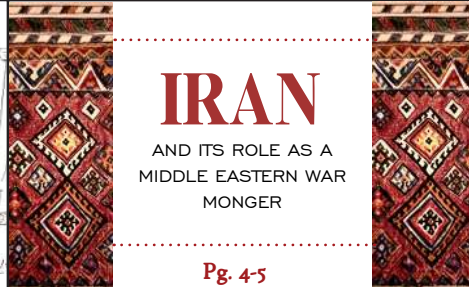


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POLL TO POLL

-Aliden Jahzara Ovung, XI

With the two phases out of the total seven of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections concluding – the first phase occurring on April 19 and the second phase on April 26– the country is heading into the third phase, scheduled for May 7th, 2024. While the results are slotted to be announced on the 4th of June, the psephologists are buzzing with predictions. One of the prime points of debate remains voter turnout. Based on the current status of the election, the BJP is expected to eventually have a successful turnout. Reports suggest that Prime Minister Modi is set to return to power with an even larger mandate. The party has left no stone unturned - from bringing allies to the fold through mergers and annexations of the opposition’s MPs to ensuring that it woos the younger generation on social media. Of the 200 seats where the Congress and its I.N.D.I.A alliance is in contest with the BJP, it will be a fight to the finish especially in Bengal and Maharashtra, with the former promising as much blood as it does violence.

The voting in the world’s largest democracy this season comes with its own string of headlines. The Congress manifesto drew scathing remarks from the BJP which called it a to-do-list of the Muslim League with its hints at reservations on the basis of religion. Rahul Gandhi’s pitch to conduct a financial survey across the country to promote financial equity led to multiple debates but it was Sam Petroda, a close advisor to Rahul Gandhi and President of the Congress’s international wing, who hit the hornet’s nest when he pointed out that the USA’s inheritance law was an interesting concept that could be looked into for India. Under the law, 55% of a

person’s inheritance was taken away by the government permitting the individual to inherit only 45% of all property and monies. This brought forth from the Prime Minister the jibe that the Congress planned to loot the people ‘Zindagi ke saath bhi, Zindagi ke baad bhi’.

For its share, the BJP and the Prime Minister seem to draw much attention from the western media with the Washington Post publishing an article on the possible hand of the government in a plot to kill the Khalistani leader Gurbhagat Singh Pannu. While much of the article came from unauthenticated sources it did reveal yet again the tendency of the western media to want to promote a certain narrative for India. The Opposition drew blood when the raging scandal involving nearly ‘3000 videos’ of women being physically abused purportedly shot by the Karnataka JDS leader 33-year-old Prajwal Revanna, grandson of the stalwart leader Deve Gowda, surfaced. This will most certainly leave an impact in the poll-bound state. As the nation moves onto the third phase of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 amid the rising summer heat, it marks the ordinary Indian to be a discerning voter. From rising prices of fuel to everyday goods to the question of internal and external security to preserving the mutli-culturalism of this vast country, the Indian voter has much to weigh before they make their choice. June will bring forth a defining answer which will chart the next decade of India’s future. It is left to be seen whether it lives up to the expectations of its aspiring people living in an aspirational country in a swiftly changing world.

ONE FOR THE *Racquet Aficionados*

-Mr. Parth Parasher, Department of Psychology

On the 18th of April, 1915, a Morane-Saulnier Type L fighter bird with a punctured gas pipe and a German bullet, left a Doppler sight that seemed to hold across the Belgian sky. The inconvenienced Pilot was a celebrity of sorts at the L'Aviation Militaire and was, almost immediately after the crash landing, gained by his German Counterparts trying to carbonize his beloved aircraft and with it an avant-garde piece of war technology.

On the day the Great War began this 26 year old French aviator had found himself in the awkward position of being stranded in Berlin. In the years leading up to the war, he had set the world record for reaching the highest altitude by man in an airplane. He had become the first man to cross the Mediterranean sea in a plane and had performed numerous exhibition flights that had taken him all over the European continent.

