



# MEDICALIZATION OF POLITICS

-Vasumann Lohia, XI

Image making in politics was based on the claims of welfare policies and developmental projects introduced and implemented by the leaders. COVID-19 outbreak created a new trend in Indian politics that may be called 'medicalization of politics'. As testing has become the buzzword, it is also a testing time for Chief Ministers in the fight against COVID-19. The report card is a mixed bag of results. For some, it was a minor problem that could be overcome with a dose of paracetamol. For others, it was just another platform for a confrontation with the Centre. For yet another, it provided a trigger for an internal struggle.

Congratulations to CM Thackeray for filing nomination for MLC. He will become an MLC before 27th May and retain his spot. He might have enjoyed his day out after being homebound for weeks. He can now draw his attention towards COVID-19 crisis. His government has been unable to ensure the reaching of PPE kits to hospitals. He boasted about providing 6000 odd centers for migrant workers but was unable to prove the existence of even sixty such relief shelters.

The Gujarat Model painstakingly built by PM Modi has collapsed, thanks to CM Rupani who failed to tackle the crisis. Gujarat topped Indian states when it came to health tourism. CM Rupani wrote a detailed letter to Amit Shah, requesting him to send three expert doctors. It will remain a blot and demotivate the hardworking doctors of the state.

Mamata Banerjee, currently on a collision course with the government on a plethora of issues, drew flak for turning it into a political feud with the Centre. Didi directed the enforcement of lockdown with a human face and soft-handling, which led to crowding of public places. The Trinamool government faked data and camouflaged Covid 19 related deaths forcing the Centre to send in a Special Ministerial team to investigate matters within the state. Bengal may well have turned rouge and may be the bearer of bad news in the near future unless the State Government looks at matters

indoors before waging a war at Delhi.

Yogi Adityanath, targeted by media for his Hindutva-loaded stereotypical image which pushed back his performance as CM, indeed combines religion, development, and politics in his own particular way. His performance in the battle against COVID-19 however shows that he has handled the situation in the most populous state as an effective and strict administrator by reshaping the medical infrastructure of UP. He has also been the first Chief Minister in almost all aspect of policy changes from labour laws to migrant issues to converting train compartments into emergency isolation wards. It is clear that he is man given to tackling the matter by its horns. Without a working cabinet, CM Shivraj Chouhan's faced an uphill task at Madhya Pradesh considering his choice of civil servants all fell victim to the Covid 19. The very fact that the primary city of Indore came to a near standstill speaks of the multiple lapses in decision making on the Chief Minister's front. The CMs of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh underplayed the virus threat and adopted a casual approach but got their act together after realizing its seriousness. In Andhra, the CM's inaction was due to his obsession of shifting the capital to Visakhapatnam. The Delhi CM has chosen not to venture out in public, not even to inspect the "mohalla" clinics where two doctors got infected for want of PPE. He can't be faulted for this considering that he had stayed away even when communal riots broke out in North-East Delhi and the capital stood burning. Kejriwal's claims that healthy people don't require masks and statements such as "Take care of yourself while playing Holi. Stay away from Corona." A rather paradoxical statement and a pun targeted at the advocates of social distancing.

Medical infrastructure, workforce and sense of service has emerged as an indicator of good work. The caste, religion, region, and other primordial identities still somewhat prevails in some parts of Indian society and politics.

# For Mother

-Shrishti Barua, XII

There's a lady everyone knows,  
Brimmed with love, no worries or woes.  
She's a lady with the biggest smile,  
No one knows she forces bile.  
She wants to see her son  
But that's not in her hand.  
She cries to herself at night,  
But wakes up again bright.  
There's a place where she goes that  
No one knows,  
In search of her son and his dreams  
Where even love grows.  
A place that is out of everyone's hand,  
Beautifully framed in a far away land.  
The place is her favorite dream,  
Where love is fully brimmed.  
She loves the sight of her son  
That is what she can.

She always wishes to be with him,  
While the birds sing their hymn.  
In the dream of her life she keep her secrets,  
Fears and regrets,  
And away from the madding world and its threats.  
In her dreams she holds her love,  
For he who is lost.  
She shouts out loud, I love you  
And then asks did I make you hear it too?  
This is a lady nobody knows,  
In her dreams she is forever enclosed.

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*Behind all your stories is always your mother's story because here is where yours begin. Everyday should be mother's day!!*  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL THE SELFLESS WOMEN WHO INSPIRE, MOTIVATE AND REMIND US TO BE A BETTER PERSON EVERY SINGLE DAY.**

## Of Perspectives

-Neelabh Kashyap, XI

Brisk movements  
Of two feet;  
Shuffling in the dark,  
Through a forest, misty and overgrown.  
He turns to look back  
And is looked back at  
By a pair  
Of red eyes.  
"Who are you?"  
He enquires.  
"Thine death,"  
He hears.  
"Leave me,"  
He pleads;  
And down he falls,  
Dead.

