

Campus Caricature

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Founders' Fever

THIS WEEK'S
IN
LIBRARY

Featuring:
Harry Potter and The Philosopher's
Stone by J. K. Rowling
Sita's Sisters by Kavita Kane

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TEST OF TIME

-Aditya Panigrahi, IX

Recently the world witnessed two protests that have shaken the very roots of democracy. One of them is still going on in the largest democracy in the world- India. The farmers belonging primarily to Haryana and Punjab have demanded that the three farming bills be repealed. The leaders of the farmer's unions had also demanded to carry out a tractor rally in Delhi on 26th January, India's Republic day. The Unions had signed an agreement with the Delhi Police wherein they ensured that there would be no untoward incident and the rally would follow the path curated by the Police. After two months of peaceful protest on the borders of Delhi, the Republic Day tractor rally spiraled into chaos. Thousands of farmers deviated from the decided route and rode their tractors to the Red Fort leaving behind a trail of carnage. They broke barricades put up by the police and unleashed terror on the roads of Delhi with their tractors. They damaged public properties like DTO buses and police vans and turned the rally into a show of bravado of mindless stunts. The footages from the streets were streamed live and was witnessed by the world tarnishing the image and dignity of the country in its 72nd year as a Republic. While it was the right of the farmers to protest peacefully, their actions on Republic Day were reprehensible. The Constitution gives us the right to protest peacefully but not to create unrest and cause violence. The farmers had carried with them many weapons like swords, spears, staffs and knives with which they attacked the Police and the Paramilitary forces. These actions weaken democracy. The farmers also wreaked havoc at the Red Fort storming it in thousands clamouring over its walls

soiling the sanctity of a site that is our national heritage and is the very symbol of the Republic. They hoisted various flags at the Red Fort sacrosanct to the National Flag insulting not merely the collective identity of the people of the country but negating the sacrifice of thousands of soldiers most of them their very kin. These activities are not to be tolerated for they are actions of irresponsible citizens who have forgotten their duties. While accusations to and fro continue the remarkable patience and restraint that Delhi Police had shown in the face of such bedlam is praiseworthy. While questions regarding security failure arise, had there been the use of fire power on part of the police, the debate would have raged elsewhere. A similar incident had taken place at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. The riot and violence carried out by an angry mob of Donald Trump supporters clashed with the police in a failed attempt to reverse the results of the 2020 Presidential Elections. This violent riot was against the ethos of Democracy. The raucous group of protesters breached barricades and advanced into the halls of the Capitol building breaking windows and causing damage to a building which was a symbol of American Democracy. It was a dark and unprecedented moment in American history. These two incidents have severely damaged the image of Democracy and show that people have long forgotten that Rights and Duties go hand in hand. If unchecked this may be the knell of a political system that has so far promised the best possible arrangement between the government and the governed.

BUDGET '21

The BJP government is infamously honest about one fact: It does not pay attention to economists. In this case, it is acceptable that it didn't. Because economists do not have to be accountable. It's the politicians. Like it or not, the BJP government has made this clear-cut political call. For three decades now since the 1991 reform, India has been confined in the growth-versus-inequality binary. It is a spurious debate. If growth causes more inequality, what does the lack of growth do? Growth makes the rich richer, but does it necessarily make the poor poorer, even if the trickle-down is flawed and leaky?

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her third Union Budget, in the backdrop of possibly one of the worst 'black swan' events in the last 100 years. Against this backdrop, it was an exceedingly difficult balancing act, to spend to augment the economy, and to be apprised of revenue mobilisation.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed several vulnerabilities in India's public health sector. The year called for a lucid roadmap on how best India can tackle its weak public health system to mitigate not just the immediate and short-term repercussions of the pandemic but also ensure resilience for future health requirements. Unfortunately, this is where Budget 2021 fails to live up to expectations. The government announced an unparalleled outlay for healthcare, with an increase of 137% over the 2020-'21 Budget. While the new budget-heads of money have been created for healthcare, it adds the already existing ones which thereby gives this increased figure of 137%. The budget for the Health Ministry does not carry the necessary gravitas in a Covid-19 scenario. The Budget today could have, but fails to, show a larger allocation for nutrition services despite the data on stress over the pandemic. Instead of increasing allocations to underpin an inclusive public education system, the government is paving the way for privatisation and Public Private Partnership model in education. It also makes us wonder, where the government hopes to find money on strengthening schools for the New Education Policy 2020. It will hurt children from poor, marginalised

communities adding to the already increasing number of out-of-school children in India. A disproportionate number of those are likely to be girls. The total orientation of this Budget is towards disinvestment, commercialisation and privatisation. There has been a concerted effort to do that in the previous years also, but at that time there was much stronger resistance from the unions. During the Covid-19 pandemic, labour laws have also been modified, and so many of these resistance movements have also been weakened. The Budget aims to regain a high growth trajectory through greater investment in both hard and human infrastructure. It remains to be seen how efficient the public expenditure in infrastructure really will be, and whether India's idiosyncratic governments processes and politics of spoils allow the allocated money to be spent efficiently and effectively.

