

# Sam Manekshaw

- Aakanksha Kumar, XI

He was promoted to Major General after India suffered a humiliating defeat, and not a victory in the Sino-Indian war of 1962, where he was the Director of Military Operations. He replied to PM Indira Gandhi that “I am always ready sweetie”, when asked about the readiness of India to go to war with Pakistan. Such wit and humour, coupled with irreplaceable charisma, and foresightedness can belong to none other than India’s first Field Marshal, Sam Manekshaw.

In the annals of military history, there are few figures who stand as tall and resolute as India’s beloved ‘Sam Bahadur,’ a title given to him by his dotting regiment, the 8th Gorkha Rifles. A man of his words and a persona that reverberated with courage, wisdom and an indomitable spirit, Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, popularly known as Sam Manekshaw was, is and will always be a testament to exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to his nation. Born on April 3, 1914, in Amritsar, Punjab, he grew up to become one of India’s most celebrated military commanders.

Manekshaw was a man built out of tremendous tenacity and unshakable determination. Despite facing several obstacles in his early life, he used them as stepping stones on his path to success. His elevation to the rank of Field Marshal in 1973 marked a historic moment in India’s military history, as he became the first Indian officer to hold that esteemed position. He was commissioned into the British Indian Army during the turbulent years of World War II, and immediately established himself as a capable strategist



Illustrated by Richie Konhoujam, X

and a bold front leader. Manekshaw’s name became a byword for military brilliance during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. He methodically planned and carried out Operation Vijay, which ultimately led to Pakistan’s defeat and the creation of Bangladesh. His inspiring leadership and brilliant strategic thinking inspired the troops and gave them a sense of invincibility, which led to a resounding victory. However, it was his treatment of the prisoners of war and his conduct with the defeated Pakistani army that raised his stature amongst his own soldiers

and that of the prisoners. One cannot simply talk about Sam Manekshaw without acknowledging his resolute stance during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. Despite constant political pressure, as the Army Commander, he fearlessly defended his troops' honour and integrity. He warned the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Defense Minister Krishna Menon about the need to equip and prepare the Indian Army across the Chinese border, but his warnings were ignored. The humiliating defeat that India suffered in the war led to Manekshaw's promotion to Major General. He was later appointed as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command. His steadfast refusal to submit to ill-conceived orders demonstrated

his unwavering commitment to the principles of military ethics and still serves as an attestation for generations to come. In June 2008, Sam Manekshaw breathed his last, leaving behind an unparalleled legacy. His life is a story of unrelenting determination, unyielding courage, and unwavering patriotism. Manekshaw was awarded the Padma Vibhushan by the President of India in 1972 for being a model of patriotism. He remains an enduring symbol of India's military prowess and the embodiment of leadership. It is safe to say that Manekshaw's life serves as a reminder that legends are not born; they are forged through adversity and shaped by the choices they make.

## THE ONLY EMPRESS

-Atoti Zhimomi, XI

The grass, flowers and shrubs would all tremble in fear when she would walk by. They would hold their breath as the ends of her *han-fu* gently brushed past them, making sure that their little leaves wouldn't irritate her delicate ankles, for they knew who she was and what she was capable of — all of China knew. She was Wu Zetian.

But before she grew her venomous claws she was known as Wu Hou, and before that she was Wu Zhao. The dainty teenaged Wu Zhao who had been chosen as one of the King's concubines always knew that she was destined for something greater than being one of the many wives of a balding emperor; she knew from the marrow of her bones that her head was meant for more than just the crown of a concubine, it was sculpted for one made for an emperor. She knew her body was made to house the dragon robes that had been passed on for ages before her husband was born and would be passed on long after his brittle bones had crumbled to dust. And for as long as she could remember, even as she was stirring the pot for her family's dinner, she knew that her hands were meant to sign decrees and make laws, not massaging the wrinkled neck of her betrothed.

But she knew to be patient. She had been named Wu Hou after officially joining the emperor's harem and while she was Wu Hou, she hid her fiery ambition under her demure features, making sure her husband could never see the contempt that was always concealed.

Her desire to slip in a drop of poison into her husband's tea always went unnoticed by his majesty; but her greed for control went beyond her attempts at secrecy and sometimes when her ashen husband was in a daze of satisfaction, she would slip in a word or two— never too big of a request, always with her eyes chaste possible—about a little law she thought too lenient, or a maid she saw as insolent and he would listen, every time. Then one day she whispered, “Make me your empress, and name me Wu Zetian,” and it was so.

