



ZAKIR HUSAIN DELHI COLLEGE

University of Delhi



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
(2020-21)

PRESENTS

AWAAZ

2020 : PANDEMIC, PEOPLE AND POLITICS



Covers by Akash Kumar, First Year

DEMOCRACY

MYANMAR

DRUGS

ELECTIONS

IN THE MEMORY OF



Dr Om Prakash

28th December 1977 - 30th April 2021

A born teacher, Om Prakash, popularly known as OP among his friends, peers and students, was one of the dynamic faculty at the department of Political Science, Zakir Husain Delhi College (University of Delhi). Our friendship was more like a sibling relationship of complementarity. One word which can portray OP is 'decency'. You were a gem of a person, who always maintained a linguistic civility with firmness in your thoughts and ideas while dealing with social discourses.

Although, I am a few months older, but your protective nature has given me a sense of a 'guide' who travelled with me on the 'gyan marg' for more than 25 years. Your smiling facial expressions were not only a supportive strength to my efforts but they were a source of encouragement too. I can't claim that I know you fully but I can confirm that you understood me better than anyone else in my life. You not only loaned me the booking amount for my first car, but also taught me how to drive safely- those driving lessons in DU campus were actually the driving force behind many of my efforts, which was necessary to transform a shy person like me. After your departure, I am not only missing you OP but feeling despair because of the devastating covid has taken away one of the most reliable reference to my confidence. Love you OP. Alvida Dost..

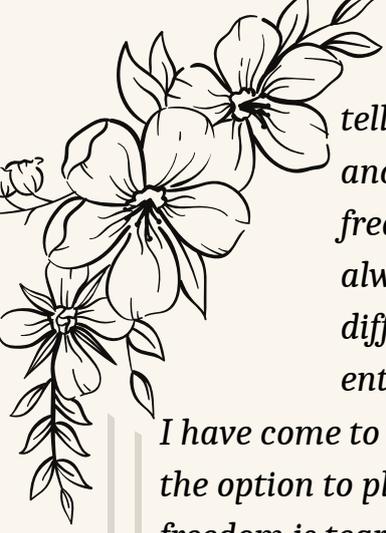
-Ravi Ranjan, faculty member

Dear O.P.,

You keep coming to mind. I try not to remember you. Yet, I remember you and find you are not here.

In memory, I find you. In memory, you are there smiling. And then memory





tells me you are not here. Between memory and absence, death creates another world. In that world, time has no tense. I have so often frequented that space after you departed. In it, the river is the same always; we can get into the same water again and again. Only, we are different each time we walk into it. Into an eternally revisable play, I entered. I cried, and laughed too.

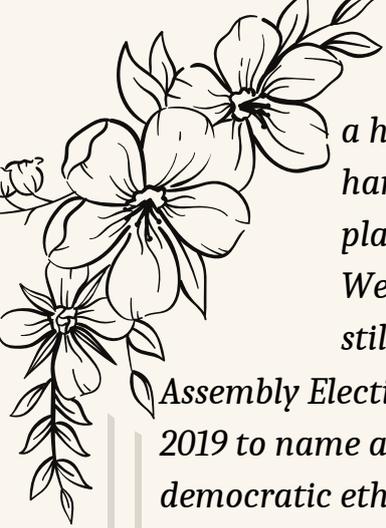
I have come to believe life has one script and after-life, many. Remembrance is the option to play any one anytime. Remembrance is freedom. And yet, this freedom is tearful. I could not make it to your son, Kukul's first birthday. You were sad. I will never be able to make up for it except in this play! You had the most progressive views and the most mature of judgements. Even as I disagreed with you on many occasions, I knew you always had something of significance to say. How I wish I had more time to converse with you only to realise that in remembrance, every wish is a playwright, penning their own dialogues.

While you were here, I never called you friend. Life teaches its lessons in opposites – now, I feel the urge to do so. Farewell, friend!

-Bidhan S Laishram, faculty member

To me he was a dear friend for over a decade since we joined ZHDC. Although we studied in different universities, our close affinity was due to our ideological positions. Our bonding grew by leaps and bounds. OP was someone one could rely upon. It was to be a bonding of a lifetime, but unfortunately covid snatched him from all of us. The moment I came to know about his death, I could not hold myself together. The world seemed to collapse around me. I became numb. The images of the death of thousands in the social media and on the television screen had made one despondent; but OP's death made me feel as if I had lost a part of my life. I could not sleep for nights and cried for many days. Colleagues and friends called me to calm down and switch off my phone as the negative emotions would affect my health as I was still recuperating from the viral onslaught. OP was an excellent academic. I had the opportunity to have close interactions with him on issues concerning India and the world on a regular basis. I always benefitted from his insightful comments on issues that matter. We thought alike; we were like two bodies in one soul. I do not remember if ever we strongly disagreed on any matter in all these years. We spoke over phone for hours to discuss issues (from department related to international arena) and find solutions and ways to understand. I always felt enriched by his activist and intellectual insights. His incisive comments and diagnosis of the state of our imperfect democracy was always thought provoking. Not many would know that he was





a human rights activist too; his association with PUDD gave him first hand information regarding the cases of human rights violation taking place in the country.

We always enjoyed discussing political ideas as well as political events. I still remember our long and intense discussions during Bihar

Assembly Elections 2015, UP Assembly Elections 2017 and the general elections of 2019 to name a few. He was always concerned about the country's secular and democratic ethos. He wanted to see an egalitarian and socialist order.

OP was increasingly concerned about my safety and well-being over the last few years. He used to ask me to remain cautious while writing political posts on social media. He was perturbed with the current political atmosphere in the country. He would often tell me that we are living in dangerous times, yet, he was optimist that things will change for better. Due to ongoing rise in violence against Muslims, vigilantism and majoritarianism in the country, he was concerned for the safety of Muslims/minorities/weaker sections in particular and the future of the country in general. He wondered how India descended into this apocalypse.

Many a time, when there were attacks on me (on social media) from right wing forces, he used to come on my fb wall and defend my position/posts in an articulate and sophisticated manner. His interventions used to be nuanced and much more engaging, yet it used to demolish the flawed arguments/narratives of the Hindutva bandwagons. He was truly a steadfast and scrupulous upholder of the secular values. OP was courageous and bold; never shied away from taking political positions.

Today, many of us hesitate, but he had the ability to call a spade a spade, he used to call a fascist a fascist in the classroom discussions too. I would be happy whenever we taught the same batch of students. It made my task easier. . OP's passion for teaching was quite known. He would provoke the students to question some of their preconceived notions. He was successful in motivating the students to read from the reading package/original texts (which is challenging at the undergrad level) and get acquainted with the world of ideas.

In his professional life, undoubtedly, OP was a great scholar; in his personal life, he was a great father and a great husband as I have seen them in close quarters. OP loved spending time with his son Kulkul and doing house chores regularly.

He would often ask me about my son (who is of Kulkul's age) and wife; he would share the tips for child care/upbringing with me.

He had an uncanny ability to find happiness in even a small thing and would smile. His pleasant personality was contagious to everyone he met. His cheerful attitude, radiant face and affable smile will be





deeply missed forever. With OP gone, the staff room will never be the same again for me. As a result of his generous spirit and pleasant personality, he was loved by all of us. His beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of his students, colleagues and friends. He would interact with everyone with grace and dignity whether a student or a colleague. He was a patient listener, sensitive, compassionate, and

always concerned for the weaker sections. It would not be an exaggeration to say that OP was an epitome of decency and kindness. I considered him a comrade in arms. His untimely death is a personal and huge loss for me.

Dear OP, you will be fondly remembered forever!!!

-Aftab Alam, faculty member

A perfect teacher, student, friend, father and life partner. A person who understood and practiced difference of opinion as a virtue. A true gentleman and a truly democratic soul. The vacuum his absence created is impossible to fill. OP will be dearly missed.

-Tripta Sharma, faculty member

I was taught by Om Prakash sir for a very brief period of time, all through the online mode. He was extremely kind and very passionate about his subject. He recommended a movie about feminism to the class, and it is one of my favorite movies now. I'm really grateful that I could spend some time under his guidance. I didn't think it was possible to be affected so deeply by someone I could never meet.

-Vaishnavi, student

When I think of OP I think of a gentle and generous soul, who never had a nasty word for anyone. A magnanimous person, even when he was critical of someone, it sounded kind. When I spoke with OP, I always felt he actually listened and it was always a real conversation. He was a feminist without proclaiming it, a friend without underlining it. You will always be missed.

-Priya Mirza, faculty member

Everytime I close my eyes, his picture with his delicate smile and unique posture goes through my mind. OP sir was a thought provoking lecturer, eminent scholar and a cheerful and engaging person I have ever met.

A part of my intellect is his endowment.

Will miss him so much!

-Deepanshu Namdev, student





O.P. Sir was a noble soul. A thorough gentleman, he treated all his colleagues with respect. He was empathetic and always stood for the right cause. He will be fondly remembered by everyone, even those who had interacted with him only once.

-Anushree, faculty member

My first introduction to OP was as OP 'sir', a much-revered senior in the Department of Political Science. For a bunch of us, he was someone to look up to in terms of extensive reading and articulated arguments. To my utter delight, I found him as a colleague at Zakir Husain Delhi College a decade later, and 'OP sir' became OP from then on. When we decided to introduce an optional paper 'Feminist Theory and Practice' in 2011, and I volunteered to teach the course, OP was my go-to person for all kinds of queries - ranging from reference materials to old question papers. He was extremely patient, kind and always willing to help; in fact his respect for people who were decidedly less informed than he, was the most charming aspect of OP's personality. I have no qualms in admitting that I learnt from informal discussions with him as much as his students did in the classroom.

I never counted myself among OP's 'close circle' of friends, but then it was him who got me a cake after I got married, and enquired about emotional compatibility with my marital family! I valued his opinion, and it was a proud moment for me when OP thought I had a good understanding of feminism. That was generous of him, for I don't think I will ever be able to dismantle gender boundaries or blend theory into practice the way he did.

I never thought one day I would refer to OP in the past tense. As we continue to teach, research and have discussions, most of us would also continue to expect OP to provide his inputs. I am not sure if any of us would ever get used to his absence.

-Manashi Misra, faculty member

He was one of my favourite professor. I was fortunate to have him as my professor. His classes were ofcourse conducted not as lectures but as Socratic dialogues to which OP sir contributed his vast knowledge and experience. His way to encourage and motivate students was admirable.

-Sanyam Jain, student

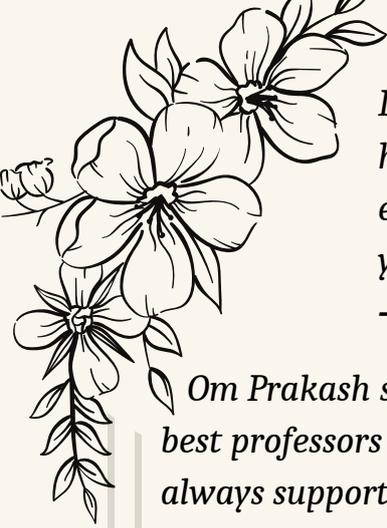
OP ji was a very progressive, honest colleague and a fine human being. You will be remembered forever.

-Santhosh J., faculty member

Sir has been an iconoclast scholar, an exceptional teacher and affable, in person. Will be deeply missed.

-Anjali, student





I met Om Prakash sir through online classes, not in real life, but i miss his voice saying, "To achieve something in life you've to respect and care even for the smallest things." I'll forever cherish the little time, sir that you and our classmates shared. Thank you sir!

-Ngathemoilen Khorong Chiru, student

Om Prakash sir will always remain in my heart not only because he was one of the best professors but he was also the most kind and pure soul we all will ever meet. Sir always supported me and appreciated my small achievements, and guided me at the same time. I still remember my last presentation with sir, where he was trying to evaluate my understanding of the topic by asking questions related to my presentation but he was equally supportive at the same moment. Sir always tried his best to understand all the students and was always there to help us. When my father tested positive for COVID, he used to ask about my father's health every day after class and used to tell me what precautions and medicines he should take. I wish I could also ask him about his health and could tell him how much respect I have for him.

-Zoya Ansari, student

Dr Om Prakash sir used to teach us Comparative politics in Semester III and IV. He will always be my favourite teacher. He was a mentor, guide and motivator to me. We all miss him so much.

