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THE GREAT LEAP

- Shuhail Ali Ahmed , Namdang House Prefect, XII

Government is the pillar of administration in a country. And this pillar has its foundation in bureaucracy. These bureaucrats are not only involved in policymaking but also play a major role in influencing the approach and ideology of the government. Thus, it is very important for a country like ours, which has a parliamentary form of government and people belonging to different societies and cultural backgrounds, to have bureaucrats who are intellectuals and are politically neutral. UPSC serves as a body that conducts examinations to recruit the best brains of the country, who serve as civil servants. The examination is conducted at three different levels and is considered to be one of the toughest examinations to crack. Only after clearing the prelims, then the mains, and lastly the interview, an individual is selected to go on to

train to be a civil servant. In order for a civil servant to be promoted as Joint Secretary or Director of a Ministry, needs at least 10 to 15 years of experience. But the concept of lateral entry changes this equation. Lateral Entry awards direct appointments to the individuals who are specialists in their fields. No need of cracking any exam or appearing for an interview. This divides the procedure of appointment into a general form and a specialization form. Dr. Manmohan Singh, who was an economics professor at Delhi School of Economics, was appointed as a Finance Secretary to the Indira Gandhifort. He later rose to become the Finance Minister under PM Narsimha Rao and was instrumental in helping the Prime Minister liberalise India's economy. Dr. Singh will later become the Prime Minister of our nation. But appointing bureaucrats on the basis

of specialization questions the civil servant's professionalism. They might lack the highbrow opinion that a generalist might possess. Encouraging appointments through specialization might demoralize the deserving aspirants. The demand for reservation in lateral entry is questionable and must be discussed. The discussion of the removal of the creamy layer in the ST-SC quota and introducing reservations in lateral entry will be hypocritical of the government. Rewarding reservation in lateral entry is unfeasible as it must use the 13 Point Roster for appointments, which is not possible as lateral entry is only offered at times of single cadet vacancy. In the era of globalization, bureaucrats must have a generalist approach and be knowledgeable of all domains, which are vital for nation-building.

Laat Salam

- Tanveer Ahmed, XI

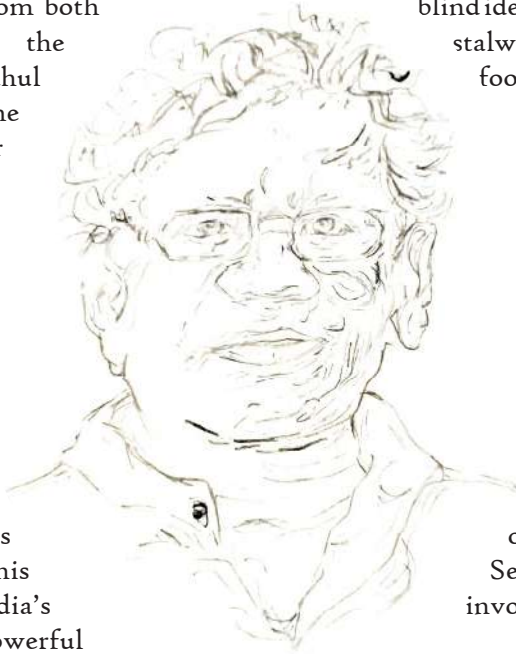
12th September 2024, marked the unofficial end of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) as Sitaram Yechury, the General Secretary of CPI, passed away. He was 72 and was suffering from an acute respiratory tract infection. It is said that his physical and mental health started deteriorating after his eldest son died in 2021.

Condolences were showered in from both admirers and opponents as the news of his death spread. Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the Opposition called him “the protector of India” while PM Narendra Modi appreciated his ability to “connect across the political spectrum”. Sonia Gandhi recalled her friendship with him which was forged in 2004 along with their party’s alliance. She said, “He was uncompromising in his commitment to the values of our country’s Constitution embodied so very forcefully in its preamble. He was fierce in his determination to protect India’s diversity and was a powerful champion of secularism.”

Sitaram Yechury had a strong belief in Communism from a very young age. During his college years at JNU (Jawaharlal Nehru University), he was the leader of the Student Union and had also started a leftist block there. After graduation, he joined the Student Federation Block of India, the student wing of the CPI. Yechury

was a powerful champion of Secularism and believed in the idea of India as envisioned by Ambedkar and other makers of the constitution.

