

THE GORKHA QUESTION

-Jigme Pao Tamang, XI

As I peek out my window, I notice the gathering become increasingly raucous. Threats from military police appear to increase their wrath. I see a man pick up a rock and throw it towards the soldiers. It hits him hard on the side of his head and he crumples down instantly; he's definitely unconscious, the yells grew louder, and a low, hollow boom and dense white smoke filled the air. I stood there watching the smoke creep across the small mountain road when one of the canisters sailed over our gates and into the school grounds. The preceding text is my clearest recollection of the Summer of 2017. The tension had been building all year, with the region's political leaders promising statehood at every meeting. Finally, amid the heat of June, the chains that had been holding back an entire region's wrath shattered. Protests erupted

almost simultaneously throughout the Darjeeling district. The summer of 2017 saw the emergence of a second movement to establish Gorkhaland. Close to six years have gone by since this incident yet I can still clearly see the crowd in front of my school, I still remember sneaking out of the dorm when the teachers weren't watching to see what the fuss was all about, and I remember witnessing the hopes and dreams of my people surge like the waves and come crashing down on the military police - their rage made them indifferent to the blows of the club - and then, just like the waves, ebbing away when the tear gas covered the entire area in a fog denser than any we find in the coldest months of winter. Darjeeling's inhabitants have always desired their own identity. Despite being a part of West Bengal, they have no ties to the Bengalis; despite being ethnically Nepali, they have no ties to either Nepal or Sikkim, the only other state with Nepali as a major language; and despite being Indian citizens, the blood of the Gurkhas flows stronger in their veins than anything else. They came from Nepal as labourers to help build the new town of Darjeeling in the image of England, as seen from the old buildings scattered around upper Darjeeling - away from the hotels and tourist attractions, away from the corruption of greed and indulgence. The land where the citizens of the crown saw only profit and to maximise their already immense profit, they exploited the workers knowing that they had no home to return to; stuffing a family into primeval dwellings made of mud and straw, with threats of eviction if they failed to meet an ever-increasing quota, while before they had promised a better future.

The Asianification of Indian Teens

-Zaheen Shah, X

Since the late 2000s, a new protagonist has emerged in pop culture and trends. The way people hyped over One Direction, it's BTS now. Justin Bieber used to be the global heartthrob of teenagers but it is now Lee Jung Suk. Slowly but surely, the soft forces of American society—and ultimately Indian society—have been overtaken by the storm of East Asian culture, particularly that of Korea and Japan. There was something so new, so fascinating, so magnetic about the language, food, and ramen culture that it has become a rage among Indian teenagers. It's gone to a point where teenagers incorporate even the speaking style and specific gestures that are certainly not 'Indian' in character. The age of soft power now rests in Far East Asia and there is no denying it. 'Squid Game', 'All of Us Are Dead', 'Haikyuu!!', and 'Demon Slayer', among other anime and manga series, have significantly contributed to the cultural shift. The neo-colonial power of the West has shrunk and the sands have shifted in favor of East Asia. They will continue to rule until something else catches the attention of the devoted

In the Wizarding World

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

Time is making fools of us again as the Wizarding World celebrated its twenty-sixth anniversary on the 2nd of May. Rowling began her writing career as a single mother. Freed from a miserable marriage, yet drawn into a tangle of debts and desperation, little did she know that the worlds she was creating, the maps she was so carefully carving, the stories she would soon be stringing together would be woven into a fantastical universe of centaurs and magic, of witches and giants, of the dark arts and diabolical professors. This universe would soon cultivate and nurture the utter joy of fantasy for generations to come. The Harry Potter series should be taught as literature in classrooms- it took me from Harry's tiny abode in the cupboard under the stairs to the cozy corners of the Gryffindor common room, and took me alongside Harry, Hermione, and Ron as they strolled into the forbidden forest, for inviting me into Hagrid's cabin for tea, for handing me a wand as the dementors lurked by, and for giving me the chance of calling Hogwarts home. It is literature, for the impact it has had on the lives of so many. It taught us what it felt like to believe in magic. To fall in love with it. Always.

Classic Criticism

-Neilginryan Das, X

Classics vary from intellectual ambitions to basic white man's fiction, depending on who you ask, from Homer's voyages to Transylvania and Dracula's haunts. Some individuals believe that classics are overrated because of their antiquity and lack of modern relevance, while others believe that they are classics for reasons that transcend time and provide timeless insights into the human psyche and the histories behind it. Classics are words woven into dense and lengthy sentences. And because they are frequently slow-moving, they do not fare well in today's world of constant change. Furthermore, the complexity of the languages used back then makes classics more difficult to understand now. But, in the end, each person's subjective opinion determines whether or not classics are overrated.

