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The frost in the air greets the season with the whisper of a chill. It threads through the memories left behind by the sweltering heat of the summer. Laughter softens into gentle smiles, and greetings dance alongside farewells. As the branches sway with the winter winds, we find ourselves at the threshold of a new beginning, welcoming the winter semester and the quiet promise it carries. Amid change and continuity alike, the only thing to remain constant is the touch of ink, the warmth of parchment, and a story waiting to be written.

- Rianna Lingjel Irom, XI, Editor-in-Chief

We, The People of India.

- Sneha Ngangom, XI,
Deputy Editor

The national festival of India, Republic Day, commemorates the enactment of the Constitution of India on 26 January 1950, a tribute to the day our Constitution came into force and laid the foundation of the world's largest democracy.

As India prepares to celebrate its 77th Republic Day on the 26th of January, 2026, the nation comes together to honour its rich cultural diversity, heritage, and its remarkable military strength.

This year's theme, "150 Years of Vande Mataram," pays homage to the song that has long inspired the very spirit of nationalism. A series of paintings by Shri Tejendra Kumar Mitra, created in 1923,

will be showcased, illustrating the verses of Vande Mataram.

The prestigious Chief Guests for this year will be the President of the European Council, Mr António Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, symbolising, mutual respect and the strengthening of India's diplomatic ties.

This Republic Day holds special significance as we celebrate it in a tumultuous world marked by uncertainty, conflict, and fear. Freedom did not come cheaply

to us; it was earned through immense sacrifice by countless freedom fighters and continues to be protected by our armed forces. Preserving the country we wish to live in will demand its fair share of courage, responsibility, and unity. No matter how diverse the regions we come from, or whatever disagreements we may hold against the rule of the day, our unity remains our greatest strength in facing the challenges that lie ahead. This day reminds the entire nation of how far India has come, and invites us to celebrate as one, living together.

“Our unity
remains our
greatest
strength.”

The Question Of Venezuela

- Aarohi Agarwal, XI

If we look at a world map, Venezuela and the United States are not neighbouring countries, yet their relationship has become one of modern geopolitics' most tense. At the heart of this tension are oil, power and global influence. Venezuela is a nation rich in natural resources, home to the world's largest proven oil reserves. In theory, this wealth should ensure prosperity for its people. Instead, many of Venezuelans continue to face problems like hunger, shortages of basic goods and medicines, and unemployment largely due to political instability, economic collapse and external pressures.

The United States has criticised Venezuela's government under President Nicolás Maduro, for alleged corruption, human rights abuses and disputed elections. Beginning in the 2010s and especially from 2017 onwards, the U.S. imposed heavy economic

sanctions on Venezuela, aiming at government officials, the state oil company PDVSA as well as financial transactions. These measures were intended to pressure Venezuela's leaders to make political reforms.

However, they also cut off Venezuela from key global financial systems, leading to dramatic economic contraction and widespread hardship. As sanctions tightened, Venezuela's government sought new ways to keep its economy alive.

With limited access to the U.S. dollar, Maduro expanded oil sales and financial dealings with nations like China, Russia, India and Turkey, sometimes using alternative arrangements such as barter deals and payments in non-dollar currencies. The United States launched a controversial operation which resulted in the capture of

President Maduro, accusing him of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism. Many nations took this move as a violation of sovereignty. This conflict is not only about two nations. It reflects a global power shift. For China and Russia, Venezuela has been an important partner in energy as well as diplomatic cooperation. The restriction of Venezuela's oil to Western markets weakens their influence, while for the United States it reinforces its energy security and strategic priority in the Western Hemisphere. For India, these developments carry significant implications. India is a major energy importer and has previously engaged with Venezuela for oil supplies and investments. Changes in how Venezuelan oil is sold, priced and transported could affect India's energy security and diplomatic relations with both Western and Eastern powers. Ultimately, the Venezuelan crisis shows how resources, currency systems and global alliances can shape international politics and everyday lives across continents.

Remembering Bose

- Aastha Potsangbam, IX

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose remains one of the most compelling figures of India's freedom struggle. His life, marked by courage, sacrifice, and unshakeable resolve, continues to inspire generations. In *Subhas and Sarat*, written by his nephew and historian Sisir Kumar Bose, we are offered not only a political portrait of Netaji but also a deeply personal view of the man behind the legend. Born on 23 January 1897,

