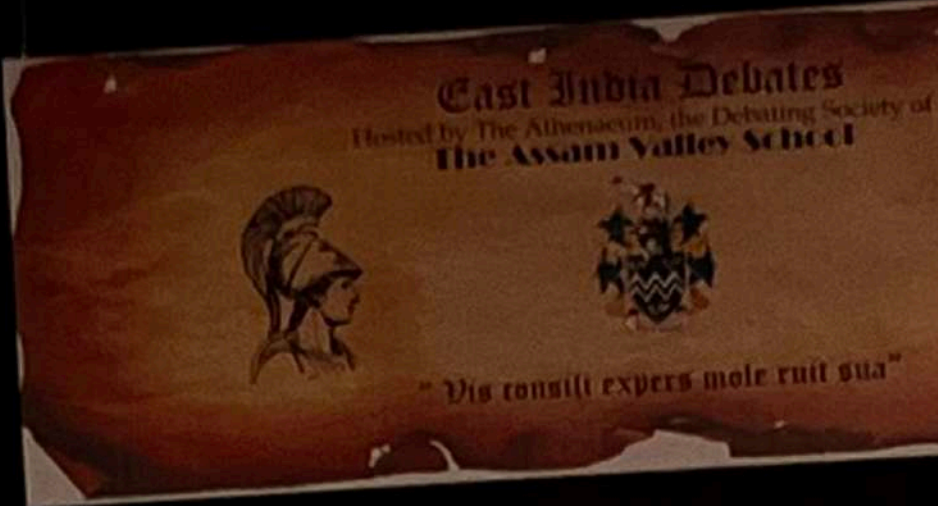


*Assam Valley Express*  
*Special Issue*

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Photography by: Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XII



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*The Assam Valley School (Team Green)  
V.S Bishop Cotton School, Shimla*

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*St. George's College, Mussoorie V.S  
Delhi Public School, Guwahati*

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*St. George's College, Mussoorie V.S  
Bishop Cotton School, Shimla*

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Photography by: Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XII



# Semi - Finals

**“This House Believes that organ donation post one’s demise should be a fundamental duty”**

*The Bishop Cotton School, Shimla*  
(OPPOSITION)



vs



*The Assam Valley School, Tezpur*  
(PROPOSITION)

*Judges- Ms. Manisha Dutta, Ms. Ananya Bonjyotsna and Ms. Arpana Choudhury*



-Atoti Zhimomi, XI

Bishop Cotton School and AVS Green Team engaged in a heated discussion in the first Semi-final round. It was argued by Side Proposition that more people would feel ethically obligated to donate if charitable donations were made a fundamental obligation. The Side Proposition further asserted that the broad accessibility of organs in legal institutions would reduce the demand for the illegal sale of organs on the black market.

Strong counter arguments and reasons were also made by Side Opposition, who disputed the viability of making such a practice a fundamental duty. They raised concerns about organ accessibility being exploitative, implying that the wealthy would take advantage of this privilege. Side Opposition raised issues related to the absence of informed consent alongside practical considerations. All in all, it was a thought-provoking debate that was a closely contested match between the two teams.

**Result of the debate: The motion was lost**

**Winner -Bishop Cotton School, Shimla**

**Best Speaker - Abhijato Chatterjee, Bishop Cotton School, Shimla**

**Most Promising- Priyanu Priyanka Kashyap, The Assam Valley School, (Green)**



# Semi - Finals Round Two

**“This House Believes that  
contemplation is a  
dying art”**

*Delhi Public School, Guwahati  
(OPPOSITION)*



vs

*St. George's College, Mussoorie  
(PROPOSITION)*

*Judges- Ms. Manisha Dutta, Ms. Ananya  
Bonjyotsna and Ms. Arpana Choudhury*

The lead speaker of side Proposition began his argument by defining the term “contemplation” as a deep thought, or introspection – this was further defined by side Opposition as time spent considering a thing or action; he also stated that “dying art” meant an art form in a state of decline or demise. Through their constructs, he and his fellow speakers showed that modern society and its characteristics: technological dependence, productivity and career focused culture, and the need for social validation has contributed and even hastened the demise of contemplation. The Opposition, on the other hand, fought strongly against these statements by mentioning that the increasing occurrence of stress and anxiety in our generation has led to a rising trend in the number of people who are taking up yoga and meditation - two well-known forms of contemplation. Side Opposition mentioned that contemplation was a school of thought that shall never end until humanity itself ends, however, they contradicted themselves by mentioning that the renaissance was the peak of contemplative thought (unwittingly implicating that contemplation has entered a trough) and the Proposition quickly pointed that out.

**Result of the debate: The motion was carried**

**Winner -St. George's College, Mussoorie**

**Best Speaker - Yuvraj Singh, St. George's College, Mussoorie**

**Most Promising- Rodas Bhatia, St. George's College, Mussoorie**



# The Final Debate

**“This House Believes that India’s refugee policies are now influenced by religious nationalism”**

*The Bishop Cotton School, Shimla  
(OPPOSITION)*



*vs*



*St. George’s College, Mussoorie  
(PROPOSITION)*

*Judges- Mr. Amlan Das, Ms. Ananta Goswami and Mr. Amiya Das*

-Jigme Pao Tamang, XI

It is always important to know when something has reached its end. Closing circles, shutting doors, finishing chapters, it doesn’t matter what we call it – this time it’s the 18 th East India Debates. The last debate featured the controversial topic ‘India’s refugee policies are now influenced by religious nationalism’. The side Proposition began by defining refugees as people who have fled war, violence or persecution and have left behind all their possessions to cross an international boundary; and by defining religious nationalism as nationalism fuelled by religious thought. He then stated that refugee policies are used for strategic benefits and as a political tool by many governments, including ours. In sharp contrast to side Proposition’s cynical view of the government, side Opposition emphasised on the secular nature of our constitution and mentioned many clauses within it that showed that all policies in our country (including those related to refugees) are secular. Both teams brought with them many persuasive constructs, however they both seemed plagued by the issue of Muslims and spent a majority of the debate on that issue. Nevertheless, both were extremely well prepared for every question and had a rebuttal for every point their opponent brought up. They made the final debate an intellectually stimulating event, however, the Proposition prevailed with their superior logic and charisma.



**Result of the debate: The motion was won**

**Winner St. George’s College, Mussoorie**

**Runners Up: Bishop Cotton Boys School, Shimla**

**Best Speaker -Paavani Goyal, St. George’s College,  
Mussoorie**

**Most Promising- Abhijato Chatterjee, Bishop Cotton School  
and Aditya Raj Singh, St. George’s College**



# Glimpses Of East India Debates





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