-Faiz Ahmed, student

Om, the sound of the universe, as I always thought of him, left us to be united with the Creator of the universe on 30th April 2021. It has been difficult to believe, let alone accept, that he is no longer physically with us. My initial impression of Om upon ZHC as colleagues in 2011 was that he is a scholar of high caliber and a no-nonsense person. In the ten years of our association, I would maintain my preliminary thoughts about him except that I discovered he has a goofy side too. Om's command of the subject, which was not just limited to the papers he taught for many years, impressed me the most about him. His valuable inputs in the numerous department meetings, and his cooperation and support during my Teacher in-Chargeship is something I would appreciate for a long time to come. He would often take a stand on important matters and wouldn't be afraid to call a spade a spade. It was always a pleasure sharing the staff room space with Om, which is where we would discuss everything under the sun, from complex political issues to parenting and online shopping.

The last academic year (2020-2021) particularly holds so many of my cherished memories with Om, when my bond with him became stronger.





Not a week would go by when I would not call him up to discuss my endless queries related to online classes, promotion issues, or department, college or University matters. He would patiently listen to me and transparently share his views. It felt safe to talk to him about any professional concern that I had.

Another of Om's most admirable quality was that he was an unconventional husband and father. He took feminism out from the books and dared to apply it in his own life. It came naturally to him. He didn't hesitate to practice what he preached in other areas too. He would often ask me about my family's well-being, and would understand my personal challenges even before I would share them with him.

There's so much more I could have learnt from Om and a lot more that I wish to share about our association and yet I have so few words to express my grief of losing a dear colleague in him. My prayers for peace for his soul and strength to his family.

-Vasudha Dhingra Bahl, faculty member

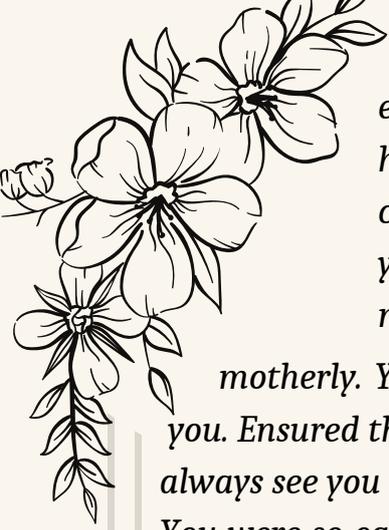
It is hard to believe that you are no longer with us today. Just recently on April 6th we met in college. I remember having an intense conversation with you while we waited in the lobby for the meeting to start. Never knew it would be our last interaction. It has been two months since we lost you. My mind goes back to the time when we crossed paths briefly while pursuing Masters in the year 2000. It was Ravi Ranjan, my senior in the college through whom I first learnt about you. While most of our peers were preparing for the civils, you concentrated hard on sinking deep into the ocean of knowledge to pursue academics as a mission. One thing that perturbed me however was my feeling that you remain confined to the proximity of a few close circuits and were proud and pretentious.

However, the opportunity of working with you at the DCRC in 2002 for a project for a few months, got me to know you more closely and I realised how amicable, friendly and empathetic you are as a person.

Remember the many conversations and agony we shared when the opportunity of teaching was lost despite us doing well in many interviews. When I lost out on work in 2006, your visit to me was consoling and reassuring that all is not lost and fortunately as luck would have it, we joined the department together in 2010 on a permanent basis and the bond grew stronger.

It was always a pleasure entering into a discourse with you on many areas of critical engagement. Despite the disagreements, there was never a moment, I ever recall, you tried to push your knowledge believing in the best tradition of dialogical scholarship. Your own views on many aspects of life kept evolving constantly with time. An





erudite scholar, adorable teacher, a reliable friend, you wore so many hats. Another discovery was when your family shifted to our residential campus a few years back. This is when I met an unconventional father in you. Not that as father's we do not care much for our children. But the manner you attended to Kulkul was certainly very special and

motherly. Your cooking skills always came handy when we occasionally visited you. Ensured that Priti was not burdened while she was pursuing her Ph.D. We could always see you in a hurry to reach home to attend to the family after classes.

You were so caring. Always there for all. Can not forget when you rushed me to the hospital when I met with an accident. You came regularly to check on me till I was better. Your affable smile and kindness was so reassuring. Wish you stayed with us and were always here to lift us all. You seldom realised how through your selfless, compassionate ways you reached many, even those that didn't belong to your immediate circle. Certainly, your life gave new meaning to relationships which can't be put in words and I can't thank you enough.

You will always be there in our memories and heart inspiring us to pursue little values that we draw as lessons from your life.

-Sanjeev Kumar, faculty member



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AVAAM

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

OVERVIEW

Avaam- the department of Political Science, Zakir Husain Delhi College is older than independent India. Since its bold initiation, our department has been the core of the institution. Zakir Husain Delhi College has both welcomed and waved goodbye to many reigns, the Delhi College at Ajmeri Gate in post independent India earned its name and fame for the progressiveness of the faculty and the students. The department of Political Science has always been on the forefront considering the times society needed a voice to take back what is its right. The students, apart from their training in the subject are also trained holistically by the notion of learning beyond the classroom.

Tracing the roots of the earliest faculty members, around the post-partition period, the department had reputable teachers. It would be a blunder not to mention the names of these professors credited with the building of the department. The department will always be thankful to the late Dr Subimal Pal, late Professor Z.M Quraishi, late Professor Randhir Singh, late Dr Ram Bhatnagar and Professor Manoranjan Mohanty. Both Professor Randhir Singh and Manoranjan Mohanty served in the University of Delhi till their retirement. The faculty remembers some of its beloved professors who had untimely deaths. Late Dr Ved Gupta, a teacher and activist passed away in 1996. The department as a tribute to his contributions offers a scholarship to the students in his name. The demise of Dr Arun Kumar in 2009 left a shock. Dr Ram Bhatnagar who was famously known for his unique way of imparting lessons on Western Political Thought, passed away in 2014. Late Professor Amresh Ganguli, a Left activist and one of the most respected professors, expired in 2015. It is interesting to point out that both Dr Ved Gupta and Professor Amresh Ganguli were the editors of the department journal 'JIGYASA', and had served until their retirement in the college.

Most of the first year students familiarize themselves with Political Theory by Professor MP Jain, and it is the pride of the department that he recently retired from the college. Dr Narendra Sharma is the senior most retired colleague who remains a living link with the rich heritage of the department. Among the recent faculty members, Professor Ummu Salma Bava and Dr Mahindra Nath Thakur joined Jawaharlal Nehru University a decade and a half ago. Dr Deepak Verma is a faculty member in an American University. Dr Sashi Shekhar Singh, who taught here for long

as a temporary faculty and is now in Satyawati College, is also an elected member of the Academic Council, University of Delhi. A good number of our faculty members and students are teaching in different colleges of the University.

In the mid-1980s, separate sections were introduced with instructions in both English and Hindi. It has been helpful in attracting students from all parts of the country and abroad to join us. Within a decade, Avaam witnessed the appointment of a large number of young and bright faculty members and a just gender ratio, which enabled the department to reach its goal of a composite and vibrant academic culture.

Avaam provides a democratic space to every member of the department, as the name of it is quite explanatory. Through its various activities, it provides a platform with the political science departments of other colleges within the University. Recently, the practise of direct election for the offices of Avaam has started and it is working well.

The history of the department is not just theory to be read but a legacy to be lived, and it is an epitome of righteous firmness for its faculty and students who constitute it, who develop with it and those who wish to be a part of it. Many more milestones to Avaam's bold voice and mighty pen.

Compiled by Suvaiba Zaheen in consultation with Dr Savita Singh

AVAAM

ADDRESS BY THE TEACHER IN-CHARGE

Dear readers,

This year's academic (2020-21) departmental magazine is themed '2020: Pandemic, People and Politics'. This edition of Awaaz undertakes to explore how the global pandemic has affected and impacted people and politics nationally and internationally in general.

The chosen theme 'pandemic, people and politics' is largely constructed and contested based on our different experiences, interpretations and observations. When we are struggling hard to survive the ruinous second wave of the pandemic, we realize that the social media and information industry has been playing a critical role in shaping our understanding of this unprecedented health emergency. Therefore, the outbreak of the global pandemic, spread and management are shrouded under rumors and even conspiracy theories. The present pandemic is raising fundamental questions not only about the inadequacies of the public health system but also about the way we act and react to social unrest, food insecurity, democratic protest, concerns of migrant workers, economic breakdown, complete lockdown and so on. Crises often reveal structural inequalities hidden in the system. Thus, every aspect of human life has been seriously impacted by a rapid spread of COVID. In this tumultuous environment, when trust and confidence are waning in political institutions and democratic spaces and engagements are under threat, we as members of the academic community pause to deliberate over evolving the meaning and nature of politics and its impact on people during the global pandemic. On behalf of the entire department, I express our solidarity with those who are directly impacted by the COVID-19 and salute all the health care workers including every doctor and helper for their unwavering and continuous support and dedication during this greatest humanitarian crisis.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our principal Prof. Dr Masroor Ahmed Beg for his support and encouragement for conducting all online departmental activities. The editorial board and editorial advisory faculty members deserve special thanks for their constant involvement and perseverance in making this year's magazine a reality during such difficult times. I hope that the readers will find this work interesting and worth appreciating. I take this opportunity to thank all final year students (2018-21) for their contribution and wholehearted participation in all departmental activities. Many of them have shown their extraordinary skills to shine and lead the department in unexpected times in their unique ways. I wish them a happy, healthy and bright future ahead.



Dr Savita Singh

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

“I detest what you have to say, but I will defend to death your right to say it.” -Voltaire

The Editorial Board welcomes the readers to this year’s edition of Awaaz- the magazine curated by the students of Political Science, Zakir Husain Delhi College.

The board was compelled to try and encompass our current situation in every aspect- we deliberated over various themes ranging from electoral politics, migration, to the politics of digital media. Our deliberation eventually led to the theme- 2020: Pandemic, Politics and People. This year’s issue is particularly special given the circumstances under which the magazine has been curated. Our collaboration was completely online which created numerous hindrances and challenged us to adapt to the best of our collective ability.

It is a matter of great honour for us to have received the opportunity to make a contribution to the longstanding legacy of our esteemed institute.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Principal Professor Masroor Ahmad Beg, Dr Savita Singh, the faculty advisors – Dr Priya Mirza, Dr Shabana Azmi, Dr Tripta Sharma and Dr Santhosh J for their help with regards to this publication.

We like to think that there is something inherently elegant when it comes to the art of expression- be it a painting, an essay, or poetry. This issue is an exercise in collaboration of these expressions created by members of the department of Political Science. The publication is simply a forum that belongs to the student fraternity for them to articulate and express their inner voice.

As students of Political Science, we hope that the readers approach every piece with an open mind, even if one may reflect ideas that they may not necessarily agree with. The ability to entertain an idea without accepting it, is after all, the mark of an educated mind.

As the world is battling the largely unprecedented threat posed by the pandemic, we sincerely wish the best of health to all members of society, and hope that our sense of solidarity is well received.

This project has been a wonderful exercise in teamwork, critical thought and responsibility. We only hope that the reader enjoys this publication as much as we did.

