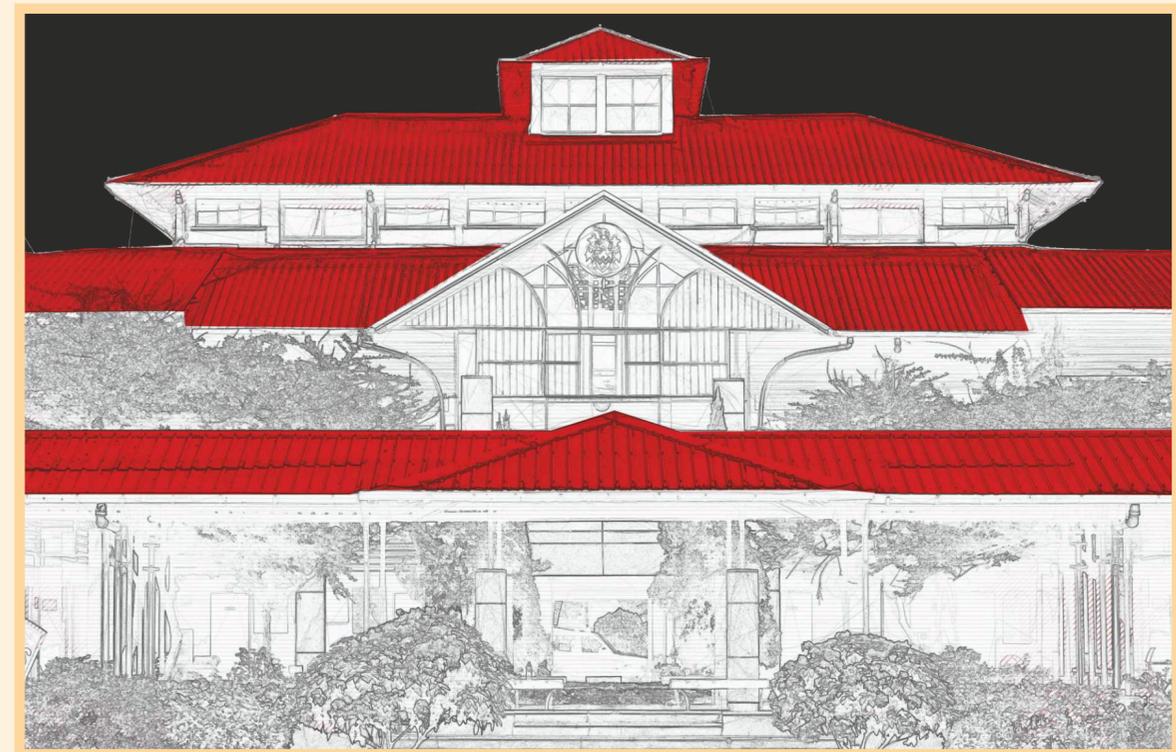


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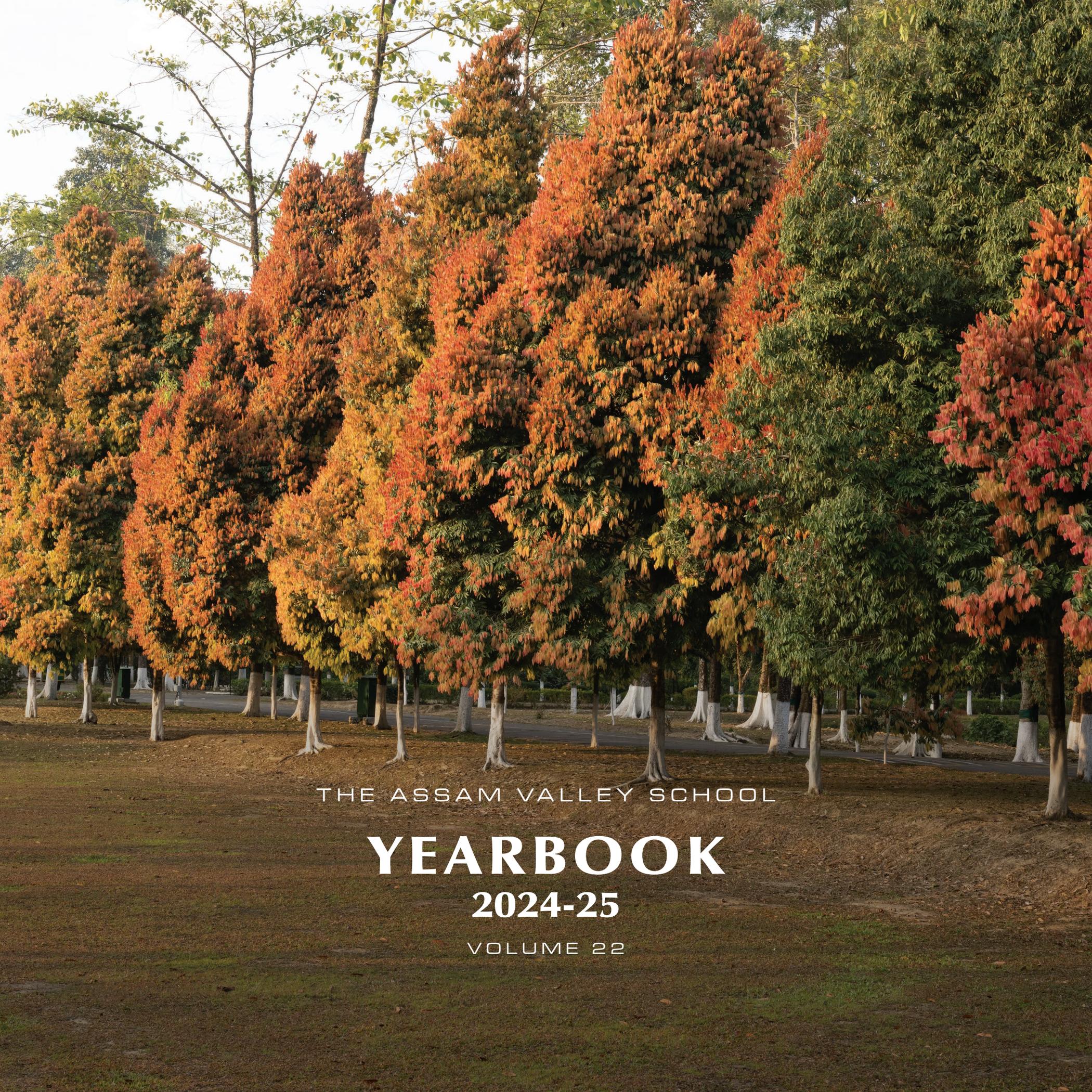


YEARBOOK 2024-25



THE ASSAM VALLEY SCHOOL

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LEAVER'S REPORT



Foreword by HEADMASTER

In these long, winding corridors, where memories are created every day in the hope of shaping a brighter future, our school stands firm in its resolve.

