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# THE EMPEROR'S NEW COURT:

WILL IT SOLVE THE ISSUES FACED BY THE CHINESE?

-Jigme Pao Tamang, Deputy Editor, XII

The Chinese hold, annually, a massive meeting between the parliamentarians and top representatives from every sector called the Lianghui. Which is, in plain words, a set of two parallel meetings between The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) - an advisory body consisting of the nation's business leaders and experts and The National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (NPC) - a group of indirectly elected representatives. The Lianghui is held in March each year, however, this year's meeting is already off to a bad start, with the Premier cancelling his traditional "meet-the-press" session, a move that does not inspire confidence in the face of the numerous issues plaguing China. The Lianghui also has to address a massive financial crisis in the real-estate sector that has dissolved the

life savings of many families that have paid for flats that will never exist; coupled with 11.6 million highly educated younger generation that's unemployed and trillions of dollars of hidden Governmental liabilities at the grassroots level that severely cripple policymaker's ability to inject funds into the infrastructure. The rising military expenditure (around \$250 billion) is also a matter of concern. However, as China has a One Party System, this meeting is only a facade - the Lianghui has never opposed a single decision made by the Party and never will, it exists solely to stamp the policies given to it by the Party. Every decision that is to be taken over the course of the meetings, has already been decided upon and all we are going to see is a highly choreographed performance. The 75th Anniversary of the Dragon has definitely begun.

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"THE LIANGHUI EXISTS SOLELY TO STAMP THE POLICIES GIVEN TO IT BY THE PARTY."

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# THE LEGACY OF HENRY KISSINGER

-Aayat Hazarika, XII

## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HENRY THE K

## WHO EXACTLY WAS HE?

Born in Germany, Heinz Alfred Kissinger came to the United States of America in 1938 as a Jewish refugee fleeing Nazi persecution. Kissinger would eventually serve as the 7th National Security Advisor in the presidential administrations of and 56th Secretary of State for the United States of America and be celebrated and reviled in equal measure. Widely considered an effective secretary of state by scholars, his life is a study in diplomacy, controversy but above all, peace. He once said, "The nice thing about being a celebrity is that, if you bore people, they think it's their fault" although there was nothing boring about his life. He has been regarded as the architect behind U.S. foreign policy in the 70s, with significant influence for decades beyond.

## WHY WAS HIS POLITICAL LIFE SO CONTROVERISAL?

Kissinger embodied the term *realpolitik*, an outlook based on practical rather than moral or ideological considerations. Criticism has been directed at a range of his policies and decisions including the pivotal role he played in orchestrating covert bombing operations in Cambodia and Laos, aimed at disrupting enemy supply lines during the Vietnam War, which were conducted without congressional approval or public knowledge (they resulted in significant civilian casualties and greater regional instability), his primary focus on strategic alliances instead of humanitarian aid and his involvement- in the 1973 Chilean coup d'état, support for Argentina's military junta in its Dirty War, support for Indonesia in its invasion of East Timor and support for Pakistan during the Bangladesh Liberation War and Bangladesh genocide.

Illustrated by Masunising Keising, X



# WHAT ABOUT HIS DIPLOMATIC POLICIES?

Kissinger is remembered for having pioneered the policy of détente with the Soviet Union, orchestrated an opening of relations with China and engaged in “shuttle diplomacy” in the Middle East to end the Yom Kippur War. He also negotiated the Paris Peace Accords, which ended American involvement in the Vietnam War for which he was awarded the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize albeit under controversial circumstances.

# WHAT WAS UP WITH CHINA AND KISSINGER?

Kissinger’s death prompted Xi Jinping to send his personal condolences to the White House. The Chinese populace also deeply mourned his death, with the CCP state-backed national news channel dubbing him as a ‘legendary diplomat’. What could prompt a nation so aloof and wary of outsiders to take such actions? It’s simply because he is the man that made China what it is today. China was either Kissinger’s greatest success or his worst mistake, depending on one’s point of view. You see, Kissinger opened talks between China and the US. In his attempt to undermine the USSR, Kissinger held a secret meeting with Beijing, in order to pave the way for Nixon’s visit to China in 1972. Before that historic move by Kissinger, the US had framed the world political stage as a “Capitalism v/s Communism ” thing, and any and everyone with ties to communist countries would risk bearing the dangerous title of a “Red”. Given how outspoken he was about opening the world market to China, China’s current economic success can only be attributed to him. To quote S. Raghotham, “In Henry Kissinger’s death, China has lost its greatest patriot.”

