

THE  
ASSAM  
VALLEY  
SCHOOL

T H E A S S A M V A L L E Y S C H O O L

# YEARBOOK

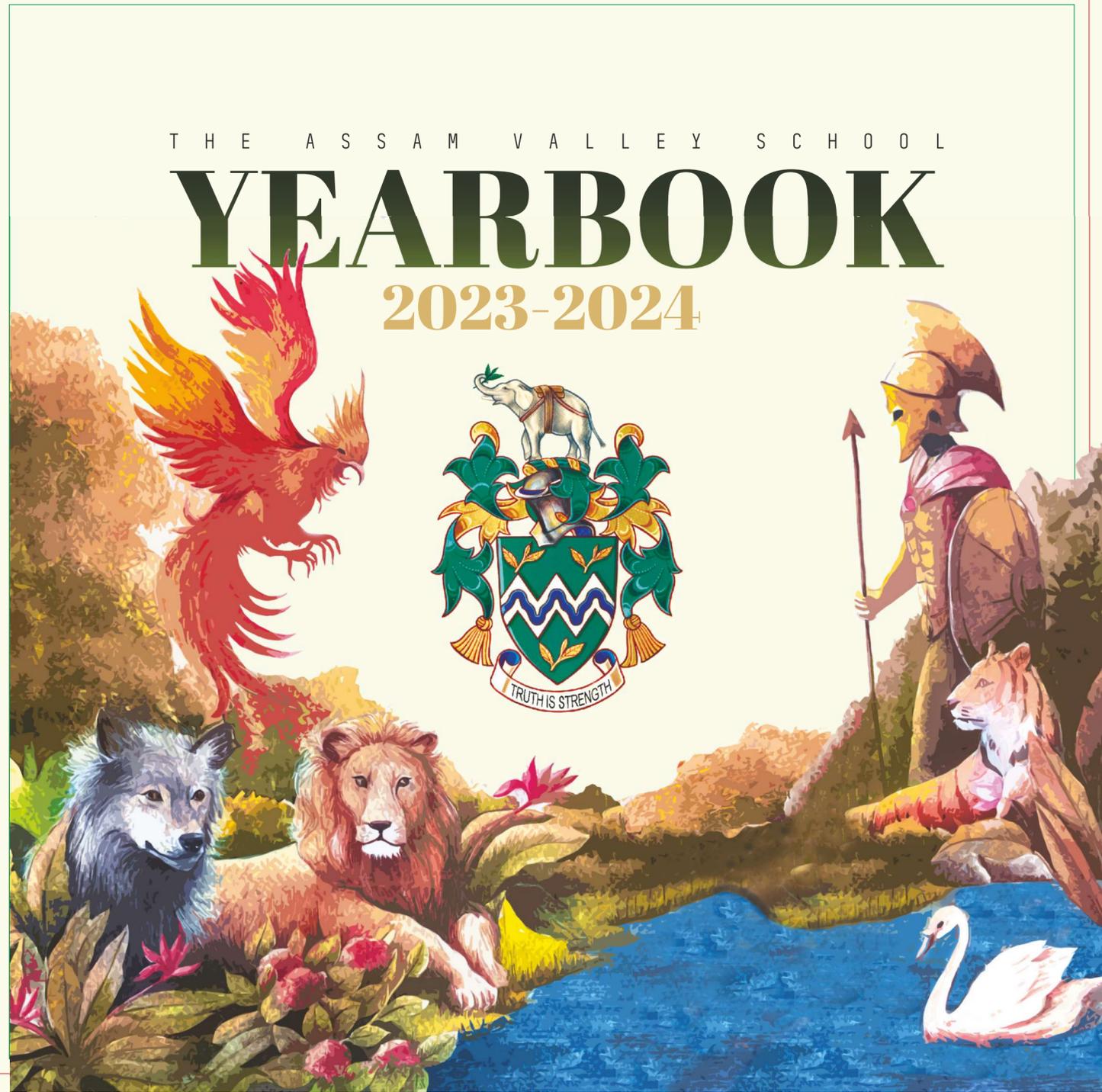
## 2023-2024

YEARBOOK 2023-24



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# YEARBOOK

2023-2024



VOLUME 21



**THE ASSAM VALLEY SCHOOL**  
***Yearbook 2023-2024***

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# EDITORIAL TEAM



**Left to Right**

**Sitting :** Mr. Bhupendra Singh Matharu, Ms. Mita Nangia Goswami, Dr. Priyanka Joshi, Mr. Ajay Ruhil

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# Foreword

## By Headmaster



**Dr. Amit Jugran**

Nestled between towering trees and lush green meadows, The Assam Valley School stands majestically against the backdrop of the clear cyanic sky. The rising sun bathes the scenic school with its warm golden light each day, creating a tapestry of varied colours and hues.