In 1914, when the German troops were pouring into Belgium, the Aviator sat anxiously under house arrest in his Berlin hotel room, faced with the prospect of internment this man escaped through the bathroom window in the middle of the night to walk to the fields where his airplane sat. With a couple of gasoline cans on board he took off into the darkness to launch an exhilarating gradual ascent in the general direction of purpose and freedom.

These were the days when pilots would carry a handgun with them and shoot at enemy planes awkwardly jutting

out midair as the heavy gust of wind crashed against their flapping leather helmets and dusty eyeglasses. This may seem comic to most by today's standards. By the end of 1914, our aviator who had been serving in the French Air Service, became part of a path breaking solution when he returned to test a recently developed device that enabled a pilot to fire bullets from a mounted machine-gun through the blades of the propeller of his plane. The device, employed successfully by this pilot in the early spring of 1915, allowed him to approach his enemies head-on in the air, giving him a vast advantage. On April fool's day in 1915, he nailed his first German victim, an Albatross reconnaissance aircraft, in the next two weeks, he downed four more. The American media dubbed him as the first flying ace of the War.

On the 18th of April, 1915, he was captured by the Germans at Hulste in Belgium. He escaped for the second time and made his way back into France. A German aircraft designer who went by the name of Anton Fokker advanced the technology gained from the wreckage of the French plane. He invented the Interrupter Gear, a far more elegant solution than the French Deflector Blades. This was eventually bettered in 1916 by none other than Marcel Dassault, who introduced the Éclair propeller for the Caudron G3. The French were aviation pioneers in the first half of the 20th Century, which through its great orderly tanglement of schemes, it still is well into the 21st century.

This French aviator's name was Roland Garros.

Iran and Israel Crisis

-Praveka Kesara, XII

The Iran-Israel conflict serves as a reminder that countries do not just stumble into war. Leaders climb onto the escalation ladder willingly and in turn generate dynamics that they cannot easily unmake.

The question now is how the United States and others can unwind these dynamics for a more stable, peaceful security environment. Missile defence plays a critical role, but technology won't save Israel from having

to answer hard questions over its security strategy.

The recent escalation in this protracted feud occurred when Iran launched a barrage of drones and missiles towards Israel, exacerbating the already strained relationship between the two states. In response, the international community has issued fervent calls for de-escalation, urging both parties to exercise restraint and pursue diplomatic dialogue. However, what precipitated this crisis, and what are the implications at stake? Moreover, what measures can be taken to mitigate this perilous situation?

The conflict between Iran and Israel stems from a multifaceted interplay of historical, religious, and political dynamics. The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 marked a pivotal moment that led to the displacement of a significant number of Palestinians.

Iran, predominantly Shia Muslim, has steadfastly supported the Palestinian cause, often placing it in opposition to Israel, which has faced allegations of

human rights abuses against Palestinians. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 injected a new dimension into this conflict. The emergence of Iran's Islamic regime, characterized by its anti-Western rhetoric, posed a direct challenge to Israel. Since then, these two nations have remained locked in a contentious struggle.

The stakes are incredibly high in this conflict. A full-scale war between Iran and Israel could result in catastrophic outcomes, not only for the involved nations but for the entire world. The Middle East, known for its volatility, risks further destabilization, potentially dragging other nations into a broader regional conflict.

So, how can we ease this crisis? The solution lies in open dialogue and diplomatic efforts. Both nations must be willing to engage in sincere discussions, free from any preconditions. The international community can play a crucial role by providing a neutral platform where both sides can voice their concerns and work towards a peaceful resolution.

A POEM FOR AVS

-Mrs. Vinita Watts, Department of English

In Assam's verdant valley, nestled snug,
Lies a school where dreams take flight, unplug.
Amidst emerald greens; environment serene,
Nature's canvas, a breathtaking scene.

Where laughter echoes through the corridors bright,
And friendships bloom in the soft daylight.
In classrooms adorned with wisdom's grace,
Students soar, their minds embrace.

Beneath the azure skies, they roam and explore,
In every breeze, they find knowledge to adore.
With each step, they tread on history's tale,
In this haven of learning, where dreams prevail.

Oh, Assam Valley School, a sanctuary divine,
Where hearts unite, in harmony entwined.
Amidst nature's bounty, forever it stands,
A beacon of hope, across the lands.