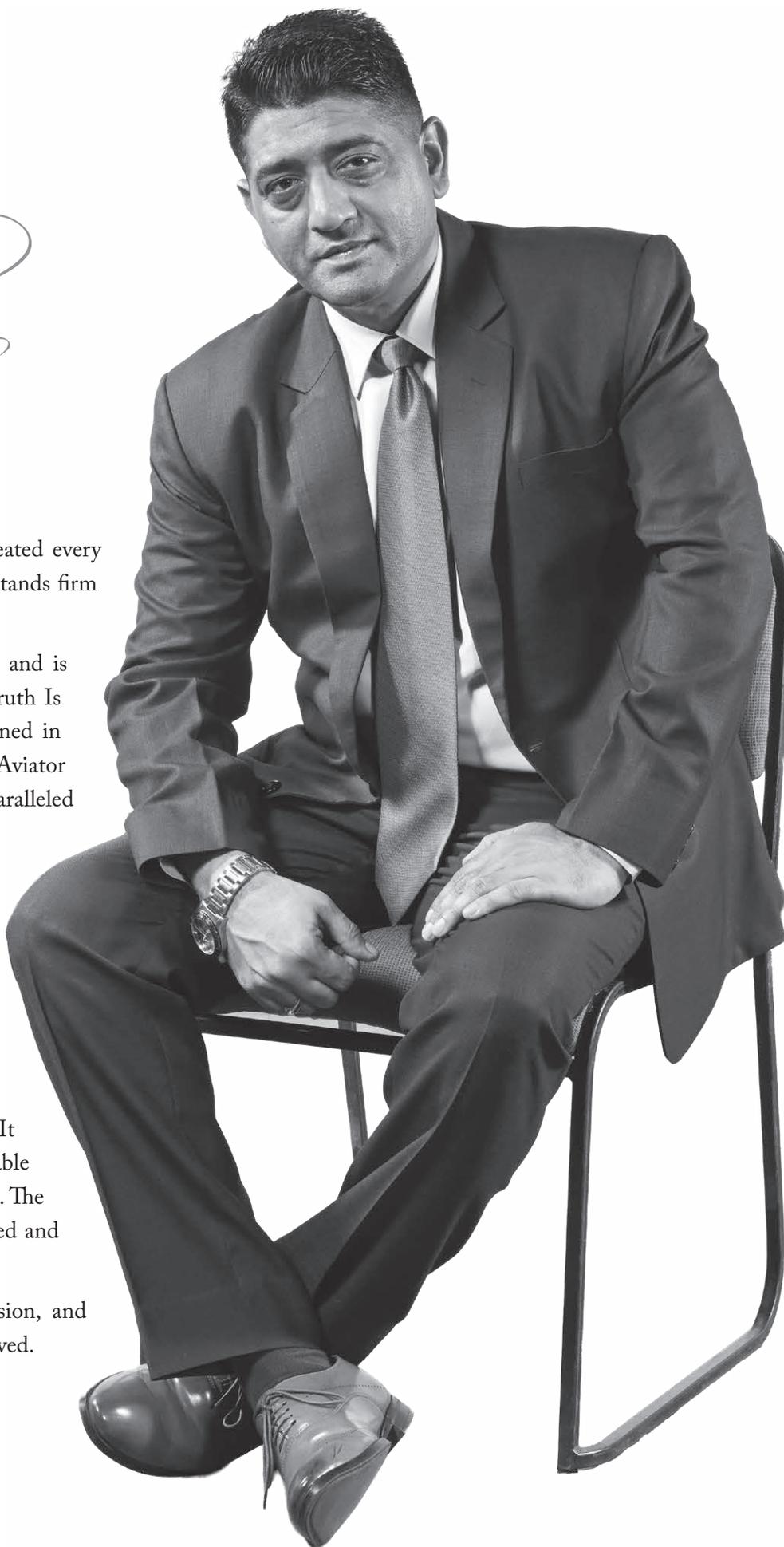
Belief is the driving force behind The Assam Valley School and is firmly ingrained in every Aviator. To live up to the motto 'Truth Is Strength,' we strive to live with integrity and stand determined in honesty, even when it is difficult. Driven by this belief, every Aviator strives to follow their passion and pursue their goals with unparalleled intensity and drive.