Each page represents this picturesque school. The words within the book are woven with great care and creativity, conveying emotions and connections within a diverse community. These words are woven with empathy, precision, and skill, unquestionably leaving a lasting impact on the minds and hearts of the readers. This yearbook is a remarkable effort by the team to bring compelling stories of achievements and pursuits to you. It's a laudable attempt to compile the entire year's strivings and convert them into a treasury of memories.

# Staff

## Mita Nangia Goswami

# EDITOR IN CHIEF



In a fast-paced world, where memories and events are as fleeting as an Instagram post, a Yearbook is almost sacred. It chronicles the life and times of each and every one who has lived within the sylvan environment of The Assam Valley School and without; the school reaches out and is connected to the outside world in as much as it has a rich campus life. It builds legacy and the concomitant pride in all the students and teachers as achievements and adventures in varied areas are meticulously documented. It acts as a tool to look inward, to share and to celebrate the unique way of life the school offers.

Life at AVS is a vibrant mosaic of academics, sports, music, drama, dance, art, debates, nature activities, photography, journalism, film making- the list is inexhaustible! Cementing all of these is a value system that upholds mutual respect and a spirit of collaboration along with a commitment to excellence. Everything contributes to the nurturing of young minds who will go out into the world with knowledge, attitudes, values and skills to make the world a better place and if I may be permitted a pun, a cooler one too!

The Yearbook is the collaborative outcome of a large number of people and diverse abilities and skills have gone into its creation. To name each and every one would be an impossible task, so an appreciative shout out to the team! We hope you experience the rich life in these pages and connect to the incredible energy of the AVS family!

# Anukriti Kashyap

# EDITOR IN CHIEF

**A**s the Editor-in-Chief of this year's yearbook, I'm thrilled to present a collection of memories that captures the essence of our school community. This yearbook is more than just a record of events; it's the challenges we've overcome, and the milestones we've celebrated together.

Leading this project has been an incredible experience, filled with both challenges and rewards. There were moments when the task felt overwhelming, but I was fortunate enough to work with an extraordinary team whose dedication and creativity brought this vision to life. Their support made this yearbook possible, and I'm deeply grateful to each one of them.

From the start, my goal was to create a yearbook that not only documented our achievements but also reflected the heart and soul of our diverse community. I wanted every student, from Class 5 to Class 12, to feel represented and seen within these pages. I aimed to create something that resonated with everyone, regardless of background, interests, or accomplishments. It should evoke pride in people who were extensively involved in school activities or quietly made their mark in their own way.

It's been an incredible honour to reflect on the journey of my last year at The Assam Valley School. As my time here draws to a close, putting together this yearbook, has been a deeply personal experience, capturing the school the way I see it, celebrating friendships, achievements, and shared experiences of everyone who has been a part of this journey. All of this has made the yearbook a cherished keepsake. I hope it serves as a fond reminder of the unique spirit and the lasting memories we've created together.



# School Captain

## Aarnav Dutta



When I entered grade 12th, my family told me I must make the most of every day, every month and every semester because it will all pass in the blink of an eye. Looking back, not just this year, but the last 7 years really did pass by in the blink of an eye. From a 10-year-old innocent boy in class 5 to a 17-year-old standing on the cusp of adulthood, it's been an incredible journey.

As a sportsman, when I brought laurels to the school it made me happier than anything else, and losing tournaments for the school stung deeply. Looking back, I realise this was because of my deep, abiding belonging to the AVS community—a place where every Aviator truly belongs.

In November 2023 I was elected the School Captain, and with each passing day, the weight of the badge I was given became more evident to me. I attempted to give my best shot at this—there were times I succeeded, and times when I made honest mistakes.

Being a student leader in a community of 800 students teaches you many things, but if there's one lesson I'd pass on to the next batch, it's this—being a student leader is a journey where you learn on the job every day. As the final weeks of this badge approach me, there are many people I owe my gratitude to—the Headmaster, my Housemaster, Head girl, Head boy, the prefectorial body and my friends. They have shown me that you are only as strong as the team that backs you. It will take a few more months to fully realise that this chapter of AVS that began in 2017 is coming to an end, and until then all I can say is—thank you AVS, it's been an absolute honour.



Life here at AVS has been nothing but full of adventures. Looking back at all those years and remembering how confused and perplexed I was when I first joined AVS, everything around me felt so different and new. I vividly remember myself strolling through the corridors of the MSB trying to navigate and find my way around the building. The MSB felt cosmic in size, every turn leading to somewhere different, and every corridor overwhelming me with the feeling of “I Miss Home.” Yet, here I am now with a sense of familiarity for everything around me—a feeling of familiarity so strong that I’m afraid to let go.

