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*The winter breeze sweeps soft as a prayer, where steps once echoed, none was seen, yet the warmth of familiarity reappears and recedes as a year ends, and a year begins. Thread unspooled, the cycle spins. The bell rings again, and hands trace the grind, over ink, over thought, and we sync with time. Though nothing changes, everything persists. The seasons shift but we remain, marks on paper, faintly signed. Welcome back to the days that blur and bind.*

-Erik Angie Riba, Editor-in-Chief, XI

# IN PURSUIT OF PEACE

-Devaraj Chongtham, XI

The ongoing crisis in Manipur began with the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status—a seemingly straightforward political appeal that spiraled into a conflict of unprecedented proportions. This clash has sown a deep and bitter divide between the Meitei and Kuki communities, a rift that may take generations to heal. While ethnic tensions in the Northeast are not new, the scale and intensity of this particular conflict have drawn national attention, underscoring the chronic neglect and opportunism of both state and national leadership. The role of political actors in exacerbating the situation cannot be overlooked. Politicians from the mainland, historically preoccupied with electoral gains, have demonstrated a lack of genuine concern for the region's challenges. This pattern continued during the

current crisis. Campaigns were launched and promises made, but any efforts to address the situation in the legislative assembly was sporadic and superficial, driven more by the desire to secure power than by the will to resolve a humanitarian crisis. Dissapointingly, Manipuri's political leadership has mirrored this ineffectiveness. The state assembly's recent session was the shortest on record, offering no substantive solutions and epitomizing the paralysis of governance. As a Meitei, I understand the motivations behind the demand for ST status. Critics argue that it is unwarranted, given the Meiteis' majority status in Manipur. However, this perspective overlooks the unique challenges faced by Meiteis on a national scale. Competing in a national examinations and opportunities against the vast population of

mainland India—where resources and infrastructure are significantly more advanced—places Meiteis at a structural disadvantage. That said, the narrative of the conflict has been distorted. At the divide between Kukis and Meiteis has reached an irreparable extreme. However, the sentiment on the ground reveals a different reality. Most Manipuris, regardless of ethnicity, are weary of the violence and simply yearn for peace. It is clear that neither side stands to gain from this war. Looking ahead, the hope is that this tragedy is seen not as the genesis of enduring animosity but as a painful chapter in Manipur's history. Only by acknowledging shared humanity and prioritizing peace can Manipur hope to heal and thrive once more.



# THE *Visionary* PHILANTHROPIST

-Atoti Zhimomi, Editor-in-Chief,  
XII (ISC Batch of 2025)

## WHY WILL HE BE MISSED?

Although Ratan Tata has a mountain of accolades behind him—degrees from world-renowned universities, his accumulated wealth and his stellar leadership at Tata and Sons, perhaps his biggest achievement will always be the deep love and respect and the place he has earned in the hearts of billions across his country.

# EVERYTHING ON: SIR RATAN TATA

## WHO WAS RATAN TATA?

An alumnus of Cornell University as well as Harvard Business School, Ratan Tata was the son of Naval Tata, the adopted grandson of Jamsetji Tata. He became the Chairman of Tata and Sons in the year 1991. His legacy is one that is marked with simplicity, humility, integrity and kindness. When asked about his value system and principles, Ratan is quoted to have said, “Something that is important to me is going to bed at night or waking up in the morning feeling that we have not sacrificed our principles and that we have not subordinated our values to

some short-term materialistic aims.” Ratan Tata started his career humbly in 1962 by working at Telco (now Tata Motors) and later at Tata Steel, where he worked in limestone quarries and as a member of the blast furnace crew. By 1981, Ratan Tata became the Chairman of Tata Industries and the successor to JRD Tata. From 1991 until his retirement in 2012, he served as Chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group. Under his leadership, the group’s revenues soared, surpassing \$100 billion in the fiscal year 2011-12. The man is known to have despised ostentatious displays of wealth. In order to save himself from the embarrassment of

his grandmother’s Delage, he would walk home from school. In the year 2008 he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest Civilian award in the nation for his dedication to philanthropy and his efforts to the millions of lives he was connected with.

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## BUT WHO ARE THE TATAS?

