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# Not All Heroes Wear Capes

-Mayukh Jain, XI S

January 19, 2021 will go down in the annals of Indian cricket as one of its most glorious days — when a young and fearless bunch, missing most of the colossi of Indian cricket, trumped Australia at its impregnable fortress, The Gabba, to win their second successive test series.

The series will go down in history not only because Team India broke the 34-year old record by defeating the Aussies at The Gabba, Brisbane where they did not lose any test series since 1988, but also because it was not the main Team India that did so but the India A cricket team, the second-tier team of Indian international cricket, comprised mostly of raw recruits, reserved players and ‘benchers’.

The Indian cricket team was ravaged with injuries, with most of the main players such as the opener KL Rahul, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, the main pacer Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar out of the series. India’s skipper, Virat Kohli, was also seen taking a paternal leave for his baby daughter after the 1st test match, following which Ajinkya Rahane was crowned the skipper for the remaining test matches.

When this team of reserved players and benchers took to the field, not many people had high hopes for them. It seemed too much to be asking for a win – even a draw would be enough. But the results of the test series not only stunned the world and poured cold water on the heads of the Aussies but also shattered debates, stereotypes, and records, redefining the very concept of ‘playing against all odds and emerging triumphant’.

At first, the matches were dubbed too friendly but the entire scenario changed on the third day, when the

match came to end with a heated exchange between the Australian captain Tim Paine and Ravichandran Ashwin. The outstanding performers of this series were, without a doubt, Rishabh Pant, who was awarded the man of the match in the last test match for his brilliant 89 runs and match winning performance; Cheteshwar Pujara and Shubnam Gill, who along with Pant, fuelled the team to victory on the fifth test.

This series has also seen brilliant performances by debutants and youngsters like Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, W. Sundar, T. Natarajan, faces who were completely oblivious to the mainstream cricket fans before but had now etched their names in their hearts. One also cannot overlook the sheer relentlessness and fortitude Mohammed Siraj played with, despite missing his father’s funeral for the series and enduring racial abuse from some of the Indian fans on the third test in Sydney.

Nevertheless, this test series would have not been so memorable without the composed captaincy of Ajinkya Rahane who stood confident throughout the series and was supported his teammates with full exuberance.

From being downed to 36 runs for 9 wickets to winning this test series 2 – 1, this series was not less than a roller coaster ride, thanks to the Indian coach, Ravi Shastri, the captains, Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane, and all the players and support staff. The team, despite having faced so many setbacks in their tour, played with passion and panache, keeping the unyielding spirit of a team and a nation alive. This series was indeed one of the greatest series ever.

# A RACE TO POWER

-Adrika Borah, XI H

The chaos and commotion surrounding the Assam elections is evident. It is likely to be held after the Rongali Bihu in April, 2021. With the emergence of a number of new regional political parties, one may expect this election to be quite interesting.

This election will be fought on various issues from development to local issues like the anti-CAA movement, unemployment, implementation of Assam accord etc. Despite the pandemic, there seems to be no change in the election proceedings.

The new parties at the forefront are Asom Jatiya Parishad(AJP) formed by AASU and AJYCP, Raijor Dal formed by Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, and United People's Party Liberal(UPPL) of BTR. Since the BJP led coalition has a strong base and support in the state, other political parties are seen trying to come together to defeat the present government in the upcoming elections. Recently, the Congress inked alliance with five other parties to tackle BJP might. These parties are AIUDF, the CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) and Anchalik Gana Morcha. Similarly, BJP is likely to be in alliance with AGP and the new UPPL party with whom they formed the council in BTR. Due to the diverse population of Assam, the political parties try to

win the votes of particular groups by playing religious and caste card which, as much as one hates to admit, is an important aspect of Assam elections.

the pandemic situation in the state was appreciated by one and all, including the opposition. Their strategies in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic successfully will add on to the support in the April elections. The congress alliance with AIUDF is likely to be beneficial for both the parties as their major supporters are from a particular community. However, the Raijor Dal also has a lot of support from the voters of the community mentioned above which may be a threat to the Congress-AIUDF alliance. The new party, AJP, is likely to have some support from the people of upper Assam only. This party is the outcome of the massive protest against CAA. The other new party UPPL, which recently won 12 council seats in BTR will be able to gain support from the Bodo community as well as some other communities residing in BTR. This will be a plus point for the BJP led coalition.

Though the election dates have not been announced yet, the campaign has begun for the same. It will be very interesting to witness the proceedings of the elections and the results this year. Now we wait and watch.