Never would I have imagined myself as the head boy of this great institution. I am truly grateful to the school and indebted to all the aviators for believing and entrusting their faith in an individual like me with “No vision” to represent them.

Time here in AVS has passed by in the blink of an eye and as my final days in school draw near, I am deeply saddened as the chapter of AVS comes to an end; just like the scared and anxious boy I was when I first enrolled into this institution, that same feeling overwhelms me as I step into the world. Yet, this time I take with me the countless lessons learned, an arsenal of new ways to counter problems and most importantly the capacity to accept and value what I already have rather than what I desire.

God Bless!

## **Rompiti Patton** *Head Boy*



As the curtains are about to be drawn and the time I have left here can be counted on my fingertips, more often than not, I have the urge to look back, to see from where I started and how far I have come. Every time I do so, my heart fills with pride that one fine Sunday, my twelve-year-old self chose AVS and nowhere else.

My journey in AVS has been nothing short of a topsy-turvy roller coaster ride. I have had my fair share of ups and downs. There were times when things weren't as bright and glorious as it seemed, and then on those very days- it was the love, the care, the trust and the affection showered on me that kept me going.

Now that the time has come for my blazer to become lighter, both from the responsibilities as well as the metal, every time a girl comes up saying how she aspires to be like me, or every time someone comes up to say how much I mean to them, it feels as though my blazer has been filled again, and this time it's heavier than before. Looking back, the love and support I got in my journey as a head girl is the only medal I'll ever need. This post gave me not only a platform to voice the unheard but also a sense of belongingness, the one that aches to let go and soothes when acquired.

As the pages will inevitably turn, unearthing the dreaded goodbyes and one day we will all be nothing but names on the boards; I will forever carry a part of AVS in me, wherever I go, an image so lush green in my heart that nothing will ever take its place. Whoever knows me henceforth, will know me as someone who was built in this school and I will hold pride in that always.

And you know, they always say, "Once an aviator, Always an aviator".

With love,

***Head Girl***  
**Aakansha Kumar**

# FOUNDERS



I express my appreciation and thanks to everyone who worked hard to prepare and carry out so many events and performances in the last 2 days. It's been a great joy to have been around to share it all. The sports displays, the exhibitions, the Assamese play of which I did not understand a word until we got to the part where they sang the song on AVS, nonetheless, was brilliant. The lovely musical, the dances, music productions, AVE and its various guises, and all other publications to be released today have been absolutely marvellous.

I have the feeling of a vibrant, happy, purposeful, and multitalented community. Very importantly, it is by no means closing its eyes to the many disturbing realities of the world around us, so we are not just in a comfortable cocoon secure in our own distinction. This is the time, perhaps each year, to reflect again upon what we were founded for. In a recent collection of essays on trust in public life, there is a discussion of how to gain and how to lose trust in institutions and institutional life — trust which has been threatened by the COVID year and almost total lack of confidence in methods of governments and institutions around the world.

One of the essay writers in this collection suggests that in order for us to rebuild trust in institutions, four characteristics need to be sought and found: honesty, humility, compassion, and competence,

both within the institution itself and within the people who serve in it. Competence may be a rather surprising word, but an institution has to work no matter what its ideals and aspirations may be. There are students this morning who give evidence of young people with immense talent and potential here in the Williamson Magor Hall. I have met, seen, and heard some of them to my great pleasure. Not just here, but others are waiting in the wings for their entry on the stage with so much to gain and also so much to offer. The students will make their mark in whatever they do when they move on from school. I know that because I have seen it in India and those who come to my country. AVS is here to nurture and develop that talent as we have an excellent Head of School with a fine team of teachers and administrators, all within this lovely campus.

Dr. Jugran's recent book proves that he completely understands the responsibilities and rewards of co-educational boarding education. For parents who are with us today, have aspirations and expectations of what AVS must offer, and it's up to all of us connected with the school to live up to your concern and your greatly valued support. It all comes down to the matter of trust. If the institution that we trust contains the characteristics of honesty, humility, compassion, and competence, then it cannot be far wrong. That is my belief and my hope for Founder's 2023, and I have a very strong impression that the beliefs and hope are being fulfilled. Thank you very much.