He succeeded Prakash Karat to the position of General Secretary in CPI. Even though Yechury and Karat followed the same ideologies, Sitaram was not a doctrinaire. He knew the days of blind ideology were over. He was one of the last stalwarts of communism in India as the Left’s footprint was dying out.



Under Yechury’s leadership, the CPI, for the first time entered into a pre-poll alliance with the Congress and other parties from the Opposition at the national level, before the 2024 elections. His practicality and grasp of political issues had people expecting a resurgence of the Left. He also had a very close relationship with the congress and was often called “two-in-one General Secretary”; due to his constant involvement in Congress affairs.

Yechury’s death was proclaimed a “profound loss” for the nation by politicians across India. As per his wishes, his body was donated to AIIMS, Delhi for Medical Research and development. Yechury’s ideologies and strength in his beliefs are what will mark him, as the era of CPI comes to a slow and painful end.

- Illustrated by Da-isha Emi Diengdoh, XI

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

- Zerayah Cadessa Syiem, XI

“Music, I feel, must be emotional first and intellectual second.”

This quote by Maurice Ravel is something that I live by. Having come from a very musical family, I was

introduced to the magical world of music at a very young age. To be frank, I was forced to practice the piano and I despised every lesson I took. However, as time passed, I eventually developed a passion

for one of the most beautiful artforms in the world. Music is magical. It is one of the ways through which we can elicit our emotions. The world of music is enormous and it is not confined to only one path. It is a network of many musical genres and styles. From opera to jazz, classical, contemporary, and more, music is expressed differently in different genres and cultures. It is evident that music can be composed in any style; there are no restrictions in music and no limits to our creativity. Music can and will teach you many things in life. Getting through difficult circumstances

is tough, but it becomes easier with music because music meets you where you are. Music is a universal language - something that everyone understands as it is deeply rooted in us. Anything that has rhythm has music. Each and every living being has music within them because our hearts beat at a constant rhythm, showing that music will always be a part of us whether we know it or not. If Armageddon was to strike and you had to listen to music one last time, I'd suggest you listen to Clair de Lune by Debussy.

Gaza Peace Talks.

- Siddhi Priyadarshini, X

With Vice President Kamala Harris being proposed as the Presidential Candidate for the Democrats in the upcoming American Presidential Elections, her stand on Israel-Hamas is important to set the narrative in this battle of words. Her statement will also clarify her stance on the ongoing war and the route of action she would consider should she become the next US President after Joe Biden. VP Harris spoke out strongly on the ongoing crisis in Gaza, urging a renewed push for peace talks. In her recent comments, she underscored the urgent need for a fair and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, emphasizing that diplomacy and dialogue are crucial for achieving true peace.

Harris also condemned the recent hostage killings, describing them as “horrific and unacceptable.” She noted that such violence only serves to deepen the crisis and hinder progress towards a solution. While reaffirming the U.S.’s support for its allies, she stressed the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns and protecting civilians. Her remarks call for all parties involved to de-escalate tensions and return to the negotiating table, reflecting a commitment to both regional stability and the pursuit of human rights. Clearly she is concentrating on a balanced walk across the tightrope of diplomacy not willing to lose out vote on either account.

MPOX

- Shabahat Sabir Ansari, IX

People are never truly “illness-free.” Numerous illnesses have caused a tremendous deal of fear over the centuries. Pandemics such as Cholera, the Bird Flu, and Covid-19, continue to send shivers down our spines. A new epidemic of a disease that might go down in history and have begun to give people nightmares has recently surfaced. WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the Monkeypox (Mpx) a public health emergency of global concern twice, in May 2022 and August 2024, respectively. An excruciating rash, swollen lymph nodes, fever,

headache, muscle discomfort, back pain, and low energy are some of the symptoms of the infectious disease. The genus Orthopoxvirus includes the species that causes Mpx. It is primarily spread by intimate contact via contaminated materials. This virus can be transferred to the unborn child during pregnancy or childbirth, and miscarriage is a risk. There is currently no knowledge of the virus’s animal reservoir. Vaccination against Mpx can help avoid the infection and manage its symptoms. Till then don’t pop your blisters or scratch your sores and hopefully the Mpx will remain as a mystery unknown!