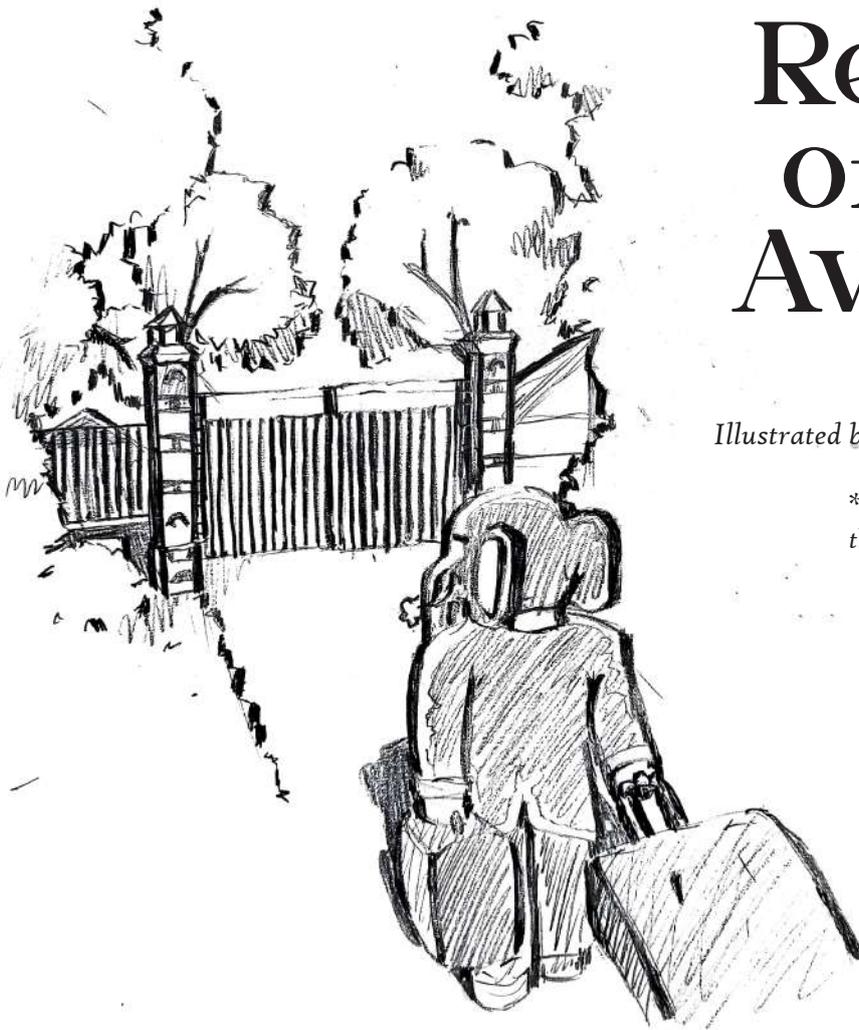
Subhas Chandra Bose chose a path of sacrifice early in life. Despite securing a prestigious position in the Indian Civil Service, he renounced it to serve the nation. Sisir Bose highlights how this decision was not impulsive but rooted in a lifelong sense of duty and discipline. Through the eyes of his brother Sarat Chandra Bose, Netaji emerges as a man driven by conscience, willing to endure exile, imprisonment, and separation from family for India's freedom. The book emphasises the close bond between Subhas and Sarat, a relationship built on trust, shared ideals, and mutual sacrifice. Sarat Bose, himself a nationalist leader, understood Subhas not merely as a revolutionary, but as a deeply thoughtful individual who believed

that freedom demanded action, unity, and courage. This personal perspective reminds us that Netaji's struggle was not only against colonial rule, but also against fear and complacency.

Netaji's formation of the Indian National Army and his call, "Give me blood, and I will give you freedom," reflect his belief in responsibility and collective effort. While methods may

differ, his message remains relevant today. In an age of uncertainty and division, Bose's ideals of selflessness, discipline, and national unity offer powerful guidance. As we remember Netaji on his 129th birth anniversary, Subhas and Sarat reminds us that his legacy is not confined to history, it lives on in the values we choose to uphold and the courage.

Campus Caricature



Return of the Aviator*

Illustrated by Nameirakpam Austin, VII

**Students return for the Winter Semester*

CAMPUS NEWS

EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

An educational visit to Australia was organised for ten students of The Assam Valley School, accompanied by the Head of the Careers Department, from 20 December to 29 December 2025. The journey commenced from Delhi International Airport (Terminal 3) and was hosted by Eduquest by Silverfern, with participation from students of other Indian schools. The visit included academic exposure to two prestigious institutions — Macquarie University and the University of Melbourne. The programme was designed to provide global academic insight and practical skill development.

Our students attended structured sessions on two core themes: Doing Business with Limited Resources and Public Speaking and Leadership. These sessions enhanced students' entrepreneurial thinking, communication skills, confidence, and leadership abilities. The tour comprised four days in Sydney and four days in Melbourne.

