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Ayo Gorkhali!

-Dechen Sangay, XI

The demands for separate statehood and autonomous territories in India have been there even before India's Independence. The Gorkhaland Movement is one such movement which can be traced way back to the 1900s, when the Hillmen's Association of Darjeeling submitted a memorandum to the Morley-Minto Reforms Panel, demanding a separate administrative setup in Darjeeling. It was only in the 1980s when Subhash Ghising, the leader of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), a political party from the hills, revived the movement

“The crux of the problem, as always, lay in the difference in ethnicity, culture and language.”

once again and raised the demand for a separate state for the Nepali-speaking people – Gorkhaland.

One may ask why there is a need for a separate state for the Nepali-speaking people when they are already a part of the state of West Bengal. The crux of the problem, as always, lay in the difference in ethnicity, culture and language. The people from the hills, who comprised of mostly Nepalese, Tibetans and a few other ethnicities, never really felt like they were accepted in West Bengal. They had been a part of a Bengali dominated state since the very beginning and as beautiful as the Bengali culture was, it was far from being close to their own culture. Having failed to establish an identity of their own after years of struggles and movements; facing

racist comments, feeling left out and insecure, the hills-people finally decided to stand up for themselves and demand a separate state, Gorkhaland.

The first movement began in 1986 under the leadership of Subhash Ghising, a year no person from the hills would ever forget. It was a year filled struggle and violence; one many had to sacrifice their lives for. There were local rumours that dead bodies were thrown into the jungles and men were made to dress up like women so that they were not arrested or asked to join the protests. But all sacrifices and efforts went down the drain when they were given a semi-autonomous body in 1988 instead of a state. The result was the formation of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hills Council, after which the movement went into dormancy. In 2004, the fourth elections for DGHC didn't take place. Instead, Darjeeling was added to the Sixth Schedule and a tribal council was set up with Ghising as its head. This led to a revolt by Bimal Gurung, the trusted aide of Ghising who broke away from the GNLF. He founded the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) and raised the demand for Gorkhaland yet again, setting in motion the second most violent agitation in the history of the Gorkhas.

However, the movement took a new turn with the assassination of Madan Tamang, leader of Akhil Bharatiya Gorkha League (ABGL). He was allegedly stabbed to death by the GJM supporters on 21 May, 2010 in Darjeeling, which led to a spontaneous shutdown in the three Darjeeling hill sub-divisions of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong. After the murder of Madan

Tamang, the West Bengal government threatened action against GJM, whose senior leaders were named in the FIR.

Several similar movements continued to take place over the course of years which took violent turns and resulted in the loss of many lives. In 2013, protests for Gorkhaland started again, due to the Congress Working Committee's resolution for the formation of a separate Telangana state. The latest agitation began in June 2017, due to the imposition of Bengali in the Hills through an order from the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee which made Bengali a compulsory language. In the protest,

3 supporters of GJM were killed, following which the GJM led by Bimal Gurung declared a total shutdown in the hills.

On 18 July, 2011, the memorandum of agreement for the formation of a Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), a semi-autonomous administrative body for Darjeeling was passed by the West Bengal legislative assembly to calm the GJM.

However, even after years of struggle, innumerable protests and sacrifices, the people of the hills failed to get what they had actually asked for which has now made them question whether it was all worth it?

misunderstood

-Imnasong Longkumer, XI

I will briefly be going over the Governor of Nagaland RN Ravi's message to the people of the state on the eve of Nagaland's 58th Statehood day and what went on during the peace talk of October 31st 2020, that caused so much unrest amongst the Naga nationalist groups. RN Ravi was very clear that there would be only one National flag and that the Nagas would not be getting their own flag. He said, and I quote, "Anyone talking anything contrary is peddling preposterous lies.". He said that some people (referring probably to the rebel forces like the National Socialist Council of Nagaland or NSCN) are standing as a road block to the aspirations of the people of Nagaland. He asks them to "see the writings on the wall" and "respect the wishes of the people." But the truth is that the NSCN are fighting for the wishes of the Naga people. The voice of the people says that they want a Naga National flag. He again goes on to say things like "To building the Nagaland of the dreams of its founding fathers." But aren't we already doing that? Wouldn't our Naga ancestors want Nagaland to preserve a separate identity? Only when the Naga people get independence will the people of Nagaland "blossom to their fullest." RN Ravi says "Where people will not live under the shadow of invisible guns. Where youth do not have to choose guns for livelihood." But we don't want that. The Nagas don't want to take up arms, its just that we take up arms in order to fight back and defend ourselves and our beliefs and ideologies.