# Coming Back

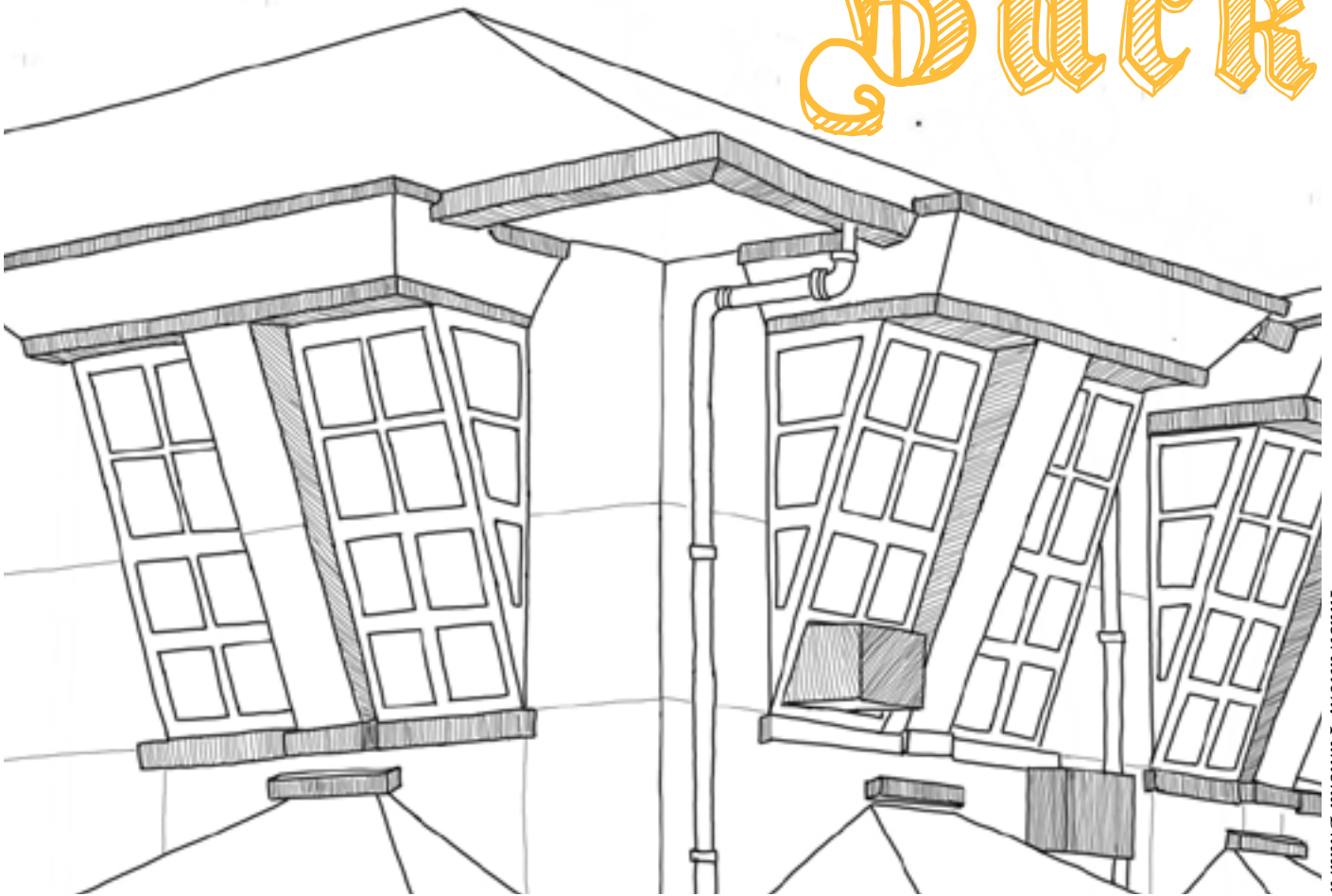


Illustration: Tanisha Bhadra

-Indrany Nandy, Head Girl

Another year, another semester but make it a pandemic. The past year has been many things, a devastating wildfire season, a racial awakening, a global economic crisis just to name a few. Amidst the chaotic year twenty- twenty was, the only thing that remained constant was time. Even with all this we continued to trudge on reflecting the transient nature of life and how it goes on regardless of its surroundings. The lockdown granted us immense solitude which inevitably led to time for self reflection and self awareness. Some people utilised this time to learn a new skill, to start their fitness journey or even just to binge on tv shows. Some used this quarantine to spend quality time with their family and loved ones, and some battled their fears and anxiety. The nine months that we spent at home were full of varied emotions ranging from hopelessness, confusion, despair to calm, serenity, and gratefulness. These emotions re-moulded and re-shaped us into different versions of ourselves. The important thing is that all of us combated these

difficult, uncertain times and thrived through it all.

