



Divided, locked in and alone, this is the current scenario of the world. The new year seems to be following a cycle of pandemonium and what the future holds is uncertain. Fate seems to be playing a strange game whilst destiny just watches idly. This time of despair presents a challenge to the Aviator who is held as a victim during the coveted silver year, though it would take much more to curb our efforts. So we continue our dream, our goal to reach our destination and we continue what we started long ago. Distant we may be but much like Asgard, AVS is not the place, it is the people and the Aviator shall stay strong regardless of how far apart we are.

-Jeremy Jahau, Editor-in-Chief

SAFE AND SECURE

-Saptarishi Sharma, ISC Batch of 2018

Popularly known as “India’s James Bond” by the Indian and the Pakistani media, this man has shaken India’s security architecture to the very core. In the past 52 years of his career, he has worked tirelessly to restore peace whenever the need arose, curbing all internal and external threats to the country. He is none other than our current National Security Advisor, Ajit Kumar Doval. As we have witnessed in the reel lives of the heroes in movies, the life of a spy is never too smooth or easy and 52 years of Ajit Doval’s career as a civil servant, spy and eventually as a top brass official has been filled with hardships and undeniable challenges. However, with his distinguished intellect, experience and expertise, he has been able to emerge victorious from these challenges setting examples for the rest.

Before highlighting the oft spoken legends of Ajit Doval of his epical career, it is very important to know who his inspiration was. His guru has been MK Narayanan who is his predecessor (National Security Advisor of India, 2005-2010). MK Narayanan was India’s 3rd National Security Advisor of and under him, Doval received vigorous training in counterterrorism operations. Interestingly, it turns out that both Ajit Doval and MK Narayanan belonged to the Kerala cadre. Doval has also served a marvellous tenure in the Intelligence Bureau, being appointed its Director in 2004-05. It has been a mystery whether Doval did indeed work as undercover agent in Pakistan for 7 years during the Khalistan Movement which the Pakistani government was known infamously to help and aggravate. Senior journalists suggest that while he had indeed been at

Pakistan then as a diplomat, in charge of commerce and trade but it was clear that not much of commerce and trade had happened. Following this, he was actively involved in Punjab during the height of Sikh insurgency in the 1980s, riding rickshaws and entering the Golden Temple undercover as many suggest. He also had a colossal role in the success of Operation Black Thunder. Such circumstances indubitably test a man’s wit and Doval never failed such tests. When the Mizo National Front under Laldenga demanded for statehood and took to insurgency, Ajit Doval was swift to turn 6 out of 7 commanders of Laldenga against their leader, all the while remaining incognito meeting the MNF in Burma and within the Chinese territory. From Mizoram, he moved forward to Sikkim where once again he played a significant role during the merger of the state with India. There are many such unspoken achievements of Doval, outside and within the Indian Territory, the most famous of which as we all know as the Uri attack. He introduced the interesting policy of “offensive defence” which was used during the Uri attack. Interestingly, he has been involved in the termination of all 15 hijack horrors of Indian Airlines aircrafts between 1971-99, including the infamous IC-814 in Kandahar in 1999. Doval’s zeal for maintaining peace is legendary and his recent on-site observations of “the Kashmir issue” and the aftermath of Delhi riots substantiates this further. This Kirti Chakra awardee has time and again made the impossible possible, inspiring many in the process. Ajit Doval, is indeed the best of the NSA and the title he has earned as ‘India’s James Bond’, stands validated.

THEN AND NOW

-Anoushka S. Rabha, Associate Editor

The Bharatiya Janata Party's election juggernaut in the 2014 and then in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls is an impressive example of the concoction and successful implementation of a mammoth marketing and branding campaign. Irrespective of the faith, ideology and voting decision, there is no way one can escape the honey-coated "Bhaiyon aur Behno" that the Prime Minister has so impeccably popularized.

The BJP's abandonment of its foundation time ideals of "positive secularism" and "Gandhian socialism", after its first electoral defeat has definitely worked in its favor. The party had then reverted back to the Hindutva ideology of its precursor the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. The hardline Hindutva, as the core ideology of the BJP, had the undertone of the rhetoric of "pseudo secularism" and "minority appeasement". This helped a great deal in winning the support of the Hindus who were wary of the moderate politics of the Congress.

Years after its inception as the BJP failed to secure a strong foothold in Indian politics, it smartly outmaneuvered its obstacles with outstanding marketing strategies that can rival that of Billion-Dollar conglomerates. Advertising legends such as Ogilvy & Mather's Piyush Pandey, McCann Worldgroup's Prasoon Joshi and Sam Balsara of Madison World lent their expert skills towards promoting the BJP's majestic mandate.

