

OUTPOST

Pg. 7

campus news

Pg. 5

IN
VERSE

Pg. 3

NUKE AUTHORITY.

-Aayat Hazarika, XII

Should the power to potentially destroy the world as we know it, lie in the hands of one man? No. That is the thought that immediately occurs in the minds of any rational human being with half a mind, or even animals if they were capable of understanding human speech. A single nuclear warhead could kill lakhs of people. Even if the person in question was the wisest, calmest, kindest and the most reasonable person on the planet, such power being bestowed on only him would amount to nothing short of sheer folly.

Yet, the nuclear powerhouse that is the United States of America, still follows an arrangement akin to it. According to legislation proposed in 2017, a declaration of war by the Congress is necessary

before the president orders nuclear weapons to be first used. However, in terms of retaliatory strikes i.e. those made in response to a foreign nuclear attack, the sole authority rests with the President. The President need not consult with any advisors before issuing a launch command. No one in the Defence Department, Congress, or the judicial branch can lawfully prevent the use of nuclear weapons once the president's order is given.

Most other countries have better systems which involve multiple individuals. They must all discuss and deliberate before reaching a common conclusion. In Russia, nuclear codes can be accessed by the President, Defence Minister and Chief of General Staff. While it is unclear if the system requires a nod

from all three to launch, it is designed to prevent a single individual from issuing the launch command. Experts even suggest the presence of additional hurdles (more people) if Russia decides to strike first. Such wisdom in a country considered a staunch opponent of the United States makes the latter's system look worse.

Indeed, the Father of the Atomic Bomb, Oppenheimer may not have been completely exaggerating when he said he had become "Death, the destroyer of worlds", quoting the Bhagavad Gita. Therefore, an alternative system must be explored to make up for the shortcomings arising from a sole individual wielding tremendous power-one who could determine the fate of many, many more lives than just his own.

MY DEEP DIVING EXPERIENCE



-Vania Singh, XI

My parents opened the doors to the underwater world for me and I made the most of it. Scuba diving is something that I believe everyone should experience at least once in their life. It opened my eyes to a completely different perspective on the world. Scuba diving is having a stroll underwater with a 10-pound oxygen tank attached to you that weighs nothing underwater. My parents thought it would be a good idea to send their only daughter to explore the bottom of the ocean as a form of exposure. So there I was a 15-year-old jumping off a boat amongst 40-year-old adults. The amount of exercise I did then is nothing compared to the morning conditioning we experience in school.

The Andamans is a pristine group of islands with hulking trees most of whom are over 200 years old. It plays host to tourists from across the globe throughout

the year. Many are interested in the deep-ding courses that they conduct here. The course I did was for 5 days in which I learned how to control my buoyancy - one of the most crucial bases to master in diving. People asked me whether the faith I had in my oxygen tank was enough to bring me back to the surface every single time. Truth be told in untoward circumstances, the amount of rigorous training I received would have been enough for me to at least resurface alive.

To summarise it all, the way we are taught to navigate, walk, and breathe on land, I was meant to learn the same, but underwater. Unlike cars, buildings and people, you see a pure untarnished form of life filled with different vibrant colours coming from various unique species. However, as the saying goes, if nature didn't care to hide it, don't touch it, it probably doesn't care about you.

DISSENT

-Zaheen Rafia Shah, XI

American university campuses are witnessing protests by young minds filled with immense rage against the war in Gaza. The protests were started by a few students from Columbia University, but now have spread like wildfire all across the USA. These protests aim to call out the university's administration to cut all economic and academic ties with Israel. The past 12 days have seen the most intense and widespread US protests of the past six months. The majority of universities have called the police in to handle the protests- leading to hundreds of arrests. This has unleashed a fierce debate among academics about how words do not mean violence. On the other hand, campuses are strewn with picketings and camping tents with screams demanding

