

Date : 26/11/2008  
 Time: 9:30 p.m.  
 Place: Taj Hotel  
 Event : Mumbai Attack

Written by: Hiyaneijemmy Das, XII  
 Deputy Editor

Illustration by: Imnalemla Imchen, XI

When boats arrived off the coast of Colaba and local fishermen asked the funnily-dressed men who they were, they received comments along the lines of “mind your own business”. The fishermen reported their suspicions to the police- and nothing came of it. A few hours later, Mumbai would be gripped with an attack so horrible, that it will remain embedded in our memory. India will never forget.

passengers to leave, as terrorists stormed through the busy railway station-killing anyone they laid eyes on. There are many more names to remember. NSG commandos. Civilians. Children. Pregnant women. Hotel employees who put service over survival. What was left behind by the trigger-hungry terrorists was a city in ruins, bodies unidentified, families grieving, and governments shaken. India would never forget.

26 November, 2008. It has been twelve years since the attack and the date still rolls painfully off Indian tongues and Indian hands. Karambir Singh Kang- the General Manager of the Taj Hotel- knew his wife and child were dead as he coordinated rescue operations. Yet, when he finally called his family to let them know of a dead wife and a dead child, he promised his father, “I will be the last man out”. Vishnu Dattaram Zende continuously let out announcements in Chattrapati station, warning

26/11 was a disastrous reflection of the weaknesses in India. We let it happen. We were not prepared. We disregarded and turned a blind eye to measures that proved costly, brutal, and infamously important. It is important to continuously dig these graves, to face the stench of the mangled bodies and hopes of Mumbai, and to remind ourselves: it did not have to get to this. India can never forget.

Eventually, though, there springs up a remarkable determination in solidarity. The city that never sleeps built itself back up. The families seethed in hordes out on the streets, demanding justice. The politicians listened to the cries of their people and swore somebody would pay. Twelve years later and another anniversary is commemorated. Justice has been served, and injustice

manifested across the border is yet to face redemption. The smoke and gunshots of one event travel and reverberate in the resilience of the people, the actions of the government, and the spirit of India. A tragedy that fuelled national rage, now simmers into a quiet determination to bring justice at all costs. How could India ever forget?

## Folktales: Chapter IX

# Pauna's Creatures

Written by : Deubale Meru, XI  
Illustration by : Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XI



Benreu, the Zeliangs' village, was well known for its annual adventurous trekking route to Mt. Pauna's peak during the cool autumn months. The trek up the mountain took well over three days, with frequent rest stops. The mountain was famous for its breathtaking scenery and vibrant flora and fauna. It was not uncommon to see a few Lotha or Sema faces among the Zeliangs who climbed. The journey would begin at the crack dawn, with well over thirty men. The first half of the mountain's ascent was filled with orchids, twisting trees and vines, and the occasional mithun feeding on grass. On the night of the second day, the men sat around the bonfire, sharing legends of the mountain. The men were preparing to sleep after a long meal when they were startled and alerted to one of their men, Kenzai, screaming in agony with a long bloody gash running down his back. The men gathered their weapons and stood guard near their camp, while some began to search the area for the attacker. After a long search, the night fell silent, and the air became suffocatingly tense. Every step seemed too loud, and the men's breathing was frantic. The men on the hunt were

suddenly alerted to the sound of screams, pounding hooves, and smashed wood coming from the direction of their camp. They ran as fast as they could, only to come to a halt in horror and gasp as they witnessed the gore unfolding before them. Their camp was in shambles, their sleeping tents had been trampled to the ground, and their food was strewn about. Worst of all was what happened to their men. Their bodies had been smashed beyond recognition, and some of them had been torn open and devoured by creatures only seen in man's nightmares. The monsters were tall, with hideous horse-like faces attached to the bodies of a bull, a cat, or what appeared to be a dog. These creatures were all over the camp, screaming in a chillingly similar manner to the dying screams of the dead men. The monsters noticed one of the hunters, and with a screech, sprang on them. The hunters ran for their lives, but they were slow and were easily cornered. In a futile attempt they tried to defend themselves but their screams rang through the forest, till all went quiet and the only remnants of their tale remained on leaves stiff with dry blood.



# LINE IN THE SAND

-Ojas Ayapilla, XII

If one were to picture the Middle East in their head; a montage of bombs exploding in the desert, angry mobs chanting in Arabic, females in strict hijab clothing, gunshots fired at innocent protesters, and probably two planes heading steadfast on gleaming skyscrapers would probably start playing.

