahead with the changing of guard in the midst of a raging pandemic, we must ask: is there something brewing that will surprise us all?



The Millennial Man

- Temjenrenla Jamir, XI

Streets lit up with flames as the people cried out for their rights- for better education, for an equal society and for better livelihood. A protest with over 1 million people, which is today known as “The biggest march of Chile” demanded a change not merely in leadership but the very constitution of the country.

On 19th December, 2021, these same streets were filled with cheers and celebration as Chile elected its first millennial president, Gabriel Boric. All of 35 years old, the young President had his age open up a conundrum of debates outweighing the possibilities of his abilities. While half of Chile have their hopes riding high on someone young and liberal to usher in the much-needed changes the country needs, the other half of the country fear his administrative and political inexperience.

Taking over from a right-wing President, the former student activist and a leftist politician, Gabriel Boric has grabbed the attention of the world. The rise to prominence of this dark horse with a huge support base came after a befitting battle with his far-right rival, Kast, who had the track record of having defeated Chile’s past dictatorship. Kast also had a record of attacking Chile’s LGBTQ community and advocating more restrictive abortion laws. In his election mandate Kast cautioned the Chileans that his young, inexperienced opponent Boric could upend Chile’s vaunted record as Latin America’s most stable and advanced economy. This

cautionary tale however ended in naught with Gabriel Boric winning with a striking majority and underlining in his acceptance speech that he intended to work for a united front, uphold the spirit of a democracy, protect the rights of the few and tackle poverty and inequality. “I know that the future of our country will be at stake next year. That is why I want to promise you that I will be a president who will take care of democracy and not jeopardize it, a president who listens more than he speaks, who seeks unity, who looks after people’s daily needs, and who fights hard against the privileges of the few and who works every day for Chilean families.” He has also promised that the Chilean women will be “protagonists” in a government that will seek to “leave behind once and for all the patriarchal inheritance of our society”. People waved Pride flags to celebrate the victory of Boric alongside the promises he has made which tackled many contemporary issues. The political commentaries in Chile have warned that although Mr. Boric has big ideas he may struggle to pass them through the Chilean Congress, which is fairly equally split between right-wing and left-wing parties. Boric has given a majority of Cabinet posts to women and several to former student protest leaders who together with him led protests in 2011. With this Chile begins an era that promises to be historic no matter what the unforeseeable future.

Campus Caricature

Sixer!

-Karun Thapa, XII



know your prefect

On the 11th of February, on the auspicious Foundation Day, AVS came together to cast their vote in a fair and transparent election that saw Karleen Tok get elected as the 17th School Captain of The Assam Valley School flagged by Alda Nongmeikapam as Head Girl and Kristanu Uzir as the Head Boy. In the special feature 'Know your Prefect', AVE represented by Anukriti Kashyap, IX & Priyasha Sarma, IX catches up with the trio who are at the helm and will steer the school through 2022-23.



Photo Credits: Mahira Jindal, XI

L-R: Alda Nongmeikapam, Karleen Tok & Kristanu Uzir

AVE: How do you plan on bridging the gap between the two sides of the LOC?

SC: Miscommunication is the major reason for the gap. The students need to be more understanding and sympathetic towards one another and try to understand each other's point of view instead of making comparisons.

HB: I plan on talking to teachers and understanding their point of view as well as the students' point of view.

HG: We will be working together as a team to bridge the gap between the two sides of the LOC.

AVE: What makes you different from your predecessors?

SC: I have my own identity. That is what makes me unique from others.

HB: I will have a more practical approach towards things and get things done.

HG: I am a good listener. I will encourage juniors and be less authoritative.

AVE: How are you going to handle abuse of power by your peers if there were any?

SC: My batchmates can take actions but they should know and understand that they will be held responsible for them. The whole school looks up to them and they should be aware that the juniors now observe them and follow their actions. If such a thing happens, then my batchmate will face the consequences and be reprimanded.

HB: I would confront them, tell them where they went wrong and what could have been done instead so that they do not make such mistakes again.

HG: I think the best way to deal with it is to be straightforward and tell them what went wrong. I am hopeful that my batchmates will be understanding and handle it in a mature way.

AVE: What is one thing you want to accomplish before giving up your badges?

SC: I want more students to take part in inter-school competitions. They must be more competitive and strive to be the best.

HB: I want to inculcate in students respect towards the teachers and staff.

HG: I want to make sure that students try and experience all that this school has to offer and enjoy their time here.

Stray Thoughts

Illustration: Pratiksha Choudhury, X



- Pratiti Barua, IX

- Eloziini Senachena, XII

There are bones in our hills. Sometimes, as our car stirs around the balding mountains, I think of the unremembered. Those foreigners, those wanderers and those conquerors who ventured so far from home and crossed states and seas. Their flesh now dead dust and souls lost to land and memory. There are no stories and there are no hauntings for there are no memories. There goes a folktale, about a herculean man who wrestled demons in the mountains and tore the bull apart as though it were a newborn lamb. His tribesmen, fearing his strength, intoxicated and murdered him. They buried him far away in secrecy, fearing the rise of another like him if his bones remained in their village. The bones in our hills. I know that is where my grandparents lie, and where my parents will one day. Where would I lie? Far away, across states and seas, or the heartland where my blood comes from?