'From the river to the sea, Palatine will be free'. Very few have respected this demonstration of the right to freedom of speech. Led by overseas students, many in these demonstrations have very little to no idea of the reason behind the demonstrations. The funding behind these protests is also questionable. The multitude has now been joined by many of the Professors from the Ivy League universities. As Biden said a few days back, "Dissent is essential for democracy, but dissent must never lead to disorder." The right to freedom of speech is granted by most constitutions, but have these protests across America been an appropriate display of it? What about racist chants and threats towards both Jewish and Muslim students? Does their idea of justice

mean the death or suppression of the other? The most repulsive aspect of these protect though isn't the racism or the violence - it's the politicians who aim to profit off this by riling up the emotionally charged crowds. This movement has often been incorrectly compared with the Vietnam War protests that rocked the nation in the

1960s and the 1970s. This was a period when America had ground troops posted and fighting on foreign soil unlike in Gaza. Protests are a necessary tool for a vibrant democracy. For those to wield it like a club on whose shoulders the future of America lies, is more than just a cause of worry. It sounds the knell of doom.

IN VERSE : ALL SHE NEEDED WAS YOU.

-Zoya Kharchandy, VIII

A girl so young and free
In her 20's smiling at me.
Her face was white as snow,
And her smile, way brighter than gold.

Looking at me she seemed happy,
But inside her heart I couldn't see.
She was brave, so strong and free,
Couldn't wait 'til she got her degree.

She struggled all through her days,
But in the end she was raised.
Through her days she made mistakes,
Her life felt like a maze.

Then came life along the way,
And she guided her all through the maze.
She was smiling 'cause she was finally free,
She thought, "It was Jesus who had helped me."

He brought her joy and made her feel free,
And He gave her a star that would make her happy.
Her soul was pure and true,
'Cause in the end all she needed was You.



Illustrated by Richie Konthoujam, XI

LEO AND THE DRAKE

-Aahil Faraj, VII

Leo lived a quiet life in a small town but he always longed for adventure. Sadly the townspeople were not open to the idea of adventuring as they thought it was too dangerous and well, was also a taboo. Then, one day, a ferocious roar jarred the peace and quiet of the quaint town. The villagers, in a panic, stampeded as they tried to get to their homes. But Leo didn't back down; he went right into the forest where the sound was coming from but when he saw the source of the sound, Leo almost fainted in horror. It was a great drake! Like a dragon, it was four-legged and long but had no wings. He wanted

to run away but he realised that this was his only chance to prove himself; however the drake didn't seem like it wanted to fight. In fact, it looked injured. Leo noticed this and decided to help it. The drake growled in warning as Leo came closer to it but didn't attack.

At Leo's touch, the drake's wound immediately healed and the drake bowed low. It took Leo a minute to realise that the drake wanted him to climb up on his back. So Leo and his new friend went on an adventure, and Leo finally realised his hidden potential as a dragon-kin.

MUTE ART.

-Vidhan Fogla, X

I am a rationalist. I am a person who will not believe in something until it is backed up with some scientific research. Despite this approach, I believe in mythology, folktales, epics and many more unexplainable things. India's culture is beautifully woven with stories, music, dance, and ideas. To imagine an India where all these never existed, is to imagine food without salt. Alas, that would not have been pleasant!

In a world where science and practical skills rule, there will be silent nights. No Ramayana and Mahabharata bedtime stories passed down over generations! No soulful bhajans filling the air during festivals. Music and stories that connect families and communities would be gone. Adding to that our historical, traditional and cultural backgrounds help us unite and understand ourselves, others and the world around us better. It can nurture a connection between diverse societies.

To survive in the 21st century, it is crucial to learn about and respect different perspectives. Humanities also catalyse innovation. For example, the concept of zero, a keystone of mathematics, originated in ancient India. Scientific advancements commonly draw inspiration from the humanities. I often see people reading non-fiction self-help books, which too, is a part of humanities. Philosophers always emphasised understanding themselves and their place in the world by teaching them to question

their beliefs and assumptions. Humanities provide a platform for exploring complex ethical questions.

