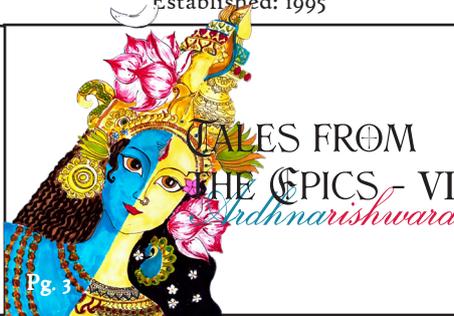




assam
THE ROAD AHEAD

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The
Men in
Blue

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the *axis* of fire

- Aahil Faraj, VIII

The year 2026 has marked a challenging period in world history, with ongoing conflicts in the Middle East highlighting the fragile state of global stability. Iran, a country long shaped by complex regional tensions, has faced serious challenges from both internal and external pressures. On 28th February 2026, Israel and the United States carried out joint military attacks on multiple Iranian cities, including its capital, Tehran.

Even as days pass, a clear end to the conflict is not in sight, increasingly complicating the international situation. The death of Ayatollah Khomeini has also shifted the balance of international relations, raising

a difficult strategic position. Beyond politics, the conflict has economic consequences: India depends heavily on imported oil and gas, much of which passes through Iran.

Rising energy costs contribute to higher inflation and increased prices for everyday goods, affecting families across the country. India's diplomatic position has drawn particular attention. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel on the 26th and the 27th of February, attending dinner with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and speaking in the

concerns about the possibility of wider global conflicts.

Nations like India, which follow a policy of multi-alignment, now find themselves in

Israeli parliament. Some officials noted that the military attacks had been planned months in advance with coordination from Washington.

Critics questioned why India did not take steps to help reduce tensions, between Israel and Iran. Leaders from Congress and other parties highlighted that India has maintained a neutral position traditionally in global conflicts and expressed concern that the current situation could send mixed signals. As the situation develops, many ask whether India's attempts at neutrality might itself create risks at home. The events in Iran as well as the surrounding region underline how closely geopolitics, economics, and diplomacy are connected today.

For Indians students, families,

“...a clear end to the conflict is not in sight, making the international situation increasingly complicated.”

and citizens, understanding these developments helps make sense of the wider world and the challenges India faces in balancing international relations while also protecting its own interests.

assam

THE ROAD AHEAD

- Vidhi Chopra, XII

In recent years, Assam has begun to attract greater national and international attention under the leadership of its Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. At the 2026 meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, he spoke about Assam's growing economy and invited global companies to invest in the state. One of the biggest developments has been the Advantage Assam investment summit, where investment commitments worth nearly INR 5 lakh crore were announced.

Several of these projects are expected to create industries and jobs in the coming years. Large business groups, like the Tata Group, have shown

interest in improved storage capacity. expanding their presence in the state. Plans for a major electronics semiconductor hub, sometimes referred to as "Ratan Tata Electronic City," could help Assam become an important centre for modern technology and manufacturing in India.

Infrastructure has also been an important focus for the state government. New highways, bridges, and transport projects are being developed to improve connectivity across Assam. A proposed highway corridor near Kaziranga National Park is expected to make travel easier while supporting tourism in the region. Efforts are also being made to strengthen the power supply of the state through renewable energy projects and