Photograph by Reetisha Daimari, XII

IRAN

AND ITS ROLE AS A MIDDLE EASTERN WAR MONGER

-Jigmee Pao Tamang, Deputy Editor, XII

1.

Where did it all begin?

Iran has been a constant threat to the stability of the middle-east ever since the Iranian Revolution of '79 and the consequent rise of Ayatollah Khomeini. Khomeini's rule, forged in the aftermath of the deposition of the Shah of Iran, was

steeped in hostility towards the West and its allies. Reborn as a theocratic republic under Khomeini, Iran became an Islamic extremist nation under him. A part of this transformation lies in the fact that Khomeini believed that "colonial powers (think USA) had conspired to undermine Islam both with religious quietism and with secular ideologies, especially socialism, liberalism, monarchism, and nationalism."



4.

If the entire world knows that Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism, why does nobody do anything about it?

The US has not retaliated against a majority of Iran's provocations, and actions - emboldening them by their restraint. The Democrats have, in their (rightful) fear of

conflict, allowed the US to take the back-foot in US-Iran discussions. Indeed, the consequences have been disastrous, the prudent approach of restraint has failed miserably, after all, peace can only be imposed by the strong upon the weak. The failure of the West to provide effective deterrence has served to embolden a nation that could never have abided with the Western value system. Their antipathy has been shouted from rooftops throughout Iran and in their houses of Parliments, but the world has turned a deaf ear to them. Now that so many have died in Israel, perhaps the West shall rethink their attitudes, or else only disaster awaits.

3.

Given the massive amount of proxy forces Iran commands, do they still retain control over them?

Upon plotting the massive range of influence of Iran's proxy forces in the Middle East, it's not very hard to realise that almost everything and anything that

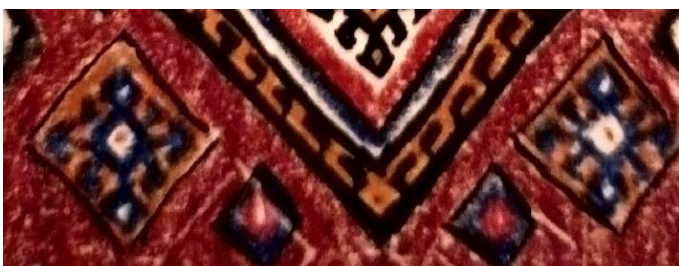
happens in the Middle East, is influenced by Iran in some way or form. Despite this seemingly massive authority, diplomatically, Iran stands alone. One may argue that Iran uses these groups as mere puppets: their sole purpose? To either regulate tensions in their areas of influence or to protect their master's interests; but this line of thought omits a crucial point regarding this question: the reason for the formation of these groups and the history surrounding them. Taking that into account, Iran may as well have heavily armed and funded massive non-governmental actors with a history of hyper-aggression, that poses a massive security threat to the entire Middle Eastern region.

2.

How has Iran established itself as a "War Monger"?

The US government has labelled Iran as a State Sponsor of Terrorism in 1984 and rightly so. As a Shia majority, Iran's external operations cover a range of proxy terrorists through Shia militia groups that

have severely destabilised countries such as Syria, threatened governments and undertaken massive campaigns of terror. The regional instability of the Middle East allowed Iran to swiftly establish itself as a major contender in the global playing field. Their rise to power was further accelerated when the US government killed Saddam Hussein, greatly weakening Iraq - which was a major opponent to Iran at the time.





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5. **What led Iran to become a state sponsor of terrorism across the middle east?**
The Arabs only ever had some semblance of unity back when they stood against Israel together, but ever since acceptance of Israel increased, Iran has been increasingly isolated in the Middle East. As one of the few Shia majority nations in the Middle East, it has constantly faced intense opposition from Saudi Arabia and other middle eastern countries. With the absence of support from its neighbours and fear of the US's neo-colonialism, Iran chose to cultivate external forces of its own, a method which achieved success during the Iranian Revolution. What it could not achieve through diplomacy, it acquired through these regional proxies, which due to the international community's laxness turned into formidable forces capable of disrupting both the middle east and the world.