The Achilles heel of Budget 2021 could be the absence of consideration for the brewing financial crisis. In its financial stability report, the RBI has projected that the gross non-performing assets of public sector banks may rise. Unless the Modi government comes up with some out-of-the-box solution, the demand for recapitalisation of banks or capitalisation of the proposed asset reconstruction company could derail its fiscal plans for the year.

The Modi government would do well to stay away from the failed economic policies of the Indira Gandhi and Morarji Desai governments and find a different route to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The Budget also represents a gateway to a post-Covid world. The pandemic divulged the inevitable links between lives, livelihoods and economy and tough choices of placing lives above livelihoods. This vision of a modern 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' logistics ecosystem is noticeable and, if built on, promises to be a big catalyst for India becoming a global manufacturing alternative to China. No budget can make everyone happy. Overall, there are many good things about Budget 2021. But the key lies in implementation. If implemented, this could be a turning point in the government's approach towards the economy, politics and progress.



I. The excitement is palpable, the practice intense and participation an opportunity for many seniors to be linked with the long-awaited silver jubilee celebration that traditionally took place in October/November, but were pushed forward to the new year due to the prevailing pandemic. It is open season for marching, mounted drill practice, theatrical and a few whimsical presentations as well with Founder's Fever at AVS officially declared in the first week of February 2021, which witnessed students, staff and ancillary workers alike bitten by the bug! With the 25th Founder's Day celebrations planned across 11th -13th February, there was reason enough for early morning riding practices for the Equestrian

team and a good dose of rhyme for the Aerobics team to find their groove, in step with their MICs. While the former lot - grades 7 to 12 students - engaged with learning how to connect with their steeds (an essential part of horse-riding, especially prior to practicing show-jumping, emphasized Coach, Mr. J. Singh) and were put through their paces - along with the newest addition to the stables, Rufus; the latter, comprising class 10's, found Ms. S. Hazarika's, "Don't practice till you get it right; Practice till you can't get it wrong..." approach sound advice they could bank on to perfect their routine. Bonus Byte: Spectators, look-out for the colours worn by the lissome lasses, as they'll be paying tribute to the country linked with the

song they're performing to! II. Three days into the campus and I already feel the hustle and bustle surrounding the big fat event. My first ever Founders' at AVS, the Founders' I thought I almost missed (thanks to the virus). From what I hear, this has remained the most awaited days of the year for every aviator, for the quite some time now. Having heard a dozen stories about the Founders' productions, the music night and all the other merrymaking throughout quarantine, I'm really counting days now. Strange how my reluctance to come to school turned into this whole hype about Founders' plans, only in a matter of seven days. I'm super excited for the three days and the stories I'll take back home with me.

FOUNDERS' FEVER

Written By;
I. Mrs. Deepanjali Figg, Department Of English
II. Tanisha Bhadra, XI H
III. Ms. Raya Mukhopadhyay, Department Of Sociology

Well, to begin with, I must confess that The Assam Valley School was known to me as an academic institution of high repute since it offers a strong foundation in the field of education . However, little did I know that this acclaimed institution is known to all far and wide not only for its strong academics but also for so much more beyond that. I am thrilled to find out that the learners here are engaged in a plethora of activities and events across all levels. One of

the finest things that I experienced here so far is the preparation of the AVS family for their "favourite time of the year"- THE FOUNDERS DAY. After having spent a whole year in lockdown, I feel alive to be a part of the vibrant AVS Founders Day programme this year. They say, its not the destination that matters the most ,rather, its the journey that is more important. I actually can relate with this line with regard to the Founders Day preparation and rehearsals here at AVS. Amidst all the uncertainties in this pandemic situation, I am delighted to see that the teachers and the learners and other staff members of the AVS community have come together unanimously to

put insincere efforts to celebrate the silver jubilee of the institution. I feel immensely happy, blessed and privileged to be a part of the Founders Day Programme this year as a proud Aviator. The vibes here feel nothing less than a Durga Pujo celebration for a 'Bangali' like me !! All the Aviators are ardently engrossed in the different departments from cultural programmes to the food stall arrangements to the games and the recreational activities. During the rehearsal time for the cultural programme I get to meet my fellow colleagues and many of my learners. We dance, talk and laugh together . Indeed, I am looking forward to witness the great grand event of the school.

Dance Drama

-Anushcka Joshi, XI S

The Dance Drama this Founders' is titled 'The Game of Dice' an enactment from the epic Mahabharata. The drama primarily revolves around the Pandavas, Kauravas, and Draupadi, and the infamous episode of 'Cheer Haran'. This chapter speaks about the reason behind Draupadi's rage which engulfed the entire Kururashtra and reached it's penultimate in the battlefield of the Mahabharat. The movements in the dance drama are depicted through Satriya, Odissi and

Kathak dance forms. The play opens with Gandhari and Dhritarashtra solemnly reminiscing the past. They regret not being able to prevent the war which caused the death of their 100 children. The play encourages the theme of Women empowerment through the portrayal of imminent strong female characters such as Durga, Sita and Draupadi. It leaves us with the message that women are far beyond mere objects and can stand up for themselves.