- Marwati Imsong, XII

Time.

What is it?

Why do we clock it?

The never-ending river of time that flows waiting for none, abundant as the grains of Saharan sands, yet scarce as the last of the ghost orchids.

Do we leave it to that perennial current?

Or do we do something before it's too late?

In a world where we live bound by time,

Born are we, unaware of when the Saharan sands in the fragile hourglass will run out.

We live with that thought stashed safely to the back of our heads, often forgetting about the shackles on our wrist.

But without time, everything loses its value.

Spend the little of what you have left, with the ones you have.

For you never know when it might be your last.

Seldom do I find myself not looking out into the lush green field and thinking, why this place? Of all the places that mean so much to me, why does this particular one stand out the most? Everyone has that one spot that is special to them for reasons innumerable, whether it be a memory, an experience or just how it makes them feel; mine encompasses all my senses, bringing them to an all-time high and filling me with an indescribable feeling. It's my sanctuary, a haven to clear my mind and escape from reality.

In winters, the vast field is covered in a blanket of untouched fog. I stand in the middle of the Elephant Pass, listening to the birds lull me into deep meditation. The winds, curves, inclines, and declines of the trail make it a perfect path to jog on. The isolation from the outside world makes it easy for my mind to focus on nothing but the task at hand – which is making it around the two-mile trail without stopping. When I am running, I feel weightless. My mind goes blank, allowing me to become one with my surroundings. The feeling of the cool crisp air breezing through my hair relaxes me as I run to the music blasting through my headphones. The serenity, the stability, the equilibrium is what I have missed these past two years.

THE OUTPOST

The hijab row in Karnataka is not a new debate although it has brought to the court of justice yet again the nuances of religious practices against the idealism of secularism. The Russia-Ukraine crisis bodes difficult days for India as it demands America's attention while allowing China to play games beyond the ring of the Winter Olympics. Rahul Gandhi's speech in the Lok Sabha was just gathering praise when he chose to abscond from the rebuttal by the PM thereby dousing out possibilities. The Truckers protest spreads from Canada to America, France and Germany adding to the merriment.



Illustration: Elozini Senachena, XII

Campus News

ECONOMICA

The Economics Department hosted 'Economica: The Economics Debate' on the 6th of February, 2022. The motion was an apt and heated one: Cryptocurrency is the future of India. To make matters even more interesting, the National Budget was passed the day before the debate and its regulations on crypto, set the stage for an interesting debate. Both sides gave arguments backed by solid facts and extreme conviction. In the end, the motion failed. The Best Speaker award was given to Hiyaneijemmy Das while Most Promising Speaker was bagged by Utkarsh Jajodia. Both of Class XI

LOWER SCHOOL ONLINE FITNESS CHALLENGE

Regular exercise is one of the best things one can do for their health. It has many benefits, including improving our overall health and fitness, and reducing our risk for diseases. Keeping this in mind the Sports Department conducted weekly sports fitness challenge for class of 5 & 6.

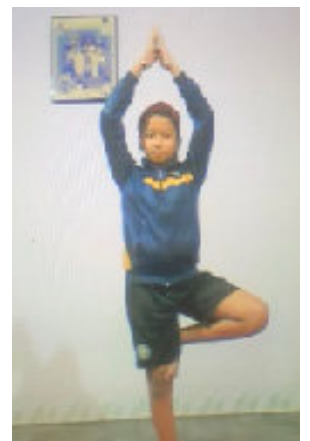
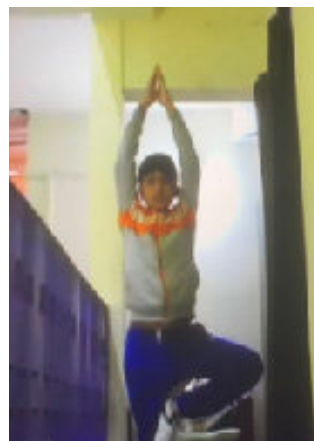
Position holders for the challenge

Girls' category:

- 1st position: Suvechha Borah 6A
- 2nd position: Shabahat Sabir Ansari 6A
- 3rd position: Avantika Keshra 5B

Boys' category:

- 1st position: Ronit Borah 6B
- 2nd position: Ronit Roy Dutta 6B
- 3rd position: Nirlav Malla Bujar Baruah 5B



Ripple #177

-Sampada Malpani, XI

*I sat there and thought,
"If I told you about the
darkness inside of me,
will you still look at me
like I'm your sun?"*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "How much words?" - Ojas Ayapilla, XI
(As much as your brains.)
2. "Do you cannot read Hindi?" - Donovan Figg, XI (Do you cannot speak English?)
3. "Spurs beat Tottenham." - Hayishan Odyuo, XI (Taking self-comparison to the next level.)
4. "Ours is Jiya is there." - Aastha Bora, XI
(And ours the patience is gone.)
5. "We will do question number next." - Mr. Prajapati (And a song and dance number too?)

Keep It Reel!

Incandescent

-Shrey Modi, XI



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