



## BADGE IT!

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*Campus  
Caricature*



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**CAMPUS  
NEWS**

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# LIFE IN A METRO

- Jael Konyak, XI

India's economy is often celebrated for its start-ups, digital revolution, and rapid growth. Yet, for millions of honest tax-paying citizens, the daily reality is that of a stark contrast of waterlogged streets, overflowing garbage, as well as crumbling infrastructure. Nothing captures this irony better than the image of a Mercedes floating helplessly in Bengaluru's flooded roads. This is the so-called "Silicon Valley of India," home to global IT giants and unicorns, yet every monsoon it grinds to a halt under poor drainage, potholes, and power cuts. How can a city driving India's tech future remain crippled by basic failures? The problem is not Bengaluru's alone. In Haryana, Gurugram flaunts glass towers and luxury malls, but just beyond them lie broken roads, water shortages, and neglected neighbourhoods. In Bengal,

Kolkata struggles with collapsing bridges, clogged drains, and mounds of garbage which are symbols of a decaying system. These cities reflect the same frustration: taxpayers contribute, but rarely receive in return.

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Taxation is not merely about collecting revenue; it is a social contract. Citizens pay with the expectation of dignity, safety, and basic services. When that promise breaks, trust in governance erodes.

Worse, it undermines India's ambition of becoming a \$5 trillion economy, because prosperity

cannot flourish on crumbling foundations. The solution lies in rethinking urban planning. Haphazard growth must give way to sustainable design like rainwater harvesting, scientific waste management, efficient public transport, and green spaces.

Cities like Singapore and Seoul show how planning, discipline, and accountability can transform urban living. India must adapt such models to its own needs. Equally important is accountability. Municipal bodies cannot hide behind excuses while citizens wade through knee-deep water. Transparency in budgeting, penalties for negligence, and active citizen participation in planning are vital if cities are to serve their people, not fail them.

India stands at a crossroad. It dreams of global leadership, yet remains mired in potholes and broken promises. Taxpayers are not asking for luxuries; they are asking for dignity such as roads that do not collapse, drainage that does not choke, and services that match their contribution.

# BADGE IT!

- Adya Rakshit, IX

These days, when I see students in their school blazers, the detail that stands out is the growing number of badges pinned to them. What is striking, however, is that these badges are rarely unique symbols of achievement. More often than not, they are identical tokens handed out simply for participation in various events at AVS.

Badges are meant to carry weight. They should tell a story of effort, perseverance, and accomplishment. When given out too freely, or worn without real context, they lose their value and become little more than decorative accessories. Instead of reflecting merit, they begin to blur into empty symbols.

It sometimes feels as though these badges are distributed, especially during inter-school events, to project an image of prestige, to suggest that every student embodies the

"It is not the badges we wear but the actions we take, the values we uphold, and the contributions we make that will tell our real story."

"perfect achiever." Yet, in doing so, the meaning of true accomplishment is diluted. Even posts of responsibility, at times, risk being reduced to nothing more than another badge or privilege, rather than an opportunity to serve and lead with sincerity.

This leaves us with a thought-provoking question: what will remain when the badges are gone? Once the blazers are folded away and the symbols removed, what will speak for us? It is not the badges we wear but the actions we take, the values we uphold, and the contributions we make that will tell our real story.

# FOOTPRINTS

- Aahil Faraj, VII

Even in today's rapidly changing world, history remains deeply relevant because it connects us to our roots and helps us understand the present. It is not only shaped by monumental events but also by the countless small actions of individuals each day.

Simple acts like a vote cast, a letter written, or even a shared idea can set off ripples that influence societies and cultures over time. By studying history, we learn that our everyday choices matter. Even a surname carries weight in history, as it preserves the lineage of our forefathers and reflects our true identity. First names, in comparison, hold importance largely as markers of recognition. But history lies not just in names or books for it can be found all around us.

Take the gardens of The Assam Valley School as an example. These lush, rolling greens are more than ornamental grounds; they hold value as part of the school's legacy. The rule against walking across them may seem restrictive, but it teaches us that even small actions leave a mark. A path created by repeated footsteps today may one day erase the beauty of a grassland, turning it barren.

AVS is blessed with a green campus, a luxury very few enjoy and almost unheard of in our cramped cities. Protecting it should not be left to rules alone. It should be a student-led responsibility. Independent landscaping projects, beyond inter-house contests, can ensure that this rare gift is preserved and enriched for generations to come.

# Beyond Reach

Written for the ones who never returned –  
Flight 171, Boarded on June 12th, 2025

- Rupnanda Hazarika, X

And now, they are all gone—  
not just away from their country,  
but to a place no one can reach.

Some lost their daughters and sons,  
some their parents, never knowing  
what death truly means,  
and some lost their whole world.

It was just one plane crash,  
but thousands of dreams fell with it,  
shattered alongside fragile bones.  
They saw death before their eyes,  
knowing the end was near—  
just forty seconds away.

And what haunted them most  
was not the pain of leaving,  
but the ache of never again  
holding the people they loved.

No matter how much they longed to stay,  
no matter how much their loved ones needed  
them—

they were gone,  
to a place no one could reach.