V Horam, an executive member of the NSCN, gave some insight on the matter regarding the conference talks on October 31st, 2019. Horam mentioned that Governor RN Ravi, who was the interlocutor, started

interpreting things on the contrary. The agreement which spoke about the inclusiveness of everything within Naga territory referred to the inclusiveness of all parts of NAGALAND. RN Ravi interpreted this inclusiveness to mean that all of Nagaland would be included under the Indian Constitution and it was there that the NSCN and he had differences and this is where things came to a stalemate. Somehow this development doesn't surprise me. This tells us about how the Nagaland Governor, despite the many peace talks, still hasn't understood what the Naga Nationalists want and what they are fighting for. This insincerity is not to be taken lightly as so many problems could have arisen from putting forward that agreement without reviewing it. The Governor branded the NNPG (National Naga Political Group) as "gangsters" along with other potent groups with whom the Government of India is in a bilateral ceasefire and has profiled every Naga who gave service to the movement (basically every Naga family). I cannot begin to comprehend how majorly this has affected the peace talks. There were so many mistakes that could easily have been avoided and those mistakes will surely pull back the progression of a peaceful end to this turmoil. The intent of the reference to Governor RN Ravi's controversial statements was to highlight the issues about how the Governor has failed to understand the Naga people and the goals of the NSCN. This inability has caused much bad blood and dissention within the state. Had this misunderstanding been avoided, the peace talks would have gone much smoother and the Indian government could have handled the NSCN situation better.

Saving Skies

-Lavanya Adhikari, X

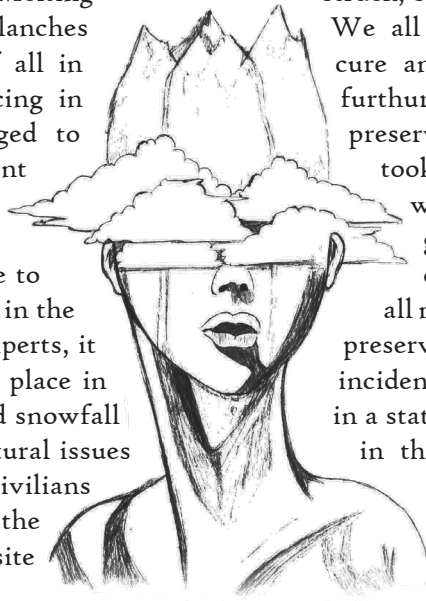
The Himalayas are one of the most important physical features in the Indian subcontinent. Other than standing tall and adding beauty to our country, they also serve as a source of many perennial rivers. Melting of the Himalayan glaciers and avalanches there are the most feared disasters of all in our country. Although we are advancing in technology, we still have not managed to solve the issues there. A major incident took place in the Chamoli district in Uttarakhand on the 7th of February, 2021. A flood occurred at Joshimath due to a glacier burst on the Rishi Ganga Dam in the Rishi Ganga River. According to the experts, it was unusual for such incidents to take place in the winters because usually, rainfall and snowfall replenish the glaciers and fix any structural issues there. It is reported that about 100 to 150 civilians were missing, most of whom were the construction workers working on the site of the Rishi Ganga Dam.

Eye witnesses and survivors claim that this incident was no less dangerous than the Kedarnath incident. The Himalayas are warming faster than any other mountain range. Due to the increased use of concrete in building construction, replacing the traditional wood and stone

masonry there, it is likely to cause a heat island effect which will further add to regional warming.

The government only does things after a disaster has struck, but is never prepared beforehand.