# “POWER IS THE *ULTIMATE* APHROSIDIAC.”

# WHAT WAS HIS VIEW ON INDIA?

Initially, Kissinger was party to Nixon’s racial slurs and disgusting sexual rants against Indians, especially women, even insulting Indira Gandhi, as revealed in the Watergatescandaltapes. Later, herecantedandapologised, becoming a great votary of U.S.-India ties after the 1998 nuclear tests, viewing India as an ally, with parallel interests and admiring India’s strong sense of identity.

# WERE ANY OF HIS PLANS SUCCESSFUL?

Some believe that his work with China was a masterstroke that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union and victory for the US in the Cold War. However, poverty stricken China - which was on the verge of collapse due to Mao’s insane revolutions - is not the reason why the USSR fell apart, it’s the massive technological gap that came in between the US and USSR, along with a lack of a Stalinistic iron grip that could have held the Soviets together. His relationship with the Chinese instead created a State that has posed a constant threat to the security of not just the US, but also the world. Kissinger used Vietnam and Cambodia in order to, perhaps, intimidate the Eastern Bloc by using vicious assaults in order to deter resistance and defiance. However, the massive loss of life this campaign cost is undeniable. Looking back at all his policies, his work in the Middle East could be regarded as his one and only true and authentic success.



# REAL MADRID AND DONATELLO

-Kelden Rigsang, X

“He can score with his left foot, his wrong foot. He can score with his right foot. He can score from distance. He is probably the best poacher now in the world of football,” is a quote that depicts one of the best players in the world, Kylian Mbappe. Born in the capital of France in 1998, Kylian Mbappe at age 17 began his football career in the European world at Paris Saint-Germain, more commonly known as PSG. He was quickly acknowledged as one of the best as he became the league’s top scorer four times, won the Ligue 1 Player of the Year award three times, and most importantly he undoubtedly brought the FIFA World cup (the world’s biggest sporting event) to his country France in the year 2022.

This is why the football world is on its toes as there is a rumour that Mbappe will join Real Madrid, according to credible sources such as BBC and Forbes. Mbappe joining Real Madrid will definitely be the biggest transfer of the year as Real Madrid will be virtually unstoppable with Vinicius and Rodrygo at the sides, Mbappe as the centre forward, and Bellingham providing them with perfect passes for them to score. Due to this, people are also expecting them to take the La Liga and Champions League, promising an interesting scene in the football world, as they lost both leagues the previous year.



Illustrated by Iteadu Ahozie, X

*Campus Caricature*

## BAPTIZING

Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X



# know your prefects

AVE took the opportunity to sit down with the 'Trio' of the school, School Captain Aarnav Dutta, Head Girl Aakanksha Kumar and Head Boy Rompiti Patton for a quick chat on a sultry afternoon.

Photography by Tivona Narzary, XII



(L-R): Aakanksha Kumar, Rompiti Patton, Aarnav Dutta

**AVE:** What challenges do you anticipate this year in your new roles?

**AD:** To manage time and not miss classes yet do justice to the role I have been given.

**AK:** I think my main challenge might be being unpopular. I know that it is not possible for anyone to be liked by everyone but being unpopular is undoubtedly a challenge that I will have to face.

**RP:** For me personally, it would be communication with the girls' side. However, I won't stop trying my best.

**AVE:** Do you think the role of the 'Trio' is more ornamental than functional?

**AD:** No, I don't think so. We are always working collectively towards enhancing the discipline of the school.

**AK:** It certainly has, over the years. But I hold out hope that we may be able to change that, as a collective batch, you know, try to make it more effective by working together.

**RP:** I don't believe that it has ever been ornamental. Simply because we don't see them doing work does not mean that they aren't.

**AVE:** What do you think the school management can do to help make the Prefectorial Body more impactful?

**AD:** It would be support for the collective decision that we take would help a long way in making the prefectorial body stronger.

**AK:** To support and not disregard. We do need guidance but not disregard.

**RP:** I believe that more responsibility should be entrusted to the Prefectorial Body. Like Mr. Moses says, we are being trained to become leaders and I doubt it would be possible without entrusting more responsibility onto us.

**AVE:** What would you like your tenure to be remembered as?

**AD:** I would want our batch to be remembered as one that brought discipline back. And one that always listened to both sides of the story.