Compassion gives meaning to our strength. We are a community that looks out for one another and lifts each other. We have learnt that kindness is not a weakness, being patient does not imply being indifferent, and that these qualities are all synonyms of power. Power to be better human beings and power to bring about a change in our communities.

The serene campus celebrates all these qualities of an Aviator. It enfolds a million memories of our camaraderie and the valuable bonds forged over the years through laughter and shared tears. The campus echoes our achievements with those who have inspired and walked this journey with us.

The School is a community where truth, passion, compassion, and camaraderie is the foundation on which lives are shaped and lived.

Truth is Strength.



From the STAFF EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the planet reels under ecological degradation on one hand and war on the other, what happens in schools acquires greater importance. Schools are after all; a microcosm of society and it is here that values germinate and future citizens take shape. At The Assam Valley School, where children from diverse cultural backgrounds flourish in harmony, a cohesive and value-based society is growing from strength to strength.

The Yearbook stands testimony to this, as you go through its contents of the events of the year gone by, what will shine through is the diversity. Diversity of the students, of the teachers and of the spectrum of activities and accomplishments. An organic offshoot of this has been the seeding of respect for different ways of being. And that, undoubtedly is the fundamental step towards becoming a planetary citizen, a global citizen.

Art, culture, science, sports, geo-political discussions and debates, nature studies, experiential learning -each thread has gone into weaving the fabric of life at school, creating a community that is strong and vibrant and firmly anchored in values that respect diversity.

At the heart of conflict lies a narrow, judgemental approach to life where 'othering' strips one of their basic humanity. At The Assam Valley School a quiet movement is nurturing individuals who respect all ways of being. These are the future citizens who will aid the building of a pro-nature and peaceful society.

My heartfelt gratitude to each and every one who played a part in putting the yearbook together, diverse skills and talents came together for it to see the light of day. Inviting you to its pages seeped in the sheer joy of being.

Mita Nangia Goswami

From the STUDENT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I have not just studied at The Assam Valley School — I have grown up here. From the hesitant footsteps of a playgroup child to now, pen in hand as Editor-in-Chief, every brick, tree, and turning corridor has become part of my memory's DNA.

This place has been more than a school. It has been the soil in which I was planted, watered by friendships, seasons, and the slow ache of becoming. I have watched time soften the outlines of rooms, witnessed sunlight carve gold into the same old steps, seen laughter echo across years like a hymn that refuses to fade.

There is something haunting about growing up — how it clings to you gently, like a shadow at dusk. You try to hold on, but it slips through your fingers, only to reappear in dreams, in music, in photographs, in names written in margins.