Pitching a specific leader as a driver of change and thereon mobilising voters' support is hardly a new

political strategy. The Congress Party's projection of Indira Gandhi as the country's tallest leader with its 'Indira lao desh bachao' tagline as long evaporated. The BJP's portrayal of Modi as the champion of Indian polity with the "Ab ki baar Modi sarkar" now illustrates the importance of rebranding strategies. With his landslide win in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Narendra Modi has rewritten the rules of the game and redefined Indian politics. Brand Modi has not only secured the mandate but also outweighed Brand BJP.

The Great Indian elections function similarly to that of the face-off between two rival businesses like that of Reliance's Jio and other telecom service providers. And, even more similar are the twin-strategies of Reliance and BJP. We tend to analyze ideology in too superficial a manner.

Times have changed and with it has changed the face and strategies of political parties. It is essential therefore that we analyse the meanderings of these mammoth juggernaut turned Batmobile, differently. The BJP today is administered as a conglomerate, with specialists, strategists and Think-tanks mapping the blue print of this giant machinery. With the slow demise of the Congress, the BJP is undoubtedly the behemoth that dominates Indian politics. What was once formed as an alternative to the Congress's marginally moderate policies, has now taken over the realms of affairs of the country. Like it or not, it will not be ignored.

The Prologue

-Ojas Krish, X

SARS. Does it ring a bell? Even now, Asians are spitting sick, but unfortunately not verses on the mic, but viral, possibly deadly, viruses. With the recent coronavirus outbreak, it is imperative that we take a look back at the SARS epidemic that caught the world in not too distant memory. Both fatal viral outbreaks, both originating from animals and both of Chinese make. Why? The simple reasoning to this lies in China's obsession with eating wildlife. It has been well documented that the Chinese people enjoy devouring wildlife and exotic meats such as dogs, cats, snakes, pangolins, bears,

including tigers, to name a few. They are sought after as much for their purported medicinal qualities as it is for aphrodisiacal value. The origin of this food trait can be traced back to Mao's infamous Cultural Revolution beginning in 1966 and lasting for over a decade. The ensuing famine that erupted would lead to the death of millions and the surviving populace would be reduced to scrounge for food from amongst the dead. The Communist Regime lifted its control on food, and allowed the establishment of private farming of wild life for human consumption. Stimulated as gourmet, wildlife

farming sprouted into a thriving cottage industry across China. Corporates quickly took to the production of pork and beef and promoted wildlife as a delicacy amongst the rich. This prompted the establishment of wildlife wet-markets, where live animals are killed and sold. These wet markets became the epicenter of the epidemics; Foshan for SARS and Huan for the Covid 19. The live animals are stacked in cages one above the other in a cruel inhuman way. They stay stacked in these cages covered in each other's excrement, pus and blood that drip from one animal to another. This becomes a perfect medium for virus to travel from one infected animal to another than to its human carrier. The spread of the contagion becomes relatively a free fall hereon. During SARS the Chinese government put a limited ban on these wet markets. However once the epidemic had passed, the wet markets and the wildlife

farms were back on business. Unlike a Democracy where there can be multiple whistle blowers at various levels, in Communist China, Doctor Li Wenliang who first noticed this communicative respiratory disease was brutally punished before falling prey to the Covid 19 he was helping cure his patients from. While most political pundits watch warily as USA and China edge towards a face off over this crisis, for a change most tend to agree with President Trump when he refers to the Covid 19, unabashedly as the 'Chinese Virus'. Even as China churns its propaganda machine and takes on a threatening stance against Western Media, while extending 'help' to ailing Italy, now being referend to as its Western Frontier, there is no doubt in anybody's mind to where it all started and who must carry the onus of it all. Of all the many Chinese products that flood our markets, death is also, now one of them.



THE OUTPOST

Reigning Israeli president Benjamin Netanyahu is on the verge of an exit as he faces the coronavirus epidemic, a hectic election campaign, not to mention a 2-month ongoing corruption scandal. "Please stay at home," says the Spanish government, as Italy faces the worse day of the COVID-19 with 475 deaths in a single day. PM Narendra Modi addresses the nation, cautioning on a community outbreak should citizens not practice isolation, introducing a 'Janta' curfew from 7 am to 9 pm on Sunday. The nation to show gratitude to essential service providers in unitary isolation on Sunday 5pm. Join in.

Ripple #123

-Letminlun Haokip, XII

Rebel hearts don't
refrain
The night is young
and so are you
Let the drums beat
on
Now and always
Towards a brighter
horizon
A future anew

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:

READ: Surprisingly, books exist beyond the Library and can be read outside of class hours and prep time, so get a cup of tea and enjoy!

BINGE WATCH: Whether Netflix or Amazon Prime, get your popcorn and catch up on the latest movies, dramas or movies you weren't able to watch in the common room.

SURF... THE NET: Read the news, play some games or learn something new, whatever it is the internet has you covered.

EAT: This isn't anything new to us Aviators but now with the added majesty of home-cooked goodness! eat to your hearts content, eat something new or even learn to cook, it's a life-skill! Just... don't finish your stocks for the apocalypse.

AWAY

-Jeremy Jahau, XII



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