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# RESPONSIBILITY:

## THE PRICE OF EXPRESSION

-Jigme Pao Tamang, Deputy Editor, XI

As stated by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to expression entails “the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, regardless of frontiers”. However no right is absolute, they are subject to restrictions and hence, carry responsibilities. This right has, as per my observations, been abused continually by modern activists.

I shall be centering this around the ‘Woke culture’ as it is a primary example of the aforementioned acts. ‘Woke culture’ is a curious paradox; so much of it is contradictory, and the fact that it is a representation of the perversion of the freedom of expression on both sides of the spectrum - for it encourages people to state their opinions on everything

whilst simultaneously promoting the suppression of any ideas that does not agree with you. Before I begin, I must emphasise that I shall be using the terms ‘woke’ and ‘cancel culture’ for both the left and the right, as they apply to both demographics with a slight alteration to the conventional understanding of the two terms.

The ‘Cancel Culture’ is the illegitimate child of ‘Woke Activism’. It entails that an entity who has expressed an opinion or action that was perceived as controversial / inappropriate / offensive ought to be called out and then ‘cancelled’, and while this was a very productive and useful tool in the hands of sensible parties, it is now perverted in the hands of people who wish to use it to silence all views apart from their own. In today’s web-space, it is used by entities to

initiate public censorship to remove criticism against their opinions by, acutely discouraging discourse against them. Thus, it shuts down valid debates on how we want to live our lives, and removes the need for justifications for their viewpoints.

I believe that any opinion or action that does not violate the basic human rights of our fellow men has the right to be expressed. The irresponsible usage of ‘cancellation’ has created a scenario wherein we must consider the legitimacy of it: do we accept its negative effects as there are people out there who deserve it? Because there are real-world repercussions to these online interactions which can be felt in workspaces, social circles and private life; can we really decide a man’s fate through a single comment on the internet?

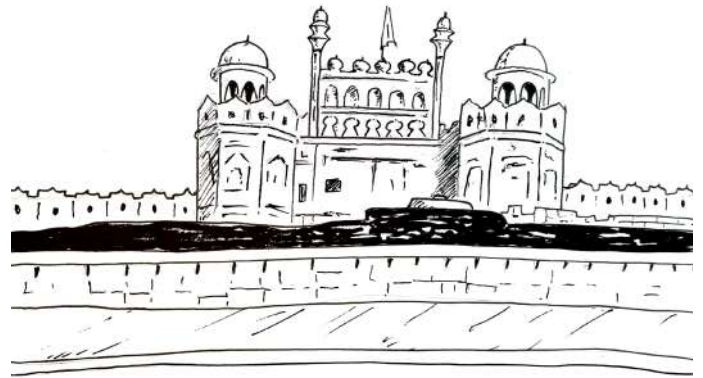
# IN HOT WATERS

-Matthias Lamin, XI

# BATTLE 2024

-Shuhail Ali Ahmed, XI

*Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, IX*



The beautiful blue waters of the Indian Ocean are getting rough, thanks to a disagreement between India and the Maldives. Things haven't been great for a while, with people in the Maldives worried about India being too controlling and China getting too close. Then, a journalist who criticized both governments was arrested, which made things worse. This all boiled over in the Maldivian Parliament, where politicians argued loudly over President Mohamed Muizzu's policies. While many Maldivians appreciate India's help with money and protection, others worry about India's possible influence in the island-country.

This disagreement has crossed over to India too. Both India and Maldives must be tactful while dealing with the present situation. Solutions must be sought through discussions. The Maldives must remember the cost Sri Lanka had to pay for Chinese friendship. India has a proven track record with Maldives over three decades and has always been a friend to Maldives, ready to help the tiny nation. China's movement in the Indian ocean is slowly taking an aggressive turn. The only reason it keeps itself in check is because of the presence of the Indian Navy. Maldives cooperation is absolutely essential to ensure the protection and preservation of nations in the Indian Ocean. Should Maldives fall to Chinese influence, China will establish its hegemony in the Indian Ocean.