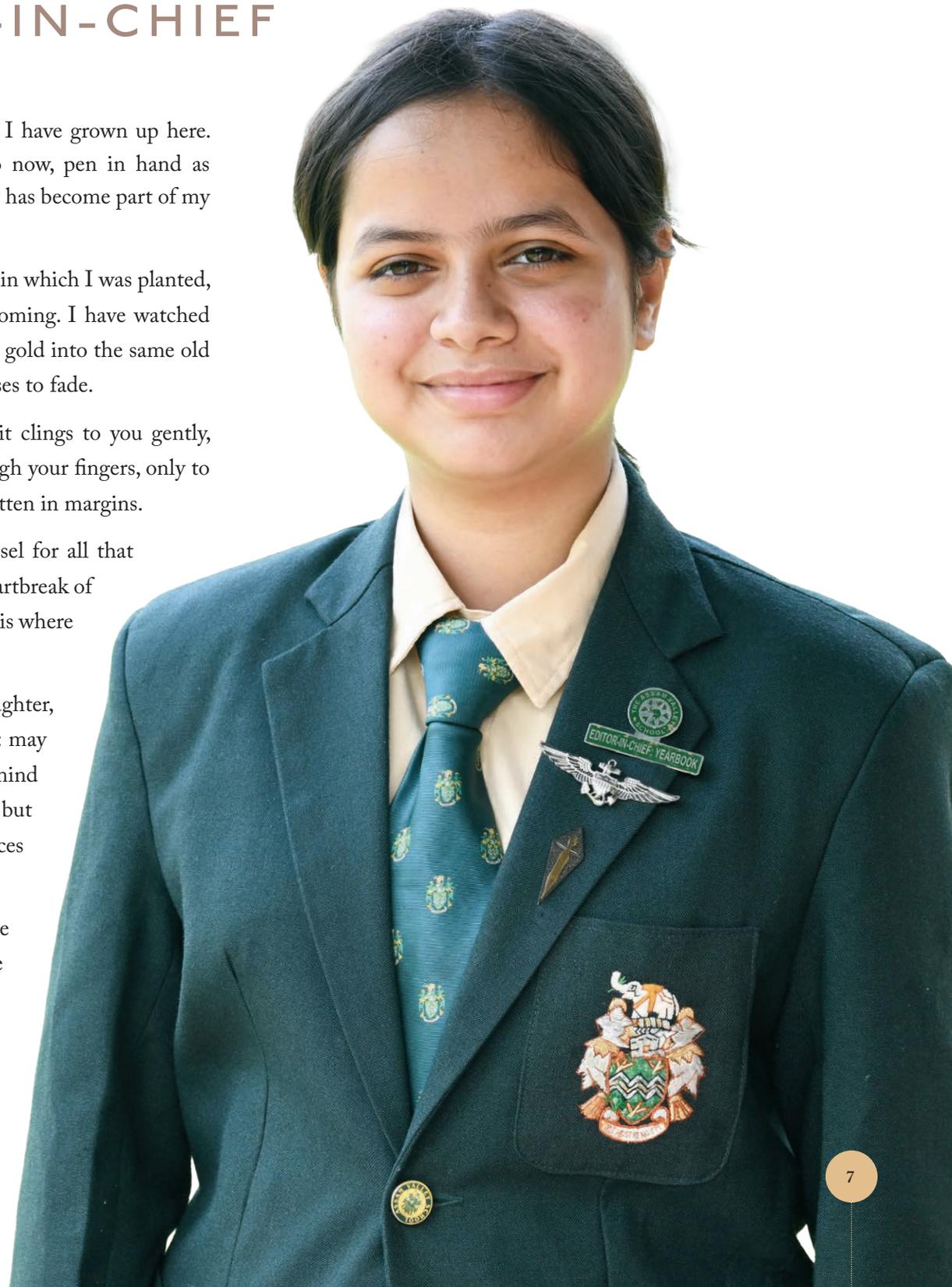
This yearbook is not just a collection of pages. It is a vessel for all that cannot be said aloud — the secret joy of inside jokes, the heartbreak of last goodbyes, the shared silence of a hundred assemblies. It is where we press flowers made of memories, fragile and fragrant.

To the ones who walked beside me: thank you for the laughter, the lessons, and the light. To those yet to walk these halls: may you find magic in the mundane, and may these pages remind you that growing up is not about leaving things behind but becoming a keeper of ghosts — of laughter, of people, of places which still exist somewhere in you.

The Assam Valley School does not let you go. Long after the uniforms are folded away and the bells fall silent, this place will echo in your bones. You will find it in your voice, in your dreams, in the silence before a goodbye.

Because some homes never stop calling your name.

Aanya Paul Sarkar



From the SCHOOL CAPTAIN



As I pen this final message, I find myself reflecting on a year shaped by purpose, passion, and the quiet power of perseverance. To serve as School Captain has been one of the greatest honours of my life — a journey of learning, leadership and love for the institution that has shaped who I am.