We all know that precaution is better than cure and this pandemic has reinforced this further, it is time we took strong steps towards preservivity of the mountain. This disaster took away many lives but left us all with a strong message. The increasing global temperature brings along many disasters and destroys many lives. We all need to shift to using cleaner resources to preserve and protect our planet. This particular incident is very close to my heart because I live in a state which has the third-largest mountain in the world, the famed Kanchenjunga, I have seen and experienced landslides that occur during the rainy season and the predicament it put people into, while building and maintaining infrastructure in these regions are a constant struggle, protecting the mountains must be of utmost importance. There will be very little left of us to struggle with should the Himalayas decide to disown us. It is time we respect, venerate and preserve it.

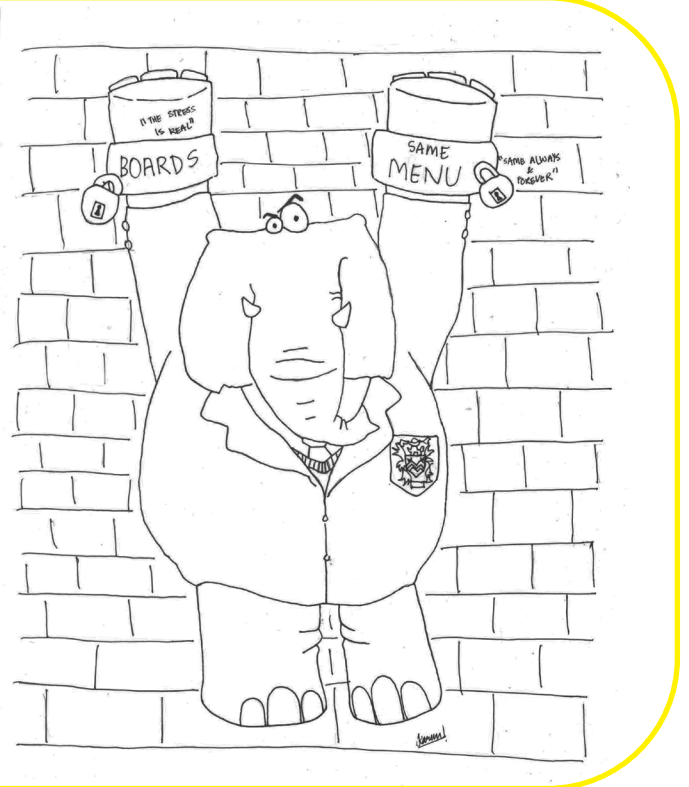


Illustrated by: Elozini Senachena

LOCKED UP!

-Karun Thapa, XI

On the 25th Silver Jubilee celebrations, the caricature of the Aviator was unveiled. In this new series we bring to you Aviator as we see it.



ATROPHIED

-Mrs. Priyankoo K. Das

Aikon likes to sit on the porch. She loves watching the people, in their bicycles and rickshaws, all going about bustling with business.

The porch at her Deuta's was bigger and it had a swinging wooden gate. She and Runjhun would take turns to swing on the gate, pretending to take off in a plane.

This house is newer and she doesn't like the people here. They all are overly curious about her, always prying always asking her things. "Always meddling", she grumbled. Then her eyes fell on the E-rickshaw plying on the road. It had slowed down to drop someone and impulse pushed her and she was off! "Rickshaw stop!", she cried. It stopped, much to her delight and she hopped in. "Where to, Ma?" the driver asked. "The banks of Champa," she replied. The vehicle pulled off with a funny sound. The wind on her face and the anticipation of sitting under the setting sun next to the blue river was too tempting and she smiled in delight. It was late when the man brought her back to the house. Nomi, her friend, in this new place was angry and tearful!

"Why did you go out by yourself? Biju will be so upset!" Aikon burst out laughing. "Biju! Pah! Why would he be upset? He is just a kid! And he doesn't visit me nowadays! Too busy making kites, I suppose".

Next day she was awakened by loud noises outside,

people dragging in iron rods, bags of sand and what not! She asked the man standing there, "What's going on?" "Biju da has asked us to put a collapsible gate all around the porch, Ma," the man replied.

Every fiber in her being screamed at the thought of being trapped within the house. She paced about in the porch like a caged animal. Nomi came out just then. Aikon turned at her with tears and accusations. Nomi replied calmly, "Why don't you come into the house? Come and meet Biren."