From 'Abkibar Modi sarkar' to 'Phir ek baar Modi sarkar' and now to 'Abki Baar 400 par', Bhajpaa has really been ingenious with its slogans, but the most important aspect for winning an election is not catchy phrases - it's a face, a star campaigner, a leader on whom people can put their faith. BJP clearly has someone like that, but what about Congress? 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' might have helped Gandhi polish his image as a leader, but we know that the yatra failed as a campaign. Even after walking thousands of steps, Congress formed its government in only 1 state out of 3 in the recent state elections, whereas BJP has won across 17 states. The question we should be asking as a democracy is not whether it will be BJP or Congress who will be the ruling party, but rather whether Congress will even stand as a significant opposition party in the near future. The BJP has been successful in pleasing the majority while avoiding any sort of communal riots - be it the amendment of Article 370 or establishment of the Ram Mandir. The I.N.D.I.A alliance coming into the picture is an interesting aspect for the upcoming election. It's fascinating to see how opposition parties, having completely different and colliding ideologies, are coming together to defeat BJP. I.N.D.I.A is well aware about its strength and thus the alliance should focus on stealing the BJP seats as much as possible rather than trying to defeat them. Looking from the perspective of common voters, we cannot imagine anyone else as our nation's Prime Minister. "The question which still remains is if not Modi then who?"

# ARUNACHAL LITERARY FEST

-Jikke Una, XI

The land of the rising sun of India, Arunachal Pradesh, has long been kept in the dark. Yet, the recent times has seen the region and the Arunachalis make a mark in the intellectual circuits. The Arunachal Pradesh Literary Society (ALPS) along with the government of Arunachal has persevered to ensure that the state is ranked high in the list of the most educated in the country. Arunachal Pradesh Art and Literary Fest (ALAF) was first introduced on the 5th of August 2018 with the aim to bring attention and importance to art and literature, and make it a central talking point amongst the youth of this state. The fest last year was held in

the famous DK (Dorjee Khandu) Convention Centre in Itanagar, which brought some of the most eminent authors, poets and producers across the country along with guests like the famous journalist Mark Tully from London. The 5th and the latest edition of the literary fest was held from the 16-18th of November 2023 and did not limit to just books. It brought light upon the art of acting and dancing along with recitation of original poems by students in Hindi, English and other Indian languages. The Literary Fest also acknowledged achievements of young scholars and presented them with prize money.

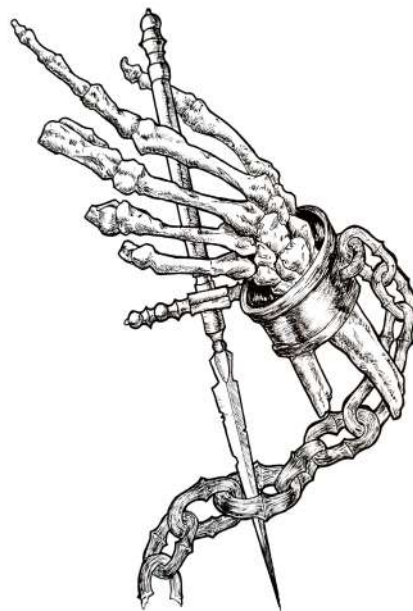
## In Verse: The Last Words of a Tyrant

-Rianna Irom, IX

I had loved you, once.  
I had loved you so dearly,  
My brother in all but blood  
You know that they would not sing  
Your name without mine,  
But even so— you were always more  
Honourable than I.

Oh, noble son of Rome,  
Was it this particular duty  
That troubled you so?  
I had hoped that you would impart to me  
Your sorrows,  
But alas I should have remembered—  
Your oath was never mine to keep,  
For you swore loyalty not to me,  
But to the land that you loved so dearly.