Editorial Board, Department of Political Science

2020-21

संपादकीय पत्र

बहुत से विचार थोड़े शब्दों में व्यक्त करना, एक महती कला है।

भारत में कोविड-19 महामारी के खिलाफ लड़ाई में विगत एक वर्ष काफी उतार-चढ़ाव से परिपूर्ण रहा। महामारी काल के दौर में भी जाकिर हुसैन दिल्ली कॉलेज के राजनीति विज्ञान विभाग आवाम को अपनी वार्षिक पत्रिका आवाज़ 2020 का सातवां संस्करण प्रस्तुत कर पाने की प्रसन्नता है। रचनात्मकता विचारों का वह द्वंद्व है, जिसका जितना अधिक प्रयोग किया जाता है, उतनी ही उसमें वृद्धि होती है। आवाज़ कॉलेज के विद्यार्थियों को एक मंच प्रदान करती है जहां वे अपनी लेखनी के माध्यम से अपनी रचनात्मकता, कुशलता व विचारों को अभिव्यक्त कर सकते हैं।

आवाज़ के इस सातवें संस्करण का विषय है- “2020: पैडेमिक, पॉलिटिक्स एंड पीपल” कोविड महामारी के प्रभाव से कोई भी देश, संस्थान व व्यक्ति अछूता नहीं रहा है। इस पत्रिका के माध्यम से हम विद्यार्थियों ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में कोविड महामारी के प्रभावों का वर्णन किया है। साथ ही महामारी काल के दौरान भारतीय राजनीति और विदेश नीति का भी विश्लेषण पत्रिका में किया गया है। निबंधों, लेखों, कविताओं, किताब व सिनेमा समीक्षाओं आदि के रूप में विद्यार्थियों ने अपने विचार अभिव्यक्त किए हैं। यह हम सब के लिए केवल विचार अभिव्यक्ति का माध्यम ना होकर अलग-अलग तरीकों की अभिव्यक्ति को सीखने का उत्तम मौका रहा।

मैं संयम जैन (संपादक प्रमुख) अपनी टीम की ओर से विभाग के प्राध्यापकों का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। संपादक के रूप में कार्य करते हुए हमारी सोच व ज्ञान का दायरा भी बढ़ता है क्योंकि इससे हमें विभिन्न विषयों पर विभिन्न मत जानने का अवसर मिलता है।

आवाज़ अपने इस संस्करण के प्रकाशन के लिए कॉलेज के प्रधानाचार्य डॉ. मसरूर अहमद बेग जी के सहयोग के लिए आभार व्यक्त करते हैं। राजनीति विज्ञान विभाग की विभागाध्यक्ष डॉ. सविता सिंह, सहयोगी प्राध्यापक डॉ. प्रिया मिश्रा, डॉ. शबाना आजमी, डॉ. तृप्ता शर्मा, डॉ. संतोष जे. और आवाम पदाधिकारियों तथा अन्य सभी प्राध्यापकों को उनका सहयोग व मूल्यवान समय प्रदान करने के लिए धन्यवाद व कृतज्ञता ज्ञापित करते हैं।

हमें पूर्ण विश्वास है कि पत्रिका को पढ़कर आप सभी उत्साहित होंगे। हमारी पाठकों से अपेक्षा है कि वे पत्रिका में प्रस्तुत किए गए विचारों के सही अर्थ को ही ग्रहण करें। इसी के साथ हम आप सभी छात्र-छात्राओं के सफल और उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना करते हैं। पत्रिका के सम्पादन में हुई किसी भी प्रकार की त्रुटि के लिए हम क्षमाप्रार्थी हैं।

संपादक मंडल, राजनीतिक विज्ञान विभाग

2020-21

FACULTY ADVISORS 2020-21



DR PRIYA MIRZA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



DR SHABANA AZMI
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



DR TRIPTA SHARMA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



DR SANTHOSH J.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

EDITORIAL BOARD 2020-21



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EDITOR IN CHIEF



SANYAM JAIN
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ADITYA SHARMA



TANMAY KANASKAR



S. MIHIR



PAWAN KUMAR



SADIQ AMEEN



KHUSHBOO MISHRA

DESIGN AND MEDIA TEAM 2020-21



ANKIT KUMAR



AKASH KUMAR



AMISHA DAS

AVAAM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2020-21

The previous academic year has been an unprecedented one, marked by diverse activities. As they are archived through Awaaz and become a part of the department's history, I feel compelled to take a pause and look back. I feel a sense of accomplishment for I've learnt innumerable lessons of life and leadership. Leadership isn't at all about the person at the top of the hierarchy but about each and every person involved.



Anjali Mishra
President

The student union has to be credited for an eventful academic session with manifold success. The constant support from the faculty made many things possible. The role of our technical and outreach team was crucial in running the webinars smoothly given the virtual mode of interaction. In the process, we critically examined our work and strived towards excellence. We have navigated through a journey of immense growth and learning. I hope these lessons guide us through the many important roles we take up in the future.

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude towards Dr Savita Singh, for the finest learnings and rigorous training in management and leadership that I received from her during my tenure as President. The learnings are for a lifetime and have been my strength throughout. I further wish to congratulate the Editorial Board led by Sanyam and Suvaiba, who have worked extremely hard to make this edition possible. A university is unthinkable without a forum for individuals to express themselves without fear, to engage with ideas from across the spectrum. The 2020-21 edition of Awaaz is an important contribution to this idea of open forums, that gathers insights and perspectives from the students on matters of the pandemic and contemporary politics in these unprecedented times. I hope this endeavour towards archiving ideas also goes a long way in cultivating a culture of rigorous academic writing in undergraduate studies.

I want you all to know how much I enjoyed working with you on all the webinars and events, and how proud I am to have played a small part in applying the latest technology to such a wonderful tradition in these tough times. For me, it was really cool to step out of our comfort zones and give effect to something of this kind. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Aditi Ranjan
General secretary

At a time where the whole world has come to a standstill, it feels amazing to know that the legacy of the department continues; be it in ways of conducting the first online elections or virtual freshers or webinars or other programmes, the student union, with help of the faculty has left no stone unturned, striving towards maintaining the impeccable standards of the department. Besides, Awaaz - The annual departmental magazine has a legacy of its own, from having marvellously detailed articles to other creative works, and the many new writers and creators that will come on board with their creativity in this session as well. The very thought of getting to read a magazine revolving around the concerns of people, the pandemic and politics gives me immense pleasure and excites me to the most extreme level. A big congratulations to the entire political science family of Zakir Husain Delhi College.



Vishal Kumar Bhagat
Joint Secretary

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

3RD YEAR:



Yathin Pradeep
Section A



Suvaiba Zaheen
Section A



Ankit Kumar
Section B

2ND YEAR:



Faiz Ahmed
Section A



Tanmay Kanaskar
Section B



Seema
Section C



Rajeev Suryawanshi
Section C

1ST YEAR:



Jushya Khambiri
Section A



Vaibhav Khushwaha
Section A



Harsh Dhiman
Section B



Shabnam Ali Khan
Section B



Anuradha
Section C



Pawan Kumar
Section C

AVAAM FACULTY MEMBERS



Dr Savita Singh
Teacher-in-Charge



Dr Uma Shankar
Associate Professor



Dr Ravi Ranjan
Assistant Professor



Dr Sonu Singh
Assistant Professor



Dr Sanjeev Kumar
Assistant Professor



Dr L. Bidhanchandra Singh
Assistant Professor



Dr Md. Aftab Alam
Assistant Professor



Ms Manashi Misra
Assistant Professor



Dr Vasudha Dinghra
Assistant Professor



Dr Om Prakash
Assistant Professor



Dr Priya Mirza
Assistant Professor



Ms Bobby Sorokhaibam
Assistant Professor



Dr Shabana Azmi
Assistant Professor



Dr Tripta Sharma
Assistant Professor



Dr Santhosh J.
Assistant Professor



Dr Anushree
Assistant Professor



Dr Md. Mosharraf Alam
Assistant Professor



Mr Ankit Singh
Assistant Professor

ANNUAL REPORT (2020-21)

The Department of Political Science Avaam, Zakir Husain Delhi College strives for the holistic development of their students by fostering a political consciousness and a critical analysis. To curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic the university opted for an online teaching format, forgoing the traditional classroom model of teaching. The department smoothened this transition, by organising ICT workshops for students through digital platforms such as MS Teams, Google Meet, Zoom etc. In the academic year 2020-21, the department has actively worked towards creating an engaging environment for the students. This feat was achieved through numerous interactive sessions with eminent speakers and panel discussions about varied topics of interest, which ensured learning beyond the classrooms. We attempted to connect the student community, by broadening the scope of opportunities available to them and by making learning an inclusive experience for every member.

Department Activities

Special Lecture Series

- The first lecture of the academic session 2020-21, was an orientation lecture by Prof. Ashok Acharya, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi on '*Contemporary Political Theory : Issues and Challenges*' held on December 4, 2020. It primarily sought to acquaint the first-year students with the constantly evolving and ever-challenging nature of political theory, a sub-discipline of Political Science. He deliberated upon the theme with rudimentary and fundamental approaches which helped the audience, especially the first-year students understand the complexities of the political world we inhabit. He applied analytical and critical point-of-views to support his statements through logic and reason. The post-talk discussion was moderated by Dr Vasudha Dhingra and Dr Shabana Azmi. Dr Savita Singh, Teacher-in-charge gave the vote of thanks and thanked him for the informative session.

- 1st Ramashray Roy Memorial Lecture: Prof. Ramashray Roy, founding member and former Director of Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New

Delhi, passed away on August 10, 2020. To commemorate his contribution to the discourse of Social Sciences and Politics of India, the department in collaboration with Ramashray Roy Foundation, New Delhi, organised the 1st Ramashray Roy Memorial lecture on the topic '*Social Science in India : Major trends and Possibilities*' on 20 January 2021. The speaker for the session was Prof. Girishwar Misra, former VC, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, retired Professor of Psychology, DU. Indira Roy, President, Ramashray Roy Foundation chaired the session. Dr Ravi Ranjan as the discussant represented the college.

- On January 28, 2020, a session on '*A Critical Understanding of the Law-Making Process of the Parliament*' was organised. The speaker for the session was Maansi Verma, a lawyer and founder of Madhyam. Madhyam is a digital participatory policy making initiative. Dr Mirza was the discussant from the department.

- In collaboration with Gandhi Study Circle, a session on '*Farmers Movement and Reconstruction of Rural India - The Gandhi Way*' was held on February 15, 2021. The speaker of the webinar was Prof. Anand Kumar, an eminent academician and social activist. Prof. Kumar argued that the ongoing farmers' protest in India should be perceived not only as a movement to safeguard their own interests, but also questions the majoritarian tendency within a democracy. He underlined that a collectively organised protest of any nature in a liberal democracy not only questions the ruling dispensation on account of its majority but also raises a new hope for the deepening of democracy in India. Dr Sanjeev Kumar, convenor of the Gandhi Study Circle and faculty of the department was the discussant.

- On February 24, 2021, a lecture on '*Right to Privacy and Diversity in the Constitution*' was organised. The speaker for the session was Amber Rana, a lawyer by training. The session attempted to understand the complexities of the privacy rights of citizens. Dr Mirza was the discussant from the department.

- On March 5, 2021, a session was organised on the topic, '*History of the Right to Property in Independent India*' by Namita Wahi, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research and founding director, Land Rights Initiative. The session attempted to explore the linkages between the histories and present felt need of land reform laws in India. Dr Mirza was the discussant from the department.

Events

- **Book Discussion on UN Day:** On October 24, 2021, on the occasion of the United Nations Day, a panel discussion was held on a recently published book '*India in United Nations: Interplay of Interests and Principles*', authored by Prof. CSR Murthy, retired faculty at School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University. The book presents a holistic and systematic understanding of India's long and rich association with the United Nations and focuses on key areas of contemporary relevance where India's diplomatic efforts can play a role. Prof. Rumki Basu, Dept. of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia and Prof. Yeshi Cheoden, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Dr Uma Shankar, senior faculty member of the department, joined in the discussion.
- **Freshers Welcome Programme:** On 28th November 2020, the department organised a Retro Revival themed virtual fresher's welcome. The event was inaugurated by Dr Savita Singh. There was overwhelming participation with more than a hundred attendees. The event was followed by a host of performances, such as dancing, singing, poetry recitation and mimicry.. It introduced the freshers to the department and made them an integral part of Avaam. The competitions were judged by Dr Azmi, Dr Santhosh J and Dr Md. Mosharraf Alam. The cherry on top for this event was the Expectations Vs Reality and the virtual tour videos shown to the first years to give them a glimpse of college. Towards the end of the event, Ms. Fresher, Mr. Fresher and most Talented Fresher were crowned. Dr Singh then extended a vote of thanks to everyone for attending the event and making it a huge success.
- **Poetry Recitation Competition on Parakram Diwas:** In memory of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation, the department celebrated Parakram Diwas by organising a Poetry Recitation Competition on the occasion of his 125th Birth Anniversary. Competition was judged by Dr Singh, Dr Ranjan, and Dr Azmi. The poems were recited both in Hindi and English. Finally, Dr Singh gave a vote of thanks to all the participants and extended special gratitude to the members of the union for making this event a wonderful success. All the participants, winners and the hosts were provided with the e-certificates for their participation.

• International Women's Day Talk: March 8, 2021, International Women's Day Celebration was marked by conducting a webinar on '*#Me-too Movement: Struggles and Achievements*'. The speaker for the event was, Rituparna Chatterjee, a journalist, gender activist and curator of the India #MeToo. The talk was encircled around the very objective of identifying patriarchy within the private and public spheres. The lecture was followed by a moderated discussion involving our discussants, Dr Mirza, Dr Santhosh, Dr Sharma and Dr Anushree, that attempted to explore different dimensions, linkages and the dichotomy between public and private domain. The speaker pointed out that, "Feminism is for everyone, it sets everyone free".

