

SAFFRON FADED ON

- Shuhail Ali Ahmed, Namdang House Prefect, XII

The dense, bright Saffron colour on the Indian map has faded. The slogan “400par” is now being used in memes. The BJP has become a wounded party that needs the support of two sticks to run the government. One being Nitish Babu’s JDU, and the other being Chandra Babu’s TDP. And even if one of them breaks, the NDA government might fall.

The Congress-led I.N.D.I.A., an alliance, on the other hand, is celebrating its loss because, even though they lost the elections, they have won the ideological battle. The election of 2024 will be written in gold in the history of Indian politics. This election has proved that no leader, no party, and no ideology is bigger than the democracy of India. The heartland state of Indian elections and the fortification of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh have left everyone in shock.

The defeat of the BJP in Ayodhya shows that religious and communal politics cannot be used all the time to win people’s hearts. Yes, they will support you, yes, they will recognise you, and yes, they will appreciate you for giving them something they deserved for the last 400-500 years.

Still, they will not vote for you unless and until you adopt people’s politics instead of politics of religion, violence, and bulldozers. Some parties have money and power, some have manpower, some have media attention, and some have all of them. But still, no party is guaranteed a victory, because when this nation, this country, and these people vote, they vote for democracy; they vote for the roots and history of this country, which can be seen in this year’s result. Smriti Irani was given all the media attention and limelight that

a candidate can be given, but still, she was defeated by INC’s Kishori Lal. Kishori has been working on the grounds of Amethi for the last 40 years. The ground relations and connections he has built over these years have led to his victory. The results have proven all the exit polls wrong. It is observed that I.N.D.I.A. has gotten the majority of its vote from rural areas and the other backward-classes. No party is clean when it comes to campaigns. If the BJP has used religion as an agenda, it is also true that the Congress has used caste as an agenda. But now that we have a strong opposition and both parties in the NDA alliance are turncoats, it will be exciting to see whether or not their demands are fulfilled or if I.N.D.I.A. offers them more than they can wish and thereby comes to power as the new government.

BOOK REVIEW:

MEMOIRS OF A Geisha

-Zaheen Rafia Shah, XI

Hopes are like hair ornaments. Girls want to wear too many of them. When they become old women they look silly wearing even one."

When I picked up "Memoirs of A Geisha" from my mother's book rack, I wasn't sure of what I was expecting. It seemed like any other book sold to japanophiles. However, "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden turned out to be one of the most fulfilling and culturally rich books I've had the pleasure of reading. The story, written in first person, follows Chiyo Sakamoto in a detailed journey of her going from a young girl to becoming one of the most famous geisha from Gion in the 21st century. The book follows Chiyo as she discovers a whole new world

in Gion. Chiyo went through innumerable experiences of heartache and struggle working



in an okiya as a slave for the first few years of her life. She was treated horribly in the Okiya and abused by the Okiya's only money

making factor- Hatsumomo. Luck finally shone down on Sayuri when Mameha-san, one of the best geishas in Tokyo, began training her. This acted as Sayuri's ticket out of a miserable life of a mere slave to climbing the social and economic ladder. The narrative of the book soon shifts and the maturity that Sayuri is grown into is felt. The unsaid traumatic experiences that many geishas feel is often a shock to whoever reads this story. The naive little girl still lived in the body of a young woman to be known all over Tokyo. Chiyo Sakamoto had to change her identity multiple times and was often lost in the many faces she wore. At the end all that remained was her gratefulness of the man who had changed her life, meeting Mr. Tanaka.

Illustrated by Eriq Angie Riba, XII

AGAINST ALL ODDS: VIRAT KOHLI

- Abhinav Agarwal, XII, House Captain, Dhansiri

With questions raised about his T20 World Cup Spot months before the start of IPL 2024, Virat Kohli stood unfazed and ready to show the world what he could do in the big arena. His journey this season has been nothing short of inspirational, answering critics and proving his mettle through his performance. Critics had pointed out his relatively slow and selfish approach in the previous seasons, raising doubts about his effectiveness during the T20.

But as usual, Kohli chose action and answered the critics on the pitch. Previously known for his classical style and steady accumulation of runs, Kohli reinvented himself as a more dynamic opener. This strategic shift paid off amazingly, when he recorded his highest strike rate in 17 IPL seasons. Despite losing seven of the first eight games, his

team he made a remarkable comeback by winning six continuous games in a row. By the end of the season, Kohli had scored 741 runs, claiming the Orange Cap as the tournament's highest run-scorer.