Unhurried movements  
Of two feet;  
Sauntering in the dark,  
Through a forest, parallel.  
He turns to look back  
And is looked back at  
By the same pair  
Of blood-red eyes.



"Who are you?"  
He enquires.  
"Thine death,"  
He hears.  
"I'm not afraid of you,"  
He states;  
And down he still falls,  
Dead.

# Making History

- Anoushka S. Rabha, Associate Editor

Never in recorded history has there been so much widespread disruption all over the world at the same time. Old assumptions are being smashed and new ones are being constantly challenged. This is a world whose ethos is being reconstructed by the novel Coronavirus. Globalization has taken a huge blow and emphasis is on the ability of people to act globally and not just trade internationally. In the long term scenario while it will sever supply chains for now however, it'll have a huge impact on the ability of people to immigrate. Xenophobia will continue to be globally rampant - aimed at Europeans, Africans, and Americans in China, as well as Asian immigrants and their descendants in the West. Tight travel restrictions have been imposed around the world and some will continue to persist after the crisis abates.

The COVID-19 pandemic has singlehandedly managed to topple the entire architecture of fiscal and financial orthodoxy. It has given way to the prevailing narrative of the 'experts' that it will prove to be the portal to a whole new world of the increasingly powerful governments. Humans will find themselves following the new social norms- of social distancing, where once proximity was identified as a social necessity. This order will see the change in the hegemonic position or the absence of it. It is fairly clear that a pandemic of this scale has the potential to disrupt industries, accelerate cultural

and economic trends as well be used by policymakers or advocates gunning for transformative or perhaps revolutionary agendas. The pandemic has exposed our weaknesses and strengths. How the story now unfolds will be a burden of the leaders who maneuver our world through these times.

As we wonder about the outcome of this chapter, we must give thought to what it has enabled us to experience. Travel and industrial pursuits have ground to a near standstill, citizens in some of the world's most polluted cities have been able to breathe easier and glimpse previously hidden sights; from the Himalayas to the coast. While giving the people a chance to revive, renew, and reconstruct the very being of their existence, it has allowed nature to heal itself. When the machine is running its next to impossible to gauge the extent of the damage that it has incurred,

The extent of the damage to livelihood will only surface in real figures once life grinds back to normalcy and perhaps that is when problems will be analyzed and their solutions sought. This pandemic has given the world's inhabitants time to pause and rethink, reassess values and reconsider priorities. The reel has superimposed itself on the real and the three options that lie ahead of us- the good, the bad, and the ugly. A significant portion of this choice rests upon us and the choice we make will more or less decide the fate of humanity.

## THE OUTPOST

The United States is set to airlift 200 mobile ventilators to India, as they pledge to fight the invisible enemy together. India set to head WHO's Executive Board and must soon decide whether or not to back its claim against China. Yogi's popularity soars amongst the migrants as he rolls out buses and transport to reach people home. Sitaraman's Rs 20 Lakh Crore stimulus fiscal package was met by fierce criticism of the Opposition as Rahul Gandhi claims the poor don't need loans but instead need grants. Mumbai, Ahmedabad the worst-hit cities as the outbreak continues to ravage the nation.



Illustration: Takhe Tamo Reela



## Ripple #127

-Letminlun Haokip, Deputy Editor

They say the good  
die young  
heaven is full of  
flowers  
like lost satellites  
frifting out of orbit  
misplaced fireflies  
burning holes in the  
night.

## Aviator's Guide To The Quarantine

What does an Aviator do when they are quarantined from the outside world? How do they quench the boredom of solitude? Here are some things you can do:

**TRANSFORM:** Change up your look and wipe off those mindsets, makeup is not just to look pretty but to look pretty... cool! Look like DC's Joker or even Captain Jack Sparrow, the world of fiction (and some reality) is at your fingertips, or makeup brush if you're going to be professional

**PILLOW FORT:** Blast from the past indeed, take some pillows and shut out the world and let them stare in awe of your grandeur, courtesy of locally sourced pillows. (Just make sure you aren't invaded if you have strict relation with the nation of Le Parenté.)

**COLLAB:** Got time but no friends around you? well wake up because in this day and age of the internet you can still work together with others (as long as you have access to it). So don't laze around in solitude all day, call up a few friends and do something to spice up the quarantine life.

## Keep It Reel!

## Rooted

-Thejazer Linyu, Photography Capt.



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