What if it didn't have to be that way?

For several years post 9/11, many Middle Eastern countries, especially the ones in the Arabian Peninsula, have been trying to re-establish themselves not as tyrannical sharia caliphates; but a paradise in the sand; a beacon of light. Let's take the example of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and their new architectural megaproject, NEOM. NEOM is a smart city in the midst of the howling rub-al-khali, the largest sand desert in the world. It has many advertised features, including an octagonal economic free zone (and a port), a mountain resort and most absurdly, a city built within the dimensions of a glass line. The Line, aptly named, is the most ambitious of the NEOM megaproject. The Line is a proposed smart linear city in Saudi Arabia in Neom, Tabuk, which is designed to have no cars, streets or carbon emissions. The 170-kilometre-long (110 mi) city is part of Saudi Vision 2030 project, which Saudi Arabia claims will create 380,000 jobs and add \$48 billion to the country's GDP. The Line is planned to be the first development in Neom, a \$500 billion project. The city's plans anticipate a population of 9 million. The city will also be powered entirely by renewable energy. The Line will consist of three layers, including one on the surface for pedestrians, one underground for infrastructure, and another underground for transportation. The transportation layer will include a high-speed rail system, which is claimed to allow people to go from one side of the city to the other side in 20 minutes. Without accounting for stops, this would require an average speed of 512 km/h, which is faster than any existing high-speed rail at the time of announcement. Artificial intelligence will monitor the city and use predictive and data models to figure out ways to improve daily life for citizens in The Line, with residents being paid for submitting data to The Line. Estimated building cost is US\$100-200 billion (400-700 billion SAR), with some estimates as high as \$1 trillion. It is claimed by the Saudi government that it will create 380,000 jobs, spur economic diversification, and contribute 180 billion SAR (US\$48 billion) to domestic GDP by 2030. The graphic shown below will no doubt raise eyebrows and elicit strange reactions. No city has been built like this ever before in the real world; I mean, even the most bizarre science fiction stories have ideas less boisterous than this. Whether this plan will come to fruition, will remain to be seen.

Hindsight is always 20/20.