Shimmering Seam

-Tanveer Ahmed, X

The diamond industry has been lying to us. The so-called 'women's best friend', diamonds are not as rare as we think. Gold is considerably rarer than diamonds, but the cost of diamonds is almost five times that of gold! They are excessively costly and have evolved into the trinkets of the super-rich, who shell out absurd sums for a single piece of carbon. It's not like diamonds are found only naturally, either. They have started to be commercially produced in labs. However, despite the fact that there is no physical or chemical difference between lab-created and "real" diamonds, people frequently believe that naturally occurring diamonds are superior. At the end of the day, they are the creation of the market and what the markets favour, the gods bless.

Campus Caricature

MELTING

Illustration: Ssara Jha, XII



CAMPUS NEWS

STAFF VS STUDENTS FOOTBALL MATCH

The Sports Department hosted a Staff vs. Student Football Match on June 3rd. The students enthusiastically cheered on the players throughout the game. DR. Amit Jugran, the headmaster, was a favourite with the students as he dribbled his way past the players. Mrs. Kaithan served as the Chief Guest of the event. The students won the match, bringing the evening to a close.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On the 5th of June, to celebrate World Environment Day, the AVS Science Club made eco-friendly products such as Gelatin biofilm and bioplastic, corn starch bioplastic, papercrete, penholders, pots, handmade paper, cards and bookmarks.



INTER HOUSE UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH DEBATES

On the 3rd June, the school witnessed a war of words between Bhoroli-Lohit and Jinari-Manas in the finals of Inter-House Upper School English Debates. The motion of the debate was that 'This House Believes that Sanctions must be imposed on Countries that violate International Agreements with regard to the Environment'. The judges for the evening were Dr Danny Dutta, Mr. Amlan Das and Mrs. Shuba Chatterjee. The event began with the first Speaker of the Proposition, making her argument with a witty statement along with explaining the key terms and stating that countries that violate their own stances after consenting to it must face consequences. In her preemptive rebuttal she stressed that environmentalism is an emergency. The first Speaker from the Opposition, began his argument with poise and stated that the burden of proof on their end was to prove that sanctions are not an absolute necessity to be imposed in every circumstance. The second Speaker of side Proposition



began her speech with an anecdote from the Headmaster stressing on the need for sanctions. Her speech was marked by concise rebuttals where she talked about the importance of holding countries accountable. The third Speaker from side Opposition spoke on the Maslow's hierarchy of needs and how the world will always be unequal. The third Speaker from side Proposition was witty and made quite an impression with his rebuttal. He mentioned that third world countries will always remain so if the environment was not protected. The third speaker from the Opposition had extremely well-structured arguments and held the audience's attention. Both fourth Speakers for side Proposition and Opposition respectively, asked relevant questions making the rebuttal session engaging. The evening ended with the Most- Promising Speaker being awarded to Tasmeen Ahmed and Zaheen Shah being awarded the Best Speaker. The motion had been lost. Jinari-Manas hailed victorious in the Upper-School English Debates

CULTURAL FORUM OF PERFORMING ARTS OF PUNE

The Assam Valley School Dance and Music team has brought laurels through their achievement at the All India multilingual drama, dance, music festival and contest - 19th Cultural Forum of Performing Arts 2023 that was held at Pune, Maharashtra.

The Fest was organized by the Akhil Bharatiya Sanskritik Sangh (ABSS) and the Global Council of Art and Culture in association with UNESCO and started from May 21 on the World Culture Day. Around 5,500 artists from 18 states participated in around 16,000 programmes showcasing art forms like regional and tribal folk dances and various other dance forms. The music category held competitions in Hindustani classical, light, patriotic and vocal music, and different instrumental forms.

AVS achievements at a glance:

For Dance:

1st position- Tiwa group

1st position - Trio modern - Chirag, Manas and



Langlensana Rajkumari.

2nd position Kathak solo senior - Pratiksha Das

2nd position kathak solo junior - Spriha Kashyap

2nd position Sattriya solo senior - Swastika Boruah

2nd position Sattriya solo - Jupitera Das

2nd position Sattriya trio - Pratiti, Swastika and Trishmita.

2nd position -Bihu group

3rd position Sattriya solo- Abhinashni Baruah

2nd position odissi duet- Tanishka and Tannushree

3rd position junior trio- Odissi Jermin, Jezreel, Shaphiyana

Manipur Solo- 2nd position - Langlensana Rajkumari.

Modern junior group 2nd position

2nd position solo folk- Trismita Borah

3rd position Senior trio Odissi-Tanishka, Tannushree, Harshita,

Semi classical solo- 3rd position - Ishita Rahman

2nd position - Senior modern group.