• Ambedkar Jayanti Special Address: In association with the Embassy of India, Seoul, Republic of South Korea and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Seoul, the department celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti on the occasion of the 130th birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, fondly remembered as Babasaheb - father of the Indian Constitution, a philosopher, an economist, an anthropologist and an ardent supporter of democracy based upon the ideals of equality, liberty and fraternity. A special address on '*Dr Ambedkar's Multifaceted Contribution to Modern India*' was delivered by Dr Narendra Jadhav, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and author of the book 'Untouchables'. The department was honoured to have Amb. Sripriya Ranganathan, Embassy of India, Seoul, for her welcome remarks on the occasion, and Dr Sonu Trivedi, presently Director of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea. Dr Singh concluded the session by extending her vote of thanks to the speaker and all the participants. The event was a huge success with an interactive audience.

Milestones Achieved This Year

• First Online 'AVAAM' Student Body Election - The Executive Council is headed by the President (IIIrd Year), General Secretary (IInd Year) and Joint Secretary (Ist Year). In view of the current situation, this year, the department conducted online Students Body Elections and held on January 16, 2021 with more than 80 per cent total turnout of the student-voters, indicating great enthusiasm of our students towards the democratic process. Out of the three candidates contesting for the post of Joint Secretary, Vishal Kumar Bhagat was declared victorious. For the post of General Secretary, Aditi Ranjan was elected. Finally, out of the three candidates

contesting for the prestigious post of President, Anjali Mishra won the post. In these trying times, when students have been unable to enjoy campus life and have been limited for the most part to online learning, Avaam ZHDC prides itself in its students' continued involvement, determination and upholding of our valued participatory and democratic traditions.

- **Book Club of AVAAM Inaugurated:** The book club is hosted by Dr Priya Mirza, Department of Political Science. It welcomes students across departments and batches to join and explore their common interest in literature. The members meet on alternate Mondays to discuss a wide range of literature from the world of fiction and nonfiction, as proposed by the members. The aim of this book club is to create a safe and largely informal space for members to discuss the storyline, way of writing and issues brought up by the author, at times relating to present day society and personal experiences, with a sense of freeness.

The list of books discussed include:

1. Norwegian Wood, Haruki Murakami (1987)
2. Ants among elephants, Sujatha Gidla (2017)
3. Screwtape's letters, C S Lewis (1942)

- **Women's Development Cell of Avaam inaugurated:** The Women's Development and Gender Sensitization Cell of AVAAM has been introduced with the efforts of its convener, Dr Singh, department and the office-bearers of Avaam. The attempt is to raise awareness on gender discrimination, women's rights and gender equality by conducting workshops and seminars.

- **Department's Social Connects and the Outreach Team:** This academic year, the department achieved another milestone by joining social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. This academic year, the outreach team was managed by the student union; Anjali (Manager), Aditi (Coordinator), and Vishal (Coordinator). Manager, coordinators, and creative writers have been appointed for the academic session 2021-2022. They will strive towards making the department known across academia with their active participation in social media.

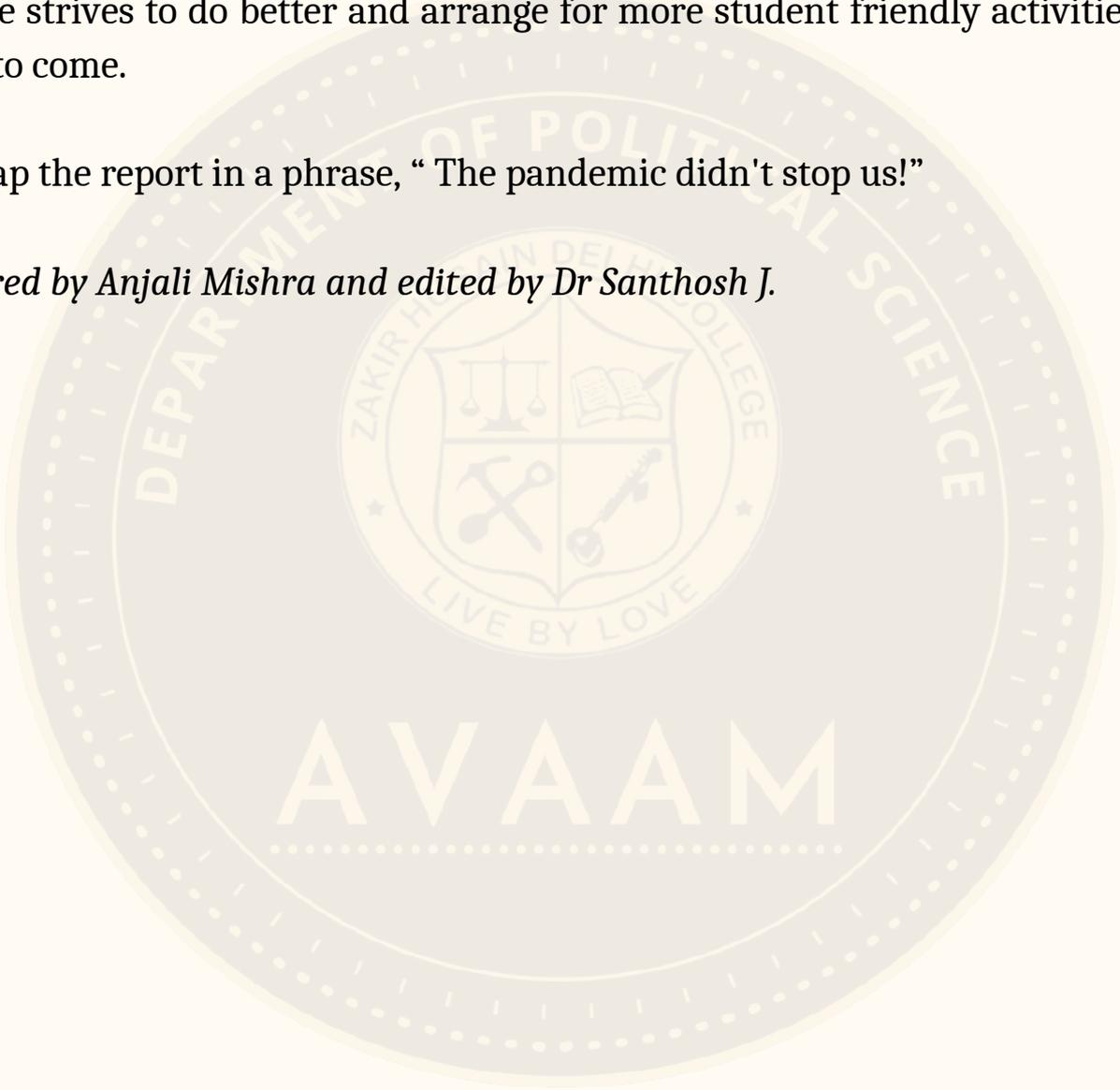
- **Blog of Department AWAAZ Launched:** The department has launched its official blog, AWAAZ featuring the unheard voices of Avaam. It is the first time that a

department has its own blog (<https://polsciencezhdc.wordpress.com/>) in ZHDC. The blog is an open space for political discussions, commentaries and debates. The blog invites student entries throughout the year and will feature them in the departmental magazine.

The department expresses gratitude to all the members of the executive council, student community and the faculty for being at the forefront, coordinating and smoothening the process in ways innumerable. The Department of Political Science strives to do better and arrange for more student friendly activities in the years to come.

To wrap the report in a phrase, “ The pandemic didn't stop us!”

Prepared by Anjali Mishra and edited by Dr Santhosh J.



ARTICLES

आलेख



UNRAVELLING THE DARK REALITIES IN THE PANDEMIC

Increasing poverty, rising cases of death due to starvation, increasing joblessness, migrant labourers walking miles and miles to cross state borders, lack of medical facilities - this is the grave reality of our country's recent past which we have been ignoring for decades, that has come to light in the background of the pandemic. More than 450 million migrant labourers were forced into uncertainty about their lives. The situation became worse for the daily wage earners and informal workers living in Delhi, Mumbai and other urban parts of India. The unplanned thunderbolt order of a lockdown within just four hours made the crisis worse, since it was announced on the night of 22nd of March, 2020 that we would be under a nation-wide lockdown from midnight, 22nd March and the morning sunrise of the 23rd March, 2020 would be day-one of the lockdown.

Since this happened nearly towards the end of the month, the meagre salaries of the daily wagers were nearly over by that time and they were left with almost nothing in life to depend upon for their subsistence for over a month and a half period of no work. No pay, because most of them did not even have the mere opportunity to go and collect their salaries from their employers as everything was shut leading to a circumstance where these men, women and their children were on the roads as they were not able to pay their room rents and were dying from emaciation.

The anxiety and consternation among the public due to lack of basic necessities, can be attributed to the lack of spending on the welfare sector, which can be reflected in the lack of planning for the covid-19 pandemic since the first case was reported in January. It seems as if the government and the people in the country just woke up amidst the pandemic situation to talk about the importance and requirement of a better and more efficient healthcare system in the country, after a six year long holiday that was spent in spreading the venom of communalism in society with the grace of media, causing grave damage to the socio-political fabric of India. Though we never had a great record of having spent sufficiently on healthcare and education, but, what is more dangerous is the fact that in the past six years even conversations about these issues had been buried underneath so much depth that there was hardly a conversation about these important subjects.



Priyanshu Singh,
First Year

However, what is more lethal to a democratic society is that today even in the course of the pandemic when India has ranked second in the world in terms of the number of covid-19 cases, we as a society have shied away from asking and questioning the government some crucial questions related to right to life, be it in the case of lack of availability of PPEs and masks for our healthcare professionals and sanitary workers, or the lack of hospital beds for patients.

The expenditure on healthcare by the present government is as low as about 1.29% of the total GDP in the year 2018. Now, according to a report by 'Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development' (OECD) India spent about 3.6% of the GDP which is quite low when compared to other developing countries such as South Africa and Brazil with much less population. In 2009 the health expenditure was approximately 1.02% of the GDP; which means that we have not made a major development in the allocation in the field of health and infrastructure since 2009 which was also the year of economic recession and India had a GDP as low as about 3.6%.

Apart from this, one of the major concerns regarding the health sector is the fact that more than 70% of this sector is in private hands and the government seems to be least interested in increasing the medical capabilities of the public sector. These private hospitals and health-care centres cater only to the middle and upper class which makes the healthcare system highly class biased, and quality healthcare is only available to some.

Contrary to the low expenditure on our health sector, our defence allocation is nearly five times higher than our spending on medical services in the year 2018. Thus, defence spending accounts for 11% of India's overall allotment, while healthcare accounts for only 2%, clearly suggests that we as a country of 1.3 billion with more than 216 million below official poverty line have spent much less on one of the basic necessities of life, and have only been applauding the rising of expenditure of only the defence budget.

The justification that by spending a large amount only in the field of defence, would we be able to ensure our national security but the argument that we often overlook as a society is that without spending and emphasising on the health sector we would not only undermine right to life because about 27% of deaths happen in India due to the lack of adequate medical attention at the time of death, but also threaten the human security of the people.

About 34 deaths per 1000 live births is the infant mortality rate of India which is much higher than global average, which means about 34 children die below one year of age per 1000 births. This suggests that the infant mortality rate of India is similar to various African countries like Botswana, Eritrea, Gabon and many other countries like

Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and China have much lower infant mortality rate than India. Not only this, but the national average maternal mortality rate in India is as high as 122 per 1 lakh live births in 2015-17, though there has been a decline in the maternal mortality rate since 2014-16, but if we view the data of the various states in India the reality is quite exigent as there has been significant rise in the maternal mortality rates in states like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. According to UNICEF, mortality rates of India and Nigeria account for one-third of maternal deaths globally. The reason for the 75% of these deaths arise from inefficiency of our Public Health Systems (PHS) due to severe blood loss during child birth, unsafe abortions, infections during and after child birth. A large percentage of these deaths happen in impoverished localities and are high for lower classes and castes, which shows the stark inequality in access to PHS. According to the recent data of National Family Health Survey (NFHS), death rate among the Dalit women is higher as compared to the upper caste, now the reasons for these are various, such as lower life expectancy, inaccessibility to nearby hospitals, discrimination faced by them while seeking admission into the hospitals and lack of proper nutrition.

Now, the question is- aren't the government schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) there to ensure health care facilities to pregnant women?

However, the reality is that the budget allocation for these schemes is quite low, though these schemes were meant for the marginalized but they didn't receive any proper treatment as the funding for these schemes is inadequate.

Our hospitals have been simply inefficient, especially those at local and district levels as every year thousands of children die due to lack of medical resources such as lack of ICU beds and oxygen cylinders. This is what happened in Gorakhpur (UP) when more than one thousand died due to lack of oxygen in 2017 and Bihar saw its worst times when hundreds of deaths happened in the state due to encephalitis. These are some of the many instances when thousands of children died due to various communicable and preventable diseases. This reflects our incapability as a nation in not being able to provide basic necessities. We as citizens deserve to have a good, efficient healthcare system, and need to question and hold our representatives more accountable, so that the government prioritises lives of citizens and in a medical emergency like the one we are facing right now we don't have human beings dying due lack of oxygen, ICU beds, medication, and basic food and water.