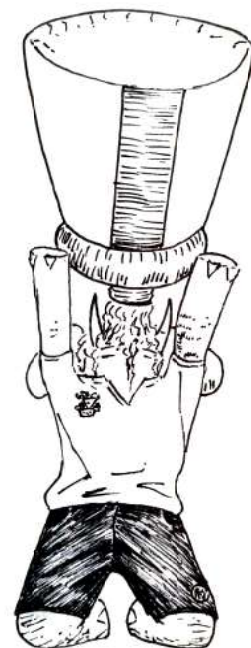
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Through literature, philosophy, and historical analysis, we grasp concepts of right and wrong, justice and fairness. The current classes of nines and tens are studying Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" which serves as the perfect example to learn about culture and politics. In conclusion, Mahatma Gandhi's quote rings true – a nation's culture thrives on the richness of its humanities. Humanities are not just an ornament of Indian culture; they are the very threads that weave its tapestry. The humanities are the lifeblood of Indian culture, ensuring its continued growth and evolution for generations to come. They allow us to not just survive, but to truly thrive as a nation.

Campus Caricature

Hydrate! Hydrate! Hydrate!!!

Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X



COMMUNITY SERVICE

On the 7th of May, the school's community service program under the aegis of the AVS Social Service League got underway. The programme started with the ninth graders working in collaborative projects at the Holy Kid's school and KGMT school. The students organised friendly matches with the schools and ensured that it was an enriching experience for all.



INTER HOUSE CHESS

The Assam Valley School Activity Committee successfully held the Inter-House Upper School Chess Championship 2024 on May 12th. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing the four houses of the school.

After an intense competition, the final scores were tallied, revealing the standings of the houses. Bhoroli-Lohit secured the top position. Kopili-Dhansiri claimed the second spot. Jinari-Manas and Subansiri-Namdang shared the third position.

AVS IAYP TRIP

AVS students went on an IAYP trip to Nameri on the 24th of April. Aspirants of both silver and bronze levels went on a two-night adventure camp to Nameri. The first stop of this adventurous journey was Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh where the students could see various varieties of orchids such as Vanilla Orchid, Cattleya and Vanda to name a few. The trip also included a 5 km trek and rafting. Post that, they visited a Mising and a Nepali village. The trip helped the students learn how to set up their own tents, emergency procedures on mountain treks and how to make makeshift stretchers. Overall, it was a great experience for all and it helped accomplish the IAYP objectives.





IAYP NEWSLETTER

We are proud to announce that Anushka Jitani of Grade 12, Kopili, has been featured in the IAYP newsletter. She is an active participant in the Model United Nations conferences, one of which took place at Oxford University, UK. She won multiple awards including the International Award For Young People for her brilliant performances in the conferences. In her words, "It gives me a sense of purpose to go about in life, to try and improve and uplift the lives of individuals." We wish her all the best.

INTER HOUSE ARCHERY

The results are as follows:
1st - Subansiri-Namdang
2nd - Jinari-Manas
3rd - Bhoroli-Lohit
4th - Kopili-Dhansiri



ALUMNI NEWS

Moumili Dutta (Class of 2018, Boroli) recently graduated with an MPhil in Geography from Oxford University. We would like to extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Moumili. In her email to AVS, she wrote, "I am appreciative of all the support I received from AVS!"

GLIMPSES OF RONGALI UTSAV 2024



THE OUTPOST

The death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi sent a shock wave across the world. With the Middle-East stuck in a war zone and the Russia-Ukraine war dragging on, Raisi's sudden death raises the uncertainties card in global diplomacy. While the world fawns over climbers making it to the summit of the Everest once in their lifetimes, Sherpa Kami Rita marks his 30th summit, putting it all down to a day's work. The AAP gets tangled into murkier waters as its own MP Swati Maliwal, the Ex-Chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women, alleges assault in the CM's living room.



Illustrated by Richie Konthoujam, XI

Ripple #226

-Erik Angie Riba, XI

*A weary little girl dozed off
While drawing her little cartoon
animals.*

*“Wake up!” The rabbit with the
missing hand cried,
“You haven’t finished drawing
me!”*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. “I binged eat today”- Urvee Rathi, XI (*Did you drank too?*)
2. “Point number next.” -Ma’am Raya Mukhopadhyay (*How many more, Ma’am?*)
3. “He let me slept.” - Rajkumari Anya Devi, X (*Hope he didn’t woke you up later.*)
4. “Don’t question my existencies.” - Nandika Dutta, X (*Lend us some, please.*)
5. “Did what they do.” - Jigme Pao Tamang, Deputy Editor, XII (*And what exactly is it that they do?*)

Keep It Reel!

Celebrations

-Hardik Poddar, XI



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