



<p>TALES FROM THE EPICS MAHABHARATA</p>  <p>Pg. 2</p>	<p>THE OUTPOST</p>  <p>Pg. 4</p>	<p>Tales from the hills - XII Kurung Kumey</p> <p>Pg. 4</p>
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EUROPEAN UNION

A VISION UNDER STRAIN

-Khichu Kath, Associate Editor, XII

The European Union (EU) was founded with the grand vision of fostering peace, unity, and prosperity among its member states, promoting democracy, human rights, and economic collaboration. However, recent geopolitical tensions, particularly the Russian invasion of Ukraine, have exposed critical weaknesses within the EU, raising questions about its future viability.

A key issue is the EU's failure to present a unified stance in times of crisis. The Ukraine war has highlighted divisions, with some nations supporting military and humanitarian aid while others hesitate, prioritizing economic interests over collective action. This crisis also under scores Europe's military decline and its reliance on the U.S. for security. Additionally, growing disdain for EU regulations among member states threatens cohesion, with national agendas increasingly taking precedence over European unity.

Economic vulnerabilities further weaken the EU. The war in Ukraine triggered inflation and disrupted supply chains, yet the EU has struggled to implement policies that benefit all member states. Heavy trade regulations and dependence on Chinese manufacturing, particularly Germany's reliance on

the Chinese market for its automobile industry, have increased economic instability. If these trends continue, the EU may face further fragmentation, with discussions on its potential disintegration becoming more prominent.

Furthermore, the EU's approach to Ukraine's security raises contradictions. While fearing Russian aggression, Europe has proposed NATO-like protection for Ukraine, despite the risks of expanding its borders with Russia. The region's long-standing anxieties over Moscow's influence contrast with its willingness to escalate military tensions.

Once hailed as a remarkable achievement in regional cooperation and security, the EU now faces mounting internal and external challenges. The lack of effective governance, rising economic instability, and failure to adapt to modern crises threaten its unity. While the EU has undeniably contributed to European stability, its future depends on decisive reforms. To avoid becoming a relic of the past, it must reconnect with its citizens, implement effective policies, and demonstrate determination to handle evolving global challenges. Only through adaptability and strong leadership can the European Union hope to remain relevant in an increasingly uncertain world.

MAHABHARATA

-Tanveer Ahmed, Associate Editor, XII

It was believed that those who reached the peak of Mount Sumeru were taken to heaven. Before leaving, the Pandavas entrusted the kingdom to Arjuna's grandson, Parikshita, son of Abhimanyu. Renouncing everything, the Pandavas and Draupadi embarked on their final journey, accompanied by a loyal dog. As the influence of Kali Yuga spread, people pleaded with them to stay and protect them, but the Pandavas remained resolute. Parikshita assured that as long as he lived, he would not allow Kali Yuga to take hold. However, with his death, Kali Yuga fully arrived.

Traveling southward, the Pandavas encountered Lord Agni, who asked Arjuna to return his bow, as its purpose was fulfilled. They then visited Dwarka and were saddened to see the once-prosperous city in ruins. Continuing north through Rishikesh, they reached Mount Sumeru.

As they ascended the Himalayas, Draupadi was the first to fall. Yudhishtira explained that though she had five husbands, her favoritism toward Arjuna prevented her from fulfilling her duty as an equal wife. Next, the twins Nakula and Sahadeva succumbed. Yudhishtira reasoned that Nakula's pride in his beauty and Sahadeva's arrogance in his knowledge led to their downfall. Arjuna followed, and Yudhishtira attributed his fall to his vanity over his warrior skills. Bheema was the last to fall, as his pride in his strength proved to be his undoing. Only Yudhishtira and the dog remained.

As Yudhishtira neared the peak, Lord Indra appeared in his chariot, inviting him to ascend to heaven. Yudhishtira refused to go without his brothers and Draupadi. Indra assured him that they were already in heaven.

Yudhishtira then requested that the dog accompany him, but Indra declined. Yudhishtira, valuing loyalty, refused to abandon his companion a very long walk, they finally reached the Gates of Heaven. The gatekeeper asked him to enter alone. Again Yudhishtira refused to leave the dog. At that moment, the dog revealed itself as Yama, the God of Death, who, impressed by Yudhishtira's unwavering adherence to Dharma, blessed him and admitted him into heaven.