Despite the long journey, students were inspired by the vibrant university environment and lush



green campuses. In Sydney, the programme included academic sessions, a guided university tour, and educational sightseeing such as a zoo visit and city tour, offering cultural and environmental exposure. Experiencing Australian summer during the Indian winter added to the uniqueness of the trip. In Melbourne, students prepared for the final academic showcase. On the concluding day, those enrolled in business sessions presented business pitches, while participants from public speaking sessions delivered formal speeches, effectively demonstrating their learning outcomes. The visit concluded with campus exploration, sightseeing, and reflection. Overall, the educational tour was enriching, insightful, and impactful, providing students with international exposure, practical learning, and lifelong memories.

NATIONAL LEVEL TALENT SEARCH EXAMINATION

On 11th of December, 2025, students from class 5 to 10 of The Assam Valley School appeared for Unified councils NSTSE from 11am to 12 noon.



BSAI REPRESENTATIVES' MEET

- Mr. Amirzit Huidrom

The Boarding School Association of India (BSAI) Representatives' Meet was held successfully on 8-9th January 2026 at The Doon School, Dehradun. I, Amirzit Huidrom, BSAI Representative represented The Assam Valley School to attend the first Representative BSAI meet. This two-day event brought together representatives from 30 leading boarding schools across India to share the best practices and discuss school culture, ethos, as well as student well-being and safety. The meet began with keynote addresses by Ms. Sangeeta Kain, Principal of Welham Boys' School, Dehradun, as well as Mr. Vinay Pande, Director of Professional Development, BSAI. Delegates were formally welcomed by Mr. Kamal Ahuja, Deputy Head of The Doon School, and Ms. Stuti Kuthiala, BSAI Representative. The keynote speakers emphasized the importance of pastoral care, student well-being, and the role of boarding schools in nurturing responsible and sensitive young citizens. Ms. Kain stressed the need for all Member Schools to be the support system for each

other, openly sharing good as well as bad experiences, so that the entire community can learn and grow together. She spoke about the changing times, the challenges from students and parents alike, the laws of the land and the new dynamic of a boarding school education. Mr. Vinay Pande, had an interactive, outdoor session in which he invited suggestions from the representatives regarding future meetings of BSAI, for students and for staff. He was keen on making such gatherings more meaningful and fun. Following this, Doon School and BSAI representative, Ms. Stuti Kuthiala conducted a session that outlined in detail the role and responsibility of being a BSAI Representative, the skill sets required to be an effective leader, and the success indicators that would be the positive outcome of the effort put in by a conscientious representative.

Consistent engagement and a healthy exchange of the best practices were highlighted as needed traits for the effective implementation of the BSAI ideals. 28 schools participated. Notable attendees included Welham Boys' School; Welham Girls' School; Yadavindra Public School (YPS), Mohali; Punjab Public School (PPS), Nabha;



Sunbeam Schools, Varanasi; Lawrence School, Sanawar; Pathways World School; Macro Vision Academy, Madhya Pradesh; Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School (RMKKC), Jodhpur; and The Assam Valley School, among others. Day two began with a session by the Founder of NCSS, the National Council for School Safety, Ms. Shikha Agnihotri, and her colleague, Ms. Sunaina Tourangbam.

They alerted the gathering to the challenges that schools face today in the area of child well-being and safeguarding, and how institutions must be prepared with policies, processes and practices that adhere to the legal system of the country. The meet concluded positively, reiterating the shared obligation of boarding schools to create safe, supportive, value-driven environments for the holistic development of children's. It reaffirmed the commitment of the BSAI member schools' to student welfare, collaboration, and pushing forward boarding school education in our nation.



Ripple #262

- Nongthombam Chingkheinganbi,
XI, Associate Editor

A nest of light across the sea
Lay in his vision,
Yet still, he forbade the flare of
hope that arose within—
Then screamed someone from
the deck, a wail of relief,
“Alas sailors, we are home”

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. “You’re hearless or what?” - SGD (*I think it’s better if we haven’t heard.*)
2. “We will hung you.” - Rianna Lingjel Irom, XI, Editor-in-Chief (*Perhaps you should revise your grammar first.*)
3. “Brutus did what he did for Greece.” - SPS (*And Odysseus was a Trojan.*)
4. “Reunion.” - Tanveer Ahmed, Cultural Captain, ISC Batch of 2026 (*Maybe you should reunite with your Total English.*)
5. “I am nice to meet you.” - Sneha Ngangom, Deputy Editor, XI (*You should meet a dictionary first.*)



Keep It Reel!

Prayers

- Khushi Todi, XI, Head Girl



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