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Although social media warriors are convinced that the most important point of discussion of the 2026 BRICS Summit, hosted and led by India, was the vegetarian menu. Apparently world peace depends on the crucial question of Veg or Non-Veg. That aside, we must acknowledge that the 2026 summit was the largest BRICS summit ever hosted and one of the most consequential, with the unanimously adopted New Delhi Declaration which contained 140 points. Western countries have long relied on the US dollar, sanctions and global payment networks such as SWIFT to maintain the upper hand in world trade. But the use of financial power as a weapon has also produced an unintended consequence. Instead of keeping nations aligned, it has encouraged major developing economies to look for alternatives.

“India can serve as a bridge between competing centres of power, keeping channels of dialogue open when direct engagement becomes difficult.”

The harder the West has pushed to maintain financial dominance, the faster some countries have sought ways to reduce their dependence on it.

Behind the official summit photographs, BRICS is not merely making noise; it is quietly building alternatives. Member countries are increasing trade in their own currencies, funding projects through the New Development Bank and exploring greater links between digital payment systems. They do not necessarily need a single, magical new currency to change the game. They need alternative trade and financial routes that are less vulnerable to sanctions or external political pressure. Many of these countries share

a common interest in greater financial autonomy despite their

Building
BRIC
by BRIC

- Aahil Faraj, IX

internal disagreements. These discussions are not merely economic. The presence of Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, and Iranian Prince Al Nahyan of UAE and President Pezeshkian all under the same roof creates opportunities to have conversations that can influence diplomatic, strategic along with economic relationships well beyond the summit itself. The participation of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, alongside senior UAE leadership, was particularly significant at a time when relations in West Asia remain deeply unsettled. This is precisely where India's

role becomes important, not only for BRICS, but for the West. India maintains deep economic, strategic and technological relationships with Western countries while also being capable of engaging with Russia, Iran, the UAE and the wider Global South. Its leadership

therefore need not be viewed simply as an attempt to weaken the West. India can serve as a bridge between competing centres of power, keeping channels of dialogue open when direct engagement becomes difficult. For the West, therefore, an India-led BRICS is not

necessarily a threat to be contained. It may be a reality to be engaged with. As the global financial and geopolitical order becomes more multipolar, India's ability to speak across divides may prove as valuable to the West as it is to India itself.

AROUND THE WORLD

IT:

Welcome to Derry

- Tanushree Ghimiray. XI

Before Pennywise the Dancing Clown from Stephen King's *IT* became the face of horror, even before the Loser's Club had banded together to defeat the ancient evil, there was Derry, Maine a small town with big secrets. *IT: Welcome to Derry*, the prequel series to Andy Muschietti's blockbuster *IT* films, dives into the dark history of the cursed town, exploring the origins of the shape-shifting clown that has terrorised generations of children. Set in the 1960s, decades before the events of the films, the series offers a glimpse into Derry's bloody past and the immortal evil that lives in the Stephen King universe.

Welcome to Derry takes us back to an important moment in the town's history. The series is set in the 1960s, a

difficult decade for America that serves as the background for the horrors unfolding. The town itself is built on the foundation of violence, secrets and the supernatural.

The 60s were marked by racial tensions, social change and the ghost of the Vietnam War, which mirrors the surface of the picture-perfect Derry.

The show explores Pennywise's reign of terror but also the ignorance and hatred that allow the monster to thrive. One of the most compelling aspects of the show is how it explores Pennywise's origins. In King's novels, it is an ancient cosmic entity that arrived on Earth millions of years ago; Native American legends before the settlement of the Europeans tell tales of a cosmic evil feeding on the fear and hatred of the people. The novel hints at a continuous pattern of violence every 27 to 30 years, and the show expands on this idea, showing us earlier cycles of feedings and showing us how Pennywise is not the source of

evil but rather a symptom of it; it's a supernatural parasite that thrives on indifference and hate.

The series explores the racial tensions of the era, specifically the Black Spot, a nightclub burned down in the 1930s. Beyond the cosmic horrors, *IT: Welcome to Derry* is a story about trauma- the trauma of children who face unimaginable horrors as well as the loss of innocence. It also asks an interesting question: is the true evil an external force like the Dancing Clown, or is it the manifestation of the town's own darkness, a reflection of the hatred, fear and violence humans are capable of? The citizens of Derry are not merely victims; they are enablers. Their collective amnesia is a refusal to address the years of hatred and cruelty in Derry.

While *IT* used Pennywise as the symbol of fears, "Welcome to Derry" rarely used him, as the town itself becomes the primary antagonist. The show is a cautionary tale about a community in denial; it is a dark, challenging as well as a rewarding addition to the universe of Stephen King.

Tales from the Hills

- Iachiba Koksi Sangma, XII

TRIBE OF WARRIORS

The Garos, also known as the Achiks, are a Tibeto-Burman ethnic group primarily inhabiting Meghalaya in North-East India. They are the state's second-largest tribe and are also found in the Mymensingh district of Bangladesh and in parts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, and even northern West Bengal. Historically, the Garos migrated from Tibet around 400 B.C. and eventually settled in present-day Meghalaya. Colonial records of the East India Company describe them as a "warrior-like" community, with the British

annals noting their reputation as fierce headhunters. Social status, it was said, once depended on the number of heads a man claimed. Today, most Garos follow Christianity, though a small section still practices the indigenous animist faith known as Songsarek, which involves nature worship and animal sacrifice. The tribe is further divided into sub-groups such as Ambeng, Atong, Dual, Megam, Chibok, Ruga, Matchi, Awe, Chisak, and Ganching. The Garos are among the few surviving matrilineal societies in the world. Children inherit

their mother's clan name, and property traditionally passes to the youngest daughter. Sons, upon marriage, move to their wife's clan, reinforcing the matrilineal structure. In Garo custom, unmarried men lived in the Nokpante, a bachelor's dormitory strictly off-limits to women. A unique marital practice once saw a maternal uncle "capture" a bachelor to marry his daughter, preserving clan ties.

