

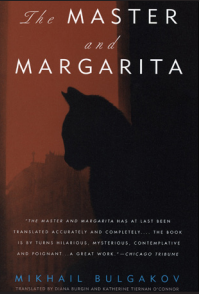
A United Affair

An article by Ojas Krish



THIS WEEK'S
THE READLIST

Featuring:
The Sound of Waves by Yukio Mishima
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold
The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov



Act of 'God' or Act of 'Fraud'

-Sneha Sonowal, XII

Recently, India has ceded its spot to China as the world's fastest growing economy. This itself gives us a basic idea about the economic condition of our country. In just a year, our economic growth has tumbled from 8% to 4.5% in the latest quarter. The economy of the country was already suffering before the pandemic hit. The accelerating growth was put to a sudden retreat in 2016 when the Modi government decided to demonetise the currency of the nation. This paralysed the economy

“There is now every possibility that the economy is heading towards a depression and there is very little the Ministry of Finance seem to be able to do about it.”

and hampered cash transaction throughout the country. Despite this move, the government failed to achieve its primary objective of eliminating black money from the system. In this digital age, those with the skill-set to maneuverer such copious amounts of money will hardly transact in paper currency. Most will choose the labyrinthine world of digital monies which cannot be traced. The country has never faced such a long spiral in economic activity in its 73 years of existence as an Independent Nation. However, there is now every possibility that the economy is heading towards a depression and there is very little the Ministry of Finance seem to be able to do about it. As per the current statistics, we have already entered the recession phase. The biggest challenge that the economy is currently facing is the GDP which has come down do a negative

23.9% in the first quarter. This is the worst contraction among all the G20 nations. The current finance minister, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman has blamed the pandemic for the downfall of the GDP. ‘The Business Today’ had published the list of countries hit by the pandemic and the United States despite having the highest cases of coronavirus still holds a much better position with a fall of only 9.5% in its GDP. On the other hand, China despite having the largest population has interestingly shown a rise of 3.2% in its GDP. So it’s high time that the BJP Government took into account the massive trajectory that stares us at the face which could be far worse than China’s shenanigans at the LAC in Ladak. Not only the urban but also the rural economy has been hit. While the recent reforms in agriculture and Farmer’s policies are much welcome, it is possible that the Modi Government will have to swallow their pride and accept the fact that Mrs. Sitaraman may not exactly be the person they need at the helm of affairs. The Party has lost a stalwart in Mr. Arun Jaitley and since has not been able to find a deserving successor. It is perhaps time for Modi-Shah to look beyond their apprehensions and bring in the maverick Subramanian Swamy to take on the reigns of the shattered economy.

History dictates that the greatest of leaders rose to their fame not by juggling sword and crown but ensuring that they had the right person deployed to tackle the various parallels so that the sword and the crown need not be juggled. While the Ministry of External Affairs under Mr. S Jaishankar or the versatile Minister of Road Transport Mr. Nitin Gadkari are the shining stars of the

mantle, Finance has taken a hard hit and without some serious soul searching, we may well become sitting

ducks to more than just the pandemic. This may not be the shining legacy PM Modi yearns to live behind.

Hills have Voices

This new feature intends to rekindle our love for lore, and initiate a journey of rediscovery not only to the realms of magic but also to the source of our identities. Our roots.

The Chital fish and the Weaver bird

-Neelabh Kashyap, XI

(From *Burhi Aair Xaadhu (Grandma's Tales)* by Lakshminath Bezbaruwa)

A long, long time ago, in the period of Satya, there lived two types of animals – the Aquatic and Aerial. Neither the Aquatic nor the Aerial animals knew how to build nests and thus faced a lot of hardships. Seeing this, the elders of both the groups gathered together to find a solution. After a lot of debate and discussion, they decided that both sides would send a representative each to Brahma, the Creator, and ask Him to teach them to build nests. From the Aquatic animals', the Chital fish was chosen to be the representative, while from the Aerial animals' side, the Weaver bird was chosen.