In heaven, Yudhishtira was surprised to find the Kauravas but not his brothers or Karna. Yama then led him to a place filled with blood, corpses, and scavengers—a vision of hell. Yudhishtira was horrified to see his brothers, Draupadi, and Karna suffering. When he questioned Yama, he was reminded of his own deception when he misled Dronacharya about his son Ashwatthama's death. This act had earned him a temporary stay in hell before entering heaven.

Yama explained that each of the Pandavas had accumulated sins. Karna had insulted Draupadi, Bheema had killed Duryodhana ruthlessly, Arjuna had slain Karna in an unfair manner, and the twins had assisted in these actions. Their time in hell was a consequence of their karma. In contrast, the Kauravas, despite their wrongdoings, had died while fulfilling their Dharma of protecting their kingdom, earning them a place in heaven.

Heartbroken, Yudhishtira pleaded for his family's salvation. Yama reassured him that every soul must atone for their sins before reaching heaven, and the Pandavas, having been righteous throughout their lives, would soon join him. With this, Yudhishtira was granted entry into eternal paradise, reuniting with his loved ones.



Illustrated by Baibhav Dutta, VII

11 CX

-Chandraneel Choudhury, VI

In the hallway of the School of SHAWNS was Room 11CX. Before becoming a school, the building belonged to a very wealthy family. However, the family was quite strange—they lived without lights in their house and never spoke to the delivery man. Because of this, very few people knew them well. Among them was a young man

named Hilton. Unlike his family, Hilton disliked their unusual traditions and often felt like an outsider.

One day, fed up with his life at home, Hilton decided to leave. That night, he drank half a glass of water and walked away, never looking back. As time passed, people forgot about him. Hilton, now living as a poor man, eventually married a beautiful woman named Olivia. She often urged him to return home, but he always refused.

Then, one day, a letter arrived. It stated that Hilton had inherited the House of SHAWNS after all his family members had passed away. His family could have donated the house to charity, but instead, they chose to give it to him. This unexpected kindness made Hilton reflect on life and the meaning of family.

With his newly inherited home, Hilton decided to transform it into the School of SHAWNS. As the school grew in popularity, more

space was needed, including Room 11CX. However, Hilton hesitated to open that room—it held too many memories from his past. Olivia patiently explained to him that facing his past was important. Encouraged by her words, Hilton finally gathered the courage to step inside. Everything remained exactly as he had left it—the bed, the glass of water, and all his belongings. On the table, he found a note that read:

“Dear Hilton,

I knew you would come back one day. I always knew you would leave because we never treated you well. I am truly sorry. I have left the House of SHAWNS to you. Do what you feel is right.”

Realizing that his father would have wanted him to open the room for the students, Hilton decided to do just that. From that day on, Room 11CX became a place of learning, and Hilton finally understood the true meaning of his life.

IAYP at AVS: A Journey of Growth & Global Citizenship

-Krishnam Agarwal, X

The International Award for Young People (IAYP) is more than just a program—it is a transformative experience that shapes young individuals into bold, responsible global citizens. In a world filled with challenges, IAYP equips students with essential life skills beyond academics, emphasizing community service, skill-building, physical well-being, and adventure. At The Assam Valley School, the program aligns with our mission to nurture future leaders while fulfilling the pillars of service, adventure, and internationalism upheld by the AVS Round Square Committee.

The recently concluded IAYP outing to Kaziranga, began at a village school, where we shared meals, stories, and laughter with the children, discovering the profound impact of service. Camping under the starlit sky, we strengthened our bonds through campfires and games. The next morning, a thrilling

safari at Kaziranga National Park deepened our appreciation for nature’s beauty and fragility.

The adventure continued at a resort, where we tackled challenges like climbing military nets, shooting air guns, and navigating rope bridges—experiences that taught us teamwork, resilience, and self-confidence. Through service, adventure, and skill-building, we developed empathy, leadership, and a deeper sense of responsibility.

Beyond personal growth, IAYP holds global recognition, enhancing university applications and career prospects. It empowers students to push their limits, embrace challenges, and emerge as well-rounded citizens ready to contribute to the country and the world. More than an award, IAYP is a journey of self-discovery—one that paves the way for a brighter, more purposeful future.

Tales from the hills - XII

From Arunachal Pradesh

Kurung Kumey

-Mikita Riba, Kopili House Prefect, XII

Once upon a time, in the lush valleys of what is now Arunachal Pradesh, lived two sisters, Kurung and Kumey. They were the beloved daughters of a wise village elder, growing up in harmony with nature. They spent their days playing by the streams, gathering wildflowers, and learning the traditions of their tribe. Their bond was unbreakable. As they came of age, their father arranged their marriages, selecting two young men known for their strength and kindness.