In a historic achievement, he became the first player in IPL history to cross the 8,000-run mark, proving his consistency and longevity in the league. His performance was closely watched by the national selectors, who were finalising India's squad for the T20 World Cup. Kohli's resurgence with the bat and his new aggressive approach made a compelling case for his inclusion. By the end of the IPL, Kohli had not only secured his place in the T20 World Cup squad but also reignited hopes of a dominant performance by India in the upcoming tournament.



His ability to score quickly and anchor the innings will be crucial for India's campaign. Throughout his career, Kohli faced numerous criticisms and doubts about his playing style, especially in T20 cricket. This IPL season, he answered all those questions emphatically. Kohli's journey in IPL 2024 is a reminder of his unparalleled commitment to the game and his relentless pursuit of excellence.

Virat Kohli went against all odds to break records, lead his team, and secure a place in the T20 World Cup squad, proving once again why he is a legend of the game. As the world gears up for the T20 World Cup, all eyes will be on Kohli, the man who has shown that with determination and hard work, anything is possible.

INDIA VS. CHINA

-Anikaith Anat Joshi, Cultural Captain, XII

Post India's partition, lines carved up the Indian subcontinent into countries, drawn by foreign men for a land foreign to them. These lines still cause problems regarding the division of India, most notably in the Aksai Chin region (claimed by China to be a part of the Xinjiang prefecture and by India to be a part of the Leh region) and the upper Arunachal Pradesh region (Walong and Tawang). Many divisions were made over historical claims, one such being the McMahon Line, drawn up in 1914. The Indians followed the written definition of the line, which stated that the division was to be based on the highest mountains of the region, while the Chinese followed the line demarcated on the map, in which the highest ridges actually fell north of the lines. This, along with issues with the Johnson Line, led to areas on both maps overlapping.

Why Do Territorial Disputes Between India and China Happen?

The territorial disputes between India and China stem from differing interpretations of historical borders and strategic interests. Aksai Chin, a high-altitude desert region, is strategically important for China as it connects Tibet and Xinjiang. India's claim to Aksai Chin is based on the Johnson Line proposed in the 1860s, which China disputes. Arunachal Pradesh, on the other hand, is claimed by China as "South Tibet" due to cultural and historical ties to Tibet. The McMahon Line, established in 1914 during the Shimla Accord between British India and Tibet, serves as the basis for India's claim, which China does not recognize. These disputes have led to several military skirmishes, including the 1962 Sino-Indian War, and continue to be a point of contention despite ongoing diplomatic negotiations. The latest flareup happened in Galwan in 2020, where Chinese and

Indian troops fought with loss of lives on both sides.

So, in a Theoretical War Between India and China, Who Would Win?

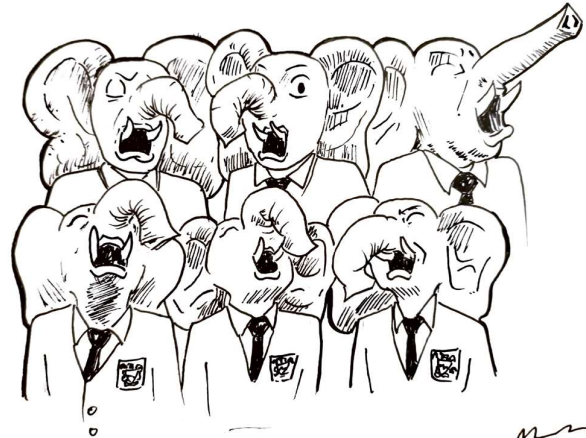
Most research on this topic looks at the data and the harsh environment of the Himalayas. China has a much larger standing army, although much of it is situated in areas to the eastern Chinese mainland. India has more experience traversing the terrain and is better trained for sustained warfare in the harsh conditions of the area. The Chinese have better artillery firepower and offensive jumpstart positions on the plateau, while the Indian troops have beefed up their firepower in the region to match the Chinese only in recent years. The Indians have a much larger and superior air force presence in the area compared to China. While China could very easily bring in their more advanced fighters jets from the South China Sea region, the logistical effort and the high altitude of the Tibetan plateau decreases the potency of the platforms. The Indian and Chinese troops regularly engage in hand to hand combat with sticks and swords, which both sides believe will avoid a major escalation. The Galwan incident was a major blowout of one such action.

With forces seemingly balanced, with a slight edge for the Chinese. India is in position to give a competent blow to any Chinese aggression and will get support from the global community in a major conflict with China in the region. Hence China will never escalate beyond the pin pricks it practices as part of a sustained all the year-round effort to provoke the Indian troops. India and China remain on the edge of high alert always, with little hope of any one side giving latitude to the other.

