

# THE DAY THE MOUNTAINS BLED

- Aanya Paul Sarkar, XII, Deputy Editor

## “A MESSAGE NOT WRITTEN IN INK, BUT IN BLOOD.”

It began, as such horrors often do, with a lie —  
the lie of peace, the lie of normalcy.

Pahalgam, with its misty hills, pine forests, and sacred shrines, was sold to us as the face of a new Kashmir — a land healed, whole, and open to all. But beneath the scenic charm and political slogans, something sinister still burned. And this week, it exploded into flames.

Let's not mince words: this was not the work of “disaffected youth” or “militants.” It was a premeditated slaughter by religious zealots — terrorists, plain and simple. The victims were not combatants. They were Hindu tourists, enjoying a quiet afternoon. They were hunted down, identified by faith, and executed with chilling precision. This was not “collateral damage.” It was not a “clash.” It was a message: Leave, or die.

What followed was the usual charade — politicians offering “deep concern,” commentators pleading for “balance,” and media voices peddling tired lines like “violence has no religion.” But this time, let's not let that spin drown out the truth. This was extremism. This was a religiously motivated

pogrom. This was apartheid with a trigger finger.

Still, we must not allow this to become an attack on all Muslims. The vast majority of Muslims do not support such acts. This blood shed is the work of a radical fringe that has hijacked faith to justify carnage — and in doing so, disgraces the very religion it claims to uphold. But let's stop pretending that economic handouts or “dialogue” are the cure. The killers in Pahalgam weren't demanding jobs or hospitals. They weren't seeking justice. They wanted purification — a Kashmir scrubbed clean of Hindus, even if only tourists, even if only one body at a time.

## “THIS WAS APARTHEID WITH A TRIGGER FINGER.”

The dead were not random. They were the statement. A message not written in ink, but in blood. This time, India has had enough. The Prime Minister has vowed retribution — not just justice, but resolution. This will not end with another airstrike. This time, it's about ending the cycle, once and for all.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar have already been mobilised. What follows may change the region and history. For now, India waits. United. Awake.

## THE SOUND OF

# INDIAN

- Shorya Kanda, XII

## MUSIC

India is a country where music has been a part of life for thousands of years. From ancient traditions to modern trends, Indian musicians have played a big role in shaping the culture and inspiring people around the world. Indian classical music is one of the oldest and most respected forms of music in the world. It is divided into two main styles: Hindustani music from the north and Carnatic music from the south. Musicians like Tansen, who performed in Akbar's court, and Tyagaraja, a master composer of Carnatic music, are celebrated for their contributions. Their music, built on "ragas" and "talas", is both

artistic and deeply emotional. Apart from classical music, India has a rich tradition of folk music that connects to the lives of everyday people. For instance, Bhupen Hazarika introduced the world to Assamese folk music, while the Bauls of Bengal sing songs about love, devotion, and nature. Bollywood, India's famous film industry, has made Indian music popular across the globe. Legendary singers like Lata Mangeshkar, Kishore Kumar, and Mohammed Rafi created timeless songs that people still love. Modern artists like A.R. Rahman has brought Indian music to an

international stage. Rahman's work, such as the music for Slumdog Millionaire, has won global awards and appreciation. Today, Indian artists are experimenting with new sounds and blending traditional music with modern styles. Artists like Ravi Shankar and Late Sir Zakir Hussain have shown how Indian and Western music can work beautifully. Indian music, with its rich history and evolving nature, continues to connect people through its powerful tunes. It's a beautiful part of the country's being that resonates worldwide.

## INDIA STRIKES DEEP.

- Gangte Sangno, XII

### OPERATION SINDOOR SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE

In a bold overnight operation on May 7, Indian Rafale jets flew 100 km into Pakistan, targeting terror camps in Bahawalpur and Muridke. Code-named Operation Sindoor, the mission was a direct retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. In just 30 seconds, India gained the upper hand with a surprise strike that lasted 25 minutes and reportedly eliminated over 80 terrorists across nine locations in Pakistan and PoK. India maintained that only terror infrastructure was hit, with no civilian or military casualties. Pakistan, however,

has alleged civilian deaths—claims India denies. This strike marks not just a military action but a critical front in the battle of narratives. While many hail it as a decisive step against a country widely seen as a global terror sponsor, other question its long-term consequences. With 21 airports shut and cities running blackout drills, tensions remain high. As the world watches, it's vital for India—not just militarily, but morally and strategically—to control the narrative. In an age of misinformation, what we choose to believe as citizens will shape the course ahead.