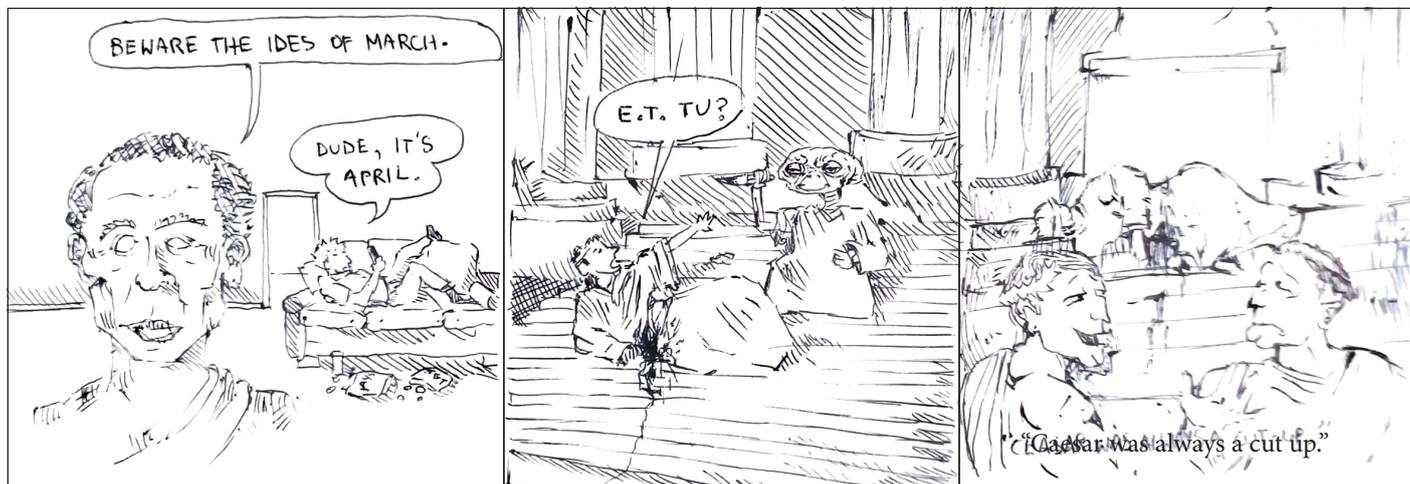
improved storage capacity. Supporters of these policies believe that such investments will help Assam grow faster and provide new opportunities for young people. Faster approvals for industries and the creation of land banks for investors are some of the steps taken to attract businesses that might otherwise choose other states.

At the same time, many people believe that development should benefit everyone. For Assam's progress to be truly meaningful, the advantages of growth must reach villages, farmers, and students who will shape the state's future. As Assam prepares for its upcoming assembly elections, development and economic progress are likely to remain important topics of discussion. For many citizens, the key question is how these projects will improve daily life and create opportunities for the people which are long-term.

Time Machine

Illustrated by Austin Nameirakpam, VII

"THE IDES OF MARCH"



Reference to the prophecy ordained on the 15th of March, 44BC — also known as the Ides of March — which would go on to become the day that Julius Caesar was assassinated by the other Roman senators and statesmen.

TALES FROM THE EPICS - VI

Ardhnarishwara

- Dr. Amit Jugran,
Headmaster

King Sudyumna was a benevolent leader, like his father. He came across a forest below Mount Meru (Himalayas) while riding alone. He had never seen such a magnificent forest, and the deeper he ventured, the more wondrous it became. The forest was magical, with the sky looking red and the rivers humming a sweet melody.

Peahens danced, and tigresses roared. The king slowed his horse. His body was quivering, and he could feel a strange alchemy moving through his veins. Something was flapping across his face, and the more he tried to push it away, the more it

stung his eyes. Sudyumna stopped and gingerly touched his head. He began to claw at it and started pulling tufts of it. He stared at them in disbelief. Long hair was cascading down his head and continuing down to his waist. He fell off the horse, and while brushing off the dust, his hands brushed against his bosom, sending a chill through his body. Breasts, I have breasts. Sudyumna broke into a sweat. His throat dry, he clenched his fist, refusing to touch any part of his body.

you are, the voice came from behind him. He turned and fell at the feet of Mahadev, the ash-smearing body, the moon, the snake and the trident.

What bewitchment is this, Lord? Asked the King, to which the Mahadev replied that it was the forest. I have cast a spell on this forest so that no one can gaze at Parvati when we are in our intimate moments. Any male who steps into this pleasure grove-human, or animal, deva or danava- shall turn into a female. Similarly, you too are turning into one. Feminine, like everything in this forest. Sudyumna stared at his stallion, which had turned into a mare. He could not imagine ahead as dread overtook him. He fell at Shiva's feet, pleading that he is a king, and his subjects needed him. He was not aware of the rules of the forest. Mahadev must spare him this time.