Photo: Akankshit Sharma



Curtain Kaiser

Theatre is the stage that celebrates culture and culture is the reflection of the times enacted. The Founders' Production this year promises to be a blockbuster not only because it showcases a timeless political satire by Sharad Joshi but also bring to the stage for the very first time an all-teachers ensemble. It remains relevant to the times and speaks of the common man who remains a puppet to the antiques of power. Traditions are practices build on the pillars of perseverance and those who pay homage to it are rewarded by history. Extraordinary situations demand special choices and the Productions' this year is the reflection of the courage of those for whom the pursuit of excellence is an everyday lesson.

The play showcases a status quo that runs on misinformation and is replete with real-life references. From corruption to romance to subterfuge, the elements of absurdist theatre govern the show. While the characters will play their part and dialogues will be meticulously delivered, it will be the very presence of the teachers on the stage that will bring the house to its feet. The Master of this game remains the man whose direction continues to be felt beyond the stage. With a year under the spotlight, he is not new to its demands



Colours

-Adrija Das, XI S

Given the limited resource of materials during the pandemic, the Department of Craft, Design and Technology have fashioned their exhibition around utility design and decorative items from recycled materials, this year. With intensive wood and bamboo work being done around the CDT center, the exhibition promises to attract attention to itself as has been its norm. The creativity and vigor of the students is evident in the hours that have been dedicated to create the show. From making lamps to Japanese swords and light sabers, CDT has everyone eagerly waiting to see their exhibition.

For Founders' this year, the Department of Art has worked on an Impressionist theme. Impressionism is a style of painting, characterised by small, thin yet visible brush strokes that offer the bare impression of form, unblended colour and an accurate depiction of natural light. Starting from variations of Monet's 'Water lily pond' to Van Gogh's 'Starry night', the artists are attempting to replicate similar brush strokes on their canvases. With the expected absence of acrylic white and a suspicious surplus of green and blue, the walls and corridors of the Department are gearing up to showcase the varied creations this year.

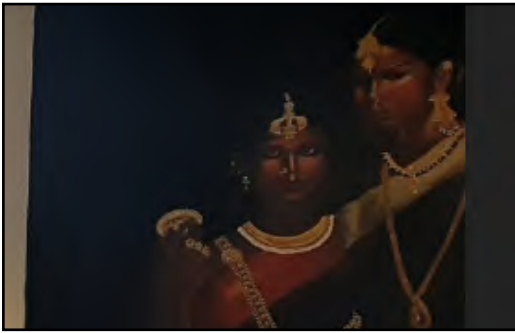


Photos: Anikath Anant Joshi



ERRATA

This in connection to Issue 61. AVE would like to clarify that the interview of Mr. Mukund Madhav Chandrachuda Shukla was conducted by Priyanchi Sharma and not Adrija Das. Mr. Shukla's name had been spelt incorrectly and now stands rectified. We apologise for the oversight and thank the participants for their understanding and support.



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Campus Caricature

CAMPUS NEWS



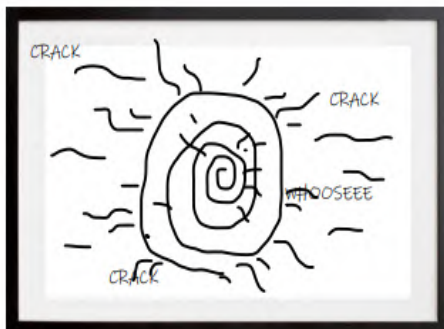
Written by Adrika Borah, XI H

The Lower School Inter-house Quiz Competition was held virtually on 30 January, 2021. Four members represented each brother-sister house. The quiz consisted of five rounds. Questions were based on Heritage/monuments, eminent child personalities, AVS, Science & Technology, Sports and Current affairs. Subansiri-Namdang secured the first position, followed by Bhoroli-Lohit in the second, Kopili-Dhansiri in the third and Jinari-Manas in the fourth position. It was nice to see such enthusiastic participation from young minds. Quizzes are always so intriguing to watch.

#14

the middle page

By: Devrani Pebam



In Library

Ripple #152

-Raseen Shah, XI H

The papers created
stories she never
lived.

Now in retirement
these were what
kept her
company and
entertained

Need help finding a gem amidst a sea of monotony? Dive into the world of these enthralling books in our library, here is a list

HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE BY J. K. ROWLING: The Philosopher's Stone is the first in J.K. Rowling's bestselling Harry Potter series of seven novels. This is the perfect read for those who enjoy whimsical fantasies that can easily captivate you into an intense and layered storyline.

DISCOVERING THE HERITAGE OF ASSAM BY PADMAPANI BORA: This book is a treasure trove of the beautiful state of Assam. The history and glory of Assam has been splendidly penned down and the visuals are a treat to the eye. This book is definitely worth a read.

SITA'S SISTERS BY KAVITA KANE: Retelling of the Ramayana from a different perspective. Though Urmila, Sita's younger sister and Laxman's wife sacrificed and suffered a lot, none paid attention to her in this epic. So here is the book through which you will learn about her more deeply.

Keep It Reel!

Homecoming

-Ms. Pooja Borah

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