The Chital fish and the Weaver bird thus embarked on the perilous journey to the abode of The Creator. They crossed the seven seas and thirteen rivers to reach Brahma. They knelt down in front of Him and recounted their pain and suffering, begging Him to disclose the secret of making nests to them. The Creator smiled and taught them the art of nest-making.

Thanking The Creator and excusing themselves, the Chital fish and the Weaver bird set off homewards. Halfway through the journey, the Weaver bird suddenly asked, "Brother Chital, a thought has struck my mind. I wonder if you would like to hear it." To this, the Chital fish replied, "What a coincidence! A thought has struck my mind too! Please share your thoughts first."

The Weaver bird nodded and said, "Brother, we have travelled thousands of kilometres, faced innumerable perils and reached the Creator's abode, and finally obtained the secret of making nests. Do we really have to share the secret with the other animals? This knowledge that we have acquired through our blood, sweat and tears, do we really part with it and share it with creatures who are not even of our own? What do you think?" At this, the Chital fish gleefully replied, "Well said, brother! Well said! I had been thinking of the same thing! Let neither of us disclose the secret to any of the animals. Instead, we shall say that The Creator kicked us out the

moment we reached His doorsteps." They both agreed to the plan and continued on with their journey.

Upon reaching home, the Aquatic and the Aerial creatures eagerly asked the Chital fish and the Weaver bird, "What knowledge have you acquired? What secrets has the Creator taught you?" At this, the two creatures with pitiful countenances replied, "Oh brothers, what can we say! We traversed continents, scaled mountains and crossed oceans to reach the Creator's abode. We hoped to seek admission and ask Him for the knowledge, but who would have known that the Creator would be

such a horrible being? Not only did He refuse to listen to our pleas, but threw us out the moment we reached His doorsteps!" The Chital fish and the Weaver bird shed copious amount of tears as they recounted their tale.

On hearing this, the animals sighed and consoled the two poor creatures. They understood that if the Creator was unwilling to teach them how to build a nest, they were probably not meant to

have one and must relinquish their dreams. The crowd dispersed and the animals went on with their lives.

Months passed, and one day, the Aquatic and the Aerial animals saw a shocking sight! They saw that the

Chital fish and the Weaver bird

had built large nests, laid eggs there and were happily living with their respective families! Upon seeing this, the animals exploded with rage. They realized that they had been betrayed. They had actually been taught how to make nests by the Creator! But the selfish Chital and the Weaver bird had never intended to share that knowledge with the other creatures. Seething with fury, the Aerial creatures went to the Weaver bird's nest. They dragged out the traitorous Weaver bird and beat him until all the hair on its head fell off. The Chital fish met with a similar fate and had its face flattened. Only then did their anger subside and they left the poor creatures alone.

And to this day, the Weaver bird remains bald while the Chital fish swims in the rivers with a flattened and deformed face.



A United Affair

-Ojas Krish, X

On the 13 of August 2020, Israel and the UAE signed an agreement mediated by U.S. President Donald Trump, called "The Abraham Accords." Under the peace deal, Israel and the UAE sought to establish full diplomatic relations, with the UAE becoming the third Arab state, besides Egypt and Jordan, to fully recognize Israel. This will end a decades-long boycott of Israel similar to that of Qatar. This is a significant change in the Middle East with a promise of lasting peace especially at a time when the world's political scenario seems to be getting worse day by day.

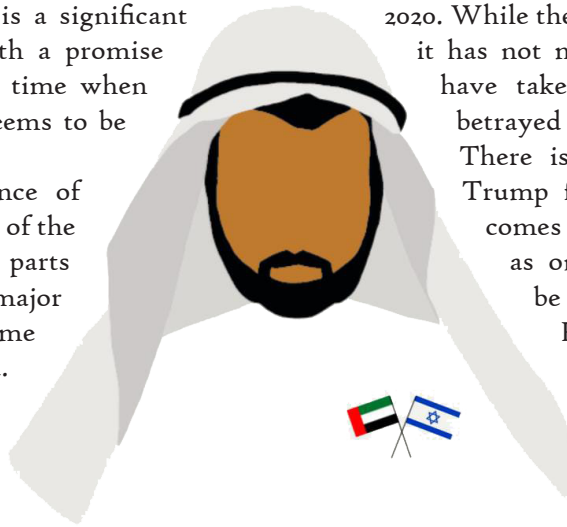
The significance and importance of this treaty, is distinctive. As part of the deal, Israel will stop annexing parts of the West Bank, which is a major policy reversal for current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This will lead to more peace in the Middle East, an area dogged by military conflict ever since the Arab Spring. This will also end the social and information boycott of Israel that in the UAE, similar to that of Qatar. Originally, a citizen of Dubai was banned from talking about