Our school has always stood for more than academic excellence. It stands for integrity, resilience, empathy, and growth — values that have guided us through every triumph and trial. As we stepped into inter-school platforms, national competitions, and community initiatives, we carried with us not just ambition, but the essence of who we are.

In every classroom discussion, every cultural celebration, every moment of service, I saw future global citizens being shaped — students who will go on to dream fearlessly, lead responsibly and act with heart.

This year has not just been about achievements; it has been about becoming. Becoming more compassionate, more courageous, and more committed to excellence. And as I pass the baton, I do so with faith — that our legacy of values and vision will continue to shine through those who lead next.

Throughout this journey, I have been deeply inspired by the unwavering guidance of Dr. Jugran, our Headmaster — a remarkable administrator whose vision, discipline, and quiet strength set the tone for us all. His support has not only been a pillar of encouragement but a true partnership I will always carry with me.

Thank you for trusting me. It has been a beautiful chapter.

Ayithe Vusshe

From the HEAD BOY

Looking back at the path I have walked, all I can see is growth, love, and happiness. These twelve years in a lush, green environment have brought out qualities in me I never knew I had. The Assam Valley School has been more than just a school to me; it has been a beautiful paradise, a blessing that has become an inseparable part of my life.

Twelve glorious years—that is what AVS has given me. Years I will never forget, years that have shaped me into the person I am today. Every brick of this place, every tree, every corridor has played a role in moulding me. I owe everything to this place, especially the teachers who have nurtured me and believed in me, even when I did not believe in myself.

It has been the greatest honour of my life to serve as the Head Boy of AVS. This role pushed me to my limits, made me discover new strengths, and gave me a platform to give back a fraction of what this institution has given me. The long hours, the extra responsibilities, the challenges—they all contributed to making me who I am today.

AVS did not just teach me to play tennis or to run; it taught me to chase the unachievable. Running, to me, became more than a sport—it became a life lesson. From a small child quietly walking through the lonely corridors of the main school building to now standing tall, wearing the Head Boy badge, the journey has been surreal. And now, in just six months, this beautiful journey comes to a close.

I am eternally indebted to Dr. R.K. Mishra and Dr. Amit Jugran, whose unwavering faith in my potential has guided my growth. I would also like to thank my coach, Mr. Chandra Shekar Kumar, who brought out the best in me every single day.

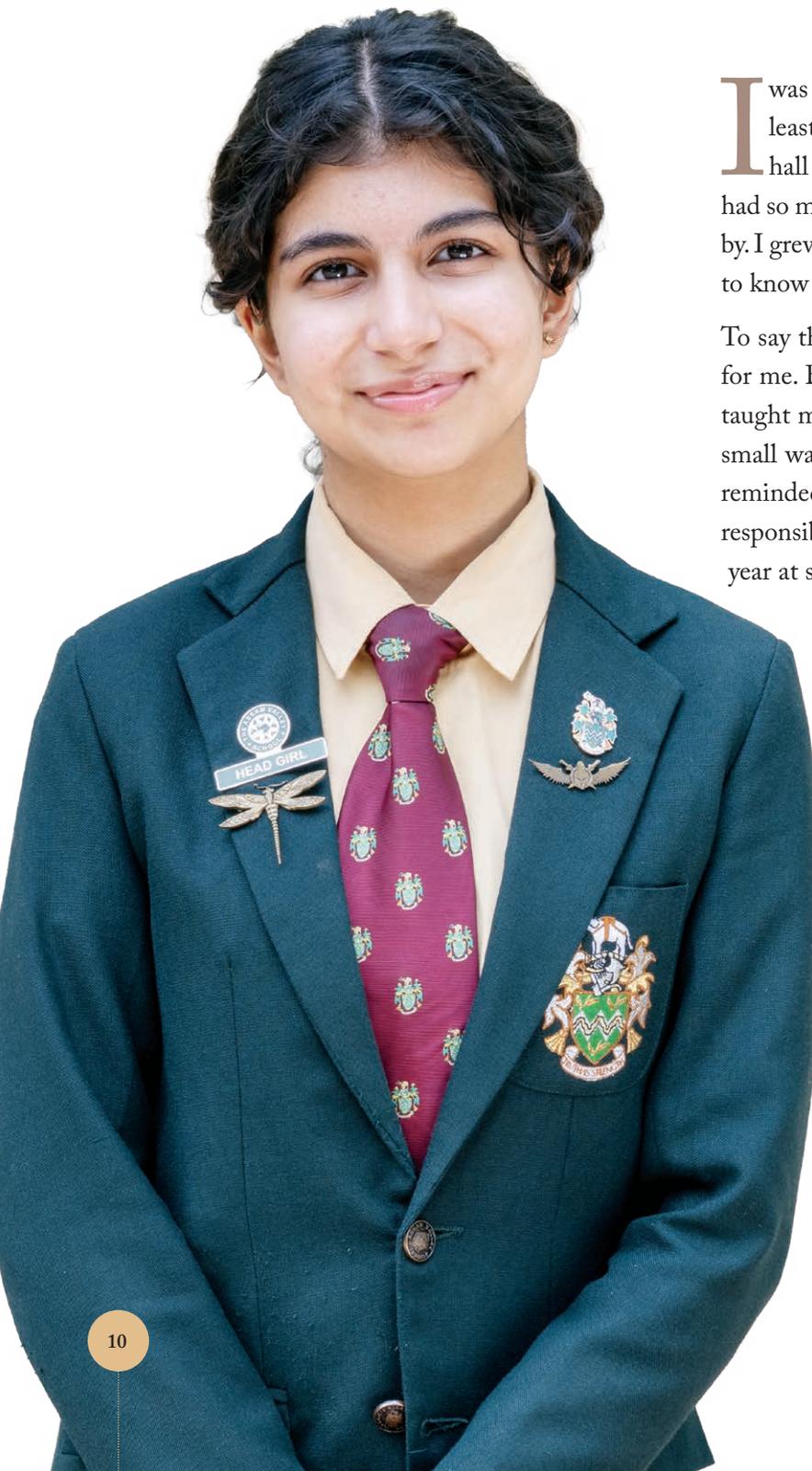
As Head Boy, I have had the privilege of working with a wonderful team—a team that never stopped striving, that worked with heart and soul. I hope my time in this role has inspired my fellow Aviators to dream big, push themselves harder, and always raise the flag of this great institution higher.