**AK:** A tenure that was strict yet loving, caring and respectful.

**RP:** I want to leave a mark as someone who was approachable, open and a harbinger of smiles.



# CAMPUS NEWS

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS WORKSHOP

The AVS MUN workshop took place from the 2nd to 3rd March, 2024 with Mr. Aman Baldia, Co-Founder and CEO at Gyansthan Education Services and one of the founders of IIMUN. He is a renowned orator with many accolades under his belt and stands as the face of MUN in India. The sessions were spread over a 2-day long workshop and dealt with everything

that there is to know about the educational model of the UN. The sessions were not only lighthearted and interactive but was also incredibly instructional as it answered all questions that people might hold about MUNs and MUNning and more. Overall, it was an incredibly well put-together workshop and hugely successful with all students who attended.



# INTERHOUSE ENGLISH AND HINDI DEBATES

-Mirrianna Lamin, X



The week-long Lower School English Debates culminated in a fiery final on the 2nd of March 2024. Held at the central courtyard on a pleasant evening, it was a clash of the Titans with Bhoroli-Lohit for the Proposition with Jinari-Manas in the Opposition. The topic for the evening was ‘ This house believes that children need privacy’ and had the audience hooked to it from the start. Side proposition highlighted the importance of giving children their much-needed privacy while the

side opposition argued that children needed supervision over privacy and that privacy was a ‘want’ and not a ‘need’. The evening saw a flurry of arguments carried forward with wit and rebuttals that had the audience riveted. The Most Promising Speaker was awarded to Aanavi Ghosh of Class 7 Bhoroli, while the Best Speaker award was won by Shabhat Ansari of Class 8, Bhoroli. The motion was carried and Bhoroli- Lohit emerged as the winner. Congratulations to the winning house.

-Vidhi Chopra, X



The central courtyard witnessed a war of words when the four Houses came together to battle it out in The Bharat Ratna Pandit Atal Bihari Vajpayee Interhouse Hindi Debate on the 27th of March, 2024. The debate took place in the Oxford debating format where the order of the speakers of the Proposition and Opposition was decided through a lucky draw. The topic for the afternoon was, “This house believes that boarding schools are a better

option for education”. All the teams stated their stances succinctly adding wit, humour, and examples from their own school lives to make their arguments. The Speakers juggled rebuttals as well as their stances. The Best Speaker was awarded to Shambhavi Chauhan of class VIII, Kopili, and the Most Promising Speaker was bagged by Garv Agarwal of class VIII, Namdang. Subansiri and Namdang were adjudged the winners of the competition.



# WE BID ADIEU

*Ma'am Rimjhim Ghosh Pyne joined The Assam Valley School in the Department of English a decade ago. She also pioneered and set up the AVS Archives. Popular amongst her students and tutees, she was also passionate about Drama and Literature.*



**AVE:** What are you most excited about stepping into this new chapter of your life?

**RGP:** Life itself is so exciting that I am all geared up to live it to the fullest and discover every new adventure that may captivate or surprise me. And of course the wonderful cold weather of Himalayan foothills where I can do justice to my winter attires.

**AVE:** If you were to have any lasting memory of AVS, what would it be?

**RGP:** It is very difficult to single out any one memory... there are indeed a million that we have in AVS. I shall always fondly remember the smiling and welcoming faces of our dear Aviators when they wished me Gooooood Mooooorrrnniiiiing Ma'am!!!

**AVE:** What was your experience of setting up this school's archive?

**RGP:** Exciting as well as challenging due to various impediments. Yet, overall it was a good experience.

**AVE:** What are your last words to AVS?

**RGP:** AVS you simply ROCK, and I shall always be in love with you.



**Tasmin Yushra Ahmed, House Captain Jinari as well as a student of Ma'am Rimjhim shares a few words:**

The sole reason for me being confident and as an individual with humility is this lady who holds so much power wherever she goes. Ma'am Rimjhim Ghosh Pyne has been one of the most influential and comforting teacher for me as an 11th grader, a crucial time for an Aviator. She is the closest to the behaviour of my mother which made it a lot easier for me to open up to an adult and be free with a teacher. The idea of a meaningful conversation with anyone in this school would always include her. Her golden Swift Dzire, her small cylindrical bottle, her odd/happy ringtone, will all remain in my memories. I wish her immense joy and success in all her future endeavours.

**Mrs. Debolina C. Bakshi, English Department, shares her thoughts:**

When I joined AVS, Ma'am Pyne was one of the first few teachers who made me feel at home. She has always been very sweet and kind. Her unique ways of dealing with problems taught me how not to run away from difficult situations and instead face them bravely. She is like an elder sister who still cares to say, "You need a hug", when I tell her that I am exhausted. Now, with her departure from AVS, I feel that though we are far apart, we are still together in my heart. I will always cherish the moments spent with her. And she will always be one of the best people I've ever met.