Israel in social media, in newspapers or in intellectual properties such as books or film. There were no flights to and from Israel, no television channels owned by Israeli Companies and all news articles that concerned Israel were heavily censored and had to be government approved. This treaty ends all of that. The first flight between the two nations took place on the 31st of August 2020. While the world hails the Abraham Accords, it has not made Palestine happy. Palestinians have taken to mass protest for they feel betrayed by their fellow Arab countries.

There is also the nomination of Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, which comes as a surprise to many. However, as one may see it and whatever may be our views on Democrats and Republicans, the fact is that to mediate a deal between Israel and any Middle Eastern country is a difficult proposition since they draw the propensity of their hostility, from the biblical

era. Coronavirus or not, this is an achievement which should universally be praised, for it is indeed good news during terrible times.



Learning Education

-Anushcka Joshi, XI

The National Education Policy 2020 looks good on paper, but is it achievable? The much-awaited education policy is India's third education policy after the National Education Policy of 1986. The NEP 2020 has introduced major changes in the way education is perceived, not only by students, but also educators and teachers in India. It was introduced with the objective of enabling Indian students to receive an education which is practical and at par with the global education structure. Along with that, it aims at achieving a 100 percent Gross Enrollment Ratio from preschool to secondary level by 2030. Right now, the Gross Enrollment Ratio in the country up to secondary level, is 69 percent; so yes, having to achieve such an ideal percentage in the span of ten years will not be a walk in the park. The policy

introduces curriculums which aim at emphasizing on the practical application of concepts, while shaping the theoretical aspect of the curriculum in secondary and higher levels, away from the culture of rote learning which is prevalent in the educational structure in India today.

The NEP lays stress on the importance of equity and inclusion. In the fields of Higher Education, inclusion involves restructuring the entire system with the aim of providing an elbow room for new educational opportunities through a contemporary curriculum, pedagogy and recreational activities. Curriculum concept will be reduced to core essentials to encourage critical thinking and a more holistic approach towards education. There will be no hard separation among curricular,

extracurricular, or co-curricular, among Humanities, and sciences, or between vocational or academic streams. I believe that the addition of Vocational Studies into the curriculum will result in productive employment and will provide an opportunity. An aspect of the NEP that I really like is that it introduces Multidisciplinary Studies in higher education which will help develop a wider perspective of thought and Global understanding. The implementation of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) will work towards the larger picture; that is to achieve foundational literacy and numeracy. For universal access to ECCE, Anganwadi Centres will be strengthened with high-quality infrastructure, play equipment, and well-trained Anganwadi Teachers and Assistants. But implementation of this will prove to be

a challenge considering the low number of Anganwadis, across the country.

The policy is also designed to avoid segregation and isolation of ethnic and linguistic minorities, the differently abled and also those who face learning difficulties due to a language barrier. Keeping this in mind wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, is to be the mother tongue of the child. The NEP 2020 could well be the game-changer and is drafted in a manner, that will prove beneficial students across India.

The sudden rise in awareness of courses in Coding for children is a striking example of the change the NEP will usher in. But the key to its efficacy, will be a robust and timely implementation all across India.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Mr. A. S. Huidrom, Dr. Alpana Dey, Ms. Kabita Bala Devi and Ms. Purna C. Gurkin have been awarded Teachers' Day Award 2020 by IIHM, Kolkata on 11th September, 2020.

Mrs. Dayita Bira Datta had participated in the World Teachers Quiz this month and made it to the semi-finals as a Runner-Up.