Campus Caricature

Tiny Tots

Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X



CAMPUS NEWS

SPIC MACAY 2024

Reported by Dikshita Sharma, IX

On 29th April 2024, under the aegis of Spic Macay, The Assam Valley school had the privilege of hosting yet another evening of rich classical music. The evening was hosted by Cultural Captains Anikaith A. Joshi and Abhinashni E. Baruah, and was coordinated by Ms. Sukalpa Dutta.

The evening was graced by the presence of gifted artist Pandit Chetan Joshi on the flute, accompanied by the tabla maestro Shri Pradip Kumar. The evening began with a rendition of the Durga Raag, followed by various taals. The highlight of the evening was Pandit Joshi's world-famous rendition on the flute a 3.5 scale octave which had the audience breathless. It was an interactive evening that saw Pandit Joshi regale the audience with many stories from his travels and concerts across the world. As the evening concluded, everyone was left with a sense of deep appreciation for the beauty of music and the joy it brought.



ALUMNI NEWS

AVS ALUMNI CRACK CSE 2023

It is a matter of great pride for our school that two of our alumni, Tolino Chishi (Class of 2017) and Imsurenla Longkumer (Class of 2008) have both cracked the Civil Services Examination. Tolino Chishi secured AIR 431 while Imsurenla Longkumer secured AIR

774 in the UPSC CSE 2023. We are very proud of our alumni and we would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to them. We hope that they make a significant contribution to society and inspire millions to follow their dreams and translate them into reality.

Tolino Chishi



Imsurenla Longkumer



FELLOWSHIP BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY

AVS takes pride in announcing that one of our alumni Dr. Humsheer Singh Sethi (class of 2013), has been awarded a prestigious fellowship by the Royal College of Radiology in London. Dr. Sethi, a radiologist at North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Science (NEIGRIHMS), is one among just a few other radiologists internationally to have received this award. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Sethi! AVS is proud of him.



4TH ASSAM STATE EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The 4th Assam State Equestrian Championship which was hosted at The Assam Valley School, from 30 March to 2 April 2024, by the Equestrian Federation of Assam (EFA), provided a valuable learning experience for the students of AVS.

With participation from prestigious institutions like AVS, EFA, Assam Police, and Colonels Club, the event not only celebrated the region's equestrian heritage but also fostered camaraderie among riders from diverse backgrounds. The results of the championship are as follows:

The OP Malhotra Cup for Best Rider in the Open category: Nummier Ahmed (AVS Alumnus and ex-Riding Captain of AVS Riding school, representing EFA)

The Sandune Cup for Best Rider in Junior category: Anikaith Joshi representing AVS.

The Midnight Cup for Best Rider in Children's Category: Shannia Riddhi representing AVS.

Total no. of medals won by Team AVS = 35

12 Gold

12 Silver

11 Bronze

Overall, team AVS managed to bag medals across all categories of the Championship. Hearty Congratulations to the team and the Coach!



WE BID ADIEU

Sir Jalam joined this school in the year of 2016 and since then he has contributed a lot to this school and has taken the equestrian sport to great heights. He is a very selfless person and always wants the best for his students. He's like a father figure to his students who not only teaches about riding but also about life. He is great at giving advice and is loved and respected by all. He will be missed a lot.



BHARATNATYAM AT INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Our very own Anushka Shivkumar Iyer bagged the 3rd prize and won accolades in Bharatnatyam dance (Junior category 6 to 12 years) at Bharat Sanskriti Yatra, an International Cultural Festival organized by Hindusthan Arts & Music Society supported by Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center, Indian High Commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event took place on 27 March 2024. Hearty Congratulations to Anushka on her outstanding achievement. We are proud of her.



