

**INFAMOUS  
MONKEY KING  
CAPTURED**  
A NEWS REPORT

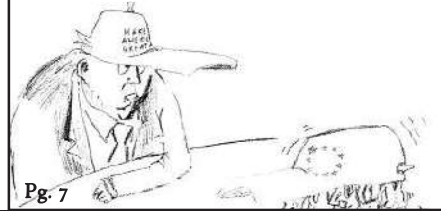
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*Campus Caricature*



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**THE OUTPOST**



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# 80 DAYS OF WAR

-Arushi Jakhmola, XII

The Russia-Ukraine war, ongoing for over 1,100 days, continues to command global attention. Beyond devastating lives, it has significantly reshaped geopolitics. The pressing question remains: what comes next, and could it get worse? The answer depends not just on political leaders but also on military, economic, and diplomatic factors. Currently, both sides are locked in a battle of attrition. Ukraine, despite waning Western support, remains committed to reclaiming lost territories, while Russia seeks to solidify its control, leveraging strategic depth and military resources. The risk of escalation, including advanced weaponry or unconventional tactics, remains a serious concern.

Peace negotiations seem distant, despite mounting international pressure. Deep mistrust and irreconcilable differences over sovereignty and territory make a lasting agreement unlikely in the near term. Diplomatic channels remain limited, as neither side is willing to compromise.

President Donald Trump had proposed ending the war swiftly, making it clear that U.S. support for Ukraine would not come without returns—specifically, rare earth minerals. Ukraine appeared open to selling these minerals to the U.S. at half their market rate in exchange for security guarantees. President Zelensky’s visit to the U.S. on February 28 aimed to finalize this deal. However, an unprecedented diplomatic clash

unfolded when an open conversation between Zelensky and Trump turned into a heated exchange. Zelensky, attempting to assert moral superiority, directly challenged Trump’s claims, derailing his efforts to secure continued U.S. support. In response, Trump made it clear that Ukraine had to agree to a ceasefire and negotiations or risk escalating the war further.

Zelensky swiftly exited the White House following the debacle. While Zelensky’s stance has been praised by anti-Trump factions and widely supported on social media, the incident raises uncertainties about future Western support. Europe may now be forced to shoulder the burden of aiding Ukraine independently, potentially distancing its geopolitical stance from the U.S. This diplomatic fallout not only weakens U.S. credibility as an ally but also raises concerns for nations like Taiwan, which rely on American support.

# INFAMOUS MONKEY KING CAPTURED A NEWS REPORT

-Atoti Zhimomi, Editor-in-Chief, Batch of 2025

IMMORTAL PEACH GARDEN, Tang Dynasty, 3rd Century AD: Two days ago during the annual Peach Banquet held by Xi Wangmu, Queen Mother of the East, it was discovered that all of the peaches of immortality has been stolen by Flower Fruit Mountain native and known troublemaker, Sun Wukong. The Great Sage Equal to Heaven (self-proclaimed) had been given the responsibility of guarding the peaches. Unbeknownst to the bureaucracy of Heaven, however, the Monkey King had been consuming and smuggling out the peaches to the members of his Monkey Syndicate back on Flower Fruit Mountain. This plot was discovered last night when the seven immortal maidens made their way into the garden to discover that all but one of the peaches were missing and the trees were completely barren. But before the crime could be reported, Sun Wukong paralyzed the maidens using his powers and shapeshifted into one of the immortals that were invited to the Banquet. At the

Banquet, Wukong is reported to have been intoxicated by the Heavenly Wine that also grants immortality before making off with the entire supply and landing up in Lao Tzu's Palace where upon finding it empty, went on to rob several gourds filled with immortality pills. According to reports about the security cameras put in place in the Palace, Wukong then hurried back to Flower Fruit Mountain where the Jade Emperor, Eternal King of Heaven, dispatched the Imperial Guard in order to apprehend the fugitive. Very soon, however, the arrest turned into a wild battle between the forces of Heaven and Sun Wukong's army of demon monkeys. The Palace then dispatched Erlang Shen, nephew of the Jade Emperor who faced Wukong in a long and strenuous battle where both parties were seen shapeshifting according to eyewitness accounts from both the Imperial Guard as well as the monkey army, of whom the latter began deserting the battlefield fearing their King's full monstrous form. Sun Wukong also fled from

the scene after seeing his army deserting the battlefield before being captured by Lao Tzu himself who trapped him in a diamond snare. Sun Wukong, arrested at last, is currently awaiting trial in the Court of Heaven and is in maximum security custody. When asked to comment the Imperial Palace announced the following: "Sun Wukong the Monkey King is the most dangerous criminal we have had the displeasure of encountering in Heaven and we are thrilled to have apprehended him. Our greatest thanks goes to Lao Tzu, the Old Master for his assistance in capturing the felon. Seeing as how Mr. Wukong is triply immortal, we shall do all that we can in order to bring justice to all that were affected by his crimes. We are currently in contact with the Lord Buddha Security Corp. and would like to request the public to be patient as we serve justice." More to follow after the verdict which will be announced in a week's time.

