

OTT Platforms

An article by Anushka Baruah

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THIS WEEK'S
THE
READLIST

Featuring:
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Spring Snow by Yukio Mishima
The Woman in the Dunes by Kobo Abe
I Am Legend by Richard Matheson

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Grave Matter

-Anoushka S. Rabha, XII

From Subramanian Swamy demanding a CBI investigation and offering 26 reasons why he ‘thinks’ “Rajput was murdered” to Media’s Danse Macabre around the now infamous actress Rhea Chakraborty, what was once declared a suicide is now being investigated as a possible murder.

The actor’s death has sparked a series of controversies in the elusive yet glamorous world of Bollywood and the far less sparkling political arena. In the wake of Bihar

“While the media turns the late Sushant Singh’s death into a crusade, the young actor sees fame in death like he never enjoyed in life.”

Assembly elections, Sushant Singh Rajput has been hailed as a symbol of Bihari Asmita (pride). The Nitish Kumar government has ordered a CBI inquiry in this case, while the main Opposition Party RJD wishes to be lauded for being the first, to ask for one. The grass is definitely not greener on the other side, Former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has accused the Uddhav Thackeray government of influencing the investigation, while the ruling Shiv Sena has accused the BJP of ‘politicising the actor’s death’. Being none the wiser, parties in the NDA coalition in Bihar have incorporated the death of Sushant Singh Rajput in their campaigns for the forthcoming Assembly Elections in the state.

The CBI is currently investigating Sushant’s death while the Enforcement Directorate is probing the money-laundering angle, the National Narcotics Control Bureau was also roped in for a drugs probe in connection with the actor’s death. The late actor’s mon amour Rhea Chakraborty has been in the centre of the proverbial Tempest. She has become the champion of the anti-patriarchal argument bubbling over on social media and if it ever did evolve into becoming a movement, she most certainly will be crowned its patron saint. The Chakraborty-s are currently the prime suspects in the possible murder, the brother-sister duo has been arrested under multiple sections of the Anti-Narcotics law. Sushant’s father, K.K. Singh, had filed a case under various sections, including abetment to suicide, alleging that Chakraborty and her family members financially cheated and mentally harassed Sushant. To which Ms. Chakraborty had responded with a complaint of her own against Sushant’s sisters and a doctor for arranging and providing medicines to Sushant, which ended up in an FIR charging the sisters with abetment of their brother’s suicide.

This Family Saga has had several special guests over the two months since the actor’s death, including India’s most wanted the fugitive underworld Don Dawood Ibrahim. While the conspiracy theories grow by the minute and thrive by the hour, most of India has chosen sides, which could put IPL to shame.

Since his demise Sushant's fame has skyrocketed, opinions, conspiracy theories and rumours masquerading as 'evidence' have proliferated, thanks in no small part to the news anchors who stay caught in the TRP frenzy distorting beyond rationale the ethics of journalism. While the media turns the late Sushant Singh's death

into a crusade, the young actor sees fame in death like he never enjoyed in life. What stays shrouded behind the clarion call #JusticeForSSR campaign, may well be the tentacles of politics. The labyrinthine premises of this case may well find itself played on the very silver screen it wished to change.

OTT Platforms

-Anushka Baruah, XI

The current pandemic and nation-wide lockdown has all of us confined to our quarters with a lot of time to spare. During this period, OTT platforms such as Netflix, Hotstar, Amazon Prime and Voot have seen an immense rise in their subscription numbers. Not only youngsters but people from ages between 37 to 50 spend almost as much time as a 25-year-old on these platforms. Web series available on these platforms are gaining a lot of popularity among Indians because they have made it a point to provide us with content that is diverse in nature such as horror series, stand-up comedy and documentaries. The introduction of Reliance Jio in 2015 single handedly changed the video consumption scenario in India. Prior to Jio, people had to think twice before opening apps like Facebook since data was so expensive and finished very quickly. After the launching of Jio, data became cheaper and people started watching videos on YouTube where web series first gained popularity. In



the year 2012, we had only 2 OTT platforms in India and today we have over 30 of them. OTT provides us with the luxury of watching what we want, when we want with the added benefits of no advertisements or censorship sits well with today's consumer. After Netflix, the Indian Market has seen a huge rise in online video viewership and the soon to arrive 5G network will only work as a shot in the arm for the market. The monthly subscription for these platforms are lesser than a movie ticket and also allow multiple users to view quality content from a single account. Consumers these days' value the relevant and diverse content that these platforms routinely produce more than melodramatic TV serials that are aired on cable and so the future of web series in India is bright and promises a viewership to a diverse range of actors taking the reins of control from the hands of a few Production Houses, to the screen of the audience. A new age of entertainment, has dawned.

