

Assam Valley Express
Special Issue



**EAST INDIA
DEBATES 2023**



Photography by: Mr. Anubhav Sarkar
Front Cover by: Imnalemla Imchen, XII

Opening Ceremony



-Deubale Meru, Deputy Editor, XII

The 18th East India Debates, is back in the physical format after 2 years of the online meet due to the Pandemic. It began on September 14th at the Williamson Magor Hall. Gunming Phassang, the School Captain, presented and greeted the twelve participating schools. Following this was the Flag Mounting Ceremony which included two flags for AVS, representing Team Blue and Green. The Headmaster took to the stage and declared the East India Debates open.

The assembly was followed by an ice-breaking session led by Ma'am Mousumi Talukdar and Ma'am Brinda Das. The groups engaged in interactive games. The icebreaker activity served to relax the teams and eventually made everyone feel at ease with one another.

The stage was set for the dice to roll.



Morning Session

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

On the 14th of September, the school witnessed a war of words between Kendra Vidyalaya and Sainik School, Goalpara. Side Proposition began their speech by quoting Aristotle- 'From Womb to Tomb'. They focused mainly on the importance of students having a healthy relationship with their teachers and also said that a better interactive class will result in better learning. The Opposition countered their arguments by stating that a school in Washington DC has already seen the failure of evaluating teachers. They also said that questioning the capabilities of our teachers went against India's cultural practices. It was a fast-paced debate with assertive constructs and sharp rebuttals.

Result- The Motion was lost

Winner-Sainik School Goalpara

Best Speaker- Jishnu Agasti, Sainik School, Goalpara

Most Promising Speaker- Shivam Barnwal, VKV Chimpu & Priyesh Yadav, Sainik School, Goalpara



“This House Believes that students should be allowed to evaluate teachers”



*Sainik School, Goalpara
(OPPOSITION)*



vs

*Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Chimpu
(PROPOSITION)*

Judges- Mr.Nidarshan Nandan, Mr. Shrey Goyal and Dr. Hemashree Deka





“This House Believes that students should be allowed to evaluate teachers”



Lekhi Public School, Itanagar
(OPPOSITION)



vs

The Assam Valley School, Tezpur
(PROPOSITION)

Judges- Mr. Parth Parasher, Mr. Amar Gupta and Ms. Anisha Kashyap



-Rianna Irom, IX

The debate between the Lekhi Public School and The Assam Valley School was a beguiling one. The Opposition claimed that assessing teachers would be disrespectful and unfair due to bias, whilst the Proposition maintained that evaluating teachers was an important instrument that would assist in enhancing the quality of the education system that was supposed to be child-centric. The debate eventually came to an interesting end with a strong rebuttal from Anushka Jitani, the lead Speaker of the Proposition.

Result of the debate: The Motion was won

Winner - The Assam Valley School, Team Blue
Best Speaker - Norzin Lhamu Bhutia (The Assam Valley School, Team Blue)
Most Promising- Anushka Jitani (The Assam Valley School, Team Blue)

-Neilginryan Das, X

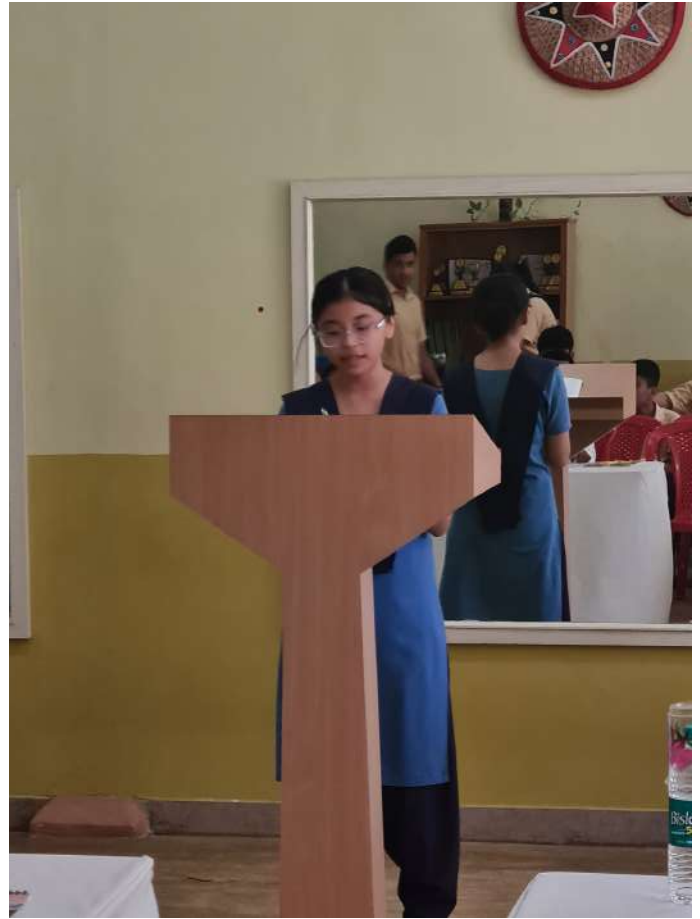
A fierce debate had developed over a contentious yet critical issue. Strong remarks, supported by facts, were made by the lead speaker of side Proposition in a powerful opening statement. However, the Opposition struck back with equally strong arguments, claiming that students are more inclined to deliver prejudiced opinions. The debate was one to watch as it featured strong points backed up by informed rebuttals.