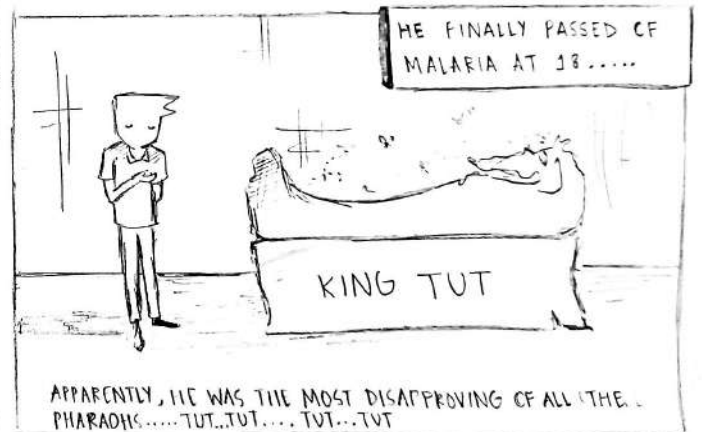
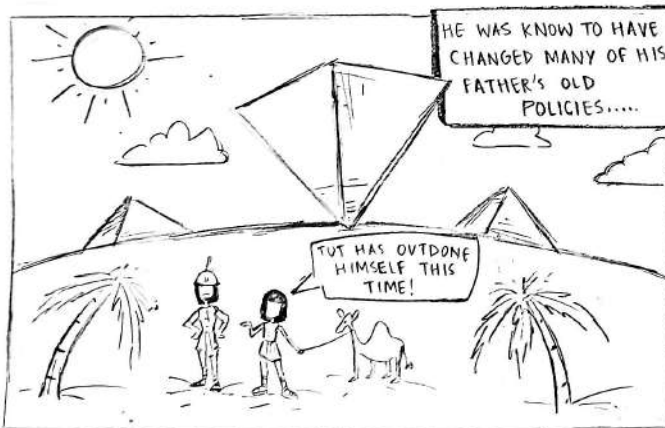
She slowly fed her husband until he burst, and then she placed her son as a puppet ruler, one who would stay locked up in his chambers filled with all the food he could imagine as well as all the women he could ever want, while his dearest mother controlled the ins and outs of all the courts summoned in his name, ordered around all the eunuchs who had sworn to serve him, and enjoyed all the powers that were assigned to him.

With her reddened lips and arched brows, she strengthened her position with every little assassination, every little decree made tighter and every pair of eyes that would avoid her piercing gaze. She made sure her throne was ironclad, without a single crack or chink, and she would make sure that for ages to come, when people mentioned her husband or son, it would be in relation to Wu Zetian.

# A DAY IN HISTORY

## THE ADVENTURES OF KING TUT

Illustrated by Ssara Jha, XII



*Campus Caricature*

# FOR ATHENA

Illustration: Ssara Jha, XII





## CELA FIESTA 2023

The third edition of 'Cela Fiesta', a conference celebrating the diverse verticals of art, was organised by the Round Square Committee of The Assam Valley School on 19th August 2023. 19 schools from across the globe along with The Assam Valley School participated in the event. Over the course of three hours, 144 participants enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their talents in their respective categories as well as meet and learn from new people. There were six categories in the event - Poetry Club, Create a Disguise, Become a Character, Why I did What I Did, Movie Club and Book Club with two barazza leaders from The Assam Valley School assigned to each breakout room. The keynote speaker for the opening ceremony was Mrs. Rashmi Narzary, a renowned author best known for her children's book *His Share of Sky* (2012), for which she won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2016. The students took back with them an experience of exploring new ideas on poems, movies, and characters from Pop Culture. The event was a success for participants, collaborators as well as the organisers.



## RS CONFERENCE TO SUNBEAM SCHOOL

Five students along with Maam Rajlakshmi Sharma participated in the Round Square Conference hosted by the Sunbeam School, Varanasi from 17th to 21st August 2023. 31 schools across India and abroad assembled to deliberate on the theme of the conference; 'Dream...Believe and Achieve.' The students were addressed by Ms Rajbir Sandu, the Round Square Schools' Support Director of South Asia & Gulf Region who enlightened the students on various aspects of leadership. The students enthusiastically participated in a plethora of Baraza sessions and special interest groups. The power-packed discussions and deliberation during the baraza sessions provided an enriching and enjoyable experience to all the attendees and fostering the exchange of views.



# AVSMUN

The Assam Valley School held the AVS MUN, which began on July 18th. Students from six different schools were asked to participate in the three-day event. The students served in eight separate committees, where they discussed various agendas and debated potential solutions to complicated issues affecting many parts of the world. The United Nations Women (UNW) delegates engaged in a lively debate about the legalization of prostitution. Simultaneously, the All India Political Parties Meeting (AIPPM) convened to discuss reservation rules in modern India. Other committees had other agendas; the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) needed to talk about the tensions and ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel. Meanwhile, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) met to discuss illicit human trafficking in South Asia. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) met to discuss the impact of 3D printing's industrial capacity on free trade, while the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) met to reevaluate Non-Proliferation Mechanisms that resulted in NPT breaches. In addition to these committees, the International Press Corporations (IPC) were present to keep track of and report on the committees.

## THE OUTPOST

The past week has been one of India's most important diplomatic successes as it hosted the G20 meet. New Delhi saw the sangam of the world leaders as it turned into a proverbial fortress. The Delhi Declaration was passed unanimously and the highlights of the meet saw India welcoming the African Union into the G20 as well as the announcement of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. From the selfies to a vegetarian meal of millets that seemed straight out of the famed Lost Recipes it was a meet made more remarkable because of the involvement of the people in it.



*Illustrated by Sara Jha, XII*



## Ripple #210

-Rianna Irom, IX

*Too young to be a bride,  
The child held back her tears  
As she stared into the mirror,  
And smiled down  
At the corpse of  
Her husband by her feet.*

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "You should have go." -Kemo Dulom, XII  
(*Maybe you should instead.*)
2. "My ice cream will get cold." -Karan Gam, XII  
(*Smooth brain moment.*)
3. "Don't limit my cross." -Tenzin Dekie, XI  
(*Shiver me timbers.*)
4. "I thought they were Arunachal." -Deubale Meru, XII  
(*What great observations, Sherlock 2.o.*)
5. "What are you doing with my life?" -Aadya Ghosh, XII  
(*Your life is just as meaningless as that sentence.*)

## Keep It Reel!

*Veni Vidi Vici*

-Reetisha Daimari, XI



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