Chairman award - duet Sattriya -Jupitera Das and Abhinashni

Chairman Award semi classical group

For Indian Vocal:

Semi classical (Sr) (Solo)- 1st prize: Sanchi Lalani

Light Music(Jr)(Solo)- 1st Prize: Jagrit Agarwal,

Chairman Award: Suzana Jamal.

Light Music (Jr) (Duet)- Chairman award: Rudrakshi

Bharadwaj and Suzana Jamal

Light Music: (Sr) (solo)- 2nd Prize: Swastika Boruah

Folk music (Jr solo)- 3rd Prize: Rudrakshi Bharadwaj

Folk music (Sr- solo)- 2nd Prize: Changkham Phukan,
3rd Prize: Harshita Das

Patriotic Song (Sr Solo)- 2nd Prize: Sansita Jindal

Patriotic Song (Sr-Group)- 2nd Prize

Folk Music (Sr-Group)- 1st Prize

For Indian Instrumental (Percussion & Non percussion)

Wind Senior (Solo) - 1st prize - Veesaj Goswami

String Senior (Solo)- Chairman Award - Krishna Tibrewal

Trio Senior (Fusion)- 1st prize - Veesaj Goswami, Krishna Tibrewal, Aira Thoudam

Senior Fusion- 1st prize - Veesaj Goswami, Krishna Tibrewal, Aira Thoudam, Agnivh Prakash Bora, Nuklasen Aier, Shorya Kanda, Kunal Agarwal, Drishan Jatim Bora

Taal senior (Solo)- Chairman - Shorya Kanda, Rupraj Borgoyari

Taal Senior (Duo) - Chairman - Shorya Kanda, Manas Keleng

Taal Junior (trio) - 2nd- Drishan Jatin Bora, Vaibhav Baheti, Gaushik Raaj Langthasa

Taal Junior (Group)- 3rd - Drishan Jatin Bora, Vaibhav Baheti, Gaushik Raaj Langthasa, Mrinmoy Kalita

INTERHOUSE PRODUCT DESIGN

The Craft, Design and Technology Department hosted an Inter-House Product Designing Competition. The premise was to create a chemistry based board game with North Eastern Themes.

The Results at a glance:

1st Position - Subansiri-Namdang

2nd Position - Kopili-Dhansiri

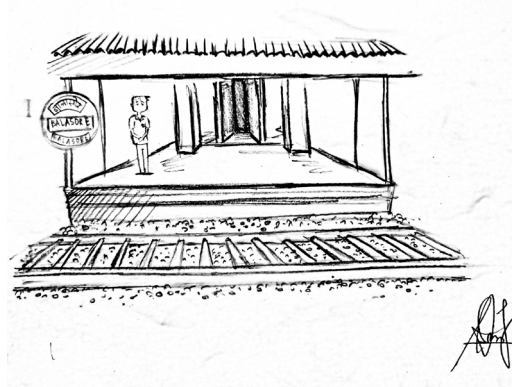
3rd Position - Bhoroli-Lohit

4th Position - Jinari-Manas



THE OUTPOST

This week's headlines proved to be a mosaic of stories, however, perhaps not the best to the ear. The Odisha train mishap has shaken the country with the triple crash in Balasore wherein a passenger train collided into a goods train killing over 280 people and injuring hundreds more. The Railway Board has suggested a CBI probe into the matter to negate any doubts regarding a possible sabotage. Meanwhile, tragedies knocked doors at Bihar's doorstep where an under-construction four-lane bridge collapsed for the second time and a probe to investigate has been ordered.



Ripple #206

-Rianna Irom, IX

The sceptre was a sword in her
hands,
Her throne conquered boundless
lands,
She carried on her hair, a crown of
thorns,
And a cloak of duty she adorns,
Decorated with her loyalty,
Fuelled with fury by the blood of
royalty.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "I said I was never a Tihu people."- Suriya Nandini, XI (With that English, you are below Tihu.)
2. "Believe you me, you need fail." - Mr. Thajeb Hazarika (With great English comes great success Sir.)
3. "You know what today did?" - Sungjem Jamir, XII (Knowing you, you probably assisted.)
4. "I already said you to come here?" - Nuklasen Aier, XI (I don't know if you need a dictionary or a map.)
5. "No need to be thank of." - Aira Thoudam, XI (I take it back.)

Keep It Reel!

To our roots



Editor-in-Chief: Emidaka Rapsang

Deputy Editor: Deubale Meru

Correspondents: Ssara, Zaheen, Tanveer, Aanya and Neilginryan

Design & Layout: Emidaka

Illustrators: Hana Ahmed, Imnalemla & Gaurish

Photography Credits: Rudrayan Haloi

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.