Result of the debate: The motion was lost

Winner - Sanskriti The Gurukul, Guwahati

Best Speaker - Jayana Chowdhury (Sanskriti The Gurukul, Guwahati)

Most Promising- Bhavyasri Garapati (Sanskriti The Gurukul, Guwahati)



“This House Believes that students should be allowed to evaluate teachers”



**Sanskriti The Gurukul, Guwahati
(OPPOSITION)**



vs

**Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Nirjuli
(PROPOSITION)**

Judges- Mr. Sabir Ansari, Dr. Tinam Borah and Mr. Abhijnyan Phukan



**“This House Believes that there can
be no progress
without innovation”**



Delhi Public School, Guwahati
(OPPOSITION)



vs

Miles Bronson School, Guwahati
(PROPOSITION)

*Judges- Mrs. Raya Mukhopadhyay, Mr.
Shrey Goya and Mr. Nidarshan Nandan*



-Siddhi Priyadarshini, IX

It was a heated debate from the start with each side presenting their arguments. Side Opposition's lead speaker brought forth compelling facts proving that progress could be made without innovation. Side Proposition pointed out that innovation was the child of necessity and society could not progress unless and until newer ideas found the light of day. They stressed on the reasons behind why innovation was required, despite the Opposition's vehement rejection. Nonetheless, everyone put in their best effort and the audience was thoroughly entertained.

Result of the debate: The motion was lost

Winner - Delhi Public School, Guwahati

Best Speaker - Heetartha Bora (Delhi Public School, Guwahati)

Most Promising- Heisnam Serena Devi (Miles Bronson School)



-Atoti Zhimomi, XI

Side Opposition argued that innovation causes sudden change, whereas development should be gradual. Hana Shanifer Ahmed of the Proposition, on the other hand, contended that democracy and education are innovations in and of themselves. While innovation is beneficial to society, Rajveer Kochhar, the Opposition's lead speaker, stressed that it is not the only factor. The debate was a close match between the two teams.

Result of the debate: The motion was carried

Winner - The Assam Valley School, Team Green

Best Speaker - Priyanu Kashyap (The Assam Valley School, Team Green)

Most Promising- Srishti Bajaj (The Assam Valley School, Team Green)



“This House Believes that there can be no progress without innovation”



Bishop Cotton School, Shimla
(OPPOSITION)



vs
The Assam Valley School, Tezpur
(PROPOSITION)

Judges- Mr. Abhinav Mishra, Mr. Amar Gupta and Ms. Anisha Kashyap





**“This House Believes that there can
be no progress
without innovation”**



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



vs

**The Assam Rifles School, Shillong
(PROPOSITION)**

*Judges- Mr. Debnath Pyne, Dr. Tinam
Borah and Mr. Abhijnyan Phukan*



-Zaheen Shah, X

Side Proposition started off strong with statements stating that innovation is at the very core of the essence of progress. They made it clear that even improvements on an existing idea is innovation. With various examples of innovation such as iPhones, wheels, fire- they argued that there cannot be progress without a new perspective- which is innovation. Side Opposition on the other hand spoke about gradual progress and improving upon something rather than introducing an all-together new idea. They believe solutions already exist- the need of the hour is to improve upon them.

Result of the debate: The motion was won

Winner - St. George's College

Best Speaker - Pavini Goel (St. George's College)

Most Promising- Yuvraj Singh (St. George's College)

Afternoon Session

-Zaheen Shah, X

This debate was a pure example of science vs. humanities. Side Proposition brought up science and biology talking about the advantages and disadvantages that come along when trans women compete with biological women. The opposition fought for gender equality, fairness and humanity. Their argument was based on the ideals of sports bringing stressing on inclusivity and progressive development.