As I prepare to say goodbye to this beloved space, I know I will always carry the crest of the elephant in my heart. AVS is not just a second home; it is my home, and it will forever be.

Adhayan Saikia



From the HEAD GIRL



I was enrolled into AVS at the tender age of ten, unaware of what I was to face, and naively least expecting the challenge of a new way of living. I recall sitting in the corner of the dining hall one summer evening, counting the number of months I had left in school. Eighty-four. I had so much time to do everything I wanted. And in that same delirious comfort, the years passed by. I grew, I shrank, I tried again. I felt just about everything there is to feel, and it takes no prophet to know that this life will stick with me forever.

To say that I am grateful to this place and its people is to do an injustice to what AVS has done for me. Being Head Girl of the Assam Valley School is quite literally a dream come true. It has taught me so much and driven me to strive to be the best version of myself. I hope that in some small way, I have given back a quarter of what this institution has given to me. Every day, I am reminded that the girls I once looked up to wore the badge I wear today, and I feel an odd mix of responsibility and a quiet pride. I am still unsure of how I got here. I have learnt more in my last year at school than I have in all my years combined.

I have almost too many people to thank, and for fear of missing names, I will not list them out. But I would fall short of my duty not to thank my teachers; who taught me almost everything I know of life today, for my seniors; who relentlessly guided me and put me on my feet when I could not, for the people I have shared every second with; my friends turned family and for my wonderful junior girls, who have made my tenure more rewarding and fulfilling than I ever could have imagined.

In the past few months, I have found myself unable to comprehend that someday soon, AVS will be just a memory. I cannot fathom that I will no longer witness the seasons turn in this haven we take for granted. I know I will desperately miss the stinging mist of an early winter's morning, sunsets in the pavilion, clear skies and full moons, the thrill of Founders Day. I know I will recall with an ache even the childish disdain I felt as my dame dragged me out of bed for conditioning, I know I will miss the familiar sound of chatter in the common dining hall, and I know that someday I will sit in a lecture hall on some college campus far from here, and reminisce on a childhood that was moulded by this lush, ever-rolling campus. So thank you, AVS, for every moment and every memory, and for taking such good care of me.

Natasha Billimoria



FOUNDERS'

MR. DAVID SUMMERS

Speech



Each year Founders weekend is an opportunity to showcase talent within the School - and, as the last three days have shown, there is an immense amount of it. But it has a further, deeper meaning. This is an act, and a day, of Commemoration. We remember together (which is what the word means). And remembering together involves both giving and receiving.

Benefactors are those who give; beneficiaries are those who receive. The word benefaction means literally doing good. The kind of good which springs from giving is, at its best, an act of charity, indeed of love.