## MR. DAVID SUMMERSCALE'S Speech



# CHIEF GUEST'S SPEECH

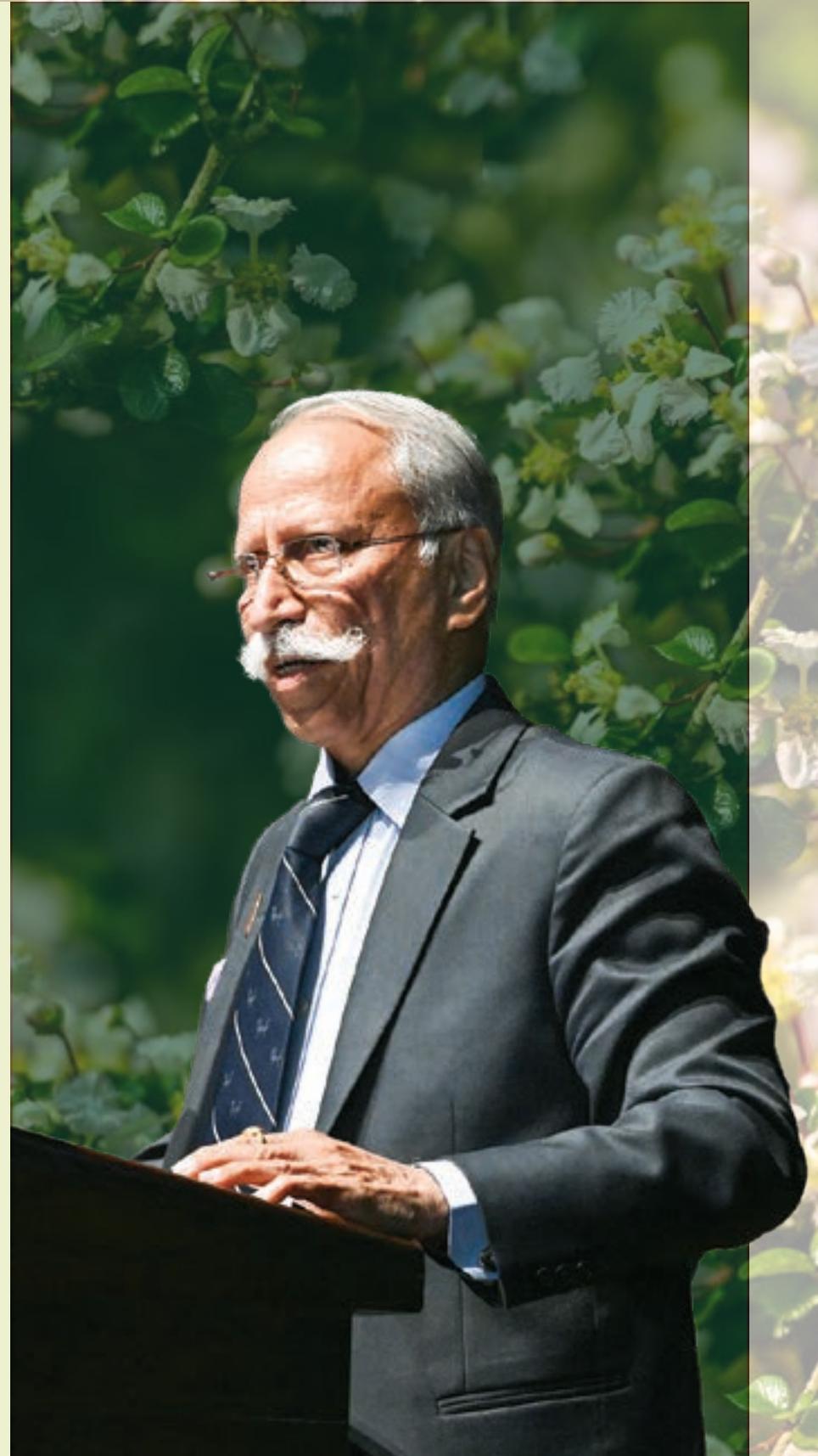
**G**ood afternoon to all of you. Honourable Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Arunachal Pradesh, Pasang DorjiSonaji, Chairman Board of Governors, Mr. David Summerscale, Member Board of Governors, Mrs. Kavita Khaitan, Headmaster Dr. Amit Jujran, all the parents present here, members of the staff, administration, and dear students, boys and girls of AVS. I am greatly impressed by the environment, infrastructure, and the ethos that abounds in your AVS.

No doubt that the school is the pride of the Northeast. Established in 1995 by the Williamson Magor Education Trust, the school was under the care of Mrs. Julia Magor for quite some time and thereafter of the founder, late Shri. B. M. Khaitan, who set a legacy for the school, which I see now, continues to be improved every time I come here. The spacious, lush green environment you have on your campus is ideally suited for learning beyond the classrooms with a lot of co-curricular and extracurricular activities brought in.