# IN CONVERSATION:

Alongside being an entrepreneur, 29-year old Aman Baldia is also a motivational speaker and engineer. He had worked with IIMUN for 7 years. He is currently the founder of Enunciate as well as the co-founder of Gyansthan Education Services.

**AVE: What is your personal favourite aspect of MUN?**

**ANB:** It's hard to choose one part as there are multiple aspects of MUN that I really like. I really like seeing the self-growth a student goes through during MUN - it teaches them formal communication skills, which is a life skill. It builds their general knowledge, it makes them learn more about the world around them, creating an inquisitiveness about the world, which is a quintessential skill in today's world. It also develops high values and ethos; which is what I feel sets MUNs apart from debates, as in debates, it's all about speaking well and winning, while MUN teaches you to negotiate and find common ground - which I believe is a crucial life skill.

**AVE: What is the most precious value that you have taken away from your experience in MUN and working with students across India?**

**ANB:** I believe that, in my time working with Gyansthan and IIMUN, the most important skill I've seen is people skills. After all, no matter how intelligent you are, without the ability to convey your thoughts to others, it's pointless. Without people skills, you will not find success in any field. These skills have helped me be open to different ideas in order to better myself.

**AVE: What do you see as the biggest success of IIMUN?**

**ANB:** IIMUN was never supposed to be an organisation, rather it was a one-off event. But I guess, the first achievement was the visit to the UN headquarters wherein we got to support India's seat as a permanent member, since then they have gone on to the UK Parliament on Republic Day. It's really impressive to know that, at its(IIMUN's)



start, India had 3-4 MUNs only, while there are seven and a half thousand of them now.

**AVE: Given that the UN is losing its credibility, do you think MUN is slowly becoming redundant?**

**ANB:** I won't deny that the UN is losing its credibility, however MUN will not become redundant. That's because MUN is about much more than just UN, it's about creating global citizens out of students - people who're going to be the new leaders of the world. MUN teaches them to feel sympathy and empathy for people facing various issues across the world, create solutions for them and apply them locally or even globally. Thus, bringing about change in the world. Especially, in our current world - which is seeing a rising trend in extremist politics - it is extremely important that students can see issues from various angles.

**AVE: Do you have any advice for AVS students?**

**ANB:** AVS has a very passionate bunch of students - don't lose this passion. A lot of people leave school and go out into the world and lose this passion. From last night's debate, I could clearly see the intense passion the students have for all that they do. Passion for everything is what separates truly successful people from ordinary people.

## THE OUTPOST

In a surprise turn of events Nikki Haley beat Donald Trump in Washington DC primary. The American Presidential elections have become a race between the infantile, the infirm and the intern. The OPEC countries announce a further extension of oil cuts which will bear harder on the already weakening economies around the world making lives of its people tougher. America considers using 16 billion dollars of frozen Russian funds in western banks to fund Ukraine's war against Russia. While the woes of the women in Sandheshkhali rages on, Rahul Gandhi rages against the government from Cambridge.



Illustrated by Mashunising Keishing, X

## Ripple #220

-Rianna Irom, X

The road uphill is lonely,  
Our only company being a  
woman we see at one sharp  
bend,  
Only to pass her again by the  
second  
We see that she there at every  
turn we take  
Watching us drive endlessly.

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Giving children to privacy." -Aanavi Ghosh, VII (Next thing you know the children are being given to transparency instead, before being hauled off to seclusion.)
2. "Whenever I hear this smell." -Atoti Zhimomi, XII (We would've booked you an appointment to the EMT right away but we fear it's a hopeless case.)
3. "Stop disturbing i was shut up you" - Krishna Agarwal, XII (Sorry you will no speak I more.)
4. "How speak you dare me!" - Nonika Meitram, X (Seems like nobody's in the mood for conversation.)
5. "I have a lot of tendencities." - Tanveer Ahmed, X (Oh-ho look at Dr. Smart-Guy over here.)

## Keep It Reel!

*Moonlit Halls*

-Pradyumn Bhajanka, XII



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Design & Layout: Atoti

Illustrators: Mashunsing

Photography Credits: AVS Photographic Society and Pradyumn

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

Publisher: The Assam Valley School, P.O. Balipara, Dist. Sonitpur, Asom-784101, India

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