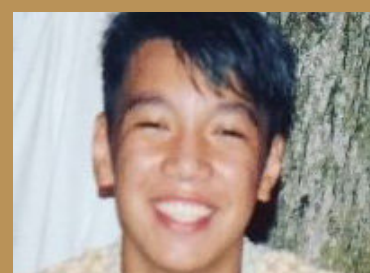
Illustration: Tanisha Bhadra

STARS OF THE WEEK

The Assam Valley School has been awarded the "Leadership Team of the Year" among deserving schools in India (Jury's Choice Award) by Education on 4th September, 2020.

Karun Thapa's comic strip has won the World Bamboo Day International Competition.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to them.



Karun Thapa

OPINION PAGE

“Are Gandhi’s Ideologies relevant in today’s time?”

Compiled by: Tanisha Bhadra and Anoushka Rabha



Vedansh Jindal
@VedanshJindal

Gandhian Ideologies have a finite coverage. In today’s rush, his ideologies of Sarvodaya, non-violence, cleanliness are listed only on papers. It’s like the trend which revives only on patriotic, national holidays. These are used as some weapons for triggering political campaigns or social following.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Thajeb Ali Hazarika
@ThajebHazarika

Non violence is not symbolic to score brownie points but an effective means of conflict resolution appealing to the moral power of persuasion and introspection.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Nilay Dhakal
@NilayDhakal

Mahatma Gandhi was a person who lived on the tagline 'Ahimsa Paramo dharmā' (non violence is the first duty) . He was a person whose core philosophy was based on non violence and satyagraha. Leaving all aside, I think he is relevant in today’s times as though we cannot always practice non violence, we atleast can practice compassion, that which we all require.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Kavisha Poddar
@KavishaPoddar

The biggest relevance of Gandhi in today’s world is our nations FREEDOM . It has been for the last 72 years and will continue to be . We owe our independence and freedom to this simple man in dhoti who taught us the importance and value of truth ,non-violence , morality and simplicity.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Dayita Datta
@DayitaBiraDatta

How could a small skinny man with no front teeth without any of the attributes of a charismatic leader still move people from princes to peasants? In today’s polarized times and rampant consumerism the Mahatma-’s commitment to truth non violence tolerance and gender and caste equality- most of all sustainability - are all the more relevant.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Mahika Agarwal
@my_name_is_in_use

Mahatma Gandhi’s some ideologies are still relevant today. 'Ahimsa' or non - violence is still relevant especially when there is so much going on around us. Learning to deal with issues calmly, rationally without resorting to violent means is something every young person must learn. Every young person in India has the responsibility of searching for their own identity, without being forced to fit into moulds created for them.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Anoushka Rabha
@smolgirlwithbigbooks

Modern politics – and its new formula of Twitter hashtags, instagram influencers, populist sloganeering and strongman dictators – may seem like an unlikely place for the Gandhian principles to offer fresh inspiration, but his relevance cannot be questioned. In the age of Donald Trump, Brexit and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, perhaps a bit of Gandhi is what we need.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Anushka Barua
@neville_up

According to me, everything but the concept of Swadeshi that Gandhi promoted, is irrelevant in today’s day and age. We cannot follow the principle of non-violence because of the recent threat from China to the sovereignty of India. We cannot just sit back and watch the Chinese take over our land, can we?

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Gazal Panesar
@t_truth

For humanity to move beyond the constraints of societal limitations, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought, and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. His influence at the global level then his technique of mobilising people has been successfully employed by many oppressed societies around the world. We may ignore him at our own risk.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Devangana Bharadwaj
@DevanganaBharadwaj

In today’s world of unrest and so called mechanical advancement in technology as well as attitudinal aspect , the relevance of Non Violence and Truthfulness are highly recognised ideologies. To form a relevant society, the Gandhian philosophy is intrinsic.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android



Zeenat Ullah
@zeenat.u

One may say that non-violence is the weapon of weak but the reality is aeons away. As we live in times that navigate through the phases of war marred by violence and death of common people due to the menace of terrorism there is a significant requirement of Gandhian idea of Non- violence more than ever.

4:57 PM · 23 Sep 20 · Twitter for Android

Changes That Last

-Jeremy Jahau, XII

Changes that last, rarely come instantly. It all starts with a small action, a spark that lights a flame that jumps from person to person but doesn't burn them in an instant, rather warming their very cores like the soothing flames of a campfire, over time but etched in positive light.

