

# East India Times

Special Issue 187

The Nineteenth East India Times

Tuesday, July 15th, 2025

# EAST INDIA DEBATES DAY 3

ISSUE 187

ASSAM VALLEY EXPRESS

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# SEMI FINALS

**“THIS HOUSE SUPPORTS WOMEN IN POLITICS ADOPTING TRADITIONAL MASCULINE BEHAVIOURS AND CHARACTERISTICS AS PART OF THEIR PUBLIC PERSONA.”**



*The Assam Valley School*  
(GOVERNMENT)

**VS**

*St. George's College, Mussoorie*  
(OPPOSITION)



- Aanya Paul Sarkar, Deputy Editor, XII

The semi-finals of the 19th East India Debates, held in the library, brought sharp argumentation and even sharper ideals to the fore. Representing the Proposition, The Assam Valley School (Team Red) argued that women in politics adopting traditionally masculine traits should not be looked down upon—especially when power has historically favoured men. They cited Kamala Harris, whose softer persona is often overshadowed by figures like Donald Trump, known for his aggressive, masculine style. The Opposition countered that true empowerment

lies in authenticity, not conformity. Women should not need to alter their identity to access power. At the heart of the clash was the essence of feminism: is it the freedom to choose any persona—even a masculine one—or the right to be respected as you are? In a debate that balanced nuance and fire, The Assam Valley School's case for agency and context won the room—and the round. In a debate that balanced nuance and fire, The Assam Valley School's case for agency and context won the room—and the round.

## **Winner - The Assam Valley School**

Prime Minister of the GOVERNMENT: Natasha Billimoria

Deputy Prime Minister of the GOVERNMENT: Aliden Jahzhara Ovung

Whip of the GOVERNMENT: Zaheen Rafia Shah

**Result - The Motion was passed.**



# SEMI FINALS

**“THIS HOUSE SUPPORTS WOMEN IN POLITICS ADOPTING TRADITIONAL MASCULINE BEHAVIOURS AND CHARACTERISTICS AS PART OF THEIR PUBLIC PERSONA.”**



*Maria's Public School*  
(GOVERNMENT)

**VS**

*The Shri Ram School, New Delhi*  
(OPPOSITION)



- Khichu Kath, Associate Editor, XII

In a showdown that blurred the lines between rhetoric and reality, Maria's Public School, Guwahati, the government, clashed with The Shri Ram School, New Delhi, the opposition, over a motion that sliced straight through gendered expectations in politics: “This House supports women in politics adopting traditional masculine behaviors and characteristics as part of their public persona.” With sharp arguments and fierce rebuttals, Shri Ram emerged as the winner. The government contended that in a male-dominated political landscape, adopting masculine traits—

assertiveness, dominance, stoicism—is essential for women to gain visibility and power. They argued that these traits aren't exclusive to men but can be powerful tools for women. The opposition pushed back, stating that the issue isn't capability—it's the lack of choice. When women are forced to conform to masculine norms to be taken seriously, authenticity is lost. They warned this only reinforces stereotypes and compels women to create inauthentic personas to fit outdated molds. Despite the government's framing of masculinity as universal, the house sided with the opposition—and with authenticity.

**Winner - The Shri Ram School, New Delhi**

Leader of the OPPOSITION: Aryan Gupta

Deputy Leader of the OPPOSITION: Myraah Sadani

Whip of the OPPOSITION: Ranvir Singh

**Result - The Motion was lost.**







# 19TH EAST INDIA DEBATES FINALS



*The Assam Valley School*  
(GOVERNMENT)

VS



*The Shri Ram School, New Delhi*  
(OPPOSITION)

**MOTION: "THIS HOUSE OPPOSES ROMANTICISATION OF YOUTH."**

- Jentina Yaomei Shangkhui, XII

A spirited debate unfolded on the motion "THIS HOUSE OPPOSES ROMANTICISATION OF YOUTH," featuring The Assam Valley School (representing the Government) and The Shri Ram School (representing the Opposition). The debate provided a thought-provoking exploration of a pertinent societal issue, with both sides presenting compelling arguments. The Prime Minister, Natasha Billimoria of The Assam Valley School, launched the proposition's case by arguing that romanticisation warps reality, citing popular culture examples like Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani and Euphoria as narratives that mislead youth about infatuation. She asserted that this romanticisation confines individuals to their youth, concluding powerfully with, "Opposition protects a fantasy while the Proposition protects the people." The Leader of Opposition, Aryan Gupta of The Shri Ram School, countered by stating that romanticised youth does not inherently compromise morals. He controversially remarked that the Prime Minister's inability to form long-term relationships did not apply to all, seemingly a personal attack. He concluded by suggesting romanticisation could foster connection through "nostalgic curiosity." The Deputy Prime Minister, Aliden Jahzara Ovung, delivered a compelling speech for the proposition, arguing that romanticisation discredits growing old and propagates the idea that life begins

and ends in youth. She also contended that it could trivialise mental health conditions, ending with the impactful statement, "This is real life, not a Bollywood movie, and you are not Karan Johar." Myraah Sadani, the Deputy Leader of Opposition, presented a strong counter-argument, asserting that romanticisation encourages children to anticipate positive life outlooks rather than fearing negatives. She also highlighted its potential to bridge generational gaps and help children relate to the media. The Government Whip, Zaheen Rafia Shah, delivered a heated debate, likening youth to clay that the media can dangerously mould, thereby failing to prepare them for future challenges. Her powerful delivery underscored why she was the Debating Captain. Ranvir Singh, the Opposition Whip, offered a robust closing, drawing parallels between the proposition's best-case and the opposition's worst-case scenarios, effectively summarising his team's stance. Both teams engaged in a high-quality debate, prompting the audience to critically consider the pros and cons of romanticising youth. Aliden Jahzara Ovung was awarded Best Speaker, with Natasha Billimoria recognised as Most Promising Speaker. Despite the opposition's strong arguments, the motion was ultimately passed, with The Assam Valley School emerging victorious.

**Winner - The Assam Valley School**

**Prime Minister of the GOVERNMENT: Natasha Billimoria**

**Deputy Prime Minister of the GOVERNMENT: Aliden Jahzara Ovung**

**WHIP of the GOVERNMENT: Zaheen Rafia Shah**

**Result - The motion was passed**

**Best Speaker: Aliden Jahzara Ovung**

**Most-Promising Speaker: Natasha Billimoria**



# TOP 10 BEST SPEAKERS



**Riyanraj Bhagwati**  
*Maria's Public School, Guwahati*



**Dev Moon Jhanji**  
*Bishop Cotton School, Shimla*



**Aadya Seth**  
*Vasant Valley School, New Delhi*



**Nirvan Saikia**  
*Maria's Public School, Guwahati*



**Manyu Singhal**  
*Sunbeam English School, Varanasi*



**Ranvir Singh**  
*The Shri Ram School, New Delhi*



**Zaheen Rafia Shah**  
*The Assam Valley School*

# TOP 10 BEST SPEAKERS



**Aryan Gupta**  
*The Shri Ram School, New Delhi*



**Shisalong Jamir**  
*Hollotoli School, Dimapur*



**Abeer Datta**  
*Vasant Valley School, New Delhi*

## THE BEST SPEAKER OF EAST INDIA DEBATES



**Govind Keshari**  
*Sunbeam English School, Varanasi*



# EID CONCLUDES



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