Kumey, respectful of tradition, accepted her father's choice without question. Kurung, however, had already fallen in love with a wandering musician whose songs spoke of distant lands and untold dreams. She could not imagine marrying another. When her father announced her engagement to a man of his choosing, Kurung was devastated. She pleaded to marry the musician, but her father refused, fearing an unstable life for her.

Determined to follow her heart, Kurung made a daring choice. One night, she gathered her belongings and fled into the wilderness to join

her beloved. The next morning, her father discovered her absence. Heartbroken and furious, he called out for her, but she did not return. In his anguish, he lit a fire and cast handfuls of ashes into the wind, cursing the path she had taken. The ashes drifted into the rivers and streams, forever marking the land.

Kumey's wedding proceeded as planned, bringing joy to the village. Her father found solace in her obedience, and she built a stable life filled with love and tradition. Meanwhile, Kurung's journey was marked by uncertainty and struggle, yet she embraced the freedom of living by her own choices.

Over time, the two sisters transformed into rivers, each reflecting their chosen paths. Kurung became the Kurung River—wild and turbulent, carrying the ashes of her father's grief. Her waters rushed fiercely through hills and valleys, mirroring the struggles of a life driven by passion and independence. Kumey became the Kumey River—calm and gentle, flowing steadily through the land. Her clear waters symbolized the peace and harmony of a life rooted in family and tradition. Though their paths diverged, the rivers remained connected, intertwining through the same land.

Their story became a lesson passed down through generations, teaching the balance between freedom and responsibility, individuality and tradition. To this day, the Kurung and Kumey rivers flow through Arunachal Pradesh, whispering the tale of two sisters to all who listen.

THE OUTPOST

The Baluchistan Liberation Army catapulted itself into news when it hijacked a train from Pakistan taking over 450 as hostages. Baluchistan's brutality in the hands of the Pakistani army since its inception has seen over half its male population dead. The BLA released women, children and civilians but killed over 100 soldiers of the Pakistani army. The Baluch continue to fight for their freedom not only from the Pakistani government but also from Chinese occupation. India wins the Champion's trophy ushering in celebrations. Sunita Willams and crew return to earth on Space X after 9 months at the ISS.



Illustration: Tanveer Ahmed, XII

MUN-days

-Arushi Jakhmola, Jinari House Prefect, XII

This year, the AVS MUN Secretariat is led by an all-girls team, with Urvee Rathi serving as the Secretary-General. As a platform, Model United Nations aims to educate young people worldwide about the workings of the United Nations and the extensive framework that supports global diplomacy. Dedicated MUN participants gain valuable insights into international relations, understanding how nations interact, what their priorities are, and where they stand on pressing global issues.

To make MUN more accessible to the student body, the Secretariat has introduced MUN Hours on Saturday afternoons, where Class 12 students take the lead in teaching younger peers the nuances of being a delegate. The success of these sessions was evident in how the seniors prepared well in advance to ensure that the participant was positively engaged. Students went in prepared to be delegates with a purpose. These sessions are very important for they uphold the school's vision of creating global citizens. They provide hands-on experience in research, public speaking, and negotiation, all of which are critical skills in today's interconnected world.

Staying informed about world affairs is essential in an era where global challenges—from climate change to economic crises—affect everyone. It is neither advisable nor complimentary if one decides to make up their mind about world affairs through their Instagram reels. Whether it is one's perspective on

the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, Trump's tariff wars, immigration crisis in Europe or India's troubled neighbourhood, it is fair to say that social media ought not to be one's prime source of information. It is essential that as students we stay abreast with the affairs that is shaping the world around us and will impact our futures wherever we may be. Activity hours on Monday's take on a special sheen as a familiar group of people who over time become a close group of friends meet to discuss issues, we believe are relevant to us. Whether one aspires to be a diplomat, a lawyer, or a business leader, the skills gained through MUN are invaluable, making it a truly enriching experience. The next event to look out for will be the AVS MUN in the month of July which the school will host. It will be a period of engagement and entertainment and everyone is invited!