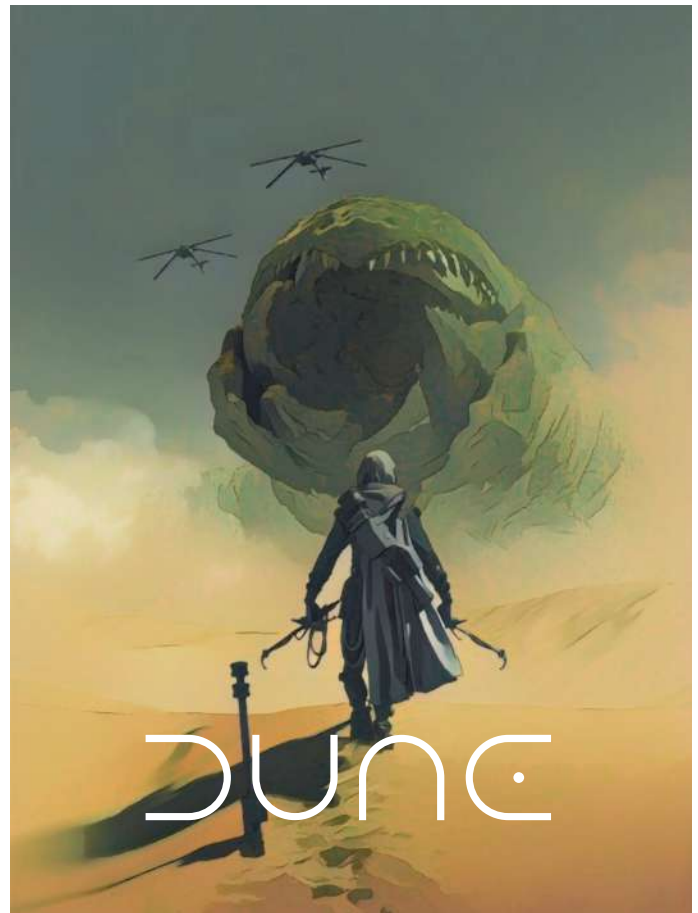


Illustration: Gaurish Saikia, IX

# A BOOK REVIEW

-Aayat Hazarika, X

Set in the distant future where noble dynastic families rule planetary fiefs, Dune is the story of Paul, heir to House Atreides, a noble family tasked with ruling the inhospitable desert planet Arrakis, by their Emperor. A planet which is the only source of melange or 'spice', a drug coveted across the known universe for its life-extending and consciousness-enhancing properties. While their original fief on the planet Caladan was abundant with oceans and seas and rain clouds, Arrakis is a despairingly dry desert wasteland, crawling with giant sandworms which guard spice and inhabited by its mysterious natives- the Fremen, whose blue eyes tell of zealously guarded secrets and whose voices hail Paul with awe as their supposed messiah. Everything around them reeks of conspiracy, one to stop his father's growing influence and respect among the Great Houses. A conspiracy possibly controlled by the Emperor himself, involving the previous masters of Arrakis and age-old enemies of the Atreides- the brutal Harkonnens, and on the night House Atreides is betrayed, Paul's worst fears come true with the destruction of his family. Thus begins the epic of Paul's incredible and inevitable journey beyond imagination to a convoluted greatness. He must seek the help of the Fremen if he is to ever exact revenge or understand the long-buried connection between himself and the desert planet that calls to him but to do so, he must learn their ways of survival, become one of them, build alliances and become their long-awaited messiah, a man of great power and presence.



Dune is, quite frankly speaking, a phenomenal breakthrough in science fiction set in an intricately crafted universe masterfully exploring themes like politics, power, ecology and religion. The brainchild of Frank Herbert, it revolutionized the classic space opera genre, giving it something more than the omnipresent pointy rockets, green-skinned extra-terrestrials and colourful costumes. Dune gave it reality.

Illustration: Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XI



*Campus Caricature*

# Promises

-Siddhi Gupta, X



## PERSPECTIVA GYANSHREE DEBATE

It is rightly said that you don't win a debate by suppressing discussion; you win it with a better argument. Priyanu Priyanka Kashyap (Class 11), Natasha Billimoria (Class 9) and Zaheen Rafia Shah (Class 9) accompanied by teacher escort Debolina C. Bakshi, participated in the Perspectiva Gyanshree Debate hosted by Gyanshree School, Noida. The debate was held on the 11th and 12th November, and witnessed a total of 22 schools battle it out and strive to make it the final round. Team AVS was amongst the top 6 teams selected for the final round and performed well.



## HEADMASTER GOLD MEDAL DEBATE

The prestigious Headmaster's Gold Medal Debate took place in The Willanson Magor Hall on the evening of October 12. Hiyaneijimmy Das, the Captain of the Athenaeum, served as Chairperson, and Aanya Paul Sarkar served as Time Keeper. The judges for the event were Dr. Hashik, Assistant Professor with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University, Mrs. Manisha Datta Roy, Assistant Managing Director at B. K. Memorial Hospital, Tezpur and Ms. Bashabi Gogoi, PhD. Guwahati. The Motion of the debate was that 'This house believes that freedom of choice is a misnomer'. The Proposition had Ojas Krish Venkatesh Ayapilla, Srishti Bajaj, Hana S. Ahmed and Norzin Lhamu Bhutia. The Opposition had Saanchit Agarwal, Ojasvi Agarwal, Aakanksha Kumar and Anushka Jitani. The Proposition briefly explained the motion's keywords before explaining how our decisions are influenced by other people's opinions, which causes our actions to affect others. The opposition argued that exercising one's freedom of choice requires courage and that people are not as easily influenced as the proposition claimed. The debates concluded with Ojasvi Agarwal finishing third, Aakanksha Kumar placing second, and Anushka Jitani taking home the coveted gold medal with the first position.



# NORTH EAST FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Assam Valley School held the 13th North-East Soccer Tournament from the 9th - 12th November, 2022. The four-day football tournament was a fest for all football enthusiasts in school and saw a turnout of enthusiastic spectators. Heartiest congratulations to all the winners.

Results at a glance:

**1st Position:** Assam Rifles Public School, Shillong

**2nd Position:** St. Xaviers Senior Secondary School, Tezpur

**3rd Position:** Tezpur Football Academy, Tezpur



# YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS



Irom Calvin, Class 12, Lohit House has received the Young Writers Award given by Leimayol Arts Centre, Imphal, Manipur during their 52nd Foundation Day Celebrations which was held on the 8th of November, 2022 at Imphal, Manipur.