Founded by the enterprising Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (1839-1904), the Tatas are a Parsi industrialist family from Gujarat. Jamsetji joined his father's export trading firm and helped expand it internationally. He mainly concentrated on cotton manufacturing and his various business undertakings were marked for efficiency, improved labour-protection policies and introducing finer grades of fibre. But perhaps the biggest venture is the Tata Iron and Steel Company (1907) which soon became the largest privately owned steelmaker in India. Over the years, the Tata Group (and of course, the Tata family) has established themselves as the largest conglomerate in the nation. Rightfully often referred to as the "Men Who Built India," the Tatas' one significant feature that makes them stand head and shoulders above any other industrialist family in the nation and perhaps the world is their philanthropic efforts through Tata Trusts. The Trusts have contributed to healthcare, education, rural development, water, sanitation, hygiene and skill development, and perhaps most importantly how the Tata companies are committed to worker rights and have a number of policies in place to ensure that their employees are treated with dignity and respect.

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## HOW DID TATA GROUP GROW UNDER RATAN TATA?

During his tenure as Chairman from 1991 to 2012, Ratan Tata transformed the Tata Group into a company with an annual turnover of \$4 billion to \$100 billion, always keeping sustainability and environmental consciousness at the forefront of their policies. Tata Group's acquisitions under Ratan Tata are incredibly significant, taking under their wing prominent international brands such as Jaguar Land Rover, Tetley, Corus Group which was renamed Tata Steel Europe and British Salt. Under Ratan Tata, the company focused on strengthening its software and steel businesses and ventured into new areas like telecommunications, passenger cars, insurance, and finance, pushing the Group into the new millennium with fresh ideas and innovations.

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*"THE VALUE OF AN IDEA LIES IN THE USING OF IT."*

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## WHAT WERE HIS "PET PROJECTS"?

Over the course of his life, Ratan Tata was involved in numerous charitable and promising projects. His last was a Small Animal Hospital in Mumbai (SAHM). The rupees 165-crore, first-of-its-kind-in-the-country, state-of-the-art pet hospital, with 24x7 emergency care, quickly garnered praise from all corners. The animal hospital, which cost over rupees 165 crore to construct, is led by British veterinarian Thomas Heathcote. On the board of directors is Shantanu Naidu, a general manager in the office of Ratan Tata, who founded the startup, Motopaws, which makes reflective collars for dogs so that they are visible to vehicles at night. Shantanu comes from a family of 5 generations of Tata employees and is known to have been closely associated with the Chairman himself, befriending the industrialist during the last few years of his life.

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Illustrated by Eriik Angie Riba, Editor-in-Chief, XI



# ANOTHER VIEW

REMEMBERING 7/10/23

-Mrs. Mita Nangia, Department of English

The root of the Palestine-Israel conflict rests in the Balfour Declaration which was 'a public statement/pledge issued by the British Government in 1917 during the First World War announcing its support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, then an Ottoman region with a small minority Jewish population.' The pledge is generally viewed as one of the main catalysts of the Nakba, meaning catastrophe - the ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948 - and the conflict that ensued with the Zionist state of Israel. Today's Israel was established in 1948, after displacing up to 750,000 Palestinians, from their ancestral homes. Neither they nor their descendants have been allowed by Israel to return. After the 1967 war in which Israel defeated the Arab states, it occupied more Palestinian land including Jerusalem (which is holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims alike), almost doubled its territory and built illegal Jewish settlements on that land. Today, Palestinians are not an independent nation and do not have an independent armed force, so even if they are bombed, displaced, massacred- how do they defend themselves? One can concede that Hamas

and Hezbollah are terrorist organizations and have purposely targeted not only the Israeli military but also innocent citizens spurred by religious extremism which can never yield the desired goal of Palestinian freedom. To begin, let's look at some numbers- in the numerous episodes of violence between the Palestinians and Israelis since 1948, around 10,000 Israelis have been killed and nearly 186,000 Palestinians. In contrast to a negligible number of Israelis living abroad due to the conflict, 6 million Palestinians live outside their homeland than in the prison-like enclaves in the West Bank (3 million) and Gaza Strip (2 million). Today, 42,000 Palestinians have been slaughtered in one of the worst genocides of our times, half of which are children and women. No one should pay such a price for the terrorist attack of 7th October 2023. Humanity should hang its head in shame for regressing to such barbarism when we should be learning from our mistakes and building a world of peace and harmony where compassion and empathy reign supreme. It is time to acknowledge and live by our shared humanity transcending, religious and national borders. It is time to stop this genocide and do what is right.