# GURUDEV

REMEMBERING KOBI GURU RABINDRANATH

- Rianna Irom, XI

**“His vision of nationalism was one that prioritised human dignity and intellectual freedom.”**

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, was born in Calcutta on the 7th of May, 1861 during the early years of the British Raj. He was the son of Sarada Devi and Debendranath Tagore. His father was an Indian philosopher and religious reformer. It was most likely due to his father's influence that he began to write at the early age of eight years. He went on to become a poet, a writer, a playwright, an essayist, and a painter. He introduced new prose and verse forms and introduced the use of colloquial language to Bengali literature. Tagore had a huge part in introducing Indian culture to the West and was the first Non-European to win a Nobel Prize for literature. The three main sources of

Tagore's literary inspiration that he acknowledged were the Vaishanava poets of medieval Bengal and the Bengali folk literature, the classical Indian cultural as well as philosophical heritage, and the work of the English Romantic poets. Tagore's works include poems, songs, and short stories, which combine musicality with vivid imagery and intense patriotism.

His career spanned over 60 years, chronicling his personal growth but also the artistic, cultural, and political metamorphosis of India. He said that he had grown up in the confluence of three movements: the religious reform movement led by Raja Rammohan Roy, the literary revolution headed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, and the Indian National Movement. Rabindranath Tagore envisioned a free India to be an India that was rooted in its rich cultural heritage and committed to the well-being of humanity.

He believed that the European model of Nationalism was incompatible with Indian values. His vision of nationalism was one that prioritised human dignity and intellectual freedom. Tagore's visions were what one could call nearly utopian in the modern day, as he envisioned a world where every nation worked with one another as if they were one. He continuously advocated for a more humanist and spiritual conception of nationalism that emphasised cooperation and global unity. While these ideas may be critiqued for being too idyllic, his works remain relevant to this day. His works include Ghore Baire, Dakghar,

**“Tagore envisioned an institute where education was integrated with nature and emphasised the development of creativity and critical thinking.”**

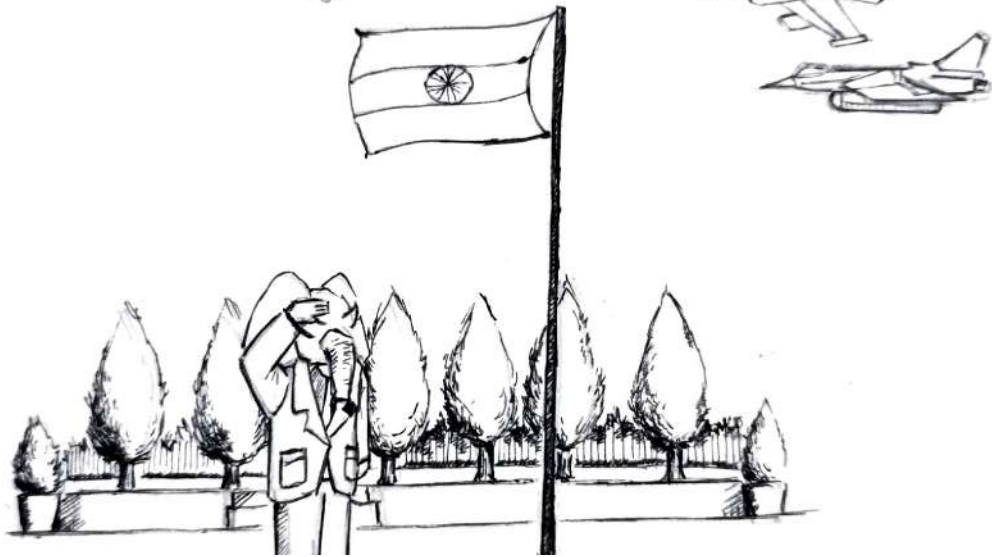
Sonar Tari, Manasi, and of course — Geetanjali.

Other than his sense of nationalism and his literary works, Rabindranath Tagore advocated for an educational model of unique sensitivity. It was because of this resolve that Rabindranath Tagore founded Shantiniketan later in 1901, envisioning an institution where education was integrated with nature and emphasised the development of creativity and critical thinking. Some of its most notable alumni were Oscar winner Satyajit Ray, former PM Indira Gandhi, and legendary artist Nandalal Bose. Meaning “abode of peace”, Shantiniketan was an educational institution as well as a cultural haven. It stands to this day, now having been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free... Into that heaven of freedom, my  
Father, let my country awake.”**  
- Rabindranath Tagore

# Campus Caricature

Illustrated by Bhaibhav Dutta, VIII



AVS salutes the Indian Armed Forces

## CAMPUS NEWS

### HEADMASTER'S GOLD MEDAL DEBATE

On Monday afternoon, The Athenaeum of The Assam Valley School opened its floor to eight students to participate in the prestigious The Headmaster's Gold Medal Debate. The debate itself followed no format and was an individual competition between the contestants who were to parley over the motion: "This House believes that going under the knife for the sake of appearance is justifiable". The judges for the event were Dr. Navodita Pande, Mrs. Dayita Dutta, and Mrs. Mita Goswami. The event was chaired by the Head Girl, Natasha Billimoria and Bhavni Kshetrimayum. Students speaking on the motion were Zaheen Rafia Shah, the Captain of the