Campus Caricature

RIGHT ON BEAT...

Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X



MK
12/6/21

CAMPUS NEWS

INTERHOUSE ONE ACT PLAY

SUBANSIRI-NAMDANG

Reported by Aanya Paul Sarkar, XI

'The SatyaSevaSarkari School Elections' presented by Subansiri-Namdang was a true political satire which took place in a make-believe school featuring two groups—the first consisting of Ronald Dump, Ritik Milak and Salman (played by Joshua Liezetsu, Adhvik Mittal and Shuhail Ali Ahmed respectively, the latter taking home the Most Promising Actor of the evening) while the second group comprised of Dmitri Spootin, Immi Bhai, Ching and Kim Jongkook (played by Nivran Thapa, Aniketh Joshi, Lendimen Jamir and Soba Tadar respectively). With both groups vying for the School Captain position, the play did a brilliant job at keeping the audience on their toes with humour as sharp as it can get, and stage presence that would put Broadway to shame. Everything that makes a good political satire could be found in this year's Subansiri-Namdang play. An underestimated candidate, Darendra Namu played by Yashvi Modi wins, claiming that he won by fair means when in fact he had actually bribed his way into power. That was a twist that nobody was expecting. Atoti Zhimomi's narration filled with exaggeration and sarcasm as the announcer was the cherry on top.

The much-awaited Inter-House One Act Play took place on the 15th of June. The evening was hosted by the graceful Harshita Das. The trophy for the evening went to Jinari-Manas while Kopili-Dhansiri were the runners-up.

JINARI-MANAS

Reported by Natasha Billimoria, XI

The Jinari-Manas play follows the story of Amrit Raj Patel (played by Adhayan Saikia who bagged Best Actor of the evening), leader of the Gulab National Party and a paan-chewing icon, Mrs Patel, a loving but overly ambitious mother and Vandana (played by Tasmin Ahmed), their soon-to-be daughter-in-law. Vandhana finds herself in a difficult space when she is first, forcefully wed to Patel Junior, urged to join the family's political party to win the upcoming elections. She finds that Sameer, her childhood friend, who had set such a wonderful example for her all these years, had wavered from his principles and had joined politics, eventually giving into bribery and corruption. Her navigation of these circumstances bring her to the same position as her father-in-law, up on a pedestal addressing only the naive. The play ends with her bitterly admitting her defeat to dishonesty and corruption. In essence, the play displays how politics works in the real world. It very cleverly encompassed the exact way power and money destroyed human sentiment while also managing to be humorous and engaging.

BHOROLI-LOHIT

Reported by Aliden Jahzara Oving, XI

The Bhoroli-Lohit One Act Play revolved around the plotline of the first-ever female presidential candidate in a make-believe country called Kolinig. What happens when the first-ever female candidate for the presidency pops up in a country which male candidates have led in all its history? Well, that is exactly what the play portrays. From the distribution of hygiene kits to the satire of a completely hopeless and lost male president, the play was nothing short of comedy—even consisting of a made-up national anthem with satirical lyricism. Although, Bhoroli-Lohit ended up fourth in place, we applaud their efforts for successfully making a satirical play in a fictional country complete with a national anthem within the limited time period given.

RESULTS:

Best House - Jinari-Manas

Best Actor - Adhayan Saikia

Most Promising Actor - Arushi Jakhmola and Shuhail Ali Ahmed



KOPILI-DHANSIRI

Reported by Jentina Yaomei Shangku, XI

Kopili-Dhansiri's theatrical piece, written by Saanchi Agarwal and Anushka Singh, takes a humorous and critical look at contemporary politics. The play blends sharp dialogue, exaggerated characters, and absurd scenarios to illuminate the follies of modern governance. Satirizing India's relations with China and Russia, the play featured central characters played by Mashunsing, Kanyaka, Praveka, Ruhi, and Vivek. The actors delivered commendable performances, with each character being brought to life through vivid portrayals and seamless interactions. A clever touch to the play was the use of multimedia elements. The integration of audio-visual media significantly enhanced the overall experience and introduced a modern touch to the traditional stage performance, making it both engaging and memorable.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Amidst hope for a clean and green future, AVS celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June, 2024. Invited guest Dr. Debandra Chandra Baruah, an esteemed Professor of non-conventional energy from Tezpur University, delivered an inspirational speech on protection of the environment and drought resilience. Post that, Dr. Baruah planted saplings on the campus, duly assisted by teachers and students.