I am also beholden to the sense of the environment adventure that makes learning more interesting and which is ideally suited to instil a sense of collaboration, discipline, drive, innovation and creativity amongst the students here.

No wonder the school has received accolades at the national level and continues to excel in all spheres. Last but not the least, I am also impressed with the simple but lofty ethos that you have set for the school of producing good citizens, as good citizens lead to a good country. This takes me to the fact that most institutions today, educational and otherwise, have their own mottos and ethos.

I would like to touch upon some mottos just as a reference. If you look at some of the larger schools, you'll find various schools



with different mottos for themselves, and these mottos always stand for the focus that the school is trying to instil among their students. For example, Lawrence School, Sanawar, has the motto “Never Give In,” Sherwood College, Nainital, has “Let Each One Merit His Prize,” Mayo College has “Let There Be Light,” and the Gurukul School has “Endless Possibilities.” Such mottos are embraced by institutes as well, and I would like to quote a few from my service experience.

When I was in school, the school motto was “Vidya or knowledge, is power.” In fact, these mottos actually lead to the focus that the students have or they are being prepared for. Similarly, when we went to the National Defence Academy, the motto was “Service the Force.”

Now these mottos have meaning. They are preparing a young person to become a leader in the armed forces. Therefore, it was important for them to understand that service to the nation is the main focus.

When we went to IMA, Indian Military Academy, the motto was, “Valour and Wisdom.” Valour for the young officers who are going to be leaders and lead the armed forces, and wisdom because without knowledge and wisdom, you cannot conduct warfare.

Similarly, all regiments of the Indian armed forces have their own mottos. My regiment’s motto was, “VirBhogyasundhara,” the brave rule of the world. Your school motto - “Truth is Strength” - is somewhat akin to the Gandhian philosophy of “Satyameva Jayate.”

Truth has deep meaning. Truth means courage, armed courage. Truth means conviction. Truth means the ability to be genuinely involved in things. And it was this aspect that was lauded in many institutions in the olden times. So, truth was one of the strengths that we imbibe from heritage, we imbibe from our past. And that also puts in perspective all those things which were talked about by your headmaster.

I am very happy that these are the kinds of focuses that the school has for the students. I may also say, when we became officers and passed out from the Indian Military Academy, in a parade when we slow-marched to the last step, we stepped into the Chetwood Hall - and the motto there for the young officers who were becoming officers, read something like this: “The safety, honour, and welfare of your country comes first always and every time. The honour, welfare, and comfort of the men you command come next. Your own peace, comfort, and safety come last always and every time.” Now, that is the perspective with

which we march into our regiments and our units and command men. It was ingrained in us that to be a leader you need to be accepted by your men. To be a leader you should be able to beat them at their own game. To be a leader you need to understand their background, their language, their religion and all. Only then, over a period of time, they would look at you, respect you, and willingly follow your orders in peace and war.

After you pass out from AVS, knowingly or unknowingly, you step into the realms of becoming a leader, maybe a junior leader, because you are entrusted with some responsibilities which are expected of you in the larger interest of the organisation.

It is necessary to understand what leadership is. As you all know, theoretically, leaders are of many kinds. It starts from a democratic leader who shares his thoughts with his team, gets everybody’s opinion, and then takes a decision which is accepted by all. Similarly, if you have a leader who is a coaching leader, he prefers to guide and coach the team with his knowledge. He prefers to participate in discussions, and the decisions are arrived at after an exchange of ideas. If I can take a simple example - At your home, your parents are your coaching leaders. In school, your teachers are your democratic leaders. Some go beyond that also. Some are autocratic. Some are authoritative. Now authoritative leaders are those who have authority, but they use it for a good cause by guiding, coaching, and grooming their teams. And that’s where decisions arrive and result in success.

The other two types of leadership, which I am focusing on, are - One is autocratic. Autocratic is a one-way communication. A person is so full of his own ideas and experience that he does not need anybody’s advice. He decides what is to be done and orders them. Take, for example, Adolf Hitler. And the last type of leadership has been spoken of lately is transformative leadership, charismatic leadership. The leader has a personality, an aura. People come around because of his demeanour, his knowledge, and he uses that perfectly to help the team unite and come to decisions which are powerful and effective. If I can give you an example, it was Field Marshal Manekshaw who was one such charismatic leader.

We have been talking about how to groom and how to mold and how to prosper. And I’ve been doing the rounds of some institutions and I’ve come across a very interesting way of some dos and don’ts. These are very mundane activities of “do this and don’t do that” and “do this and don’t do that.” Let me give you some examples if they can mean something beyond the words that are being written.