## THE Gift OF Life.

-Janella K. Lyndem, VII

Our life is like a seed that grows into a plant, but no two seeds grow the same way. They take time to sprout and grow, facing challenges along the way—just like us. In life, we face many hardships that come unexpectedly. First, we learn about our surroundings. Then, we gain knowledge. Finally, we enjoy our lives.

Each stage is important, but none are easy. However, unlike seeds, we have people who support us, guide us, and bring light into our lives. They help us face the real world. The moral of the story is: No matter what happens, whether or not we have someone by our side, we continue to grow and bloom in our own unique ways.

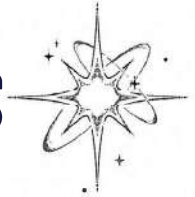


# THE FINAL ESCAPE

-Khushi Bakliwal, VII

Here I stand, astonished,  
 Completely defenseless.  
 He stands by the door,  
 Fully prepared.  
 He walks toward me,  
 A gun in one hand,  
 His other hand gripping my throat.  
 I try to escape,  
 But there's no way out.  
 My vision fades.  
 I see him raise the gun,  
 Not at me, but to his head.  
 With a count of three,  
 He lets go of me  
 And pulls the trigger.  
 I fall to the ground,  
 Catching my breath.  
 He lies beside me, unconscious,  
 His eyes wide open, staring into space.  
 I'm too angry to cry,  
 Too sad to scream.  
 I realize I have only one choice—  
 I pick up the gun and hold it to my head.  
 3... 2... 1...  
 I lay there, dead.  
 He was the only one I ever had,  
 And now, there's nothing left.

# Stars OR Stardust?



-Myra Lakshmi Shrestha, VI

Maybe we're just stars, or made of stardust,  
 Or maybe, it's just me, it's hard to trust.  
 You're most likely the moon, or perhaps the sun,  
 But I'm different, maybe worlds apart—on the run.  
 I'm a star, one in a crowd of millions,  
 Am I important? Or just one of billions?  
 If I become a shooting star,  
 Will you wish to see me, no matter how far?  
 If I go missing, will you even care?  
 If I vanish into thin air,  
 Would you notice, would you seek?  
 Or simply watch me fade to stardust, unique?  
 (For I was a star, now, maybe stardust.)

Illustrated by Eriik Angie Riba, XII

# Campus Caricature

Illustrated by Bhaibhav Dutta, VII



Celebrating the headmaster, Dr. Jugran's birthday.



# GLOBAL MARKET POLICY

## NEW AGE TECHNOLOGY, AI & THE TECH GEN

-Mr. Dulu Dutta, Head of ICT Department

In 1990-91, the queues outside PCOs signalled a change knocking at the doors of Indian youth. At the same time, the global market policy was introduced in 1991 as part of the New Economic Policy, marking the beginning of economic liberalization in India. The internet revolution and advancements in technology further accelerated this global shift, bringing significant changes in fashion trends, career options, food habits, and technology adoption.

Exposure to global fashion trends like Zara and H&M, global fast-food chains like McDonald's, and international music, films, OTT platforms, and K-pop drastically altered the youth's preferences. Global career opportunities, smartphones, social media, and online platforms impacted Indian youth to such an extent that the erosion of set Indian cultural values became evident in many forms across society.

As aptly noted by Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase and Timothy J. Scrase in "Globalisation and the Middle Classes in India", "The economic reforms of the 1990s have not only transformed the middle class into an aspirational consumer group but have also significantly reshaped their cultural identities, creating tensions between traditional values and modern lifestyles." This observation perfectly captures the rapid shift in societal structures during this transformative period.

This rapid transformation led to a visible clash of social values in many households as the youth began differentiating their values from those of their parents. The clash between aspirations shaped by globalization and the grounding in traditional Indian culture became a defining aspect of this era of change.

Even though the sudden overwhelming opportunities provided by the global marketing policy initially disrupted cultural norms, the Indian youth gradually found their footing. As Sunil Bhatia observes in "Decolonizing Psychology:

Globalization, Social Justice, and Indian Youth Identities", "Indian youth have negotiated the tensions of globalization by blending modern technologies and global cultural influences with a deep sense of pride in their indigenous traditions, creating hybrid identities that respect both worlds." This demonstrates how the younger generation has learned to merge modernity with tradition.

The surge in trade prompted global companies to expand beyond the middle class, reaching India's lower-class population. Affordable smartphones and internet connectivity have given them access to trendy clothing and modern technology, fostering awareness and opening new avenues for growth.

While global trade continues to expand and opens new doors of opportunity for people across all classes, the changes have left a profound impact on global and Indian social systems. The tech-savvy generation, more informed and alert than ever, requires well-structured policies to guide them toward a balanced life, helping them preserve their roots and cultural values while navigating a rapidly evolving world.