## CAMPUS NEWS



## CONGRATULATIONS TO TASMIN

Tasmin Yushra Ahmed, ISC Batch of 2025, launched her book 'Margeurite' on the 9th January 2025, a poignant collection of poems inspired by nature. Each poem weaves a unique narrative, exploring themes of self discovery and transformation. Congratulations to Tasmin!



## WEAVERBIRDS

A significant achievement by one of our esteemed faculty member, Mrs. Priyankoo Kashyap Das. Her book 'Weaverbirds - Tapestry of Life' was launched on 25th December, 2024, at the prestigious Tezpur Literary Fest, Neriwalm, Tezpur. This milestone is a reflection of her talent, dedication, and passion for literature. Congratulations to Mrs. Das!

# IN CONVERSATION

*Her Highness Queen Diambi of Congo visited AVS as part of her tour to East India to promote conservation. AVE met up with the queen in between the royal visit.*

**AVE-** As a leader, how do you ensure that your voice resonates with both your people in Congo and the global community?

**Queen Diambi-** After independence, instead of going back to the kingdoms, we organized politically in countries the Europeans made for us. So the republic of Congo is a drawn up country in the Berlin conference in Germany in 1885, where the European leaders decided to sit down and carve up the map of Africa. So as a traditional queen I do not have the state apparatus to do communication, I just speak in my mind to whoever is in front of me really. I'm not worried if my voice is heard or not, I'm only worried if my voice is true. Then the rest takes care of itself.



**AVE-** How does Congolese tradition define the role of women in leadership and in society?

**Queen Diambi-** Most call me Queen Diambi because it's simple and not confusing, but I am not a queen. A Queen is the spouse of a King, so they have a specific term in Africa that translates to "Woman King" in Africa. My title is Woman King because I sit on the throne and it's not a unique situation in Africa, which has seen innumerable women rulers. I see in our tradition there was never a conflict between men and women, we have defined different roles. In our tradition, the power attribute is a feminine attribute, the masculine attribute is authority. It's really a conjoined role as we are equals. When you have authority that pretends to be power, then your leadership style becomes that of coercion. So everyone has a unique role. to play

**AVE-** In your experience, how can students like us help promote cultural understanding and unity?

**Queen Diambi-** Demand the truth. Know that there's always more. Remember that you are living a paradigm and that's the western paradigm. So how do we bring the balance? You have to demand it. You have to demand that your curriculum includes a lot of elements about who you are, your culture and heritage. I mean, look at me? I'm wearing clothes with giraffes printed in them. Truth to me is a human right, and now it's your turn to demand for truth. My continent has the longest history in the world yet I'd see two pages on Africa in a world history book. The story is always told by the victor, but the victor is not always a wise person. We have to make a choice, that's to look into the odyssey of your country. Put yourself out there because everyone is looking at each other through a prism.





# IN CONVERSATION

Major Rounaque Sparsh Chaudhury, a Sena Medal awardee, alumni of AVS, Batch of 2013, Dhansiri House, revisits his alma mater as our chief guest for the Graduation Ceremony for the Batch of 2025. He has successfully completed his training at Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun. He was awarded the prestigious SENA MEDAL (Gallantry) in March 2022. AVE caught up with Major Chaudhury for a quick conversation during his visit.



**AVE- How do you handle the responsibility of making difficult decisions, especially those which impact the lives of others?**

**M.RSC-** I have three simple pillars which essentially guide me to make such difficult decisions. First and foremost is that the mission always comes first. Secondly, are the lives of my men and the lives of the people who are depending on me. And it's my own personal health. When I put these three things into perspective, any decisions taking becomes easy for me. If any difficult situation is thrown at me, I know how to get through it because I know what my motive or purpose is. So before taking action on my decision, I check for the pros and cons of it and then checking it's viability I go ahead with it.