Result of the debate: The motion was won

Winner - The Assam Valley School

Best Speaker - Priyanoo Kashyap (The Assam Valley School, Team Green)

Most Promising-Srishti Bajaj (The Assam Valley School, Team Green)



“This House Believes that the ban on trans athletes is valid”



**Sainik School, Goalpara
(OPPOSITION)**



vs

**The Assam Valley School, Tezpur
(PROPOSITION)**

Judges- Mr. Parth Parasher, Mr. Shrey Goyal and Mr. Neelav Chaliha

**“This House Believes that the ban
on trans athletes
is valid”**



*Delhi Public School, Guwahati
(OPPOSITION)*



vs

*The Assam Valley School, Tezpur
(PROPOSITION)*

*Judges- Joyce McDonald, Mr. Amar Gupta
and Mr. Nidarshan Nandan*



-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

As controversial as the motion ‘The ban of trans athletes in sporting events is valid’ is, what is a debate without a little controversy? The Proposition put forward their arguments with grace and explained the keywords stating that all sporting events should be fair and that the participation of trans-athletes in a competition with cis-gendered athletes, especially a trans- woman would be a great hindrance to the integrity of the game. They put special emphasis on the biological aspect of it all and were very eloquent in their manner. The Opposition did a brilliant job at countering the arguments, saying that trans-gendered people have every right to participate in any sporting event as stated by the Supreme Court. Participation should depend on skill and not on gender. It sure was a debate worth watching.

Result of the debate: The debate was drawn

Winner - Draw

**Best Speaker - Heetartha Bora (Delhi Public School,
Guwahati)**

Most Promising- Norzin Bhutia (The Assam Valley School,





**“This House Believes that the ban
on trans athletes
is valid”**



Sanskriti The Gurukul, Guwahati
(OPPOSITION)



vs

St. George's College, Mussoorie
(PROPOSITION)

*Judges- Ms. Sukalpa Dutta, Dr. Tinam
Borah and Mr. Surajdeep Singh*

-Neilginryan Das, X

A fiery debate on a very controversial yet crucial topic had begun. The first Speaker of side Proposition delivered a promising opening speech filled with stances that were backed up by well-researched arguments. However, side Opposition responded with just as much vigor and force, arguing that, in the end, cis-gender individuals will always have a biological edge or disadvantage over a trans person. The debate featured powerful arguments supported by even stronger rebuttals in a highly competitive environment.

Result of the debate: The motion was lost

Winner - Sanskriti The Gurukul

Best Speaker - Jayana Chowthury (Sanskriti The Gurukul)

Most Promising- Vhavya Sri (Sanskriti The Gurukul)



**“This House Believes that greater
the resistance, more should be the
force”**



*Lekhi Public School, Itanagar
(OPPOSITION)*



vs

*Miles Bronson, Guwahati
(PROPOSITION)*

*Judges- Ms. Raya Mukhopadhyay, Mr.
Shrey Goyal and Mr. Neelav Chaliha*



-Rianna Irom, IX

The debate between the Lekhi Public School and Miles Bronson Residential School took place in the second round in the evening. The Proposition brought up several examples, like how it was the force that ended the Sati practice. They even mentioned the communal conflict taking place in Manipur, stating that had the government been more forceful, then the conflict likely would have never worsened, or even occurred in the first place. The Opposition, on the other hand, insisted that love and peace were the answer to resolving conflicts. The debate eventually ended with both sides reinstating their stances.

Result of the debate: The motion was won

Winner - Miles Bronson School

Best Speaker - Adrika Pegu (Miles Bronson School)

Most Promising- Heisnam Serena Devi (Miles Bronson School)



-Siddhi Priyadarshini, IX

The teams delivered an impressive display of their well-researched and well-proclaimed viewpoints during their debate. Their speeches illustrated the importance of finding the right balance between resistance and force in various situations whether physics or ethics. The Opposition presented their thoughts confidently and effectively, while side Proposition remained persistent with their stance and their arguments. Both teams presented their views from different perspectives which made for an entertaining afternoon for the audience. The lead speaker of the Opposition team particularly impressed the crowd with the rebuttals.

Result of the debate: The motion was lost

Winner - Bishop Cotton School

Best Speaker - Abhijato Chatterjee (Bishop Cotton School)

Most Promising- Rajvir Kochar (Bishop Cotton School)



“This House Believes that greater the resistance, more should be the force”



Bishop Cotton School, Shimla
(OPPOSITION)





vs

Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Nirjuli
(PROPOSITION)

Judges- Mr. Anubhav Sarkar, Mr. Amar Gupta and Mr. Nidarshan Nandan

**“This House Believes that greater
the resistance, more should be the
force”**

**The Assam Rifles Public School Shillong
(OPPOSITION)** 
vs
**Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Chimpu
(PROPOSITION)**

*Judges- Mrs. Priyankoo Kashyap Das, Dr.
Tinam Borah and Mr. Surajdeep Singh*



-Deubale Meru, Deputy Editor, XII

The debate between the VKV Chimpu and The Assam Rifles School was an enthralling one. The two sides were thoroughly informed about their respective positions. The Proposition emphasized on the benefits of using force to stop evil practices. Side Opposition seized the platform to argue that nonviolent measures could be more effective in putting an end to activities that hurt mankind as a whole. The debate ended with much applause from the crowd.

Result of the debate: The motion was lost

Winner - The Assam Rifles Public School
Best Speaker - Anubhav Ghosh (The Assam Rifles Public School)
Most Promising- Tuhina Sutradhar (The Assam Rifles Public School)





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