I wonder  
If you had ever found a friend in me  
And perhaps you had,  
For I am sure that it is misery  
That I see  
Etched on the marble of your face



As greedy hands dig into my flesh,  
I want to ask you if  
My sacrifice is such a heavy responsibility  
For you to weep,  
Even as you carry out such a heavy duty  
While holding me so tenderly.

We were brothers once  
And I had thought of you to be as precious to me  
As the false ichor in my veins,  
But alas, you were always more noble than I.

Perhaps that is why,  
You were so swift to strike me  
Even on our mother's soil —  
And though we were sons of Rome together,  
You were always more honourable than I.

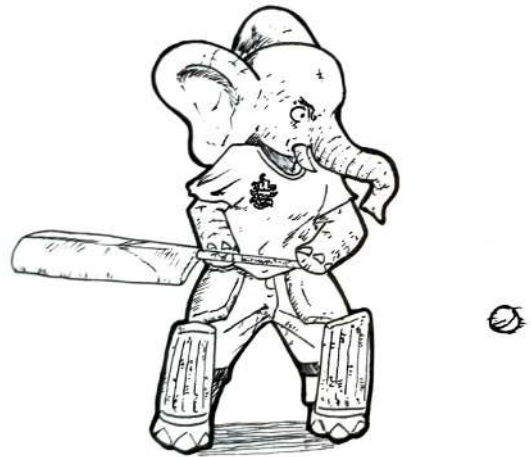
So tell, Brutus  
When will you come to retrieve your knife?

Illustrated by Mashunising Keishing, IX

# Campus Caricature

## HOME RUN!!

Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, IX



# CAMPUS NEWS

## IN CONVERSATION:

In between the rigour of the academic semester, the school hosted Mrs. Rajbir Sandhu, Support Director of South Asia and Gulf Region, Round Square. Atoti Zhimomi, Editor-in-Chief, AVE caught a moment with her.

**AVE:** What are the top three priorities for the National Round Square Committee this year? How do these priorities reflect the broader values and mission of Round Square?

**RJS:** Our top three priorities are to implement new initiatives like 'Heroes of Discovery', start more collaborations, and also to shift our focus to Round Square international projects in a bigger, and more impactful way. Our project in Thailand is currently underway so it would be amazing for projects such as these to get a wider reach.

**AVE:** In your experience, what are the most impactful programs or initiatives Round Square has implemented nationally? How have these programs contributed to student development and global citizenship?

**RJS:** The international service projects that we have undertaken have impacted students immensely, I believe it pushes students out of their comfort zones by instilling an incredible spirit of service within them. By working with various communities across the world the boundaries truly blur and working as a team, as a community brings out the best in them



and elevates their commitment to service making it life-changing. It makes the students realise just how much the world needs them and their efforts. It builds teamwork and pushes responsibility onto the students.

**AVE:** Based on your visit, what is your assessment of the AVS Round Square Committee and what do you believe we can improve upon?

**RJS:** Well, The Assam Valley School is one of our very old members, and I believe that the school is committed to the core ideals of RoundSquare. It exists in a very natural way here and it is nothing short of a way of life here at AVS. You can tell that the efforts undertaken are not due to anything external and are simply a part of everyone. The committee here is so incredibly well-structured and I can see how big a role student leadership plays here. As for something that can be improved upon, I think that the things you do here are so incredible that you all should consider collaborations with other schools so that they can learn and be as active as AVS is.

**AVE:** Now that you have spent a day with us, what initiatives would you like us to take up for the community?

**RJS:** The potential for social outreach is unbelievable in this corner of the world. It would be amazing if the villages around the school could be helped whether it be in communication or education. There is a lot around you where you can provide your service to truly be a part of their lives. AVS has a fantastic bakery that you can use to take little cakes for the children in the Missionaries of Charity. Initiatives such as these would be very nice.



