



Tales from
the Hills: Zal
and the
Simorge

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CARPE DIEM

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

The month of May brings us many beginnings. As the school gates swing open, new faces join those old ones. The caress of the evening breeze and the warm embrace of Assam's humidity welcomes both students and staff alike.

Memories, ones which were made and ones which have yet to be, wander around the halls and decorate the walls, as eager as the flock of students which flood our corridors each

*"we have found ourselves
in a haven situated away from
the harsh reality of the world beyond"*

semester.

Tucked between never-ending tea gardens and miniature forests, the realm we've crafted behind our metal gates could be considered a luxury. Even beneath the sweltering gaze of the sun, during the frantic back-and-forth stuffy classes as well as interhouse practices and especially under the bright glare of the stage lights, we have found ourselves in a haven situated away from the harsh reality of the world beyond.

In a day and age when the flames of hatred flood streets

"...as tensions flare amidst US and Iran, as the excitement of elections plague our nation, and as Harry Styles gets engaged: we come to realise that the times are changing."

stained with blood, when each new day brings to us the report of a new crisis, the beginning of another term brings to us the relief of a carefully guarded haven and the hope of a new reality. The Assam Valley School shelters its pupils as it presents to them the much-needed simulation of normality during these uncertain times.

The sprawling lawns and the whispering trees encourage each student, old or new, to seize the day they have been offered.

As familiar faces bid farewell to the walls around which they have grown, as new footsteps shuffle into place to measure up to the legacy laid before them, as tensions flare between the U.S. and Iran, as the excitement of elections plagues

our nation, and as Harry Styles gets engaged, we come to realise that the times are changing.

The weight on one's shoulders feels different. The walls are covered in fresh paint, and the lawns have been mowed. A new school year has begun. When one cannot tell what price LPG

will hike up to, whose murder shall they find on the news, and which place a bomb might go off, they shall, at least, always find vegetarian meals on Tuesday and an Interhouse event on Saturday guaranteed. Here's to another semester, another day of seeking out hope even when we think there is none to be found.

BANGLADESH

- Jael Manya Konyak, XII

The strategic landscape of Northeast India is shaped by its unique geography, where the region is connected to the rest of the country by the narrow Siliguri Corridor. Since nearly 98% of its borders are shared with other countries, the 4096 kilometer boundary with Bangladesh is a major focus for national security.

Even though the governments of India and Bangladesh generally get along well, the border remains a complicated challenge. The geography itself is full of thick forests, mountains, and rivers making it really hard for security forces to monitor every inch, creating gaps that various groups can exploit. The fact that the border is so easy to cross is a huge problem because it allows criminal groups and gangs to operate freely, which creates a constant threat to the region's safety. For years, militants have crossed over to find either safe spots or escape routes, which makes it even harder for the Indian army to maintain peace in the region.

Besides militancy, the border is often used for smuggling things like weapons, drugs, and fake money. These illegal activities don't just cause crime, they fund dangerous networks and hurt

“It isn't just about military strength but also about ensuring the people living there feel safe...”

the local economy. This makes it difficult for the region to grow because businesses are less likely to invest in places that feel unstable. The social impact on the “Seven Sister” states is also a huge concern. When people cross the border illegally, it puts a lot of pressure on local land, jobs, and food supplies. This often leads to tensions between different communities, causing social unrest. For Northeast India to thrive and become a trade hub for Southeast Asia, having a secure border is essential. It isn't just about military strength but also about ensuring the people living there feel safe and that the region can develop peacefully without constant outside interference.

Tales from the Hills: Zal

- Raisah Yasmin Hazarika, XII

He had white hair, the tiny specks of hair sparkled in the newborn's head a lot like snow, looking almost magical. But his father king Sam, was horrified.

White hair was considered a bad omen; he made the decision to take the newborn to the mountains and leave him there for fate to decide what becomes of the child. The mountain was the home of the Simorge, a magical creature with the body of a bird and the head of a lion, it was wise and compassionate and was brought to the child by the echoes of its coos and crying, it decided to take care of it, her compassion and wisdom helped her raise the child as her own. The child, Zal grew up to be strong and witty.

and the Simorge

When he'd grown beyond the care of the Simorge, the Simorge sent him back to the world and sent with him three

of its magical feathers which, on burning, would summon it to him. Zal's father; king Sam regretted abandoning his son and sent out the best of his men to find him. When they did, the king apologised to his son profusely. His son, being brought up by the Simorge, was now a wise and brave man and forgave his father and even became a warrior for his army. Zal burned the feather of Simorge when his wife was having a difficult labour. The simorge helped birth the son of Zal, Rostum, who, just like his father, becomes a brave soldier and an even better emperor for his country.

The Elephant Pass

- Viraj Kumar
Gupta, X

Nestled in the lush greenery of Tezpur, The Assam Valley School has never been just an institution of classrooms and concrete.

It has long been a home shaped by nature, surrounded by rolling tea gardens, tall trees, and the quiet rhythms of the wild. One of the most iconic landmarks on campus is the Elephant Pass, near the Pavilion. The path earned its name many years ago when it formed part of a route frequently used by migrating elephants. During certain seasons, especially in the summers, herds would move along this corridor, following ancient migratory paths that had existed long before the school itself. Today, however, the pass survives only in name. Its original purpose has faded into memory, a quiet reminder of a time when the presence of elephants on campus was not unusual but simply a part of life.