**AVE- You are a Sena Medal awardee. Tell us a memory from your time at Siachen that has left a significant imprint on you.**

**M.RSC-** When we were posted at the glacier, it was not all hate on both sides of the borders, contrary to the movies. At that location we were at 18000 ft where temperatures reach upto  $-49^{\circ}\text{C}$ . So it was a fight against nature and you can never overcome that. So we weren't enemies there, we were against the same thing, only at that moment which made us more humane. We even used to have casual conversations with the Pakistanis once a while. The second memory would be the rescue mission that I carried out which tired me to the core of my body.



**AVE- As a student was there anything in AVS that motivated you to enlist in the military?**

**M.RSC-** What motivated me most in school was the house spirit that we had, inculcated into us by our seniors. I recall being punished for losing a football match once along with my batchmates. At that point of time it was very confusing me as to why we were made to duck walk over such a silly reason but those punishments helped us develop bonds with each other which only grew stronger with time. I also remember a Chief Guest on one of the sports events held in our school, Brigadier Ratan Singh. He said that the Army was a way of life and the way he walked and his body language was very inspiring, and at that age, that was enough to set my aspirations to join the armed forces





# GRADUATION CEREMONY

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, Deputy Editor, XI

On the 13th of December 2024, The Williamson Magor Hall of The Assam Valley School was abuzz with pride and nostalgia as the Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2025 unfolded in all its glory. Graced by the presence of Sena Medalist Major Ronaque Choudhary as the Chief Guest, the event was a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication of the graduating students. The ceremony began with inspiring speeches by the Head Girl Aakanksha Kumar, the Cultural Captain Abhinashni Baruah, and Event Management Prefect Bariskhem Pothi, each recounting cherished memories and imparting words of wisdom for the journey ahead. Their heartfelt addresses resonated deeply with the audience, evoking smiles and tears in equal measure. The highlight of the event was the distribution of mementos to each graduate, symbolizing the culmination of their school journey. The hall echoed with applause as students walked up to receive their tokens of recognition, the famed silver elephant, a moment that will remain etched in their hearts forever. The celebration concluded on a jubilant note with the school choir's rousing rendition of "Best Day of My Life", leaving everyone in attendance uplifted and inspired. The ceremony not only marked an end but also a new beginning, as the Class of 2025 steps into a world of endless possibilities.



## ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEET

On the 9th of December, 2024, The Assam Valley School once again witnessed the grandeur of the 28th Athletic Meet, a tradition deeply etched in the school's history. The event, graced by alumnus IAS Mamu Hage, ISC Batch 2006, Bhoroli House Prefect, brought together students and staff to celebrate athleticism, camaraderie, and the indomitable house spirit that defines the institution. The day commenced with the much-anticipated March Past, a showcase of precision, discipline, and unity. The four houses— Bhoroli-Lohit, Jinari-Manas, Kopili-Dhansiri, and Subansiri-Namdang - marched in perfect synchronization, their vibrant house flags soaring high. With each step, the participants embodied the essence of teamwork and pride, setting the tone for the day. Adding a heartfelt touch to the event was the address by Chief Guest IAS Officer Mamu Hage. Sharing vivid memories from her nine years at AVS, she expressed profound gratitude to the institution that shaped her journey. The 2024 Athletic Meet will be remembered as a day of triumph and unity. Winners were felicitated for their outstanding performances, and The March Past trophy as well as the Athletics cup was awarded to Bhoroli-Lohit.

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, Deputy Editor, XI



# NORTH EAST SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

North-East Squash Championships 2024,  
9 November-10 November 2024

Held in Nehru Stadium Guwahati

Under 14 Boys category

- 1) Archan Bailing secured 2nd position.
- 2) Darsheel kalita secured 3rd position.

Under 17 Girl's category

- 1) Adrika Dey secured 1st position.
- 2) Niharika Goswami secured 2nd position

Under 19 Boy's :

- 1) Neev Kejriwal secured 2nd position.

Adrika Dey and Niharika Goswami represented the Assam team and secured 1st position in the 3rd edition of the North-East Squash Championship.