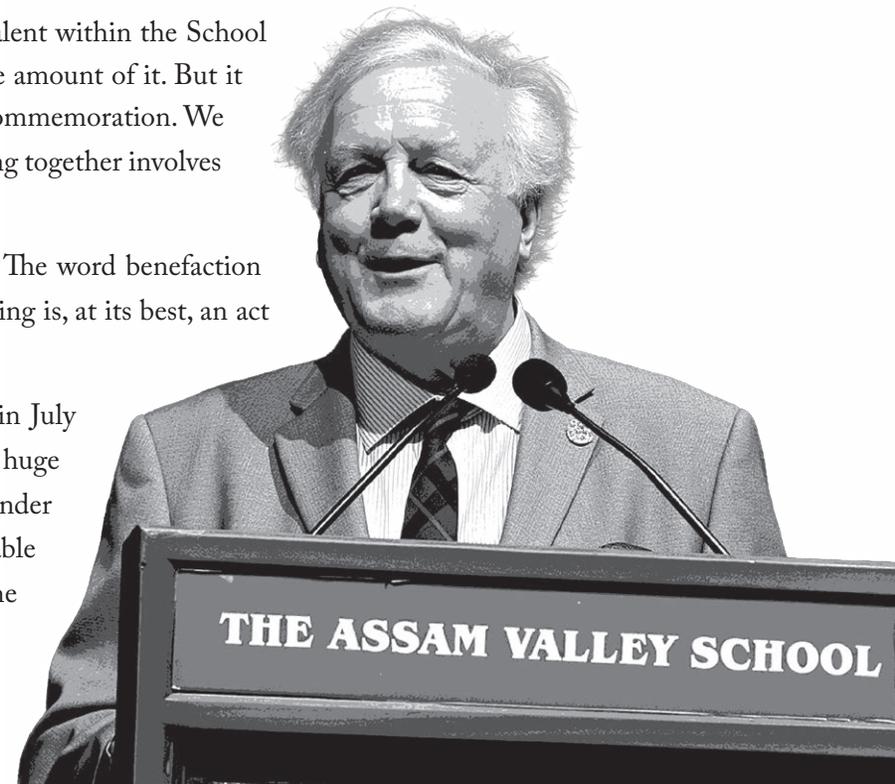
We honour today the life and work of Mrs Julia Magor, who died in July of this year. This School was her idea and the idea was fulfilled with huge generosity by Mr Briju Khaitan and brilliantly executed by the founder Chairman of Governors, Mr Pintu Khaitan. Mrs Magor was a remarkable lady; her concern was for families living and working in Assam and the North-East for whom there was no possibility for decent education. Such was her strength of personality that she persuaded first her husband, Mr Richard Magor, and then Mr Khaitan that a school should be created in the heart of the tea estates, and we are here today to commemorate and rejoice in its foundation.

And then there is the receiving. We who belong to and with AVS are the fortunate inheritors of the gift, the beneficiaries. There is a tombstone in central India of a Salvation Army worker with the finger-wagging exhortation carved upon it: 'She has done her bit. What about you?'. Commemoration, Founders, inevitably involves us, the receivers; and it needs also to be a guide to the way ahead.

Though the words are simple enough, we do not always find it easy to say 'thank you'. The Duke of Wellington, famous soldier and statesman, approaching the end of his life, was asked what he most regretted; his reply was 'I did not give enough praise'. Or thanks, we might add.