2020: PANDEMIC, PEOPLE AND POLITICS: SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

It has been more than a year since the world has been under lockdown. The year 2020 brought about a profoundly serious threat to humanity in the form of a virus. The virus was suspected to be a bioweapon; A propaganda experiment led by Chinese government, which is yet to be proven. In India, the first case tested positive in the last week of January. Later in March the 'Janta curfew' was announced as a precautionary measure which was extended by 21 days, and soon became the norm. The concept of social distancing emerged to contain the spread of the virus. But, why do we use the words 'social distancing' and not



**Zuberiya Nauman,
Second Year**

'physical distancing'? Social distance makes it difficult for people to sympathise with others. It represents prejudice manifested in the form of social stereotypes. Hence, the notion of social distancing affects social solidarity.

India is home to about 136.64 crore people. So, what is a lockdown in a country like India?

Due to the lockdown many people lost their jobs, and the most affected were the migrant workers who were forced to go back home on foot. Workers who stayed back in the cities faced many problems.

Maqsudan, A migrant worker from Bihar residing in Makhanpur, Ghaziabad, when asked about the lockdown explained- "Kaam ka mandi tha, idher udher se maang kar ghar chala ab jab kamai nahi hogi toh baccho ko kaise padhaenge." (5 Feb, 2021)

Translation- I have no source of income due to the closure of this vegetable market.

A migrant worker, Arvind, a brick-layer in Indirapuram said:

"Bahut dikkat hai! kaam karwa lete hai par paise nahi dete. chaar din ho gaye hai baithe baithe kaam nahi hai." (5 Feb, 2021)

Translation- They make us work but don't pay us, I have been without work for four days now.

There are hundreds of people like Maqsudan and Arvind whose stories have gone unheard.

Social solidarity is the cohesion between individuals in the society that ensures social order and interdependence between people in a society. It not only involves collective responsibility but also emphasises taking care of underprivileged members of the group. Not only NGOs and the government but individuals too helped the underprivileged throughout the pandemic which shows what social solidarity can do during these hard times.

The Durkheim theory of social solidarity in modern society holds relevance as society needs to fight the ailment of social distance, exclusion and individualism which would help us better connect with each other post-pandemic. A collective consciousness should be developed to overcome this crisis. Can we bridge the gap that has been created because of the pandemic?

कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान भारतीय विदेश नीति

विदेश नीति से हमारा अभिप्राय राष्ट्रीय हितों की रक्षा के लिए और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों के वातावरण में अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए किसी देश द्वारा चुनी गई स्वहितकारी नीतियों के समूह से है। यह दूसरे देशों के साथ आर्थिक, राजनीतिक, सामाजिक तथा सैन्य विषयों परपालन की जाने वाली नीतियों का एक समूह है। *Hans J. Morgenthau* के अनुसार, “जब तक विश्व राजनीतिक रूप से राष्ट्रों में संगठित है, तब तक राष्ट्रीय हित ही विश्व संबंधों की प्राथमिकता है।” एक देश की विदेश नीति आंतरिक और बाह्य दोनों कारकों द्वारा प्रभावित होती हैं।



संयम जैन,
तृतीय वर्ष

वैसे तो विश्व में कई महामारियां आईं परंतु 2019 के अंतिम दिनों और 2020 के आरंभ में आई महामारी ने विश्व में गतिहीनता ला दी, स्वास्थ्यव्यवस्थाएं चरमरा गईं और कई महीनों के लिए सीमा-पार यात्रा पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया। कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण विश्व स्तर पर काफी जनहानि और विनाश हुआ। कई देशों की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की विकास दर ऋणात्मक हो गई। देशों के मध्य कूटनीतिक संबंधों और बहुपक्षीय व्यवस्थाओं पर भी महामारी का प्रभाव पड़ा क्योंकि सरकारों ने स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं तथा नागरिकों को कोविड-19 प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से निकालने को प्राथमिकता दी।

इस घटनाक्रम ने भारत की विदेश नीति को भी व्यापक रूप से प्रभावित किया है, स्वतंत्रता के पश्चात से ही भारतीय विदेश नीति के मुख्य उद्देश्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय शांति व सुरक्षा बनाए रखना, अंतरराष्ट्रीय विवादों को शांतिपूर्ण ढंग से हल करना, निशस्त्रीकरण का समर्थन करना, विश्व बंधुत्व को बढ़ावा देना इत्यादि रहा है। वर्तमान भारतीय विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर का कहना है कि, “जैसे-जैसे भारत अधिक शक्तिशाली बन रहा है, उसकी क्षमताओं में वृद्धि हो रही है और विश्व में उसके कद में वृद्धि हो रही है, वैसे वैसे भारत के समक्ष उसके पड़ोसी देशों तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों से चुनौतियां आ रही हैं।”

2020 की शुरुआत में भारत की विदेश नीति अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रम में गहन एवं विघटनकारी परिवर्तनों को ध्यान में रखकर यथार्थवादी राष्ट्रवाद के पथपर अग्रसर होती दिखाई देती है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर गहन एवं विघटनकारी परिवर्तनों को वैश्विक भू राजनीति, वाणिज्य, प्रौद्योगिकी इत्यादि के संपूर्ण क्षेत्र में प्रभुत्व के लिए शक्ति प्रतियोगिता के बीच बहुपक्षीय संरचनाओं के कमजोर पड़ने के रूप में चिन्हित किया जा सकता है। भारतीय विदेश मंत्री के अनुसार “जोखिम की निष्क्रियता के युग के पुनः शुरू होने से राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति द्वारा समर्थित यथार्थवाद की आशाओं की उत्पत्ति हुई है। भारत की संतुलित अवस्था और इसकी बढ़ती सैन्य एवं रणनीतिक क्षमताओं के कारण इसे वैश्विक अशांति और प्रतिस्पर्धी भू राजनीति के खिलाफ आश्वासन के रूप में देखा जाता है।”

2020 के आरंभ में वैश्विक स्तर पर महामारी के फैलने से जहां बहुत से देश अपने तक ही सीमित हो गए, वहीं भारत उन कुछ देशों में से था जिसने यह समझा कि इस विशाल समस्या से उभरने के लिए बहुपक्षीय सहयोग की आवश्यकता है। 2014 में प्रधानमंत्री पद ग्रहण करने के पश्चात, यह पहली बार था जब प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कोई भी विदेश यात्रा नहीं की परंतु उन्होंने श्रीलंका, बांग्लादेश, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, लक्जमबर्ग, यूरोपीय संघ, उज्बेकिस्तान और डेनमार्क के नेताओं के साथ कई वर्चुअल सम्मेलन किए। साथ ही उन्होंने विश्व के नेताओं के साथ संपर्क में रहने के लिए व्यापक फोन कॉल किए। उन्होंने महामारी के मध्य पद संभालने वालों को बधाई भी दी।

मई में, भारत ने एक वंदे भारत मिशन की शुरुआत की जिसके द्वारा कोविड-19 संकट के दौरान विश्व के विभिन्न भागों में रहने वाले लाखों भारतीयों को भारत वापिस लाया गया।

भारत ने सार्क (SAARC) और गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन जैसे पुराने बहुपक्षीय मंचों के पुनरुत्थान पर जोर दिया ताकि क्षेत्रीय और बहुपक्षीय सहयोग को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। 10 मिलियन यू. एस. डॉलर का एक सुरक्षित आपातकालीन निधि सार्क देशों के लिए प्रस्तुत किया गया। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन के ऑनलाइन शिखर सम्मेलन, जी-20, भारत-आसियान सम्मेलन और ब्रिक्स (BRICS) जैसे बहुपक्षीय सम्मेलनों में भी भाग लिया। भारत ने शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) के सरकारी शिखर सम्मेलनों के प्रमुखों की मेजबानी की।

भारत, जिसे भारतीय विदेश मंत्रालय ने विश्व का औषधालय कहा, ने विकसित देशों के साथ-साथ अफ्रीका, लैटिन अमेरिका और खाड़ी देशों को हाइड्रॉक्सीक्लोरोक्वीन (Hydroxichloroquine) एवं इसके फार्मास्यूटिकल घटकों और पेरासिटामोल आदि दवाइयों की आपूर्ति करके मेडिकल कूटनीति का प्रयोग किया। जहां तक पर्सनल प्रोटेक्शन इक्विपमेंट (PPE) का सवाल है, भारत ने अक्टूबर तक 60 मिलियन से अधिक PPEs और 150 मिलियन से अधिक N-95 मास्क का उत्पादन किया। साथ ही भारत ने 20 मिलियन PPEs और 40 मिलियन से अधिक N-95 मास्क का निर्यात भी किया। कोरोना वायरस के प्रभाव से निकलने के लिए सितंबर में, भारत ने 250 मिलियन यू. एस. डॉलर मालदीव की सरकार को दिए जबकि नई दिल्ली द्वारा 400 मिलियन यू. एस. डॉलर सार्क (SAARC) के तहत श्रीलंका को प्रदान किए गए।

भारत ने अपने पड़ोसी देशों से सदैव मधुर संबंध कायम करने का प्रयास किया है परंतु चीन और पाकिस्तान के साथ भारतीय संबंधों में उतार-चढ़ाव आता रहा है। यदि हम भारत की विदेश नीति के समक्ष चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालें तो उसमें चीन की बढ़ती ताकत प्रमुख है। चीन की अर्थव्यवस्था में बड़ी तेजी से वृद्धि हो रही है तथा चीन भारत संबंधों में सुधार की संभावना कम है व सशस्त्र संघर्ष की संभावना अधिक है। चीन की स्ट्रिंग ऑफ पर्स (String of pearls) की रणनीति, बेल्ट एंड रोड परियोजना इत्यादि के कारण भी भारत-चीन संबंध तनावपूर्ण हैं। विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर के अनुसार, “चीन उन्नति कर रहा है, भारत उन्नति कर रहा है, लेकिन भारत के लिए अपने हितों के साथ स्पष्ट रूप से खड़े रहना आवश्यक है।” चीन के साथ आयोजित अनौपचारिक शिखर वार्ताओं के पश्चात भी कोई निष्कर्ष नहीं निकला। 2016 में उरी आतंकी हमले और 2019 में पुलवामा हमले के पश्चात भारत ने लगातार पाकिस्तान के खिलाफ आक्रामक

नीति का उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया है। एन. आर. सी. (NRC) के मुद्दे पर बांग्लादेश के साथ संबंधों में तनाव, नेपाल द्वारा नया मानचित्र जारी किए जाने और श्रीलंका के संदर्भ में चीन की चेकबुक नीति के कारण भारत के अपने पड़ोसी देशों के साथ संबंध तनावपूर्ण हुए हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त अमेरिका के साथ क्वाड (QUAD), हिंद प्रशांत रणनीति (Indo-Pacific Strategy) तथा अन्य कई समझौतों द्वारा रणनीतिक और रक्षा संबंधों के सुदृढ़ होने से भारतीय विदेश नीति के कई निर्णयों ने रूस और ईरान जैसे पारंपरिक सहयोगियों के साथ उसके संबंधों को कमजोर किया है। परंतु फिर भी भारत को लगभग 60% सैन्य सामग्री की आपूर्ति रूस के द्वारा ही होती है।

भारत ने अपने देश में कोरोना वैक्सीन का उत्पादन कर वैक्सीन कूटनीति अपनाकर विभिन्न देशों के साथ अपने संबंध मजबूत करने का प्रयास किया है। वैक्सीन के संबंध में भारत और ब्रिटेन के मध्य सहयोग काफी महत्वपूर्ण रहा है। भारत ने 70 से अधिक देशों को मुफ्त या वहनीय दरों पर वैक्सीन की आपूर्ति की।

भारत ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद में आठवीं बार अस्थायी सदस्यता प्राप्त की। ऐसे में भारत अपने पड़ोसी देशों की समस्याओं को विश्व स्तर पर उठाकर उनसे संबंधों में सुधार ला सकता है और अपनी एक मजबूत स्थिति बना सकता है।

इस प्रकार, संक्षेप में कहा जा सकता है कि 2020 में आई कोरोना महामारी के पश्चात भी भारत अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अपनी एक मजबूत स्थिति कायम रखने में सफल हुआ है। उसने महामारी के कारण विश्व में आई अस्थिरता को दूर करने के लिए क्षेत्रीय व बहुपक्षीय सहयोग को बढ़ावा दिया है। भारत में गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन और सार्क से अलग रह कर अपनी नीतियां सुनिश्चित की है। पर्याप्त मात्रा में बाहरी सहायता प्राप्त करने के उद्देश्य से भारत ने फ्रांस, जर्मनी और यू.के. जैसे यूरोपीय देशों के नेताओं के अतिरिक्त अमेरिका, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया से निरंतर समर्थन प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया है। भारत को चाहिए कि वह अमेरिका के साथ अपने व्यापार तथा वीजा मुद्दों का शीघ्र समाधान सुनिश्चित करें। रूस और ईरान जैसे अपने पारंपरिक सहयोगियों के साथ संबंधों को सुदृढ़ करें। भारत ने बांग्लादेश के साथ अपने संबंधों को सुधारने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास किया है। दक्षिणी त्रिपुरा और बांग्लादेश के रामगढ़ को जोड़ने वाला 1.9 किलोमीटर लंबा मैत्री सेतु इसका एक अच्छा उदाहरण है। भारत को इसी तरह के प्रयास नेपाल, श्रीलंका और म्यांमार के साथ भी करने चाहिए ताकि वह क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर शांति और विश्वास कायम कर पाए जो उसके निरंतर विकास को सुनिश्चित करेगा।

PERPETUITY OF MICROAGGRESSION

Every form of human communication conveys a message. I find that many things said to me are associated with some sort of mockery or degradation for who I am. Though one cannot always tell because they are camouflaged, these small acts of subtle (and not so subtle) insults, jokes, taunts, or even prejudiced notions are acts of microaggression.