He began tearing his clothes layer by layer. The brook ahead beckoned him, noticing, probably, all the changes which were taking place. The king, with quivering legs, moved ahead and stood at the edge of the brook. *Woman...* The king was staring at his reflection. *I am turning into a woman.* Indeed,

Shiva looked at him and spoke; My curse spares no one. But I will try to amend it for you. He promises Sudyumna that he will not be a woman permanently, but will become one every other month. Every other month? Yes. For one month, you shall be a male, and in the next, a female. Alternating between both genders. A singular icon of **ARDH-NARISHWARA.**



PRETENTIOUS READING

- Aastha Potsangbam, X

“but if it keeps books in people’s hands, perhaps even pretence can, someday, lead to passion.”

Reading is one of the simplest yet deepest joys. People read to learn, to relax, and to lose themselves in other worlds. But alongside this genuine love of books exists a quieter phenomenon: pretending to read. Some people buy books only to line their shelves, showcase limited editions, or casually mention them in conversations to impress. Their goal is not joy but image, an act we often call pretentious reading. It is less about pleasure or growth and more about performance, seeking external validation rather than genuine discovery. Pretentious reading often values

difficulty over meaning. Social media has amplified this, with curated bookshelves for Social Media and “#CurrentlyReading” posts featuring dense, unread texts. Books become trophies to display rather than companions to reflect with. Pretentious readers may pick up obscure titles with little personal interest, skipping pages or never finishing, yet boasting about their “complex” reads to appear cultured, deep, or intellectual. Authentic reading, in contrast, is a private engagement with the text. It is about curiosity, reflection, and growth and treating books

as journeys rather than props.

Real readers broaden their horizons, absorb lessons, and allow stories and ideas to transform them. Yet, even pretentious reading has its place. In an age where reading competes with distractions, any form of engagement with books helps keep the practice alive. Whether someone reads to impress or out of curiosity, the hope is that eventually they stumble upon the true joy of reading, and in doing so, discover a genre or an author that becomes their favourite place to be. In the end, authentic reading enriches us, while pretentious reading offers only a façade. But if it keeps books in people’s hands, perhaps even pretence can, someday, lead to passion..

The Men in Blue

- Nisanta Bora, XII

It was 8th March 2026 at 10:48 p.m. when the Indian Cricket Team created history by lifting the T20 World Cup for the third time.

They further made history by becoming the first team to successfully defend the title and the first team to win the T20 World Cup on home soil. Back on 29 June 2024, when two legends of the game, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, retired from the T20 format, many fans were worried about who would take Indian cricket forward in the shortest format. However, new stars soon stepped up. Abhishek Sharma, the current No.1 T20 batter, played a crucial role and single-handedly helped India win many

matches. Alongside him was Varun Chakaravathy, the mystery spinner whose brilliant spin bowling troubled oppositions. There were also many other unsung heroes who contributed to this historic achievement. The future of Indian cricket looks extremely bright, as the team already has several promising young players. Abhishek Sharma is just 25, Tilak Varma is 23, and Ayush Mhatre an 18-year-old explosive batter. We also cannot forget the next big thing in Indian cricket, the 14-year-old sensation, Vaibhav Suryavanshi. He is the youngest batter to score a century in an IPL game, the youngest centurion in List A and T20 cricket, and the fastest Indian batter to score a century in just 35 balls. If he maintains discipline and consistency, many believe he could even surpass legends like Sachin Tendulkar and Virat