How could they rest in peace?  
How could they not be haunted  
by their own sudden silence,  
knowing someone, somewhere,  
was waiting at the door  
for a smile, a hug,  
a playful, “What did you bring for me?”

But they will never return home.  
Never smile at the door.  
Never wrap their arms around the waiting.

And instead of gifts wrapped in love,  
their families received  
the heavy news of sorrow—  
a sorrow that will never leave.

They may cry, they may wait,  
but the ones they love  
will never come back.  
And the love they once felt  
will never be the same again.

## Campus Caricature

# QUAKE!!\*

Illustrated by Baibhav Dutta, VIII



\*The recent earthquake.

## INTRASCHOOL AVS CONFERENCE

- Mrs. Sagarika Dutta, AVS Roundsquare Rep

The Round Square Committee of The Assam Valley School organised the Intra-School AVS Conference from 29th to 31st August 2025, with students participating from Classes 5 to 9 and Class 11. The conference was centered on the Round Square IDEALS of Service and Adventure, providing students with a platform to collaborate, reflect, and deepen their understanding of these values. The opening ceremony featured a keynote session on Community Service delivered by our experienced teacher, Mrs. Mita Goswami, which set the tone for the days ahead.

Over the course of three days, baraza leaders guided their groups through a series of activities designed to foster teamwork, creativity, and engagement. Students participated in meaningful discussions on Service, adventurous treasure hunts around the Main School Building, and energetic freeze dance sessions. Creative tasks such as envelope-making for the school community further encouraged collaboration while contributing positively to the school.

On the final day, each baraza group showcased their learning through videos, PowerPoint presentations, songs, and skits. These presentations not only demonstrated their understanding of Service and Adventure but also showcased their creativity and spirit of collaboration. The closing ceremony concluded with a thoughtful address by the Headmaster, whose insightful words inspired



students to carry forward the spirit of Service and Adventure beyond the conference. The Intra-School AVS Conference 2025 ended on a memorable and inspiring note, having meaningfully reinforced the Round Square IDEALS.





# IPSC ARCHERY

A total of 12 schools participated in Mayo College, Ajmer held between the 3rd to 5th September, 2025.

Six students participated from AVS. The results are as follows:

Kimeri K. Patton won 4 gold medals and Overall Best Archer in under 17 girls category

Hansika Agarwal won 1 gold and 3 Silver medals  
Awarded 2nd Best Archer in Under 17 (Girl's Category)

Naisha Nandini Gogoi won 1 gold medal

## Under 19 (Girl's) Results

Vikuosanuo Rio won 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medal

Total medals won by AVS Students.

Gold. 07

Silver. 02

Bronze. 01



# IPSC MUSIC FEST

The IPSC Music Fest 2025 was held in Sanskar Valley School, Bhopal from 5th August to 7th August, 2025 in which around nineteen schools participated. A total of 15 students from The Assam Valley School (AVS) participated in various competitive events including western and Indian classical vocal and instrumental music.

**First Prize-** Drengo Mihi achieved Outstanding Award in Western Instrumental Solo category.



# JAIN MUN

Jain International Residential School, Bangalore held its Model United Nations chapter from 29th August to 31st August, 2025. AVS was represented by a delegation of 14 students. Six Aviators secured positions in their respective committees:

**Karan Somani** - Best Delegate (All India Political Parties' Meet)

**Anjali Pandey** - Best Delegate (United Nations Framework Classification for Resources)

**Khushi Todi** - Special Mention (UNHRC)

**Spriha Kashyap** - Special Mention (UNHRC)



**Jahnvi Sharma** - Verbal Mention (IPC)

**Saranya Malpani** - Verbal Mention (IPC)



## Ripple #257

- Erik Angie Riba, XII

*"I like this knife... it cuts clean."*

*Mum said as she chopped  
vegetables in the kitchen.*

*She was unaware.*

*It's the very blade I used to  
create rips in the universe.*

*Time needs to be cut clean.*

*So I simply agreed.*

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "I couldn't found a foundation of my shade"  
- Ma'am Vashnaivi Sajeiv (You just made  
Sigmund Freud shiver in his grave, Ma'am.)
2. "Don't discrimination my Hindi." - Timzenla  
Ozukum (Stop discriminating the English  
Language then.)
3. "We should be curiously mindful." - Aaron  
Sema, XII (And you should mind your language.  
Literally.)
4. "Do not fell victim." - Tanveer Ahmed, XII  
(Victim to what? Your lack of ability to speak in  
English?)

## Keep It Reel!

*A Simple Pursuit*

- Mrs. Vinita Watts



Editor-in-Chief: Erik Angie Riba

Deputy Editor: Aanya Paul Sarkar

Correspondents: Rianna Lingjel Irom, Vibe Zhimomi, N. Chingkheinganbi

Associate Editor: Tanveer Ahmed and Khichu Kath

Design & Layout: Tanveer and Angie

Illustrators: Austin and Baibhav

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

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E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

Telephone: 09678074320/08812009627 Website: www.assamvalleyschool.com

Patron: Dr. Amit Jugran, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School



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