TALE OF TWO SEEDS.

- Taru Lunia, XII

In a garden, green and bright,
Two seeds lay nestled, soft and light.
One dreamed of soaring, reaching high,
The other wished to simply lie.

The first seed yearned for sun and rain,
To grow and bloom, to feel no pain.
It pushed through earth, with might and main,
And reached for skies, with all its might.

The second seed, content to stay,
Preferred the darkness, day by day.
It feared the light, the wind, the cold,
And chose to stay within its fold.

The first seed grew, a sturdy tree,
It branches out, wild and free.
It bore sweet fruit, a tasty prize,
And shaded earth beneath its skies.

The second seed, still safe and sound,
Lay buried deep, beneath the ground.
It never grew, it never bloomed,
A wasted life, a silent tomb.

So let us learn from these two seeds,
To face our fears and plant our seeds.
With courage strong, we'll reach for heights,
And find fulfillment in our lives.

Campus Caricature

STU(DYING)

- Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X



CAMPUS NEWS

DA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Manonta Kalita of grade XII won 3rd position in the DA League Open Badminton Championships 2024 in Netherlands which was held from the 30th to the 31st of August. Players from all over Europe and America participated with Manonta representing India. We wish her more opportunities and more medals to come!



ROBOTICS LAB INAUGURATION

This year, KAMP-NASTA has recognized The Assam Valley School as a “Center for Excellence” and has generously donated several robotic kits and equipment to establish a state-of-the-art lab at AVS. From September 9th to 11th, a trainer from KAMP visited the school for the lab setup and to provide teacher training. On September 11th 2024, the ICT Department of The Assam Valley School proudly unveiled its fully functional AI Robotics lab. The lab’s 3D printer demonstrated its capabilities by creating a 3D model of a Ganesha idol. Another fascinating addition is the robotic arm, which can mimic human movements and perform tasks accordingly. The Center has already caught the imagination of the students and has quickly become a must visit for all Aviators.



SAT ACHIEVER

Anushka Jitani achieved a very high score (1560 out of 1600) in SAT in the wake of fast approaching deadlines for undergraduate colleges in the United States of America. SAT is a Scholastic Aptitude Test that assesses the writing, critical reading and mathematics aptitude for college admissions of high school students. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours!



ASSAM TRIBUNE WINNER

The Assam Tribune, a leading English daily newspaper published from Assam, recently announced its winner for the competitions held to mark World Environment Day on June 5, 2024. Mashunsing Keishing of grade X, was adjudged 2nd Runner Up in Category B of the online drawing competition.



THE OUTPOST

A second assassination attempt on Donald Trump is foiled by the US authorities. The Presidential elections warm up further as Taylor Swift endorses Kamala Harris’s candidature and Trump calls her the ‘childless cat-woman’. Rahul Gandhi returned home after a whirlwind visit to numerous campuses across the USA where he claimed everything from Sikhs not being able to enjoy their right to worship to him ending reservations once India reached social equality. Politicians share condolences as influential Leftist leader Sitaram Yechury, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India passed away. This marked the unofficial end of Marxism in India.



- Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X

Ripple #234

- Rianna Lingjel Irom, X

*You seem to like the dinner I
made for you*

*Even though it's been sitting on
the table for quite a while*

*I just hope that you don't get
sick*

*When you find nothing in the
fridge*

*But leftover meat from my
missing limb.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Turn the volume off." - Atoti Zhimomi, XII (Please switch the lights down on the way too.)
2. "I was explaining her." - Tasmin Yushra Ahmed, XII (She seems quite complicated.)
3. "I'm losing my hearing loss." - Jovita Oinam, XII (Congratulations!)
4. "When will you submit me?" - Mr. Taufique Alam Ansari (All prep to be submitted on saturday!)
5. "Three by twoth term." - Mr. Bijan Panigrahi (Maths teacher for a reason, Sir.)

Keep It Reel!

the strokes of my brush

- Rianna Lingjel Irom, X



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