These are everyday instances, they might be verbal or behavioral, they might be intentional or unintentional - it is clear that it is humiliating. You don't even know of it as it is



**Bilal Mahmood,
First Year**

essentially employing a prejudiced notion on you. It is the atom which gives other forms of discrimination a structure, it is the ladder through which various forms of discrimination like racism, sexism, and islamophobia start. The term microaggression was coined by Dr Chester Middlebrook Pierce, an American psychiatrist from Harvard University in 1970. He used it to describe the insults and slurs thrown at him as he belonged to the African American community himself. Microaggression is a phenomenon which is experienced the most by marginalized communities daily, but our magnitude of awareness towards it is diametrically opposite to its existence in society.

The term by definition means small day to day experiences which highlight an unconscious or subtle prejudice or discrimination faced by the people of a marginalized community. It is very doctrinaire in our life, from the everyday instances of slurs, to the so-called jokes subtly coated in the problematic mindset of the people. Microaggression comes in every form- racism, sexism, islamophobia, transphobia, homophobia and other forms of discrimination and prejudice.

However, it's psychological effects are rarely talked about; Just the day-to-day unconscious biases and prejudices which on a cumulative level are terrifying to deal with. It's even worse when that cumulative toll comes from your childhood friends. I am glad to have parted ways with them. It's only now that I realize how their barbs were a part of my daily life. In order to restrict the trauma & the bad memories given by those experiences and times, I restrict even the good memories I have from my childhood, of which they were a big part (I can't deny that). Those acts are like small raisins in a pudding of happy memories. On account of being a Muslim, my commitment to the nation is casually questioned. I am an Indian and yet I have to reaffirm my support for

the Indian National Cricket Team when it plays against Pakistan. I am congratulated on 14th August because it is the Independence Day of Pakistan, allusions to the fact that I am a Muslim and therefore ought not to be in India. My nickname throughout middle school was Mullah. Because I am a Muslim.

It was not until I met some really good, socially conscious people, who made me realize that I did not have to go through all that to have fun and casual banter with my friends. One does not need to brush off islamophobia to be friends with someone. You have your dignity and self-esteem to care about. Now, I really don't feel like I have any good memories or that my life really took off until I reached 11th grade. I have good memories from that phase and yet, they are all linked with small instances of microaggression that I was then oblivious of. I still remember how they invalidated my Islamophobic experiences when I reached out to them. They never tried to unlearn, always refused to acknowledge their acts, and then called me 'uptight with no sense of humour'. I somehow made it out, but many are unable to do so. They suffer the psychological and emotional barrage of toxicity, which leads to the plummeting of mental health, and in numerous instances, depression. Many do get conscious of their surrounding atmosphere, but are helpless to do anything about it as they fear exclusion which in result leads to isolation. People find getting used to these acts of prejudice more convenient rather than fighting against.

This was just my personal experience. However, trauma is trans-generational, much like discrimination. Trauma is perpetual- it will never cease to exist as long as the discrimination does not cease to exist. Along with me, my sister has also suffered the same experiences of discrimination and islamophobia. For her, it is worse as it gets mixed with sexism. It is from a very tender age that she has got to know we have to prove our nationalism. How are institutions such as schools, or even family meant to provide us shelter from microaggression, when they themselves are tools of internalizing and enforcing the same, as they too are a part of society?

We have been made to conform with these experiences, not because we were okay with them, but because it is hard to identify it as violence. I doubt that this is my story alone; it is that of every marginalized person in society. Structural forms of discrimination find their roots in microaggression as they are internalized more and more with time. Unless and until this concept does not get explicitly understood, talked about and thrown out, structural forms of discrimination can't be taken out of our society, no matter how many movements, even on the scale of 'Black Lives Matter' come up.

PANDEMIC PHASES

The pandemic has affected us psychologically and emotionally, albeit in different ways. Everyone on the planet underwent numerous challenges and experienced various phases of the pandemic, which eventually made each one mentally stronger. First year students were the chosen ones who neither enjoyed passing out of Class 12 in the customary manner nor had the pleasure of experiencing the much-awaited entry into the hallowed portals of their respective colleges. Many have lost their near and dear ones to this deadly virus. Going through a myriad of images on social media, news et al, we felt inexplicable emotions. These are voids which can never be filled. Let's take a walk down memory lane through these stages in an attempt to encapsulate what we felt during these trying times.



**S.Mihir,
First Year**

Denial



This phase began in early March 2020 when we were first made aware about Coronavirus. In one swoop our exams got cancelled, movement was restricted, and lockdown was imposed. At this stage we were still in denial with the hope that things would soon come back to normal. Sadly, that was not to be. We all hoped against hope, but things only got worse. We questioned and blamed the Chinese for their actions and everybody asked each other "WHO EATS BATS?!". Our whole world began to turn topsy turvy.

Anger



This phase was around June-July when we were under continued lockdown and still getting used to the new 'normal'. The commencement of online classes brought with them fresher challenges- low bandwidth, network and technical issues became the reason for much frustration and anger. This stage was full of disappointments. The human touch was not kosher anymore. The possibility of death lurked in our minds whenever we touched anything or even just breathed outside of our home, the common refrain was “KYA KARU MAI... MARR JAU!!”.

Bargaining



This stage started around November-December. The new normal led us to rethink our lifestyles. This phase led us to contemplate the benefits of the pandemic. How well all of us have sharpened our basic household skills such as cooking and cleaning, which were non-existent before the onset of the pandemic. Families reunited and bonded together. Online education now seems like a boon too, as it has obviated the rigmarole of travelling to college or work. The rising covid cases no longer affected us as long as we did not test positive. At this stage, no matter what happened we ended up saying “YE BHI THEEK HAI”.

Acceptance



This phase began around January 2021. We were all painfully aware of the fact that covid is going to be around for a considerably long time and there is nothing we can do about it. We went ahead with the “SEH LENGE THODA” attitude. In effect we have all transformed into the ‘rock(s)’ that we are today. Acceptance of our situation made us empathetic towards those who were going through worse times than us and helped us find the humanity within.

Monotony



Acceptance led us to live life as it is. Daily life seems like a time loop out of a science fiction movie- a never-ending day which repeats its happenings day after day, till the end of time. For students it means- eat, sleep, class, repeat. For covid patients it means steam, gargle, medicate, repeat. Monotony of such a humongous level made us lose track of time and reality. It was indeed a blessing in disguise as it led us towards a path of self introspection, discovery, and improvement. The present situation indicates that the monotony is here to stay.

PS- Now that the third wave is upon us, what new phase are we going to go through? Any guesses?

कोरोना काल में पत्रकार और उनकी आज़ादी

“राष्ट्र की प्रगति में ‘निष्पक्ष पत्रकार’ विपक्ष से ज्यादा प्रभावशील होता है।”

एक व्यक्ति को पूरे समाज से जोड़ने के साथ-साथ उसे दिन प्रतिदिन की खबरों से अवगत कराने का कार्य पत्रकारिता का होता है। 21वीं सदी में जब ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोग पढ़े-लिखें हैं, तो वह जानते हैं कि उन तक जो भी खबर आ रही है वह सही है या गलत, ऐसे में पत्रकारिता का स्वतंत्र होना आवश्यक हो जाता है। परन्तु 2020 के साथ आए कोरोना वायरस को एक अवसर के रूप में प्रयोग करके पत्रकारों की स्वतन्त्रता को काफ़ी हद तक बाधित करने की कोशिश की गई है।



खुशबू,
तृतीय वर्ष

मैं जो आज अपने विचारों को आपके सामने रख रही हूँ, उसका आधार है संविधान प्रदत्त मेरे विचारों की अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता। मैं अपने विचार इस आधार पर तय करती हूँ कि उस पर अलग-अलग विशेषज्ञों के क्या मत हैं। इन विशेषज्ञों की बातों तक पहुंच पाने में मेरी मदद विभिन्न समाचारपत्र और समाचार चैनल के पत्रकार करते हैं, लेकिन क्या जो पत्रकार पूरे दिन की खबर हम तक पहुंचाते हैं, वे खुद आज़ाद हैं? प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता के सूचकांक में 180 देशों और क्षेत्रों की रैंकिंग में नॉर्वे शीर्ष पर तथा उत्तर कोरिया सबसे निचले पायदान पर है। भारत 142वें स्थान, पाकिस्तान 145वें स्थान और चीन 177वें स्थान पर है।

इन आंकड़ों से निश्चित रूप से हम यह तो तय कर सकते हैं कि कहाँ प्रेस की आज़ादी ज्यादा है और कहाँ कम। लेकिन इनसे यह तय नहीं किया जा सकता कि प्रेस की आज़ादी किन कारणों से कम या ज्यादा होती है। पत्रकारिता जिसे लोकतंत्र का चौथा स्तम्भ भी कहा जाता है, उसकी आज़ादी को बाधित करने के पीछे कौन ज़िम्मेदार हो सकता है? प्रेस की आज़ादी से मेरा मतलब एक ऐसी आज़ादी से है, जिसमें अगर कोई पत्रकार किसी बड़े से बड़े अधिकारी की गलतियों को सबके सामने रखे, तो उसे यह डर ना हो कि आगे चलकर उसको या उसके परिवार वालों को कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़े।

पिछले साल “द वायर” के संपादक और वरिष्ठ पत्रकार सिद्धार्थ वरदराजन के दिल्ली स्थित आवास पर उत्तर प्रदेश के पुलिस कर्मियों का एकदल पहुंचा। यह दल उनके खिलाफ दर्ज प्राथमिकी के सिलसिले में 14 अप्रैल को उन्हें अयोध्या के एक थाने में हाज़िर होने के लिए एक नोटिस लेकर आया था। कोरोना को लेकर जब चहुँओर हाहाकार मचा है और स्वयं प्रधानमंत्री ने घोषणा की थी कि अति आवश्यक यात्राओं के अतिरिक्त सड़कों पर कोई भी वाहन नहीं चलेगा, राज्यों की सीमाएं बंद पड़ी हैं; ऐसी स्थिति में उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस का यह कदम बेहद चौंकानेवाला था।

इससे पहले उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस ने सिद्धार्थ वरदराजन के खिलाफ दो एफ.आई.आर. दर्ज की थीं। अयोध्या मंदिर ट्रस्ट के प्रमुख आचार्य परमहंस ने एक विवादास्पद बयान जारी करते हुए कहा था कि “भगवान राम सभी श्रद्धालुओं की कोरोना वायरस से रक्षा करेंगे।” सिद्धार्थ ने अपने एक लेख में गलती से आचार्य

परमहंस के इस बयान को उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ के हवाले से उद्धृत कर दिया। लेकिन जैसे ही अगले दिन उन्हें अपनी गलती के बारे में पता लगा, उन्होंने न सिर्फ उस लेख में संशोधन किया अपितु एक ट्वीट के माध्यम से इस त्रुटि के बारे में बता भी दिया।