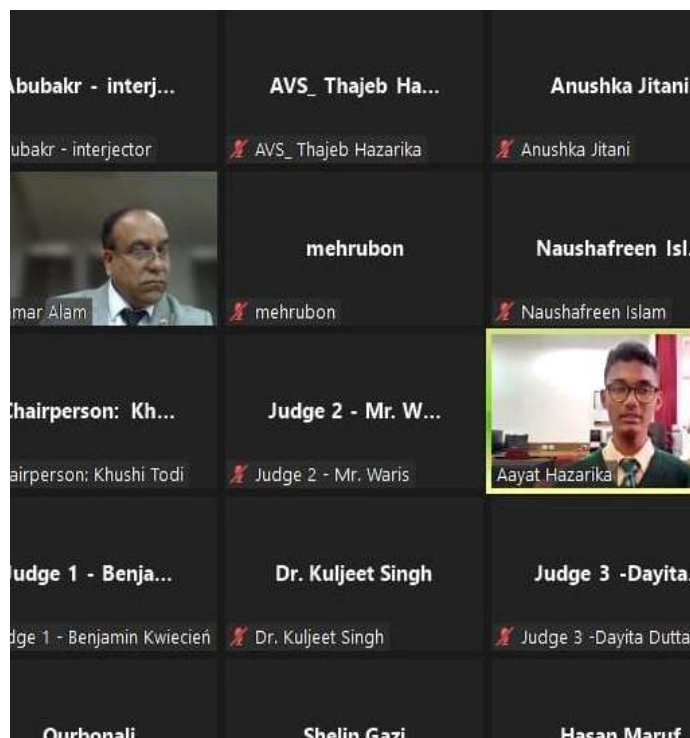
INTER-DISTRICT CRICKET TOURNAMENT

We are glad to share that one of our players, Sujoy Das has been selected to represent Kaliabor District in the upcoming Assam Cricket Association's Pulin Das Trophy U-14 Inter-District Cricket Tournament from the 29th March 2024. Heartiest congratulations!



ONLINE INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH DEBATE COMPETITION

An online International Inter-School Debate Competition was organized by the English department of the Assam Valley school on 26th March 2024. The Debate Competition on the topic "This House believes that the West interferes rather than aids" witnessed the participation of students from three international schools. The event was judged by a distinguished panellist of educators. The winner was decided by the jury with a unanimous decision. Norzin Lhamu from the Assam Valley School, was adjudged as the best speaker with 136 points whereas Pranshi Sachdeva from Springdale International School, Bangladesh, was adjudged as the most promising speaker.



GLIMPSES FROM INDUCTION DAY

Photographed by Mr. Bhupendra Matharu



25TH ANNUAL INTER-HOUSE MARATHON

The Assam Valley School's 25th Annual Inter-House Marathon took place on the 27th of March. The four houses of AVS - Bhoroli-Lohit, Jinari-Manas, Kopili-Dhansiri and Subansiri-Nambang put their blood, sweat and tears into the event as they practiced for weeks on end.

The results are as follows:

First position - Kopili-Dhansiri and Jinari-Manas

Second position - Bhoroli-Lohit

Third position -Subansiri-Namdang



THE OUTPOST

In the midst of anti-Israel protests across American Universities, Indian students are feared to be caught in the crossfire trying to 'balance the act'. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal runs his cabinet from his cell at Tihar between raising his sugar levels by eating bananas while lieutenant Raghav Chadha remains missing in action. The world watches in anticipation as Saudi Arabia draws closer to host a hushed meeting of the middle-eastern countries in what is being called as the 'Deal of the century' which could see the major players recognise and ally with Israel to bring peace in the region.



Illustrated by Mashunising Keishing, X

Ripple #223

-Aliden Jahzara Ovung, XI

*"Fairies do exist," the young
mother told her toddler*

*"Do you want to be a fairy and
fly?" she asked.*

*The toddler nodded, excited.
As the mother tied her wings
around her neck.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "I'd prefer to take one book from the question." - Mr. Bijan Panigrahi (*Is this what the Science Coaching students have done to you, Sir?*)
2. "Don't talk me." - Reetisha Daimari, XII (*Yes, we'll remember not to speak you as well.*)
3. "The character is moving but the game is froze." - Nuklasen Aier, XII (*In what world are you living in?*)
4. "She will inflate when the gravity left the earth." - Krithartha Kaushik, XII (*Willy Wonka type of physics.*)
5. "Weany reathers." - Rajkumari Anya Devi, X (*What amazing forecasts!*)

Keep It Ree!!

Into the fantastical

-Mr. Rajender Chauhan



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