Over the years, the elephants gradually stopped visiting. The primary reason for this has been the growing encroachment and fragmentation of their natural corridors. Once-open forest routes have been interrupted by expanding settlements and deforestation, leaving elephants with fewer safe paths to travel. As their migratory trails were disrupted, the journeys that once brought them through this landscape slowly disappeared.

And yet, the bond between the land and its wild visitors has not vanished entirely. Elephants are renowned for their extraordinary memory, a wisdom passed down through generations. They remember ancient routes, watering grounds, and places of safety. Even today, on rare occasions,

a wandering elephant may still find its way to the Namdang lawns, or Sessa, guided perhaps by instinct, or by memories carried through time. Such visits often bring moments of alert and caution, but they also carry with them a quiet sense of hope. They remind us that nature's memory endures, and that the stories of this land, and this vibrant campus are not entirely lost.

Campus Caricature

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

*Illustrated by Sneha Ngangom,
Deputy Editor, XII*



*Aviators return back to school.

CAMPUS NEWS

THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY

A proud moment as our young wordsmiths Udayveer Singh and Aahil Faraj earn Bronze Award in The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2025 Junior Category as

a mark of global recognition. The competition is a highly prestigious writing competition which is open to children up to the age of 18. The competition received 53,434 entries from the 53 member countries of the Commonwealth.



INTERHOUSE CHESS

Last semester, the Interhouse Chess competition was held on the 2nd of March for Lower School, and the 16th of March for Upper School. The results are as follows:

1. Bhoroli-Lohit
2. Jinari-Manas
3. Subansiri-Namdang
4. Kopili-Dhansiri



SSL KGMT VISIT

During the previous semester, students from the Everyday Science Activity Group, along with SSL students, visited the KGMT school. During the visit, we demonstrated simple, zero-cost methods of bio-composting and handmade paper-making techniques. The students from KGMT School showed great enthusiasm in learning these sustainable practices.



SOCIOLOGY TRIP

- Mrs. Raya Mukhopadhyay, Head of Sociology

The Department of Sociology organised an educational field visit to Dwisra Grongani, Garo Village for the students of Class 12 on 15 March 2026. A total of 19 students participated in the visit, accompanied by Mrs. Raya Mukhopadhyay and Mr. Bitupan Borah. The primary objective of the visit was to provide students with first-hand exposure to tribal life, culture, and livelihood patterns, enabling them to connect classroom learning with real-world social practices.

On arrival, the group was warmly welcomed by Ms. Errica Megam, who has been actively working towards the upliftment and empowerment of the local community. She offered valuable insights into the sociocultural significance of the village and introduced students to the traditions of the Garo and Boro communities inhabiting the region. Students were taken on a guided tour of the village, where they interacted with local families and observed community life and social organisation. They were introduced to traditional practices such as herbal medicine preparation, where natural resources are used for healing, highlighting the importance of indigenous knowledge systems. The visit also provided exposure to bamboo and cane craftsmanship, an integral part of the local economy. Students gained an understanding of sustainable livelihood practices.

Additionally, they witnessed weaving and sericulture activities carried out using natural and eco-friendly methods. An enriching cultural experience was further enhanced by the opportunity to enjoy authentic organic tribal cuisine prepared by the villagers. The field visit offered meaningful insights into tribal culture, belief



systems, livelihood practices, and the significance of sustainable living and ecological harmony. It proved to be an enriching experiential learning opportunity, deepening students' understanding of sociological concepts beyond the classroom.



IAYP AWARD

The Assam Valley School has been recognised as the **Most Outstanding School** at the **International Award for Young People (IAYP) Gold Award Ceremony 2026**.



LANDMARK COLLABORATION WITH THE NAVY

In a moment of great pride and significance, The Assam Valley School, Sonitpur, ushered in a historic chapter with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27 April 2026 with the Indian Navy and the Naval Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA).



SMARIKA

The Assam Valley School proudly participated in Smarika, a prestigious inter-school debate and quiz competition hosted by Welham Girls' School from 9-11 April 2026. The event brought together students from leading institutions, fostering intellectual exchange and critical thinking. A team of eight aviators represented the school across English Debate, Hindi Debate, and Science Quiz. Khushi Bakliwal and Aahil Faraz were recognised as Most Promising Speakers in the English Debate during the 2nd and 3rd Preliminary Rounds.



36TH OLIPHANT DEBATE

The Assam Valley School participated in the 36th Oliphant Debate hosted by Welham Boys' School from 24-25 April, with 16 schools from across India taking part. Conducted in a modified British Parliamentary format, the event provided a platform for debaters to showcase their skills and talent.



Ripple #268

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

*A boy who had never known
The breath and blood of war-
In stolen armor,
and a unique glory that
was never meant to be his own
There he lay,
Patroclus.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "She drinks like a fish." - Nongthombam Chingkhei, Associate Editor, XII (*And you speak like one.*)
2. "Velvet hand, iron glove." - SPS (*Understand, I don't.*)
3. "Offessional orange picker." - Vidhi Chopra, XII (*You need to pick your words as carefully as your oranges.*)
4. "Physics is being taken by Sir Kuljeet." - Nonika Meitram, Sports Captain, XII (*And it seems English is being taken by your basketball.*)
5. "I think cashiers will extinct." - Rajkumari Anya, XII (*So has your grammar.*)

Keep It Reel!

A Summer's Day
- Daniella Lato, XI



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