As this peculiar year came to a close, we were finally called back to AVS. At first there was hesitance which is only natural and understandable. However, coming back to this unapologetically beautiful campus and spending the last few moments of this tragic year with my friends and teachers was more than I could ask for. Slowly but steadily, everything started to fall into place. Welcoming all of you back to school undoubtedly had been the highlight of my year. The thought of resuming 'normal' life felt unreal, classes in the MSB, talking a walk in the pavilion, hosting events in the WMH still feels so surreal.

As we begin this new year, we embark on a new journey to create history. We begin another year with unprecedented 'normals'. This time we are aware, prepared, and stronger than ever. I wish the best of health and spirit for everyone in the AVS community and hope for a brighter tomorrow.



*Mr. Biswajit Buglary has recently joined the Department of Sports as Football Coach. AVE caught up with him in a quick conversation in the midst of his new journey at AVS.  
-Priyanchi Sharma, XI S*

**AVE:** How has your experience in AVS been?

**BB:** So far, it has been excellent. I am still waiting for the rest of the students from the upper school to return to the campus. Without them, the school feels incomplete. But other than that, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first days here. The campus is beautiful and the sports facilities are first-class.

**AVE:** How did you come to know of AVS?

**BB:** Well, it is a very famous institution so it's hard not to know about it (laughs). The first time I heard about AVS was during my college years, when my seniors and juniors frequently went to AVS as interns. It was from them that I learnt of AVS and its grandeur. As a matter-of-fact, I also did my internship here in 2016.

**AVE:** What are your goals for the football team?

**AVE:** Can you give us a glimpse of the experiences you have had before joining AVS?

**TB:** I am originally from Kolkata. I completed my Bachelor's and Master's degree from Shantiniketan. I joined The Doon School in 2010 where I worked for nine years before joining AVS. I also worked in several government projects.

**AVE:** What is your opinion of the campus so far? Do you like it here?

**TB:** Yes, absolutely! The environment here reminds me of Shantiniketan. Incidentally, this place is also much closer to my hometown than Doon. The huge space, the lush green trees, the sounds of birds chirping and the natural beauty of the campus completely refreshes the mind. I look forward to doing a lot of outdoor work here.

**AVE:** What are your plans for the Aviators once they return to campus?

**TB:** I want people to see sculptures and figurines all around AVS. I enjoy sculpting outdoors and working with bronze casting and Plaster of Paris, and I am looking forward to teaching the students the art of sculpting. I want to work outdoors with my students and enhance the scenic beauty of AVS.

**AVE:** Is there any project that you are currently working on?

**TB:** Recently, I completed the sculptures of Mrs. Julia Magor and Mr. B. M. Khaitan. I used bronze casting and

**BB:** I want my team to compete in nationwide tournaments and win IPSCs and other cups. I want them to bring glory and achievements to the school. To accomplish that would be my greatest priority.

**AVE:** How has it been taking football classes virtually?

**BB:** It has been quite an interesting and an entirely novel experience for me. Due to the digital limitations, I could only impart theoretical knowledge to the students. Nevertheless, the students try to learn with their utmost zeal and it is a pleasure teaching them. Now that some of the Aviators have already arrived to the campus, I am able to teach them practically. I meet most of them in the football field every day. The students are very high-spirited and active. I look forward to meeting the rest.

**AVE:** Can you tell us about your interactions with the Sports Department?

**BB:** They are really helpful and cooperative. They helped me adjust and adapt to the AVS way of life. I have not met all the teachers yet, but I am sure they are all very pleasant people and I look forward to working with them.



the result was quite pleasant. The sculptures were just made in my free time. I have been keeping the big projects for the students when they come.

**AVE:** How are you finding the students of AVS?

**TB:** I have only met one student so far (laughs out loud). He is the Art and CDT captain, Nilay. He is very polite and well-spoken. He tells me that he really enjoys pottery and sculpting but since he is in the end of his final year, he is very regretful that he won't be able to learn much from me. But I am sure that I will be meeting the rest of the students soon and we will have a great time together.

**AVE:** How have your interactions been with the staff of AVS?

**TB:** The Art department has been very welcoming towards me. AVS has an amicable and appreciative staff. The HM was my colleague in Doon for nine years, so it is definitely nice to see a familiar face.

