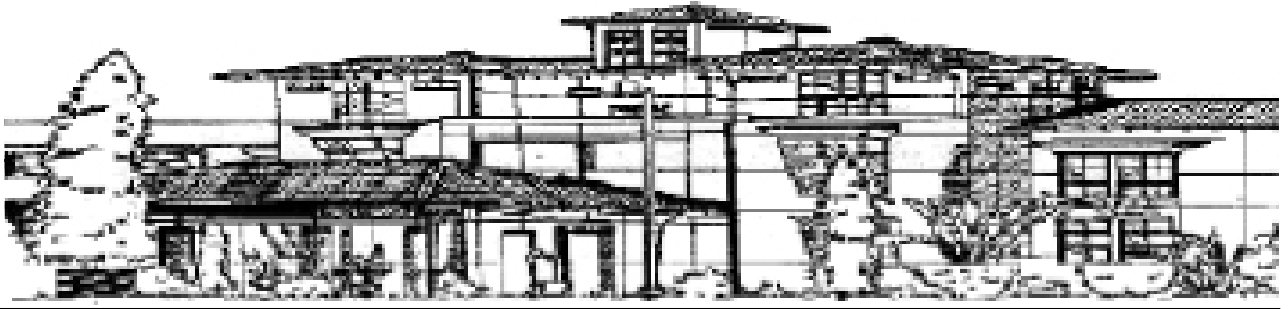




IN NAME ONLY.

Pg. 2

Old Habits *die* Hard

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Photograph by Rianna Lingel Irom, Editor In-Chief, XII

To Lead Via Vision

-Rianna Lingel Irom, Editor In-Chief, XII

lonely one. A vision is often met with resistance because it asks people to see beyond what already exists. Yet leadership is not found in the definitions; it is found in the implementation.

Programme spanning more than 20 games, each with its own coach; and in the practice of democracy, where students have a voice in shaping the policies of the school. These are not merely activities beyond the classroom; they are chances to discover, engage and grow. That spirit lives equally in our school publications, most of them student-led, where young minds are given not merely a voice, but the freedom to explore, question and create. Perhaps, then, the simplest measure of a good school is what it produces.

In the words of Mr B. M. Khaitan, whose vision The Assam Valley School continues to embody, "A good school produces a good student, and a good student will produce a good country." Dr Amit Jugran, Headmaster of The Assam Valley School, is himself a testimony to that vision.

At AVS, that vision takes shape everywhere: in a state of the-art Art, Design & Technology Centre,

A legacy school remains a legacy, only when each generation has the courage to carry its inheritance forward while remaining true to its

Vision

a high-end Physics Department and an Astronomy Lab; in a cultural life alive with Inter-House events and Rockfest; in a Sports

Among oil prices that seem eternally destined to rise and unrest in the world, a question arises: what does it mean to be a visionary leader? Many presume that a position of leadership is one that only shimmers. Quite foolishly, many envy the captain's spot at the helm of a ship. Such individuals refuse to see beyond the fanfare, while those who have actually held the steering wheel know that a crown bears more burden than it commands glory. The onus of having a vision is a

As he steers this remarkable institution into its 31st year, he does so with empathy and grit, through uncertainties and tensions that can touch the lives of this vast residential school community. From the demands of a remote location to power outages, logistical challenges and the hundred unexpected things that come with running

a school as complex as this, he keeps AVS moving, calmly, firmly and with a clear sense of where it must go. As an educator, he understands the people who make the school; as an administrator, he ensures that the school works for them. That his leadership and vision have now been recognised by two prestigious awards from the

Association of Indian Principals and Education World is more than a personal honour; it is a celebration of the spirit, resilience and purpose that continue to move The Assam Valley School forward. For at the end of the day, a legacy is not what a school inherits. It is what its vision leaves behind.

* If girls are encouraged to aspire to one leadership position but not another, are we unintentionally reinforcing the very **stereotypes** that democracy asks us to **question**?