Photo Credits- Mr. Samuel D. David

Campus Caricature

Bura na Mano Holi Hain*

Illustration: Erik Angie Riba, XII



*Holi at AVS

CAMPUS NEWS

IAYP

Around 43 students accompanied by 4 teachers embarked on a two-day trip to Kaziranga as part of their programme for International Award for Young People. They visited Selenghat Valley School interacting with students and distributed books. This was followed by a camping experience at Hathikuli Tea Estate in Kohora range of Kaziranga. Subsequently they engaged in adventure sports before finally returning to campus.



Photo Credits- Mainow Goyary, X & Naisha Gogoi, X

HEALTH CAMP

A health camp was organized by The Assam Valley School's Social Service League in collaboration with alumni from the field of medicine at Uttara Rongagora Gaon on March 1, 2025. In collaboration with Senior Medical Officer Dr. Dimple Baruah, the medical team who catered to the health needs of approximately 200 residents in and around the village. While early cases of hypertension, diabetes and malnutrition were detected, free medicines were also distributed. The villagers were counselled on the importance of hygiene, nutrition and regular health checkups.



Photo Credits- Dr. Dimple Baruah

MARATHONS

The 26th Inter-House Marathon, held on March 13, was a highly anticipated event filled with enthusiasm and spirited competition. The day began with an energetic atmosphere as students eagerly showcased their athleticism despite the initial rain. Colonel Himanshu Bahl inaugurated the event by flagging off the senior girls' race.

With multiple categories and varying race distances, students displayed determination and hard work. Carefully planned routes ensured safety, with teachers stationed along the sidelines for support. The marathon fostered unity and teamwork, making it a memorable day of camaraderie.

The following are the results of the Inter House Marathon 2025:

- 1st Place : Kopili - Dhansiri
- 2nd Place : Bhoroli - Lohit
- 3rd Place : Jinari - Manas
- 4th Place : Subansiri - Namdang



Photo Credits- Mr. Rajendra Chauhan and Mr. Bhupendra Matharu

EVS TRIP TO NAMERI

-Zisel R.M. Sangma, X

At 7:00 AM on the 16th of March, the ENA and EVS Department of The Assam Valley School embarked on an exciting journey to Nameri National Park. The trip, organized for ENA and EVS students, was an enriching experience filled with remarkable discoveries. The first stop was a botanical garden, where students marveled at Nameri's rich floral diversity. From vibrant flowering plants and resilient cacti to towering medicinal herbs, the garden showcased nature's beauty and significance—an especially rewarding visit for nature enthusiasts. Next, the students visited a conservation center for pygmy hogs, a critically endangered species found only in Assam. Witnessing these rare creatures firsthand was a great experience and a reminder of the crucial role

even the smallest animals play in the ecosystem. The next destination Nameri National Park was reached by crossing the Jia Bharali River on a traditional boat—a unique adventure in itself. Upon entering the park, students were greeted by two elephants and later spotted hornbills on the trek across the park. The trip got especially exciting when we spotted fresh tiger paw prints, and claw marks on trees. These encounters provided a glimpse into the untamed wilderness, a world often overlooked. As the trip came to an end, students unanimously agreed it was an unforgettable experience. The journey not only deepened their appreciation for nature but also reinforced the idea that learning extends beyond the classroom, with new lessons waiting to be discovered every day.



HOLI AT AVS



Photo Credits- Mr. Bhupendra Matharu

Ripple #246

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, XII

*Alice stumbled through the dark forest,
breath ragged, gasping for air.*

*“Is there nobody sane in this cursed
place?”*

*“If it’s sanity you seek, you’re in the
wrong place, I fear”*

*A cheshire grin emerged from the
shadows,*

“This is wonderland, little girl”

“We are all mad here”.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. “I will be sleep.”- Rokovor Nakhro, XII
(Clearly you need to wake up your English first.)

2. “My hair freezed.” -Aditya Gargo, XII
(Maybe your brain did too.)

3. “Are you wake uping late?” - Matthew
Vanmalsawmsanga, XII (Is your English also
a late-riser?)

4. “He would have leaved.” - Priyam Bagaria,
XII (Just like your ability to speak English?)

5. “Your friendship will broke.” - Mr. Ajay
Ruhil (The oracle of AVS has spoken.)

Keep It Reel!

Finishing Line

-Rianna Lingjel Irom, ICSE 2025



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Associate Editors: Tanveer Ahmed and Khichu Kath

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Design & Layout: Tanveer and Angie

Illustrators: Angie

Photography Credits: AVS Photographic Society

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

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

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