वैसे तो किसी भी स्थिति में कोई पुलिस-दल कोई नोटिस लेकर किसी के यहाँ धमक जाए, तो थोड़ी सी बेचैनी स्वाभाविक है, पर कोरोना वायरस के दौर में जब आपको ऐसा कोई नोटिस आये तो कैसा लगता होगा? इस पर सिद्धार्थ कहते हैं, “थोड़ी सी हैरानी तो जरूर हुई कि उन्हें यह मामला इतना जरूरी लगा कि उन्हें मुझे पुलिस स्टेशन में बुलाने के लिए अयोध्या से यहां पुलिस दल को सम्मन देने के लिए भेजना पड़ा। अजीब बात है; पर मुझे यकीन है कि उनका इरादा सिर्फ नोटिस देना नहीं था। शायद वे मुझे गिरफ्तार करना चाहते थे। मैं घर पर नहीं था। मेरी पत्नी नंदिनी ने नोटिस लिया। उसके बाद का सारा घटनाक्रम हम सार्वजनिक रूप से बता चुके हैं।”

यदि राज्य सरकारें मीडिया को लक्षित करने की प्राथमिकता देने लगे, वह भी तब जब स्वयं प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा हो कि राज्य सरकारों को अपना पूरा ध्यान लोगों को वायरस से बचाने पर केन्द्रित करना चाहिए तो स्थिति की गंभीरता को समझा जा सकता है। इस घटना ने मीडिया और आम लोगों को स्मरण दिलाया है कि हमारी लोकतांत्रिक आज़ादी कितनी कमजोर है।

कुछ दिन पहले पवन कुमार जायसवाल नाम के पत्रकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश के मिर्जापुर जिले में बच्चों को रोटी के साथ सिर्फ नमक परोसने की एक घटना के बारे में रिपोर्टिंग की थी। नतीजे के तौर पर उसके खिलाफ एफ. आई. आर. दर्ज हो गई।

सिद्धार्थ से जब यह पूछा गया कि इन दोनों मामलों में क्या फर्क है तो उनके मुताबिक दोनों मामलों में कोई फर्क नहीं है। न तो जायसवाल का मामला अकेला है और न ही “द वायर” का। उत्तर प्रदेश, मणिपुर, जम्मू कश्मीर, छत्तीसगढ़ और तमाम जगहों पर पत्रकारों को निशाना बनाने की खबरें सामने आ रही हैं। किसी प्रकाशन के संपादक के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की इस घटना को, एक बड़ा संदेश देने की कोशिश के रूप में भी देखा जा सकता है। स्वाभाविक रूप से मीडिया के एक बड़े तबके में इस घटना से असुरक्षा का भाव पैदा होगा।

सिद्धार्थ वरदराजन ने पत्रकारिता के वास्तविक काम के बारे में बताते हुए कहा, “पत्रकारिता किसी से सहमत होना अथवा न होना नहीं है। पत्रकारिता का काम है कि वह यह बताये कि ज़मीनी स्तर पर क्या हो रहा है और लोगों का ध्यान सरकार के निर्णयों की प्रकृति की ओर आकर्षित करे; और उन्हें बताये कि कहाँ कमी हैं और कहाँ क्या प्रगति हुई है। आपको अपने पाठकों और दर्शकों के लिए सटीक रिपोर्टिंग करनी होती है। मुझे नहीं लगता सरकार से आपकी सहमति अथवा असहमति या सरकार से जुड़ाव या अलगाव से आपकी रिपोर्टिंग की प्रकृति पर कोई प्रभाव पड़ना चाहिए। अगर राजस्थान सरकार, जहाँ केंद्र-सरकार की पार्टी से अलग पार्टी की सरकार है, से जुड़ा कोई मसला सामने आता है तो उसे भी, इसी तरह सामने लाना चाहिए। हमारे राजनीतिक विचार हम पर हावी नहीं होने चाहियें। खबर बस खबर होती है। मुझे नहीं लगता कि महामारियां अन्य किसी संकट के दौर में मीडिया को अपनी मूल प्रकृति को निलंबित कर देना चाहिए। मीडिया को निष्पक्ष

रहते हुए सरकारों से प्रश्न पूछने ही होंगे, विशेषकर अब जब लॉकडाउन के कारण पारदर्शिता भी कम हो गई है। मीडिया का कर्तव्य है कि वह बिना किसी भय और पक्षपात के, अपना काम करे। आज के दौर में मीडिया की जिम्मेदारी और ज्यादा बढ़ गई है।”

परन्तु भारत में मौजूद समाचार चैनलों में अधिकांश चैनल ऐसे हैं, जो सरकारी प्रचारों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं या यह कहें कि सरकारी प्रचार ही उनका एक मात्र कार्य है। यदि एक देश अपने आपको लोकतंत्र की रेखा में देखना चाहता है तो उसके लिए उस देश के पत्रकारों का स्वतंत्र होना अति-आवश्यक है।

कोरोना वायरस, जो पूरे विश्व के लिए एक श्राप की तरह उभरा है, उसको ही मोहरा बना कर सरकार अपनी कमियों को छिपाने की कोशिश करते हुए नज़र आई है। ऐसे काफ़ी उदाहरण देखे गए हैं जिनमें कोरोना के नाम पर पत्रकारों को बाधित किया गया, फिर चाहे वह भारत हो या विश्व का कोई अन्य देश।

“लोकतंत्र की सफलता या विफलता उसकी पत्रकारिता पर निर्भर करती है।”



A SILENT PANDEMIC

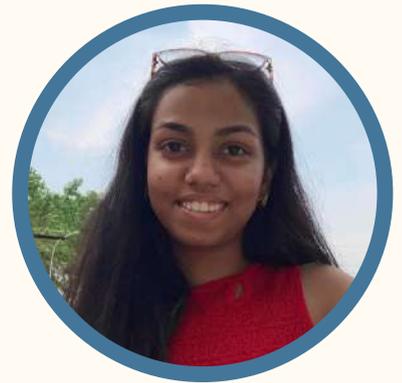
The covid-19 pandemic's impact is far beyond the physical aspect of human health, the other being the mental health aspect of well-being. In the year 2020, the strictly-enforced lockdown triggered a wide range of mental health issues ranging from stress, depression, anxiety to paranoia due to uncertainty, loneliness, joblessness, financial insecurity, migration, and fear of infection, which took a heavy toll on mental health. For millions of Indians just like people around the world adjusting to this so-called 'new normal' was not

easy, many had to overcome the resistance to even acknowledge the fact that they may have a mental health problem and most importantly reach out for help.

Adjusting to this new normal of living a highly digital life and the dissolution of the line between work and home or college and home has its own drawbacks. The restriction of movement between workspace to home not only has put a stop to our physical activity but has added to the day-to-day stress of work with a feeling of isolation. One's workspace forms the core of their social life, as it provides an individual with an opportunity to connect with other people and express their ideas and interests, but the shift to virtual mode has led to feelings of loneliness and lack of motivation; fewer social interactions may lead to heightened anxiety and pressures. This shift to digital mode has led to episodes of 'virtual learning fatigue' as a day full of video interactions is mentally draining because our brain is unable to process information the way it is accustomed to.

In a research paper titled *Mental Health and Psychosocial Aspects of COVID-19 in India: The Challenges and Responses*, published in August 2020, by Shankar Das, suggested that "all large-scale disasters have had a significant negative impact on individuals ranging from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, behavioural disorders, domestic violence and child abuse." This brings us to the fact that stay home orders led to the confinement of abusers and the abused in a confined space; this led to a sharp increase in both emotional and physical abuse. The National Commission for Women received a total of 23,722 complaints in 2020, highest single year figures in the past six years. As reported by The Economic Times, The Childline India helpline received more than 92,000 SOS calls asking for protection from abuse and violence within 11 days of the imposition of the lockdown.

In a country like India, mental health happens to be a neglected and ignored topic with



Amisha Das,
First Year

very little awareness amongst the population, which leads to added difficulties for suffering individuals to get any professional help. According to the World Health Organisation, India is the 'most depressed country' in the world and according to a study, between 1990 to 2017, one in seven people in India have suffered from mental illness ranging from depression, anxiety to severe conditions such as schizophrenia. It would not be an exaggeration to suggest that India is under a mental health epidemic. Though this pandemic brought the mental health aspect to the spotlight, thanks to news and social media, there still remains a void in understanding and acknowledging mental health issues.

Nevertheless, it has provided us with an opportunity to educate, spread awareness and sensitise the society at large about these issues which is the aim of this article.



INDIA'S VACCINE MAITRI: FAILED DIPLOMACY IN THE NAME OF GOODWILL

For a long time, India has struggled to match the pace of Chinese investments in South Asia. But in this crucial time of the pandemic, India has become a global pharmaceutical powerhouse, manufacturing 20% of all generic medicines and accounting for as much as 62% of global vaccines production. India utilized the opportunity to show goodwill and prove its growing strength by providing the vaccine in grant not only to its neighbours but also to the Least Developed Countries and to the Small Island Developing nations. Even before the vaccines were developed, India supplied hydroxychloroquine, paracetamol pharmaceuticals, test kits and other types of equipment to almost 90-100 countries.



**Zoya Ansari,
Second Year**

But in this second wave of COVID-era, India's growing coronavirus death rate raises questions about the Government's diplomacy in the past few months- when it was lifting bans on the export of the drug HCQ because of the huge demand, it sent medical teams to neighbourhood countries, and the most controversial step, its massive Vaccine Maitri Programme. Under the initiative of Vaccine Maitri, India exported more than 66 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 95 countries worldwide. China and European Union have also exported millions of doses, but only after they managed their own internal COVID-19 crises. Today, India is facing the biggest surge of COVID cases on a daily basis. This is clear evidence of the Indian government's failed diplomacy and inefficiency.

India's Vaccine Maitri and countering Chinese dominance

Under India's Vaccine Maitri or Vaccine Friendship policy that makes a complex and far-reaching effort to make India's vaccine available for the greater good of mankind in these difficult times, hundreds of thousands of India-made Covishield vaccines manufactured under the license from Oxford-AstraZeneca were shipped free of cost to almost 60 countries. India launched its vaccine roll out on 16th January and since then vaccines have reached all the neighbouring countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Myanmar and Nepal. Apart from neighbours, the vaccines have also flown to other countries such as Seychelles, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Pacific Island, Caribbean and African countries.

India's vaccine friendship campaign which is successful in providing free shipments

of AstraZeneca's vaccines manufactured by the Serum Institute of India can also be given a different dimension as this campaign has drawn praise from neighbours and has also affected China's dominating presence in the South Asian region. Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla described 'Vaccine Maitri' as 'Neighbourhood First Policy' in action. This was evident by the shipment of free vaccine consignment to countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh and Maldives, this has helped India to mend strained relations and cement friendly ties with these neighbouring countries.

Improving ties with the neighbours

The Government of India supported Nepal by providing free vaccines amid its deteriorating relations over a territorial dispute and the rising Indian concerns over China's expanding political and economic influence in the Himalayan nation that lies between the two Asian giants. Earlier, Bangladesh was supposed to receive free of cost vaccines from China but later Dhaka refused to contribute to the development cost of the vaccine. Later, New Delhi stepped in to help impoverished Dhaka by providing two million vaccine doses as a gift. Indian vaccines can be stored and transported at normal refrigerated temperatures and this is beneficial for countries like Bangladesh which possess this facility.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also taken major steps, from organizing meetings involving neighbouring countries which aimed at facilitating collaboration on COVID-19 to addressing the health secretaries and technical experts of the neighbouring countries where he proposed several initiatives to facilitate regional cooperation in the area of healthcare. India has also organized various online training programs for health professionals from neighbouring countries.

Vaccine friendship or vaccine diplomacy?

Now, India's vaccine diplomacy and Quad vaccine initiative are running parallelly under which vaccines will go to the countries in the Indo-Pacific region which is also the battleground of contestation between Chinese and the Quad's sphere of influence. India has been able to deliver the vaccines in most of the countries before China was expected to deliver and the only reason behind such fast delivery was the speed with which India has been able to manufacture the vaccines.

This can also be seen as a strategy to overpower China in the region and to improve its strained relationship with its neighbours. New Delhi's supplies also make a key diplomatic initiative in a year when India is at the UN Security Council and is going

to host G-20 in 2023. At a time when global cooperation in sharing vaccines is minimal and the World Health Organization's vaccine-distribution programs are yet to get off the ground, India had taken a different track and had emerged as a strong player in vaccine diplomacy to strengthen its position in the world.

Unfortunately, India's population paid a heavy price for this failed policy, initiated by the present government, with an intent to portray itself as a philanthrope just before the state legislative assembly elections were about to start in West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

India's vaccine diplomacy a bane or a boon?