- Sreestee Paul, X

Democracy is a rather fancy word to use. Not literally, of course, but practically, how often do we truly engage with its meaning and foundations? Democracy is a system of government where power belongs to the people. But do we really experience democracy as it is defined, or has it become merely a system where we get to vote, without always knowing whether our choices will truly be heard?

India, the world's largest democracy, has witnessed several instances that make us question this. In Bengal, for example, reports of political violence against people for their electoral choices have raised concerns about how freely people can exercise their right to vote. Even after choosing their representatives, do citizens always hold them accountable, or do political loyalties sometimes make us overlook wrongdoing? This is where education becomes important. A democratic society needs citizens who can question, think critically and hold those in power accountable. Recent student protests and debates surrounding education have shown that young people are willing to raise their voices. Yet, when people in positions of power change, the larger question remains: Even our school offers us an opportunity to participate in a democratic

process. We vote for our student leaders. Yet there is an interesting pattern: the position of School Captain has traditionally been occupied by boys.

are the concerns themselves being addressed?

Even though girls are encouraged to try for the Position of School Captain, more often than not they have to settle for the position of the Head Girl.

It requires equality, representation, accountability and, above all, the courage to question.

Perhaps this is simply a reflection of the choices students make. But could unconscious ideas about leadership and gender also influence those choices? If girls are encouraged to aspire to one leadership position but not another, are we unintentionally reinforcing the very stereotypes that democracy asks us to question? Democracy, is more than voting. Perhaps the crux of the matter is not whether democracy exists, but whether we practise it in spirit, and whether we give every student the freedom to aspire beyond being a Head Girl.

ONLY.
NAME
IN

Old Habits *die* Hard

We have a strange habit in India:

treating geopolitics as something that happens to other people.

- Kainaat Naser, XI

A conflict breaks out in Yemen, missiles are fired, shipping routes are disrupted, and most of us scroll past it as if it were another distant headline. Ask someone about the Houthis and you might get a confused answer about Iran. Yet that confusion is precisely the problem.

The Houthis are a Yemen-based movement aligned with Iran, and their growing control around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait has put one of the world's crucial shipping routes under renewed pressure. And somehow, we still behave as though this has nothing to do with us. It does. India imports around 90% of its crude oil. When geopolitical tensions push oil prices higher, the

effects do not remain on some distant map. They reach the rupee, transportation costs, businesses and household budgets. Recent oil-price movements have already put pressure on the rupee, with Reuters noting India's vulnerability because of its dependence on imported crude. This is what makes our casual indifference so dangerous. We are happy to discuss geopolitics when India wins a diplomatic headline or when a foreign leader visits New Delhi.

But geopolitics is not a collection of dramatic photographs and speeches.

It is supply chains. It is oil. It is shipping insurance. It is the price of moving goods across oceans.

The uncomfortable truth is that India does not have the luxury of being geographically detached from the world's crises. Yet public discussion often treats international affairs as an optional subject - something to glance at after cricket, cinema and domestic political drama. That ignorance may feel harmless when everything is stable. It becomes expensive when it isn't. A conflict does not need to reach our borders before it reaches our economy. The Houthis do not need to attack India for India to feel the consequences of their actions. Perhaps the real geopolitical weakness is not India's lack of power.

It is our lack of **attention.**

Campus Caricature

THE ROUNDABOUT

Illustrated by Aastha Potsangbam, X

*In reference to the AVS Round Square interviews.



CAMPUS NEWS

INSPIRATIONAL GURU AWARD

A moment of immense pride for The Assam Valley School as Mrs. Raya Mukhopadhyay, Head of Department - Sociology, represented AVS at the prestigious 5th SSVM Transforming India Conclave in Coimbatore and was honoured with the “Inspirational Guru Award 2026.”

This distinguished national recognition celebrates not only her exceptional contribution to education, but also reflects AVS’s commitment to fostering critical thinking, social awareness, empathetic leadership, and meaningful learning. Heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Raya Mukhopadhyay on this well-deserved achievement!



KALARATNA NATIONAL AWARD

A moment of great pride for The Assam Valley School as Mr. Pranjal Baruah, Assistant Head of Music, was conferred the prestigious “Kalaratna National Award 2026” by the Ghyanratna Sahitya Academy at its 14th National Conference in Guwahati.