IN CONVERSATION:

Kosato Nakhro (Batch of 2018, Namdang) and NID Bangalore alumnus is back in school to take a workshop on design. AVE caught a moment to speak to him in the churning creativity.

AVE: What inspired you to become a designer? How much of it do you think was a result of your time here at AVS?

KSN: I've always been into arts and crafts but it was simply a hobby, I never considered it to be a potential career path initially. A lot of credit definitely goes to Ma'am Priyanka Joshi who introduced me to Design as a viable career option. My time here at AVS and the CDT Department built my interest in this field.

AVE: What led you to NID and how did your application process go?

KSN: NID is incredibly helpful in many different ways and builds up your portfolio a lot more than you think. I had to submit my preferences when I applied and I picked interaction and product design as my first and second choice, respectively. Later on I realized that I preferred my second preference over my first but if I did my first exam well, I wouldn't have the option to pick the second. Luckily I got through both and I have no regrets because despite having interaction design as my first choice, I can continue to explore.

AVE: What message would you like to convey to the students of AVE? Especially to those who wish to walk the same path as you?

KSN: Work hard but don't overthink. You should be relaxed but not too laid back so that you underestimate



your competition. At AVS you get so much exposure that it becomes critical to put your trust in your education. Have faith in the experiences you get in school and always know that there are more options than just NID or NIFT. Colleges like these definitely increase your chances at better employment later on but it doesn't determine your future. Also, I don't know whether this perception has changed since my time but back then it was perceived that knowing how to draw was essential to pursue design but it's not! You learn how to draw when you take up design. What you need the most is a creative mind.

Below are two pieces created by Kosato.



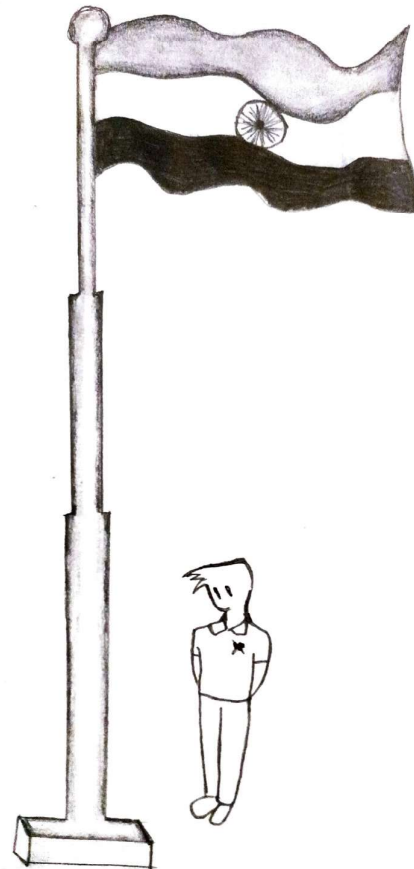
LITERARY EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Headmaster, Dr. Amit Jugran bagged the Literary Excellence Award at Blue Rose Books Awards 2024 which shows his sheer talent and impressive writing skills. We congratulate him whole-heartedly!



THE OUTPOST

Elon Musk's comment on EVM has roused the Opposition rubble to rumble on about the machines. They would rather go back to ballot papers which is easier to capture. Having dismissed his war-cabinet PM Netanyahu does the unthinkable and publicly criticized the Israeli army for allowing aid to make it to RAFA. The district of Jammu got hit by four different terrorist attacks within a span of 100 hours soon after PM Modi was sworn in for his third term in office. The Reasi terror attack in Jammu has the army out on zero-tolerance on terrorism with blessings from all.



Illustrated by Erik Angie Riba, XI

Ripple #230

-Rianna Irom, X

The wedding bells chime
As the bride glides down the
aisle.

It is pitiful to watch,
For the seats are empty,
And the flowers have long
withered
And all that is left of the groom
Are his bones in a suit.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "My school is in the copy." - Bhumika Ranjan, X (*What else is in there?*)
2. "Why not did I not?" - Rokovor Nakhro, XI (*Aristotle should be taking notes.*)
3. "Don't sore your throat." - Jentina Shangkhru, XI (*We promise we won't.*)
4. "Couldn't you see the accent?" - Priyana Sharma, X (*No but surely you could hear the shapes.*)
5. "My stomach is heart-beating" - Chenmai Chang, XI (*Lohit with their anatomical prowess strikes again.*)

Keep It Reel!

On the horizon

-Ma'am SPS



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