Earlier this year, Irom had written an article having done extensive research on the contributions

made by this centre towards the development of Art and Culture in Manipur. Heartiest congratulations to Irom and his proud parents!

# THE OUTPOST

The G20 meet hosted under the Presidency of Indonesia drew attention beyond photo-ops. The Russian contingent led by Lavrov instead of Putin marked Russian presence despite odds. The missile hit at Poland had the world stand together and de-escalate tensions while UN confirmed that it was a stray from Kyiv and not Moscow. Of the many highlights of the summit, it was the public confrontation between Xi and Trudeau that had eyes riveted. The baton of the G20 presidency passed on to India for 2023 and will have besides the world, the expectations of a billion people as its spotlight.



Illustration: Sara Jha, XI

# PREFECTORIAL COUNCIL 2022-2023

School Captain- Gungming Phassang  
Head Boy- Nabadeep Deka  
Head Girl- Hana Shanifer Ahmed

AVE (Editor-in-Chief)- Emidaka Rapsang  
Media Centre Captain- Varun Barua

Academics Captain :  
Girls' Department- Manasvi Agarwal  
Academics Captain:  
Boys' Department- Neel Madhav Garodia

Sports Captain: Girls' Department- Siddhi Gupta  
Sports Captain: Boys' Department- Deni Puning

Cultural Captain- Diksha Baruah  
Cultural Vice Captain- Veesaj Goswami

Event Management Head- Himanish Jallan  
Event Management Deputy Head- Kashvi Kejriwal  
Event Management Prefects:  
Abhishree Keshari  
Devanshi Deka  
Kaezax Kholie  
Krishti Pathak  
Paula Lesley Warjri  
Pragya Narjinary  
Shreya Rameka  
Soumya Agarwal  
Sungtiben  
Yukta Saikia

HOUSE CAPTAINS: GIRLS' DEPARTMENT  
Bhoroli - Aadya Ghosh  
Jinari- Mayushka Patodia  
Kopili- Yasarri Tibrewal  
Subansiri- Jessica Rani

HOUSE CAPTAINS: BOYS' DEPARTMENT  
Lohit- Ritu Deep Deka  
Manas- Sujanveer Aatria  
Dhansiri- Ryan Dorjee Chingapa  
Namdang- Krish Mahajan

HOUSE PREFECTS: GIRLS' DEPARTMENT  
Bhoroli - Srishti Bajaj, Sungjemyala Jamir  
Jinari- Ojasvi Agarwal, Pratiksha Chowdhary  
Kopili- Hemanshi Malik, Sidhi Agarwal  
Subansiri- Asis Gill, Tanishka Sharma

HOUSE PREFECTS: BOYS' DEPARTMENT  
Lohit- Pratik Kanoi, Takhe Tamo Haaro  
Manas- Jay Vardhan Patwari, Shavya Lamsal Shreshtha  
Dhansiri- Abu Hubaira Sodial, Varun Seth  
Namdang- Prithviraj Paul, Samarth Mahatta





## Ripple #195

-Emidaka Rapsang, XI

The blurred visions of glowing  
fireflies,  
All seemed like wishing stars in  
the winter sky.  
Under a nicotine haze, the frost  
nips near the eyes,  
It seeps through the rags, the cold  
as harsh as an orphan's cries.

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "My broke is back" – Rangdou Houmai, XI  
(*Financial Aid didn't help?*)
2. "The laptop is oning"- Vanshika Sharma, XI  
(*And your grammar is offing.*)
3. "I didn't go to practice yesterday" – Jikke Ikum, XII (*Did English not accompany you?*)
4. "Go and face your wash" - Niranjan C. Samaddar (*Splendid skincare advice!*)
5. "House, about turn!"- Prithviraj Paul, XI (*You sure such a command exist?*)

## Keep It Reel!

*Hindsight*  
- Anikath Joshi, X



Editor-in-Chief: Kekhriesino Meyase

Deputy Editor: Hiyaneijemmy Das

Correspondents: Ssara & Deubale

Design & Layout: Kekhriesino & Emidaka

Illustrators: Hana Ahmed & Innalemla

Photography Credits: Yashraj Agarwal

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

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

E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

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

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



The views expressed in articles printed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of AVE or its editorial policy.