She reluctantly walked in. Biren was sitting there. He was the neighbour's son who had gone off to do medicine. She remembered that people now called him 'Biren doctor'.

Nomi asked, "How is she Doctor? Do you think it has improved?"

"No, Nomi, I think we are witnessing Aikon Jethai (Aunty) going into a harsher stage of Alzheimers' now. Keep up the medicines and monitor her at all times."

"Who are they talking about Nomi?" Aikon asked.

"A lady ma, she used to live here before". Nomi replied. The man standing at the corner of the room started sobbing and Nomi and Dr. Biren rushed to him, "Hush Biju, you must be strong now, for your mother".

THE OUTPOST

The President's rule looms on Pondicherry as the Congress government falls. While the recent visit of Rahul Gandhi may not have helped the politics in the little Union Territory, it seems to hold clues for the upcoming Legislative elections in Kerala. Murder and mayhem continues in Bengal as the game heats up for the coveted Legislative assemblies. NASA finally lands a rover at Mars and posts glimpses of the fiery climate. Climate activist Disha Ravi of the toolkit fame receives bail. A car crash puts legendary golfer Tiger Wood's career in jeopardy as he battles leg injuries.



CAMPUS NEWS

After an interminable wait, AVS organized an Inter-House Chess Competition for Upper and Lower school on the 20th and 21st of February 2021. Keenly contested, it was organized and conducted by the LRP's of chess, Mr. Rajib Hazarika, Mr. Rajen Bharali and Ms. Debjani Nath under the guidance of DOAC, Mr. T. Bharadwaj and Dr. Hemashree Deka.

The results are as follows:

1st Position: Jinari-Manas (16.5 Points)

2nd Position: Bhoroli-Lohit (15.5 Points)

3rd Position: Subansiri-Namdang

Posted on February 19

The Assam Valley School organised a Staff Vs. Students Cricket Match on the February 16, 2021.

The results were as follows:

Students XI: 149/3 in 20 overs

(Mayukh Jain: 18, Shriyansh Sharma: 49)

Staff: 129/10

(Manjit Roy: 47 Nishanta Sarma: 2 wkts, Mayukh: 2 wkts)

Man of the Match: Shriyansh Sharma & Mr. Manjit Roy

We wish the Teams many congratulations.



Posted on February 9

Alumnus Adityaraj Sarma Batch of 2018, bagged a Gold Medal at the 7th All Assam State Powerlifting Championship in the Under 105KG Junior Category representing Kamrup District with a 555KG total (Squat 210 KG, Benchpress 125KG and Deadlift 220 KG)

Our heartiest congratulations to him.

Posted on February 7

The following students won accolades at the Heartfulness Essay Event 2020, held nation-wide, and organized by the Shri Ram Chandra Mission [SRCM] in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan [UNIC] and the Heartfulness Education Trust.

The topic for the essays were - "Thought Pollution: Root Cause of All Ills". We extend our heartiest congratulations to them.

State 1st Position: Manasvi Agarwal, Class 9

State 4th Position: Nilay Dhakal, Class 12

State 9th Position: Kashvi Kejriwal, Class 9

Institution Merit: Magdolna R. S. Lepcha, Class 12

Institution Merit: Suaihiamthuan Samuel Panmei, Class 11

Ripple #153

-Jeremy Jahau, XII

The sands of time
grew weary
Resting on his hand
But this time the
sands were ash
And time was his
land.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. It was in excited-ment - Marwati Imsong, XI (A meme moment)
2. Whose parents' father-mother are they? - Gagan Malik, XI (Not ours)
3. Make pairs of fives - Kashvi Bhartia, XI (Maths has left the chat)
4. Make a straight circle - Varun Seth, IX (New entree to the Math Department)
5. The chor sword him - Dristi Rathi, XI (You're killing us and grammar)
6. Hello I am Neelabh, this is Tanisha - Tanisha Bhadra, XI (What an introduction!)

Keep It Reel!

Bloom

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Design & Layout: Moom Lego & Tanisha Bhadra

Illustrator: Eloziini Senachena & Takhe Tamo Reela

Photo Credit: Mr. Tapash Das

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

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

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