## FOOTBALL BOYS

The All India IPSC Football U-19 Boys Tournament was held at Emerald Heights International School, Indore from 24th September to 29th September 2024. The tournament was conducted in a league cum-knock out basis and the team gave their best. Overall, they performed well and their dedication towards the sport will ensure that they bring laurels to the school.

## FOOTBALL GIRLS

IntherecentconcludedIPSCU-17girlsfootballtournament held at the Sanskar Valley School, AVS defeated the Mayo Girls School to stand fourth in the tournament. Many congratulations to the team and their coach!

## BASKETBALL BOYS

The All India IPSC Basketball Boys U-19 Tournament was held in The Mann School from 24th September to 30th September 2024. AVS achieved impressive victories, outscoring Vallabh Ashram by a margin of 45-17 and The Rashtriya Military School, Ajmer by 56-42. As a result, AVS emerged as pool toppers, securing qualification till the quarter-finals.

## BASKETBALL GIRLS

The Assam Valley School participated in the girls Basketball U-19 IPSC tournament held at Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar, from October 2nd to October 4th. This tournament marked the first exposure of the AVS girls to IPSC basketball competition. Shruti Dutta and Atoliu Jakhalu showed outstanding performance. Congratulations to the team!



## VOLLEYBALL GIRLS

The IPSC Volleyball girls' tournament 2024 held at Miles Bronson Residential school, Guwahati from 17th to 19th October 2024, AVS teams participated for the same in two different categories and stood tall with winning 3rd position in the under 14 girls' category and 4th position in the under 17 category. Congratulations to the team and their coach!



## VISUAL ARTS

The Assam Valley School bagged five awards at the IPSC Visual Arts Fest held at Rajkumar College in Raipur from 16th to 18th October. Few of our charismatic winners are:

- Still Life(Innovative Insight)- Dhaani Poddar
- Flower Making(Special Mention)- Kavya Goel and Akriti Chaliha
- Sculpture(Creative Genius)- Milo B. Taggu and Ikalu Ahozhe
- Relief Sculpture(Innovative Excellence)- Sneha Nngangom and Ikalu Ahozhe
- Tie&Dye(Innovative Artistic Vision)- Dharini Karwa



## ROUND SQUARE FORUM

Two teachers from The Assam Valley School, Dr. Hemashree Deka and Ms. Pooja Borah represented the school at the Annual Round Square Forum hosted by Indian School Al Ghubra, Oman from Nov. 8-10, 2024. The forum welcomed schools from the South Asian Gulf region, along with special invitees such as the Head of Marketing and Admissions. This year's sessions focused on the best practices that schools employ to enhance their visibility and to promote Round Square IDEALS as an integral part of school culture.



## UNIVERSITY FAIR

On October 19, 2024, an International University Fair was organized on campus where representatives from various institutions including Plymouth University Adelaide University, UNSW College interacted with students of classes 11 and 12. Around 15 universities participated in this fair providing valuable counselling to students on their career journey after school. The fair was organized vt AVS Careers Department in collaboration with Global Reach, Guwahati. It was an enriching experience for the students.



## AVS IS THE SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

At the recently announced Education World India Rankings 2024-25, The Assam Valley School was adjudged the School of the Year in Co-Ed Boarding School Category. Additionally, it stood at India Number 1 position for academic reputation and India Number 6 position for social impact. The Headmaster, Dr. Amit Jugran received the award at the ceremony. Heartiest congratulations to all of AVS!

## Ripple #240

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, Deputy Editor, XI

Under crimson  
leaves of the  
Elephant Pass,  
a student walks, on  
time soft as glass.  
Memories bloom in  
the cool, red air,  
footsteps tracing

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Your pants will break." - Zerayah C. Syiem, XI (*What does it hold? A dam?*)
2. "Listen this very very carefully." - Mr. Taufique Alam Ansari (*Carefully listening very.*)
3. "How coat is your big?" - Marvel Hulang Anal, XI (*It needs a little adjusting like your grammar.*)
4. "I won't be exporting her back." - Atoti Zhimomi, XII (*Guess that's one way to avoid shipping fees.*)
5. "I'd like to see you try me stop." - Aanya Paul Sarkar XI (*Well I'd like to see you make sense first.*)

## Keep It Reel!

*Pastel Reverie.*



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