Mr. A. S. Huidrom



Dr. Alpana Dey

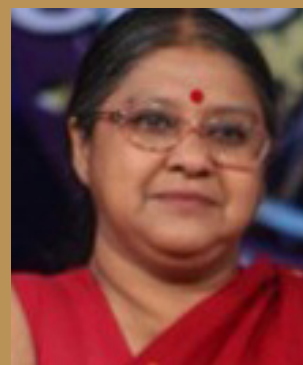


Ms. Kabita Bala Devi



Ms. Purna C. Gurkin

The Quiz was conducted by Teacher Tribe World run by Giri Balasubramiam, a leading quiz presenter best known for conducting the Tata Crucible Quiz. Of the 1,20,000 teachers who had registered for the Quiz Competition, 150 qualified for the Quiz, of which 32 qualified for the Quarter Final and 8 for the Semi-Final. Mrs. Datta's dedication, enthusiasm and insight makes her the legendary Mastermind that she is. We extend our warmest congratulations to her on yet another achievement and wish her many more successes in the future.



We extend our heartiest congratulations to them.

THE OUTPOST

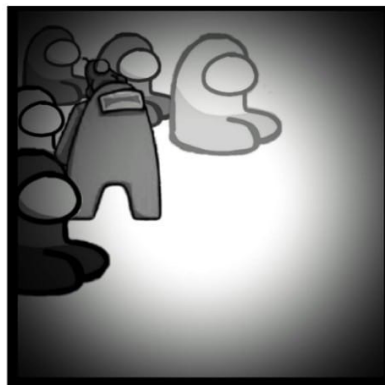
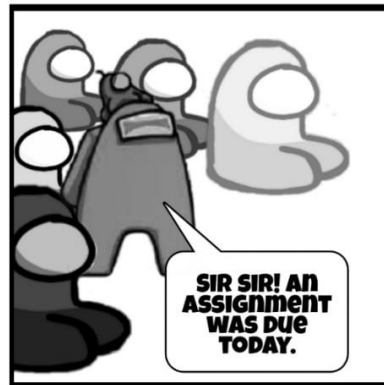
Illustration: Eloziini Senachena

NCB's probe into the Bollywood Drug cartel turns into a party as more names join the loop. Xi Jinping quips that he has no intention of fighting a cold or hot war with anyone amidst concerns in UN General Assembly even as the undaunted Taiwan, flexes muscle. Rajya Sabha stands adjourned even as the Government passes Farmer's Bills that finally frees farmers from the hackles of the middlemen. The world loses yet another legend as Notorious Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Justice of the SC of America, an icon to women across globe, passed away at 87 and is laid in power.



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By: Eloziini Senachena and Tanisha Bhadra



Ripple #141

-Moom Lego, XI

*He told him to jump over
The Doctor argued that it
is dangerous*

*She screamed at him to go
back*

*While the others called him
names mockingly*

All inside his own head

The Quarantine Readlist

Need help finding a gem amidst a sea of monotony? Grab a cup of coffee or tea and dive into the world of these enthralling stories, here is a list of some of our suggestions:

THE SOUND OF WAVES BY YUKIO MISHIMA: A timeless story of first love between a young fisherman and a beautiful daughter of the wealthiest man in the village.

FAHRENHEIT 451 BY RAY BRADBURY: When his wife attempts suicide and his peculiar neighbour suddenly disappears, Montag starts to question everything he has ever known.

THE LOVELY BONES BY ALICE SEBOLD: Susie Salmon watches from heaven as her friends trade rumours of her disappearance, her killer tries to cover his tracks and her grief-stricken family unravels.

THE MASTER AND MARGARITA BY MIKHAIL BULGAKOV: A novel of humour and philosophical depth that follows the devil, accompanied by a retinue, in the city of Moscow.

Keep It Reel!

Down The River

-Dristi Rathi, XI

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Design & Layout: Moom Lego & Jeremy Jahau

Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela & Eloziini Senachena

Photo Credit: Letminlun Haokip

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

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

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Telephone: 09678074320/08812009627 Website: www.assamvalleyschool.com

Patron: Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School

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