However, if you cut out the ramblings of a metaphor-obsessed poet, and remember instead what the Father of the Nation quoted, "In a gentle way, you can shake the world." If only Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was alive today. In a day and age where political debates seem like playground fights and big 'progressive' changes are implemented with 'loving' force. It's safe to assume that the dear Mahatma, would be uncomfortable indeed, for we stand today far thrown from the ideals he had hoped this country would remember, even if they did not, him.

As a country we harbour under the notion that whom we idolise, we must necessarily worship. We therefore take away from the person, their natural attributes of being sinewed of flesh and blood. The greatness of the Mahatma perhaps lay in the fact that he chose to explore and contemplate over his own mortality and morals as a human being, evident for inspection and introspection in his autobiography, 'My experiments with Truth'.

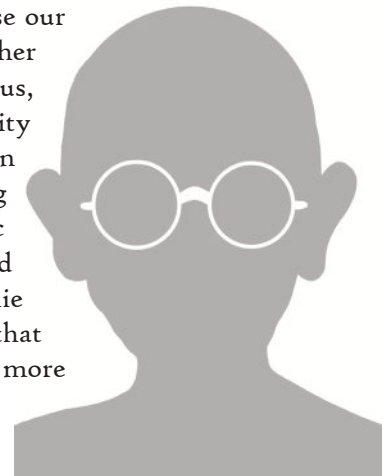
For an icon born towards the end of the 19th Century, his vision continues to stay relevant for the 21st Century. Even as we mark progress in industry and science, our sense of empathy seems to vaporise into thin toxic air. Perhaps what we need most is a Renaissance of Humanity born from the teachings of The Mahatma.

Gandhi's own life is a testimony of youthful candour, ambition, failure and vision. His sole fervour of making a statement without the use of violence, using instead the force of human perseverance, could be the bedrock of everything we want changed, of what we aspire to change.

They say that those who forget to learn from the pages of history, deserve the mammoth calamity heading their way. Whether it is caste-discrimination that we raise our voices against, the abominable condition of women that continues to fester in this country; voices raised must be heard, not drowned over raised fists falling on everything that comes its way. Gandhi stays enshrined within the pages of History for not merely having raised the voices of a billion people but having shook the might of the British Colonial rule, whose burden we continue to weigh 70 years, post-independence.

So, what is it we can do?

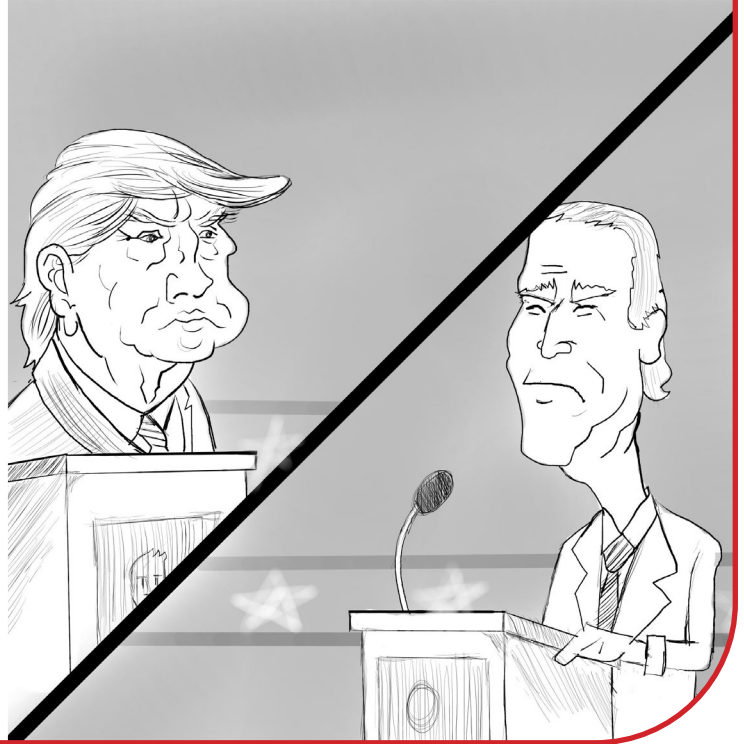
We can sit back and forward the women-centric cartoons flooding the social media platforms post the Hathras and Balrampur rape cases that show that Nirbhaya could well be forgotten lore. We can take to the keyboard and plaster our opinions over multiple walls, create memes, better still, take to the roads in protest marches, mask et al. We can do the sheer opposite and sit back, and nurse our conscience with philosophy, waiting and hoping for another man in the shape, size and ingenuity of the Mahatma to steer us, this society and this country out of the whirlpool of depravity we find ourselves in. We may perhaps instead, look within ourselves. What if each and every one of this billion strong people, roused the cry of aandolan to change, our very fabric of thought. This fabric that can burn to ashes the age old belief that 'Men will be Men' and it is Women on whom lie the onus of their own security. Shatter too the practices that continue to harbour the ills of a caste-system that has borne more evil than any other human ill. In his 151st Birthday, Gandhi calls for us, to discover the Mahatma within. For therein alone, lies our salvation and hope for our tomorrow.