Photography by Reetisha Daimari, XI and Miss Pooja Borah

# DEBATE WORKSHOP

The Debating Workshop took place on the 3rd and 4th of February at AVS under the guidance of Mr. Hanumant Singh, Advocate, Arshad Wasim, DSP, Assam, and Prachurjya Phukan a young entrepreneur who was also the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Pratarka Educational Services. Having long followed the Cambridge debating format, the students were introduced to the WSDC format. The first two sessions were spent acquainting the students with different debating patterns as the mentors engaged the students in discussions related to superheroes, the government, and feminism. After the first session, the students were divided into two groups. The first group debated amongst each other in the new format while the second group was taught how to judge a debate and understand the role of an adjudicator. On the second day, the participants were taught more about the technicalities of debating and ways

to construct concrete arguments over sessions three and four. The fifth session turned out to be the most exciting as students were allowed to apply everything they had learned through a mock debate with the motion “This house will make parents pass a test before having children”. The workshop was a good learning experience for the students and will help further bolster the strength of the AVS Athenaeum.



# INTER-HOUSE CRICKET

This year's inter-house cricket tournament was a wild ride of emotions. Each match brought about screams of joy and cries of sadness, as each and every single match played out in dramatic fashion. Even at the end of each match - regardless of winning or losing - brought about tears, both of joy and of despair, as the students found themselves invested in the intense rivalry and friendly banter between the houses.

The results of the last day are:

## **Namdang Vs Manas**

Namdang House: 110 runs (Arihant Ghorawat: 20 runs, Abhigyan Sarkar: 20 runs and Rayan Agarwal: 15 runs)

Manas lost the match by 28 runs  
(Piyush Agarwal: 28 runs)

Man of the Match: Rayan Agarwal (3 wickets and 15 runs)

## **Lohit Vs Dhansiri**

Lohit scored 112 runs  
Krishna Tibrewal: 33  
Dhansiri scored 84 runs and lost the match by 28 runs

Man of the Match: Krishna Tibrewal  
Best Bowler of the tournament: Kunal Agarwal (7 wickets)  
Best Batsman of the tournament: Yash Agarwal (108 runs)

## **Overall house position**

1st position: Lohit  
2nd position: Dhansiri  
3rd position: Namdang  
4th position: Manas



# NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

## MR. MANASKAM KAKATI

Mr. Manaskam's life is all about sounds and rhythms. Drum and rhythms are what he lives for. When not making music, he is busy cooking or driving rough terrains and hiking up hills. Beyond the stage he enjoys his time filming, photographing and being out in the nature. Mr. Manaskam joined the Music Department last semester.



## THE OUTPOST

FM Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Interim Budget for 2024 which acted as a bugle call for the BJP confident of a third consecutive win in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. Farmers across Europe congregated to protest outside the EU against the rising costs in the light of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. They threatened to take the protest across Europe if solutions were not drawn. The Indian Jazz band Shakti won the Global Music Album for their latest release 'This Moment'. Tabla Maestro Zakir Hussain won big with three Grammys including for Shakti while flautist Rakesh Chaurasia picked up two Grammys.



Illustrated by Masunising Keishing, IX

## Ripple #218

-Neelabh Kashyap, Associate Editor 2021

Do you remember the land  
Of the savages and the outcasts?  
The ones that ran away from a  
country  
Where the king had issued two  
draconic commands:  
To forget was the norm  
and to remember, the exception.

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "He needs to send my passport fastly."  
-Puna Kanya, XI (*Hopefully travel improves your grammar.*)
2. "Is he on Linkidin?" -Siddhi Priyadarshani, IX (*Inventing new apps like it's nothing, Silicon Valley needs you.*)
3. "She is skatching right now." -Geyin Tayeng, XI (*Michelangelo wishes he had you as his assistant.*)
4. "If I half it, where's the other half?"  
-Tanveer Ahmed, X (*Are you talking about your Pre-Board marks? Half-half?*)
5. "My mom did not wake up me." -Ahona Chowdhury, X (*Maybe she never should.*)

## Keep It Reel!

*The Road Taken*

-Tivona Narzary, Xi



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