Garo women traditionally wear the Dakmanda, a handwoven waist cloth reaching the knees, along with the Kotip, a headgear adorned with cock feathers, and jewelry of brass, silver, or ivory. The tribe's principal weapon was the Millam-de, a double-edged iron sword decorated with ox-tail hair dangling from the crossbar, symbolizing both artistry and ferocity.

Campus Caricature

Cacophony

Illustrated by Aastha Potsangbam, X



ALL INDIA IPSC IT FEST

The All India IPSC IT Fest was held at the BK Birla Centre for Education, Pune from the 17th to the 19th of July, 2026. Our students achieved the following:

1st Position in Junior Cartoon Making:

Maira Mystica Sangma

3rd Position in Robotic War:

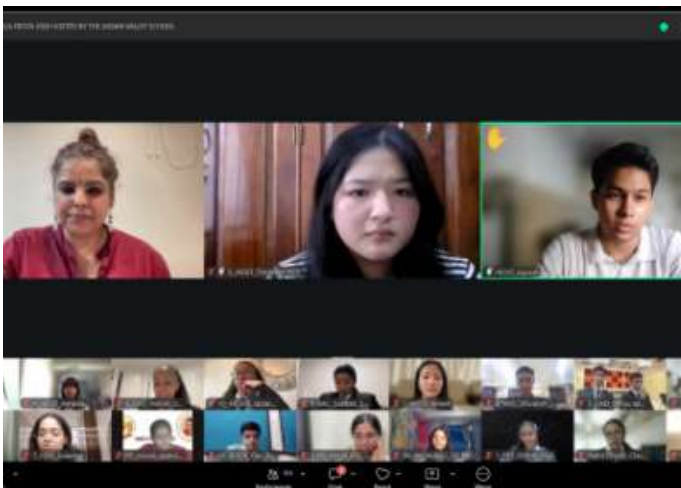
Prayaash Khakholia and Ashmit Phukan



CELA FIESTA

Cela Fiesta 2026, hosted by The Assam Valley School on 14th August 2026, brought together students from 18 schools across India, the Middle East and Africa to celebrate literature, creativity and diverse perspectives.

The programme featured an engaging keynote interaction with Dr. Manjari Singh, followed by lively discussions across 12 Baraza groups. Led by AVS Baraza Leaders, the sessions encouraged imagination, expression, collaboration and thoughtful dialogue.



OXFORD AI AND MACHINE LEARNING

Ritav Rohan Gogoi of Class XI attended the prestigious two-week Oxford AI & Machine Learning Pioneers Summer School at the University of Oxford, gaining valuable academic and residential experience.





IPSC ART

The Assam Valley School secured three awards in the IPSC Visual Art Fest 2026, held at Genesis Global School, Noida from 20th-22nd August, 2026: Sculpted Excellence Award – Ikalu Azohe Master Photographer Award – Changkam Phukan; and Runway Expression Award – Ethen J. M. Blah, Saranya Malpani & Shreyashree Chaurasia.

LQ IDEATHON

Viraj Kumar Gupta of Class 10 has earned a place at the prestigious LQ Ideathon – competing for a coveted spot at the grand finale held at IIT Bombay every December. This places him in the top 0.14% of over 22 lakh students across 3,500+ schools in 12+ countries. The Assam Valley School has received a “Silver Citation” based on the overall performance of our students.



IPSC SQUASH

The Assam Valley School participated in the IPSC Squash Boys' Championship 2026 (28th – 30th July 2026) at Emerald Heights International School, Indore alongside 16 schools from across India. The team performed excellently under their coach Mr. Mohammed Aziz. Many congratulations to the AVS Squash Team.

Results:

Under-14 Category – 2nd Runner-up

Under-17 Category – 2nd Runner-up

Ripple #278

- Tanushree Ghimiray,
XI

*My papa died last winter .
My mama had no time to grieve.
His uniform became hers
His bills and debt were hers to
carry.
A woman in a mans world
Babita Singh Reporting.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "They are attacking East Pakistan." -
Spriha Kashyap, XII (Says the one waging
war on Grammar)
2. "I lost my twin of thought" - Aahil Faraj,
IX (Did you lose it along with your Total
English?)
3. "The adobe of clouds." - Udayveer Singh,
IX (Since when did Meghalaya have a
subscription?)
4. "Pass me the boating paper" - Amania
(Should we pass Wren & Martin along with
it?)
5. "The Prime Minister of USA" -SPS
(Trump tariff you.)

Keep It Reel!

A Clear Identity

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



Editor-in-Chief: Rianna Lingjel Irom

Deputy Editor: Sneha Ngangom

Associate Editor: N. Chingkheinganbi

Design & Layout: Rianna

Illustrators: Sneha, Austin, Baibhav

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

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

E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

Telephone: 09678074320/08812009627 Website: www.assamvalleyschool.com

Patron: Dr. Amit Jugran, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School



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