With the advent of cutting age technologies like AI, the world stands on the edge of monumental changes. Tools such as robots, smart machines, AI assistants like Alexa, and software like ChatGPT have already introduced society to a technology-driven lifestyle. The Indian population is increasingly dependent on these technologies, which clearly indicate a tech-driven lifestyle. While debates continue around the positive and negative impacts of technology, it is undeniable that technology now holds the steering wheel of Indian society. Advocates of traditional values and cultural norms must adjust their expectations to maintain a delicate balance between embracing innovation and preserving heritage. Striking this will ensure that the youth embrace innovation while remaining connected to their heritage.

# CAMPUS NEWS

## MASTER'S UNION CONFLUENCE

The Master's Union Confluence, Intersect 4.0, was held from February 14th to 16th at DLF Cyber Park, Gurugram. This event continued its legacy of fostering collaboration and innovation between academia and industry. Over two days, global leaders engaged in keynote speeches, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. Notable speakers included Siv Khera, Ambassador Deepak Vohra, Pratham Mittal, Ravi Kant, Joan Li, Dr. Amrita Das, Mahish Sadana, Ganesh Kohli, Swati Ganetic, and Ankur Vohra. Key panel discussions covered topics such as building global institutions for India, preparing the next generation for future careers, and emerging trends in innovation. More than 20 schools from India and abroad participated. With a growing population and a widening skills gap, millions of graduates struggle to find jobs due to mismatched industry demands. Educators must

become change-makers, emphasizing skill-based learning to bridge this divide. A key takeaway was: "The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step." The tagline "Dream Big: Act Now" underscored the event's purpose of uniting school leaders, educators, and career advisors to foster innovation and bridge academia-industry gaps. Career counselling should begin early, from class 5 to 12, rather than being limited to class 12. In today's tech-driven world, students must be equipped with AI knowledge, including ChatGPT. AI will not replace jobs, but those who fail to adapt may be left behind. Academia must embrace a dynamic approach—unlearning and relearning. The confluence emphasized that school leaders must create awareness and promote skill-based learning as the future of education.



## LOWER SCHOOL ENGLISH DEBATES: FINALS

The recently concluded Lower School English Debates saw engaging arguments on the motion: "This House believes that the freedom of the press should have limits."

Jinari-Manas triumphed over Kopili-Dhansiri in the semifinals to secure their place in the finals

against Bhoroli-Lohit. The grand finale was a fierce battle of wit and reasoning, with Bhoroli-Lohit advocating for press restrictions and Jinari-Manas opposing them. Both teams presented compelling arguments, demonstrating strong public speaking skills and critical thinking. The debates showcased

the prowess of the upcoming Debators and were a resounding success adding to the skill set of the school's debating society- the Atheneum.



## THREE DAYS CRICKET MATCH: AVS U-14 VS AVS U-16

U-16 : Kriday Jajodia, Class 9 scored 168 runs with 20 boundaries.



## IAYP TRIP

-Aadya Rakshit, X

The new Class 10 students went on an IAYP trip to Kaziranga and stayed overnight at Nampi Camp. The trip began with a visit to a school for the under privileged, where the team played games with the students and distributed books, creating lasting memories. After a warm lunch, the team headed to the Nampi, where they camped in tents, braving the

mud and rain, while enjoying a warm campfire. The next morning, the students set off on a jeep safari at Kaziranga, where they spotted elephants, rhinos, deer, and even a streak of tigers. The adventure continued at Mandu with exciting activities like the commando net, Burma bridge, and archery. It was an enriching, and a fun-filled trip.







# THE OUTPOST

A photo-op during his visit to the USA to sign rare-earth minerals deal in return for continued American support to the Ukrainian cause against Russia, turned into a never-before heard clash of voices between President Zelensky and President Trump. While the incident turned world diplomacy on its head, and has left Zelensky on a treacherous precipice of financial and military doom, it has left the continents across the Atlantic, divided. Whether Europe's show of solidarity for Ukraine will materialize into military help, is left to be seen. An excellent innings from Kohli, takes India to the finals of theCampion's Trophy.



Illustrated by Erik Angie Riba, XII

## Ripple #244

-Erik Angie Riba, XII

*The bell chimed. Another collector entered, scavenging for relics from a time when childhood still existed.*

*"Hard to find a good shop these days" the man mused.*

*"Well, immortality makes toys obsolete, in a world where no one's been born in decades." the shopkeeper replied.*

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "I gotted it." - Hitesh Ruthia, XII (No you have not.)
2. "Choosers can't be beggars." - Nani Niko, XII (Then take out your begging bowl.)
3. "5 minutes second rule." - Prapti Prathona, XII (So..a new game, Sports Captain?)
4. "I sweatted my blood, sweat and tears." - Kimeri Patton, X (All you did was bleed grammar.)
5. "I see'd it." - Khichu Kath, XII (Why don't you go see'd your english book too?)"



## Keep It Reel!

*Roads Travelled*



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