Debating Society, Aliden Jahzara Ovung, Agnivh Prakash Bora, and Vidhi Chopra, while students against the motion were Rianna Lingjel Irom, Khushi Todi, Anushree Singh, and Karan Somani. All the contestants presented well-thought-out arguments, engaging in a heated debate through roundabout questions and answers. The audience and the judges alike were left captivated and were confused as to which side to choose, as shared by Udayveer Singh, who shared his articulate thoughts with the school after the debate. In the end, the motion failed to pass and the Opposition emerged victorious. The Most Promising Speaker was awarded to Karan Soman, while The



Headmaster's Gold Medal Debate went to Rianna Lingjel Irom.

photographed by Mr. Bhupendra Matharu



## UIMO

The Assam Valley School has been awarded “The Best Performance School Award 2024-25” to appreciate the Aviators’ remarkable achievement in the Unified International Mathematics

Olympiad (UIMO). This year, over 13000 students from more than 60 schools worldwide participated. Congratulations to the Maths Department!



## CDT WORKSHOP

On March 10, The Assam Valley School’s Craft, Design & Technology department hosted a workshop for fifteen members of the Mahila Samiti from Tezpur, including eco-friendly skills such as textile dyeing and making paper bags and cup coasters out of recycled rags. The attendees were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the program, enjoying the creative and environmentally responsible activities.

## CRICKET

Ritwik Mundhra, a Class 7 Aviator, has been chosen to play for the Tezpur district in the Assam Cricket Association’s Pulin Das Trophy for Under-14 Boys Inter-District Cricket Tournament, which will take place at Rangia starting on March 28. Heartiest congratulations to him!

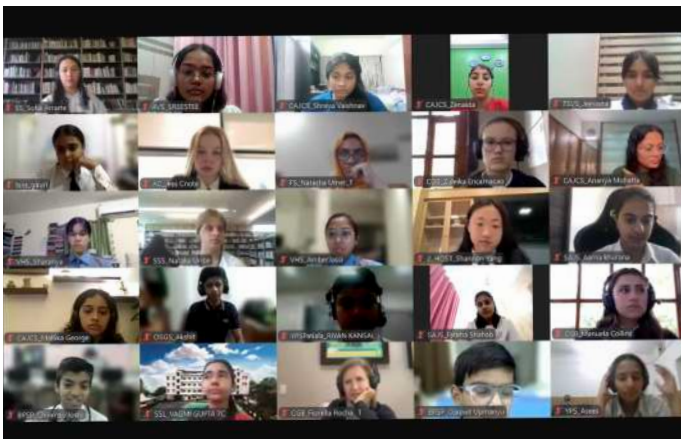


# ROUNDSQUARE

- Sreestee Paul, IX

On April 23rd, 2025, six students from AVS participated in a Round Square Zoom Postcard Call hosted by Appleby College, Canada. Centered around the theme “Urban Design: The Impact of Increased Urbanization on the Local Community,” the session brought together students from six different countries, including Peru, Canada, India, and more. The call began with an introduction to the theme, after which participants were divided into breakout groups to delve deeper into topics such as housing, infrastructure, sustainable urban design, policy-making, and

the broader impact of urban growth on local communities. The Zoom Postcard Call was an engaging and enlightening experience for the AVS students. It offered them a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, gain insights from diverse global perspectives, and develop a more nuanced understanding of urbanization and its implications. Overall, the event helped Aviators to broaden their worldview and encouraged thoughtful dialogue on how urban design can shape inclusive, livable, and sustainable cities.



## ALUMNI NEWS

Admission to the Savannah campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Georgia, USA, for the Bachelor of Science Program in Industrial Design, beginning Fall Quarter 2025, has been extended to Anikaith Anant Joshi, a member of the graduating Class of 2025. Anikaith was also given a scholarship at SCAD based on his outstanding portfolio submission, interview, and follow-up interactive sessions. Heartiest congratulations to Anikaith!





# GLIMPSES FROM INDUCTION DAY





## Ripple #248

Aanya Paul Sarkar, XII, Deputy Editor

*The payphone rang at midnight.*

*The spy pressed the receiver to his  
ear*

*rain dripping from his brow.*

*"They're not who you think," he  
whispered.*

*A gunshot cracked through the static.*

*The phone went silent. Then, a voice  
he knew too well answered: "Too  
late."*

*As the call ended,  
every clock in the city struck thirteen.*

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Do he make for Class XII?" - Priyam Bagaria, XII (*Are you make for class XII?*)
2. "I will write a diagram." - Mr. Umesh Singh (*In that case, shouldn't you draw the notes too?*)
3. "I have a index." - SPS (*You need a dictionary.*)
4. "Should I sir this pen as a gift?" - Erik Angie Riba, XII (*You should improve your English as a present.*)
5. "It doesn't even cares." - Shahanur Uddin, XII (*Now we don't either.*)



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