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A Tagore special

# Nation and Nationalism

-Hiyaneijemmy Das, Deputy Editor

*“The moment is arriving when the world must find a basis of unity which is not political.”*

When I read this in an essay on nationalism by Tagore, the first thing that jumped to my mind was: if not political, then what? A mere dip, let alone a delve, into Tagore’s works on nationalism has brought up a dizzying myriad of terms that I simply could not resist exploring. So, as much of a cop-out as it may sound like, all I have to offer are a multitude of questions with the hope that at least one may pique the reader’s interest.

Tagore argues that the basis of unity should be one of samaj, not nation. Then, what is samaj? Samaj literally translates to society, and alludes to the existence of a collection of people who come together on many cultural bases such as pluralism and autonomy, but primarily on the common thirst for the answer to the question: what does it mean to be human?

Another term I stumbled upon was syncretism, which is the amalgamation of different cultures and schools of thought. The argument is that this Western idea of nationalism works for them because it is easy to create nation-states with more or less an acceptable degree of homogeneity- be it in terms of race, language, and

more. To add to that, the fear of being outpaced by surrounding nations contributes to this feeling of nationalism. For India, however, a country antonymous to homogeneity: isn’t nationalism just an ambiguous attempt at syncretism? How do you rouse feelings of nationalism in a nation that ties itself to diversity? On what basis do we build nationalism on?



Perhaps considering that Indian nationalism first arose as a response to subjugation under the British, we can posit that it is based on the common desire for freedom, and now, the gratitude of experiencing it. However, a look at the current political climate begs to differ as we hear constant news of rampant communalism. So, what has Indian nationalism become?

In my opinion, Tagore’s ideals of nationalism are ideals, and nothing more. The concept of globalisation is a pertinent one. However, to entertain the notion of unity on apolitical grounds, of porous borders, of unconditional

love and duty towards humanity is nothing short of utopia. The dismal reality is, nationalism- the kind that was rampant in 1940s India, not the extremist Hindutva-toeing kind- is the way to go. India is a country that puts one at a loss for words, and she deserves citizens that are nationalistic, ambitious, and warmly accepting.

Illustration: Harshi Kashyap, XII

# The Journey

-Dhrity Khersa, XII

The lines ‘morning sea of silence broke into ripples of bird songs’, “wealth of gold was scattered through the rift of the clouds”. “The repose of the sun-embroidered green gloom slowly spread over my heart”, “I surrendered my mind without struggle to the maze of shadows and songs” and “How I had feared that the path was long and wearisome, and the struggle to reach thee was hard” was enough for Tagore’s sonnet to have snared me! Every word from Poem No. 48 of Tagore’s masterpiece Geetanjali evoke a beautiful imagery that unfolds the search of a spiritual path to God. The main message of the poem is that nature is an embodiment of God and that the Almighty is present in its every fragment. The ambitions of man have diverted him from nature’s goodness. People search for spirituality in materialism and deny the existence of God by neglecting the nature surrounding them. The poet urges the reader to break free from the shackles that keep them from the essence of life and seek instead the quest for truth. The poem touched my heart for I felt I too laboured under a similar delusion of artificiality. The poem made me look at nature with eyes that sought sanctity in its lap and draw an inner connection with myself through the magic of Tagore’s words.



Illustration: Dhrity Khersa, XII

# Timeless

-Adella F. Massar, XII

Rabindranath Tagore being one of the greatest poets and writers in modern literature has many works of art and one of them is the short poem, Endless Time. In this poem he brings out the nature and essence of time. Tagore believes that time for the divine spirit is endless and regardless of one’s death, time continues to exist. It conveys the message that we must cherish time and live in the present rather than worry about the unforetold future. Our pursuit of happiness is a miraj for there is one particular frame to it. Happiness comes instead in quiet snippets of moments locked between the hands of time. The poet asks us to enjoy the little moments that we have and treasure them for they are the bearer of true happiness. This poem is eloquent and precise therefore, in my opinion it is relevant for today’s generation as we tend to rush things in life and forget to appreciate the little things that matter.



Illustration: Dhrity Khersa, XII



# The Kabuliwallah

-Jikke Kikum, XII

The Kabuliwallah is a short story written by Rabindranath Tagore in 1892 during his “sadhana” period. I read this story as a child during a library class and I have stayed enamoured with it ever since. I remember clearly the thrill and joy it brought to me. Tagore wove together a heartrending story on the theme of connection, love, escape, trust, friendship, sadness and charity. Taken from his Collected Stories collection, the story is narrated in the first person by Mini’s father. The story centres around an unexpected friendship between a little girl named Mini and a Kabuliwallah called Abdur Rahman. Rahman was an Afghan money-lender who came to Calcutta from the city of Kabul. The conversations between the friendly little girl and the strapping Afghan who missed his family dearly, especially his little daughter no older than Mini herself is the foundation of the story. Their talks give a peek into the childish world of queries, imagination and wonder of little Mini who seemed to douse out the intense loneliness and longing for home and family that Rahman felt. The simplicity and the

sheer mastery of the storytelling belies the complexity of the world that the protagonists belong to. The story is of an unconventional bond of mutual affection built on an unconventional relationship that left the reader with a deep sense of peace.