THE OUTPOST

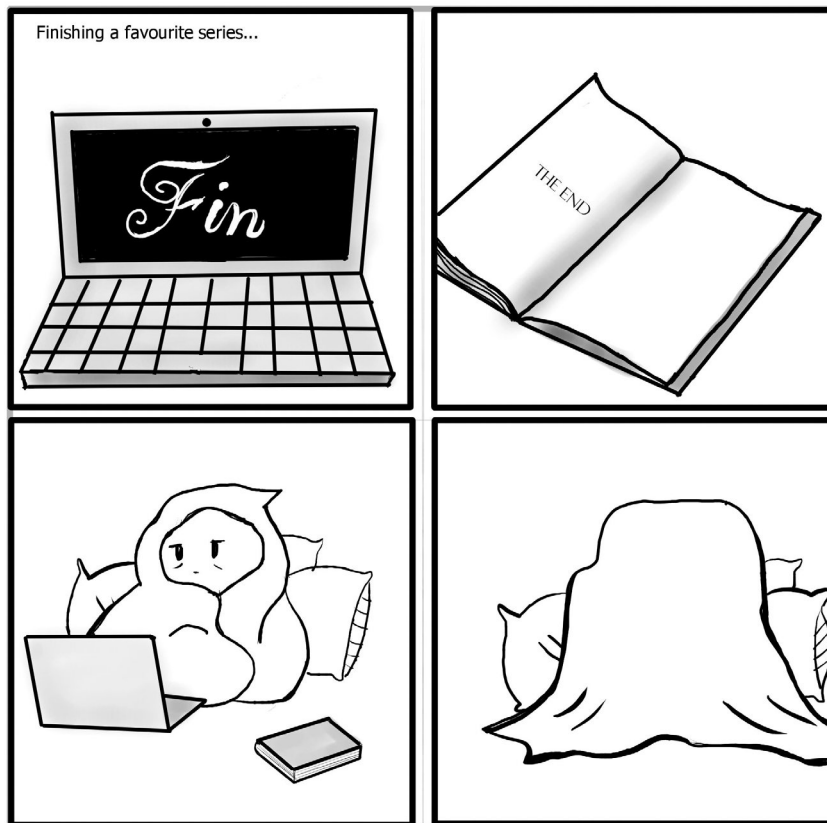
Illustration: Eloziini Senachena

The Migrant Messiah and actor Sonu Sood was conferred the SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award for his selfless service. The Hathras gang rape of a 19 year-old of the Valmiki community has sparked a Nirbhaya like outrage pointing yet again to the persisting fault -lines in UP. The first US Presidential Debates turned into a comic show with each candidate roasting the other for laughs. Armenia-Azerbaijan entered fourth day of conflict, with the possibility of escalating tensions as Russia-Turkey weigh their mutual interests and allies. Religion sees no respite as the Shia-Sunni conflict takes to the streets in Pakistan.



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By: Eloziini Senachena and Tanisha Bhadra



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:

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT BY FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY: During a game chase with a police investigator, Raskolnikov starts to feel guilt wrapping him up.

SPRING SNOW BY YUKIO MISHIMA: A story about the relationship between Kiyoaki, son of a rich family, and Satoko, daughter of an aristocratic family fallen on hard times.

THE WOMAN IN THE DUNES BY KOBO ABE: After missing the last bus, Jumpei is offered lodging for the night in a house in the dunes that can be only reached by a rope ladder. However, the next morning, the ladder is gone.

I AM LEGEND BY RICHARD MATHESON: Every human on Earth has turned into a vampire, all except Robert. This is the story of his survival.

Ripple #142

-Moom Lego, XI

*Pleasant skies, sparkling
waters*

*And magnificent flower
beds*

Where his beloved sat

He walked towards her

She had been awaiting him

since her death



Keep It Reel!

ROAD MAP

-Dristi Rathi, XI

Editor-in-Chief: Jeremy Jahau

Deputy Editor: Letminlun Haokip

Associate Editor: Anoushka S. Rabha

Correspondents: Ojas, Lavanya, Ssara & Neelabh

Design & Layout: Moom Lego & Jeremy Jahau

Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela, Eloziini Senachena and Tanisha Bhadra

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E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

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

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

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