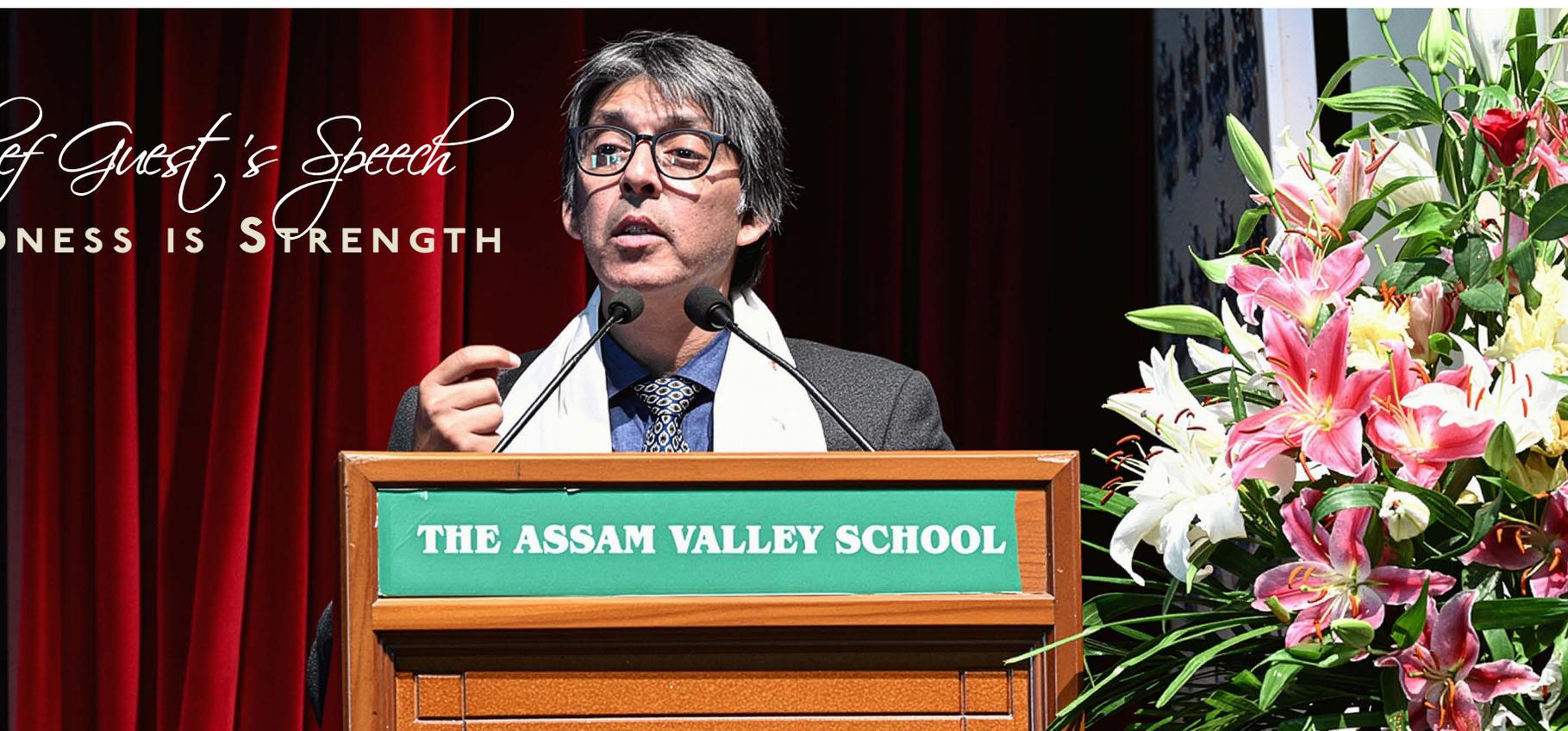
If a School like this and we as individuals have value for the present and the future, we need the humility to recognise what has been given and why it has been given; and then we must pay proper attention to what we are and what we can become. Commemoration occurs therefore to refresh, restore, renew, give meaning, give purpose, give strength. A rabbi living in pre-Christian times posed two questions: 'If I am not for myself, who will be? But if I am only for myself, what am I?'

The School is a community, a bringing together of individuals, fostered by their families, and now bound together by the gift of AVS as we seek to answer 'What am I and what can I be? - (which may, after all, be the purpose of education)'. So, the School is in huge debt to its Founders and it will continue to thrive if it is not only for itself but, in its turn, prepared to give as well as receive. That is what we are reminded of today as we seek to go onwards and ever upwards.



Though the words are simple enough, we do not always find it easy to say 'thank you'.

Chief Guest's Speech
KINDNESS IS STRENGTH



The single reason, I think, I took to writing is that I then would not have to speak. Especially speak in public. But teachers, students, guests on this wonderful occasion, today is different. It is a great honour – no, actually it gives me great pleasure, which is a greater thing than honour – to be here among you to celebrate the occasion of Assam Valley School's 29th Founders' Day.

Last evening, I had the opportunity to understand just a tiny bit of what is going on here when I briefly met some of you, students and teachers. I think it is best encapsulated by what AVS founder Mr. B.M. Khaitan said about the making of an Aviator: 'A good school will produce a good student, and a good student will produce a good citizen, and a good citizen will produce a good country.' I will go one step further – And a good country will produce a good human.

As I stand here before you today, what I see is not just a school, but a community – a country, if you will – but also a process -- a magical

process, really -- by which young humans – for that is what all you Aviators are – over a period of time and wonderful space, become good humans. In this great scheme of things, I would like to briefly touch upon something that, I believe, is a key ingredient in that process, A secret sauce, if you will: kindness.

I know, I know. You are rolling your eyes and thinking, 'Here he goes now, ready to go all syllabus-y on us and quote that line of Lady Macbeth, 'Yet do I fear thy nature; it is too full o' the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way'. But yes, kindness is something that needs to be valued, learnt. It needs to be honed, oiled, and maintained like applying oil to a bicycle chain, like going to a gym.

It is something that all of you learn to value, without it necessarily being in the syllabus, without there being a 'Kindness period' or textbook from where you can get kindness equations and kindness rules of grammar. And that is what school this school imbibes in