Illustration: Dhrity Khersa, XII

## THE OUTPOST

After two months of bitter fighting the Ukrainian bastion at Mariupol falls giving traction to Sweden and Finland’s bid for NATO membership. Turkey jumps into the foray to use its VETO against the Nordic countries eyeing a potential opportunity to bend the West to its will from sanctions to Khurds to grants. Congress’s Chintan Shivir organized to salvage the remains of the party ends in stalemate even as another member left its fold. The country rejoiced in the historic win of the Men’s Badminton Team as they lifted the Thomas Cup having defeated the 14 times winner, Indonesia.



Illustration: Limeka Ayemi, XII

# WAR MONGERING

-Donovan Figg, XII

There is a term for this business, and we are now moving into the fourth century where this has been a thing: it's called "War Profiteering".

If there is a war between two countries, regardless of the victor, the country that supplied the arms and ammunition will invariably make a tidy profit on the side.

And the really capitalistic of those among us would see the possibility of selling these very same arms and ammunition to both sides of a war: making even more profit for themselves. A tidy little business.

I say "little" although there is nothing little about the business. According to the Pentagon, America has spent over USD 2 Trillion on Afghanistan between 2001 - 2021. Why then, do we not see any traces of development in this country? The answer is simple: because America has been indirectly transferring the money back to her arms corporations like Northrop Grumman and Lockheed-Martin.

There is, of course, nothing suspicious about the fact that in the same time period (2001 - 2021), America's top five military contractors (Lockheed, Northrop, General Dynamics, Boeing, and Raytheon) made a total profit just shy of USD 2.02 Trillion. It is all in a day's business and really the way politics runs and funds itself.

So how does America make money from a war that it may or may not participate in? The answer is simple: It sells weapons. Even when there are no active conflicts

going on in the global theatre, America will invariably create one to hawk her mass-murder technology to the rest of the world.

In fact, the United States of America accounts, in any given year after 1991, for a third (37%) of all weapon sales globally. Thus, they directly support an industry that has given rise to a global arms trade of USD 100 Billion annually.

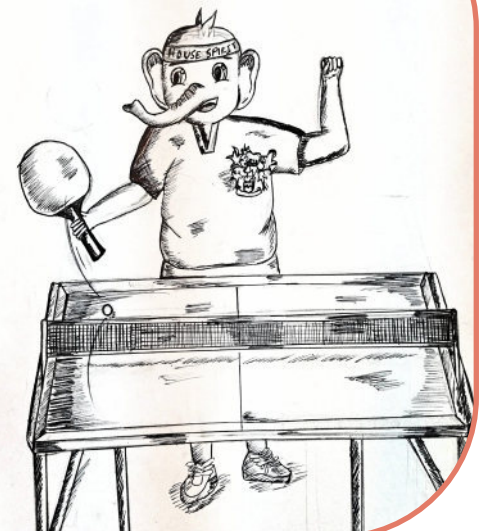
The American war machine runs on a well-oiled narrative that touts itself as the messiah and protector of all such nations where there is a "democratic infringement of human rights". What America does next is that it sells its weapons to a country, or preferably, to a faction within a country, claiming that they may need it for self-defence. The rest of humanity is left to play cheerleaders to its magnanimity while we conveniently ignore the fact that such countries are often overrun with weapons supplied to the aggressor by America. This war-mongering leaves it with a happy estimate of 310% profit.

While the world reels under fuel shortage and debt burden with a possible food shortage making its way, the all-shining USA dons the role of the knight in shining armour who had apparently, saved the day. Like it did in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and now Ukraine. All in 'the defence of democracy'. India's foreign policy remembers well the caution sounded by the legendary Henry Kissinger, "To be an enemy of America can be dangerous, but to be a friend is fatal."

## Campus Caricature

### TABLING · THE · RESULTS

-Migam Angu, XII



## SCIENCE CLUB

-Fareeha Ambreen, XII

On the 10th of May, The Science Club team in collaboration with the Social Service League donated 10 Chulhas in the 2nd phase of donation, to the UT staff from our Sessa Community. 20 Chulas were donated in the first donation drive on the 12th of April on the eve of Bihu celebrations. The “less smoke- energy efficient chulha” is an innovation by the Science Club team to help the families cut the cost of LPG and provide them with an alternate cooking method. This innovation has captured the interest of the Sessa Community and has encouraged more people to use them.

## IIMUN

The IIMUN- Gangtok chapter was the first physical event that the school participated in after a gap of two years. The event saw AVS lift the Best Delegation award followed by a plethora of wins. Many congratulations to the Team.