*Mr. Tapan Barui has recently joined the Department of Art. AVE caught up with him in a quick conversation in the midst of his new journey at AVS.  
-Adrija Das, XI*



# CAMPUS NEWS

## Alumni who made us proud

Dr. Obja Borah Hazarika, Batch of 2005, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University, has published her first book 'Paradigms of Paradiplomacy in Northeast India: Assam's Cross-border Concerns & Engagement.' Dikshant Nangia, Batch 2019, has won a silver medal in the 48th Assam State Body Building Championship, Junior Category (75kg) held at Nagaon. Dr. Karan Saraf, Consultant, Nephrologist & Kidney Transplant has commenced a renal transplant programme with a colleague. It is the first of its kind comprehensive renal transplant unit at Guwahati. We wish every success to Dr. Saraf, Mr. Nangia and Dr. Hazarika and their friends, family, colleagues in their future endeavours!

## The Joy Of Reciting

The Individual Hindi Poetry Recitation Competition was held on the 9th of January, 2021. The evening saw many budding poets recite their own poems covering a spectrum of human emotions. The winners were as follows: 1st position was secured by Humraj Singh Jassal of class XII, 2nd position by Krish Agarwal of class XII and Aditya Kumar Upadhyay of class X and 3rd Position by Aarav Jain of Class X & Anvita Dey, of class XI. Consolation Prizes were awarded to Samar Majumdar, Archit Pathak and Karma Chamling from class XII. Congratulations to all the winners and participants!

## Options at 16

The AVS Careers Department, under the guidance of the Headmaster Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, organised Options at 16, a careers unit venture to appraise aspiring students of Class 10 the many possible Subject choices and the multiple professions that can be pursued through them.

## On The Field

We are delighted to share that 5 of our budding cricketers have been selected to represent their Districts in the ongoing R. G. Baruah Inter-District Cricket Tournament (U-16) organized by the Assam Cricket Association from the 4th of January 2021.

The Players are as follows

1. Rajjyoti Talukdar, Class 8 (Bajali)
2. Nehal Jajodia, Class 8 (Rangia)
3. Jayesh Harlalka, Class 10 (Bongaigaon)
4. Arnav Jain, Class 10 (Charaideo)
5. Nishanta Sharma, Class 11 (Bokakhat)

Heartiest Congratulations to the team, their parents and the coaches.

## Little Champ

Suvechha Borah of Class 5 won the Gold Medal in Inter District Taekwondo Championship (under 32 kg category) held in Balipara on the 25 & 26th of December 2020. We wish her many more such successes in the future.



## Cheers to all of us!

The Assam Valley School has been a Finalist of World School Award in Top School India category. AVS was selected out of 5000 schools in the World Register of Private Schools.

# NEIGHBOUR, NEIGHBOUR

-Ojas Krish, X

India. Incredible India. Hindustan. Also known as God's Own Country, this country situated in South-East Asia goes by several monikers and names. It has the world's soon-to-be highest population and one of the world's fastest growing economies. With so much going for it (and against it), its relationships with its neighbors are nowhere less interesting too. The countries that directly share their borders with India are: Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Bangladesh, China, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar.

Nepal and Bhutan are its most well-established allies. Nepal has always had close ties with India; open borders, military help and financial aid are just a few of the many things India has agreed to have with Nepal. The people of both the countries have deep-rooted similarities as well. The Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950 allows Indians and Nepalese to freely enter and exit the two countries. Even in our very own school, many ethnic Nepalese people come to teach and study. Bhutan might as well be called a protectorate of India, being the largest beneficiary of India's foreign aid. India has been donating huge sums of money for Bhutan's defense, foreign policy, and commerce, which Bhutan has used for its five-year plans and diplomacy missions. Another ally that most people seem to forget is Myanmar. Originally borne from pilgrimage where Buddhists from Myanmar would come to India, a treaty of friendship was eventually signed in 1951, and relationship has been ever so cordial since then.

Even though India has a slightly more complicated alliance with Sri Lanka than the above three countries, it can still be recognized as an ally. India has long since had diplomatic and commercial ties with the country. Sri Lankans and Indians have deep cultural and ethnic ties as well, and both have common interests in the maritime field. However, in recent times, it has moved closer to China, especially in terms of naval agreements. Bangladesh is a whole other ball game; whilst India was the first to recognize it as a nation and aided it against Pakistan, there have been innumerable border disputes between

the two countries. They were teetering on the edge of bad relations, when an all-encompassing agreement was signed in 2015, making further disputes superficial at best. India has invested heavily in infrastructure development, electricity and defence equipment of Bangladesh. Both countries have also agreed to fight terrorism together.