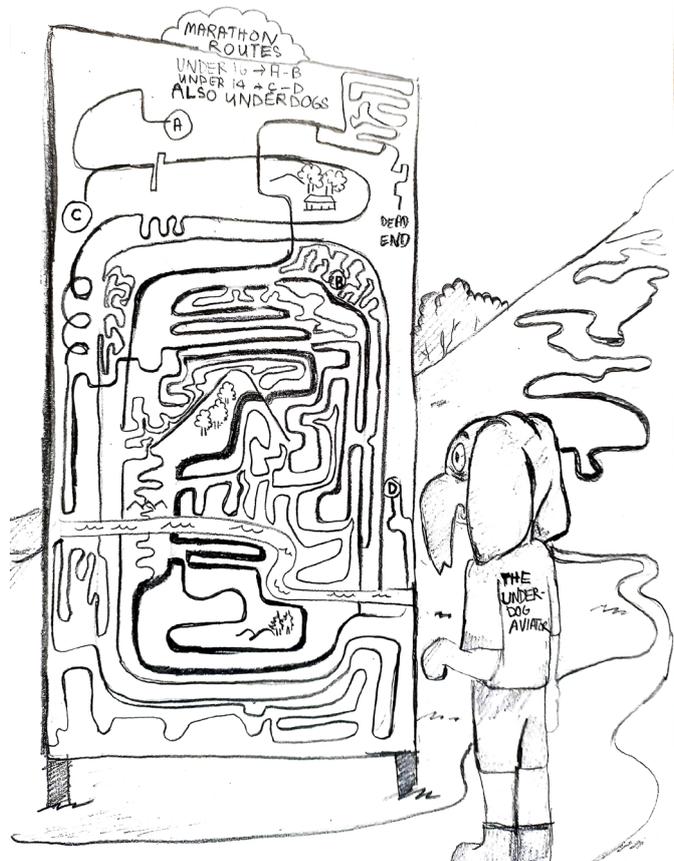
Kohli. Finally, the greatest cricketer Assam has ever produced, Riyan Parag. The captain of Rajasthan Royals in IPL, he has already made his debut for the Indian team in both ODI and T20 formats. At just 24, with his mature batting, sensational fielding, and handy off-spin bowling, he has the potential to turn many matches in India's favour in the future. Overall, it feels like the Indian cricket team has a very bright future if these young players continue to shine. Many more talents are yet to come, especially with the Indian Premier League, which has produced world-class players like Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah. If Indian cricket continues progressing in this way, no team may be able to stop India from winning the 2027 Cricket World Cup and also securing a gold medal at the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Campus Caricature

Run for Your Life!*

Illustrated by Aastha Potsangbam, X

*The recent Inter-House Marathons



CAMPUS NEWS

LOGIQUIDS

Logiqids mental math test focused on logical reasoning and analytical thinking. This test was held at Assam Valley School for classes 5 to 9. Students who qualified for the first round participated in the national-level competition. Two students from our school got selected at the National level competition, and they got the opportunity to participate in Ideathon, organised by IIT Mumbai. Share their ideas. This was a global event where more than 2 Lakh students participated internationally.

1. **Aarav Adhukia from class-6** - Got a medal for getting 92.5% and 9th rank at zone level, he has been ranked as top 0.11 % students globally, in her grade.
2. **Garv Agarwal from class 10**, received a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding performance at Ideathon.



UCO

The Unified Cyber Olympiad (UCO) aims to foster computer knowledge, logical reasoning, and mental ability in students on a national/international level. Key goals include upgrading IT skills, promoting competitive spirit, identifying talent, and preparing students for future technological challenges. UCO was organized in our school during Founders' semester. This year 28 students got medals and certificate.



INTERHOUSE MARATHONS

The 27th Inter-House Marathons were held on the 8th of March, 2026. Students quickly filed into the pavillion, buzzing eith nervous but energetic anticipation. Students from various age groups participated in different race distances, showing off the athleticism honed through hard work and sheer determination. Teachers were stationed in various positions throughout the routes to ensure safety, cheering the passing students on alongside their duty of supervision. The Chief Guest for the event was Mr. Leslie Watts, who had worked at The Assam Valley School for several years before his retirement. The event started with the senior girls' race, and was then followed by many more.

The results are as follows:

- 1st Place:** Kopili-Dhansiri
- 2nd Place:** Jinari-Manas
- 3rd Place:** Bhoroli-Lohit
- 4th Place:** Subansiri-Namdang



Ripple #266

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

*My mother used to buy
me dinner with her dowry.
Ironic, now that famines
carress our naked fields
I have nothing but
the last of my wedding
jewellery left to eat.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "William Wordsmith" - Aanya Paul Sarkar, Deputy Editor, ISC Batch of 2026 (Was all that reading Worth it?)
2. "We don't fought." - Jahnvi Sharma, XII (It seems you don't pay attention in English class either.)
3. "I thought she was saying a line from Speaksheare." - Sneha Ngangom, Deputy Editor, XII (Is there a feud between Deputy Editors and literary figures?)
4. "All of us needs to go." - SPS (The next AVE trip should be to the English department.)
5. "I am literally Subansiri Success." - Timzenla Ozukum (But a failure when it comes to English?)



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