Award List:

United Nations Security Council

Agenda: Russia- Ukraine Crisis

Hiyaneijemmy Das- Delegate of Russian Federation, High Commendation.

Ojas Ayapilla- Delegate of France, Special Mention

United Nations General Assembly

Agenda: Reforms of the United Nations

Anukriti Kashyap: Delegate of Australia, Best Delegate Award

Pratiti Baruah: Delegate of Bolivia, Special Mention

UN Women

Agenda: Economic and Political Empowerment of Women

Riiriti Sohliya: Delegate of France, Best Delegate Award

Donovan Figg: Delegate of Qatar, High Commendation

United Nations Environment Programme

Agenda: Dealing with Climate Change and Global Warming

Tanish Hansaria: Delegate of France, Special Mention

Lok Sabha: Framework to Implement Uniform Civil Code in India

Raghav Agarwal: Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Best Delegate Award

Utkarsh Jajodia: Amit Shah, High Commendation



## ICT WORKSHOP

-Mr. Dulu Dutta

The Department of ICT had organised a two-days' UI/UX Design workshop on the 14th and 15th May 2022. The workshop was conducted by alumni Kushal Mittal, who is a final year student of UI/UX at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore. A group of 13 students participated in the workshop and successfully developed a dynamic app for the School that covered all aspects of the School life. This app will soon be available in both Mac App Store and Google Play store. This could well be the first app in India to be designed entirely by school students. The 'TechSmith'-Upper and 'TechSmith'-Lower Activity in-charge's Mrs. Debajani Sarma Bora and Mrs. Chayanika Baruah helped facilitate this workshop.

The following is the team who have successfully developed the app to be used in school soon.

1. Shrivansh Agarwal
2. Harshvardhan Keyal
3. Akshat poddar
4. Yashraj Agarwal
5. Aaryan Singh
6. Shrey Modi
7. Varsha rajkumari
8. Anushka Jitani
9. Anoushka singh
10. Urvee Rathi
11. Harshita Baral
12. Anushka Somani
13. Dhriti Khersa

## HINDI UPPER SCHOOL DEBATE FINALS

The 14th of May, after a week of scintillating debates, saw the resounding finale to Bharat-Ratna 'Pandit Atal Bihai Bajpayee' Inter House Debates (Upper School). It saw the might of Kopili -Dhansiri and Jinari-Manas brace for a fight off. Kopili-Dhansiri represented by Anushka Jitani, Praveka Kasera, Dayan Hazarika, and Nihal Agarwal were for the motion 'पश्चिमी सभ्यता भारतीय संस्कृति को दूषित कर रही है' while Jinari-Manas represented by Raghav Agarwal, Utkarsh Jajodia, Ahsash Agarwal and Aakanksha Kumar opposed the motion. The judges for the final debate were the Head of Upper School Mr. Kuljeet Singh, the Dean of Activity, Admissions and Marketing Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj, and the Deputy Head Academics Mrs. Shakila Banu. Kopili- Dhansiri based their argument on practices from ancient India that have been diluted along with an insight into the history of British India. They also spoke about the importance of language and food in culture. Jinari-Manas argued that it was the positive influence of the western world that our country was developing and compared Sanskriti to a bouquet of flowers. They quoted the rich lyrics 'Hind desh ke nivasi sabhi jan ek hain' and spoke about the abolishment of social evils such as child marriage due to the positive impact of westernization. The evening came to an end with Anushka Jitani of Kopili-Dhansiri being awarded the Most Promising Speaker while the Best Speaker was awarded to Raghav Agarwal of Jinari-Manas. The motion was lost and Jinari-Manas emerged winners.



## Ripple #185

-Neelabh Kashyap, Associate Editor,  
Batch of 2022

*So what then is a lover?" she  
asked,  
and I said, "lover to me is  
the rain;  
and for him I shall patiently  
watch a year, and my love  
for him will but wane.  
And yet when he returns  
home, from his time abroad,  
I'd tell him  
I never could love again.*

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "The wrongest decision."- Temjenrenla Jamir, XII (*Is that what your mom thinks?*)
2. "He left tomorrow."- Jikke Kikum, XII (*You probably think you're Dr. Strange.*)
3. "A fresh of breath air."- Kekhriesino Meyase, XII (*Deep breathly, my friend.*)
4. "Not to toot my own boat."- Hiyaneijemmy Das, XII (*We never asked, not with that grammar.*)
5. "Kristanu Ronaldo."- Ojas Ayapilla, XII (*He can't even play football.*)

## Keep It Reel!

*through the looking glass*

-Mahita Jindal, XII



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Design & Layout: Kekhriesino Meyase

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

Publisher: The Assam Valley School, P.O. Balipara, Dist. Sonitpur, Asom-784101, India

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

Patron: Dr. Amit Jugran, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School



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