And then there are the two biggest hindrances to India's goal of achieving good international relations – Pakistan and China on the north-west and north-east respectively. Despite many attempts to reconcile, the messy partition of 1947 has proved instrumental in harming the relationship between India and Pakistan; scars too deep to be effectively erased. They have had four wars, innumerable standoffs, name-calling, mind games, back-and-forth military skirmishes, you name it. After the Pulwama attack, relations have almost reached a point of no return between the two countries. As such, the possibility of India reconciling with Pakistan seems more unlikely than the possibility of pigs flying in the air.

China on the other hand has a much more subtle relationship with India. Both countries seek friendly ties and their two representatives often meet during summits and BRICS meetings. However, there is a huge competition going on between both countries to become a dominant power in the South Asian region which is mostly being fought on the economic and diplomatic field. There are also petty disputes over the territories of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh that take place every now and now. China has also been continuously expanding its military forces and openly supporting Pakistan in its acts of terrorism on India, which is a huge cause of worry for India.

In conclusion, India tries to maintain stable alliances with its border countries. However, many of them can be seen tilting towards China in recent times. India should try to reassess and strengthen its relationships with its neighbouring countries, lest China get the chance to become the dominating power in the South Asian region.

# THE OUTPOST

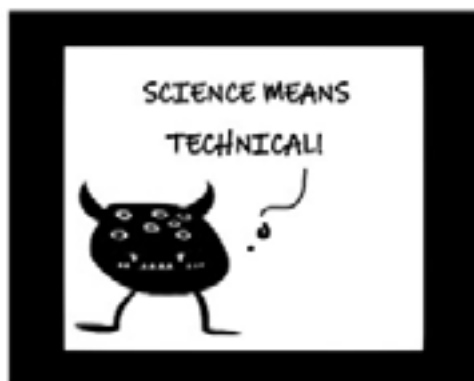
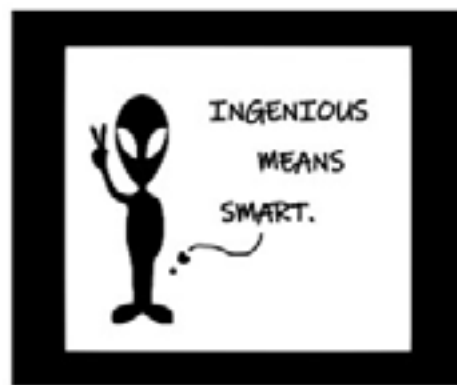
Illustration: Ssara Jha



India, the pharmacy of the world, begins the largest vaccination drive with two indigenous vaccines. India steps up its foreign affairs on the basis of vaccination and declares help to its neighbors. The farmer's impasse continues proving once again that reforms are not necessarily welcomed in this country. China's disappearing act lingers this time with the disappearance of billionaire poster-boy Jack Ma who dared to question the CCP. The mayhem and drama at Capitol Hill signals that our choices do reflect on our leaders. With the tightest security arrangement, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have been sworn in as the 46th President and Vice President of America respectively. India creates history in cricket at Gabba with 2-1 win over Australia.

## the middle page #13

By: Devrani Pebam



## The Quarantine Playlist

### Ripple #150

-Raseen Shah, XI

*She smiled through  
it all everyday,  
Silence spoke louder  
than words  
For she wasn't fond  
of voicing,  
She spilled it all in  
paper*

Need help finding a gem amidst a sea of monotony? Grab a cup of coffee or tea and dive into the world of these enthralling stories told through tunes, here is a list

**JAPANESE DENIM BY DAVID CAESER:** Many interpret that this song is about longing of a lost love and the sadness it leaves behind. The artiste is one of the best storytellers I've heard.

**BEST FRIEND BY REX ORANGE COUNTY:** A light hearted and jolly song about youthful innocence where the story goes like, one day she'll wake up and realise she still wants to be his best friend. Rex Orange County is undoubtedly underrated.

**GLITTERY BY KACEY MUSGRAVES:** Yet another happy song radiating tenderness of one's youth. There is a nice rhythmic percussion that keeps the song fun and fluid throughout.

**WE FELL IN LOVE IN OCTOBER BY GIRL IN RED:** An indie rock song from Norwegian artiste Girl in Red, who has received a lot of praise for being so open about her sexuality in the lyrics.

## Keep It Reel!

### Simple Pleasures

-Pooja Borah

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