The honour recognises his remarkable contributions to the field of Music and social service, particularly his dedicated efforts towards supporting underprivileged and disadvantaged communities. Heartiest congratulations to Mr. Baruah on this well-deserved and distinguished recognition!



INTERHOUSE UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH DEBATES

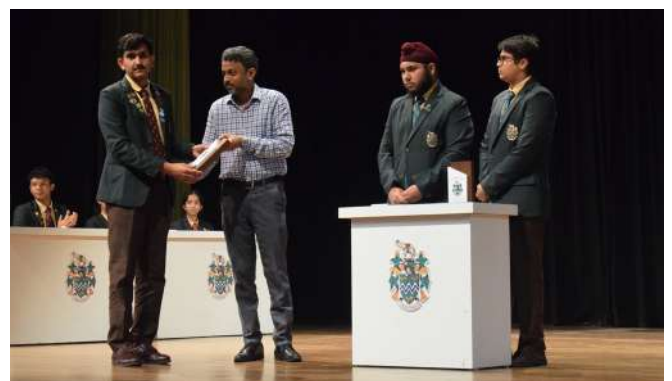
- Aahil Faraj, IX

The interhouse debates 2026 on the motion “This House Believes That Developing countries should remain strategically non-aligned amid great power competitions” featured a compelling argument from both sides.



Prime Minister, Daniela Lato

The Prime Minister Daniela Lato of Subansiri-Namdang argued that strategic non-alignment does not just mean standing completely alone, rather it means that a developing nation must not just align with a single country, it will instead side with different countries for its different needs. The Leader of Opposition, Khushi Bakliwal, of Jinari-Manas stated that Non-alignment puts a developing or weak nation at risk because larger powers do not have any incentive to protect them from attackers, the Deputy Prime Minister, Khushi Todi of Subansiri-Namdang rebuked this by talking about how they are not implying complete isolation but rather just not picking a single specific side.



Opposition Whip, Karan Somani: Best Speaker



Government Whip, Vidhi Chopra

She backed her arguments with the example of Ukraine and gave an analogy of bullying. The Government Whip, Vidhi Chopra of Subansiri-Namdang came up and talked about how in this new world order, a nation must stay neutral as it will have different requirements all of which cannot be fulfilled by only aligning with one country. The opposition Whip, Karan Somani of Jinari-Manas refuted the government by stating how great power competitions are happening 24/7 which means that the government's argument on how they should strategically pick sides falls flat. The motion was carried and conveyed winners of the Senior School English Debates.

Individual Results:

Best Speakers(Prelims):

Rianna Lingjel Irom

Kohana Kakoti

Karan Somani

Khushi Todi

Shrishti Baid

Best Speaker: Karan Somani

Most Promising Speaker: Khushi Todi

House positions:

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

Ripple #280

- Lorene Aishisha Rapsang, XI

*I witnessed my father die a dozen
times.*

*His blood spilt across the floor.
The killer appeared cold and cruel.
I nearly shed a tear.
Then the curtains were drawn.
The lights turned on.
The theatre burst into applause,
My father,
the actor took a bow.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Roses are reds" -Karan Somani, XII
(Violets are blue, you need a grammar textbook,
don't you?)
2. "The art of handmaking" -Tanushree
Ghimiray, XI
(How about you focus on the art of thinking twice
before speaking?)
3. "You see the vilio" -Rianna Lingjel Irom,
Editor in-Chief, XII
(No, but I definitely saw your grammar leave.)
4. "Looking up this" - N. Chingkheinganbi,
Associate Editor, XII (Look up what? your
missing grammar)
5. We and her went to shopping - Anushka
Keithellakpam, X
(Your english went shopping too. It just never came

Keep It Reel!

The Spark

- Lorene Aishisha Rapsang, XI



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Design & Layout: Rianna, Tanushree and Lorene

Illustrators: Sneha, Austin

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

Publisher: The Assam Valley School, P.O. Balipara, Dist. Sonitpur, Asom-784101, India

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