Though India's Vaccine Maitri might have been beneficial for the countries who received millions of vaccine doses under this initiative, this programme not only highlighted the Indian government's failed diplomacy but also showcased its inefficient rule in the country. Both the United States of America and India are a few of the worst affected countries in this second wave, but if we compare the efforts of these two countries, they are in sharp contrast. Through the use of its executive orders and Defence Production Act, the United States made domestic production and use of COVID-19 vaccines and pharma supply its priority and refused to export at present.

On the other hand, the Indian government's failure of anticipating the current crisis and taking up proper measures to tackle the situation worsened the situation. Our respected Prime Minister even declared throughout the world that India had defeated the coronavirus, when India was seeing about 11,000 new cases a day nationwide and 1.5 lakh active cases. This not only reflects the Indian government's casual approach to the present wave but also highlights the Prime Minister's irresponsible attitude and lack of awareness about the needs of his own people.

PM Narendra Modi started the Vaccine Maitri Programme at the time his own country started the domestic vaccination programme without properly estimating the need or the urgency of vaccinating the whole population. The millions of vaccines that India exported earlier could have been used to save thousands of lives today. India which was a vaccine exporter a few months back is in urgent need of importing vaccines. India's example clearly shows how an incompetent government functions like. This has not only tarnished the country's image globally but has also led to a grave impact on its people who paid the cost of this mismanagement under the leadership of a so-called global leader who could not even protect the interest of his own country when needed.

कोरोना से हारता धर्मनिरपेक्ष भारत

कोरोना वायरस

कोरोना वायरस को कोविड-19 के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, जिसे विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने महामारी घोषित कर दिया है। कोरोना वायरस अब तक दुनिया के काफ़ी देशों में फैल चुका है। कोरोना वायरस बहुत सूक्ष्म और प्रभावी वायरस है, जिसका संक्रमण दिसम्बर, 2019 में चीन के वुहान से फैलना शुरू हुआ था। कोरोना वायरस से संक्रमित इंसान को सांस फूलने, गला खराब होने, बुखार होने जैसे लक्षण दिखाई देते हैं और यहां तक कि इससे मृत्यु भी हो सकती है। लेकिन इस तरह की महामारी ने भारत में धर्मनिरपेक्षता की जड़ों को हिलने का भी काम किया है। ये देखना एक



खुशबू मोदनवाल,
तृतीय वर्ष

नागरिक की हैसियत से महत्वपूर्ण है कि भारत में कुछ राजनैतिक दल और मीडिया किस प्रकार एक संगीन बीमारी के आड़ में भारत की गंगा-जमुनी तहज़ीब से खिलवाड़ कर रहे हैं। इस समय में हमें गांधी द्वारा दिखाए रास्ते की तरफ बढ़ने की सबसे अधिक आवश्यकता है जो हमें इंसानियत की हिफ़ाज़त करना सिखाए ताकि हम मिलकर साम्प्रदायिकता और महामारी दोनों का सामना कर सकें।

महामारी में साम्प्रदायिकता को मिलाने का सिलसिला तबलीगी जमात के एक कार्यक्रम से शुरू हुआ। फरवरी के अंत और मार्च के आरंभ में तबलीगी जमात का यह कार्यक्रम कोविड-19 के संकट काल की गंभीर परिस्थिति में बहस का मुद्दा कैसे बन गया? यह जानने के लिए तबलीगी जमात के बारे में जानना जरूरी है :-

तबलीगी जमात

तबलीगी जमात की शुरुआत 1827 में, हाँकाँग के मेलाद में जमात की स्थापना हुई। मोहोम्मद इल्यास कान्घलबी ने इसकी नींव रखी थी। तबलीगी जमात का उद्देश्य इस्लाम का प्रचार-प्रसार करना है। जब तबलीगी जमात की स्थापना हुई उस समय हिन्दू पुनरुथान से संबंधित आंदोलन चल रहे थे। इस आंदोलन में सामान्य मुस्लिम और ईसाईयों को हिन्दू धर्म में वापस लाया जा रहा था।

तबलीगी जमात के मुद्दे के फलस्वरूप मीडिया का एक धर्म के तरफ झुकाव एक गम्भीर समस्या के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए। फरवरी के अंत तथा मार्च की शुरुआत में हुए इस कार्यक्रम (तबलीगी जमात) में देश-विदेश के कोने-कोने से लोग आए, जिसके दौरान कोरोना महामारी का खतरा बढ़ा। संक्रमण का बढ़ता खतरा जो तबलीगी जमात से संबंधित था, इसे मीडिया (अर्थात हमारे लोकतंत्र के चौथे स्तम्भ व धर्मनिरपेक्षता के आधार) ने धर्मनिरपेक्षता से परे एक अलग रुख अपनाया। भारत, आज जिसे हम एक धर्मनिरपेक्ष देश के रूप में जानते हैं, जहां विभिन्न प्रकार की संस्कृतियों, धर्मों, जातियों के लोग, बिना किसी भेदभाव के, बंधुत्व की भावना के साथ निवास करते हैं। वहीं दूसरी तरफ, हम जमात कार्यक्रम के फलस्वरूप मीडिया तथा राजनीतिक पार्टियों के रवैये को देख सकते हैं, जिसने अपने फायदे के लिए राजनीति की रोटियां सेंकी। जहां मीडिया ने इस मुद्दे को कोरोना जिहाद के नाम से सम्बोधित किया, वहीं राजनीतिक पार्टियों ने अपनी लोकप्रियता के लिए जमकर राजनीति की।

मीडिया द्वारा प्रसारित की गई खबरों तथा उस दौरान अपनाए गए राजनीतिक रुख के फलस्वरूप, लोगों में हिंसा, भय तथा दहशत का माहौल उत्पन्न कर रहा था। मुस्लिम लोगों को निशाना बनाया गया तथा कई सारे गरीब मुस्लिम लोगों के साथ हिंसा के मामले सामने आये। इसके कारण लोकतंत्र और धर्मनिरपेक्ष के मॉडल (जिस मॉडल के आधार पर आज भारत को धर्मनिरपेक्ष कहा जाता है) को कमज़ोर करने की कोशिश की गई।

ऐसे में हमें उन आदर्श सिद्धांतों की तरफ़ देखने की ज़रूरत है जिनका पालन हमारे देश के महान लोगों ने किया है।

गाँधी, जिन्हें हम राष्ट्रपिता के नाम से सम्बोधित करते हैं तथा जिनके जीवन में सत्य और अहिंसा मूल-मंत्र थे, उन्होंने सर्वोदय, सत्याग्रह तथा धर्मनिरपेक्षता की संकल्पना दी है। इस संकटकालीन स्थिति में गांधीजी के कुछ सिद्धांतों को समझने की आवश्यकता है, जिससे लोगों में बंधुत्व और एकता की भावना बनी रहे। धार्मिक सहिष्णुता गांधी का मूल-मंत्र थी और आज देश को इसकी सबसे अधिक आवश्यकता है। इसके साथ ही गांधी ने प्रशासन को लोगों के सेवक के रूप में परिभाषित किया। इसका तात्पर्य है कि सरकार, लोक प्रशासन तथा राजनैतिक दल इत्यादि लोगों की सेवा के लिए, ना कि भय के बल पर अपनी सत्ता स्थापित करने के लिए। इसलिए कोरोना महामारी के इस संवेदनशील समय में, जहां लोगों के मन में जब भय और दहशत का माहौल है, ऐसे में मीडिया और राजनीतिक पार्टियों को चाहिए कि वे निजी फायदे से हटकर एकता तथा बंधुत्वको स्थापित करना आदर्श व्यवहार होगा और हमें उसी तरफ़ बढ़ना चाहिए।

इस प्रकार, गांधी एक ऐसे समाज/स्वराज की परिकल्पना करना चाहते थे, जिसमें एक गरीब व निर्धन व्यक्ति भी भारत को अपना देश अनुभव करेगा। आज फिर गांधी के मूल्यों को अपनाकर एक ऐसे समाज को बनाने की आवश्यकता है, जहाँ हर एक आँख से हर एक आंसू पोंछ सकें, जिससे लोगों में सद्भावना तथा बंधुत्व की भावना बनी रहे, ताकि इस भयावह महामारी से पूरी एकता के साथ लड़ा जा सके। इन सब सिद्धांतों को अपना कर ही हम यह अपेक्षा कर सकते हैं कि कोरोना हारेगा-देश जीतेगा।

THE STUDENTOLOGY OF COVID

The year 2020 marked a great reversal in the conceptualisation of students. The common image of school or college goers with a backpack and cheerful disposition has been somehow marred with the sudden outbreak of the covid pandemic in late 2019. This unseen, unheard shock seemed to have jolted colourful minds from their dream land back into the morbid harsh reality of this earth. An eagle eye view might depict the impact of the pandemic as a mere cause-result analogy, but a closer look would certainly reveal the miserable fluctuations in the lives of students.



**Tanmay Kanaskar,
Second Year**

The nationwide lockdown announced on 24th March 2020 necessitated the closure of educational institutions at all levels. This measure was contemplated to be a temporary step which soon turned out to be a horrible nightmare. Owing to the rising fatalities and cases the lockdown was repetitively extended. Some sectors of transport, industry and the like were reopened, but the state has remained partially blind towards education. Online classes became the order of the day. The initial response from students was positive as the online mode presented a new, different form of learning with a tinge of modernity and coolness. Assignments, tests, and projects took to digital angles. Books were supplemented by pdfs and presentations. Hence, students adapted to the online mode as fish to water. Younger ones showed great eagerness and enthusiasm. But, gradually the vigour fell and was replaced by lethargy and online fatigue. Welcome relief came when Mr. Pokhriyal, Ministry of Education, announced cancellation of college exams, except for final year students.

Fresh issues of connectivity arose. The students residing away from home could not come back. Those at home still had to bear the brunt of rent to landlords. Many did not have the privilege of a smartphone or a laptop, resulting in disastrous impacts, escalating to, in some cases, suicides by meritorious grown-up graduating stars.

Summer passed by stuck in homes, many engaging in creative and productive activities but the majority in anticipation of normalisation. The new session fired off fresh online vibes with a 9 to 5 job schedule. The summer break helped children gear up again for the unconquerable engagement with the small screen day in and day out.

Absence of active social interaction often resulted in frustration and depression. Above all, the government's decision to conduct JEE and NEET offline when the virus was at its peak thundered. However, no one had an option but to comply. With the public transport system coming to a halt, it was a herculean task for the aspirants to simply reach the exam centres. Health issues relating to eye strains and headaches soared. Intolerance and irritation began to gain ground.

The online exams in December vindicated the growing restlessness and dislike for the online mode. New things are eye-catching only till they remain new. Anxiety regarding the new mode, internet issues, submission troubles and a typical strangeness was witnessed.

The new year did bring in hope for many as reopening of schools in many states was announced. But there still remains a bulk of issues which remain unsolved. Teachers too felt the urge to resume the physical mode as continuous online classes, paper correction, and student inactivity took a heavy toll on them too. Their perseverance and dedication to their profession is worth saluting.

Information technology has enabled the academic cycle to keep racing but has left the students far behind. We cannot deny the fact that digital connectivity has overcome the distance barrier but the importance and weightage of physical teaching and learning experience cannot be sidelined. It is true that mankind has evolved to keep the clock ticking even in times of crisis but everything (like lively interactive classes, extracurricular activities, the cheerful laughs, silly fights) does not have an alternative. The student community derives its identity from the campus. With the cases rising again, the idea of mask-less life and free interaction remains a far cry.

Hope is still alive. Hope of the bright sunshine and laughing radiance of freedom. Freedom from the shackles of online digitalisation back into our cozy classrooms- back into our dreamland in which we had lived since we started learning. Back into the world of optimism and a world of possibilities. Let's see how long this virus sustains as nothing has till date been able to defeat the power of hope and faith.

FEAR : CRONY TO CORONA !

Politics is done over people who are alive, and yet find it difficult to survive. Power is the soul of politics -bate for the oppressed and fate of the oppressor. But, what is the force behind this trinity of 'P'?

What is that common thing which has become even more evident during the pandemic, a time where the tyrant is a virus. Every remote corner of the sphere is boiling with this force called Fear- The soul of the tyrant and the weapon of the ruling class. We are compelled to ask ourselves how has fear done more harm to us than the good a moment of courage could ever do to our bogus ozone of protection?

Politics is done over people who are alive, and yet find it difficult to survive. Power is the soul of politics -bate for the oppressed and fate of the oppressor. But, what is the force behind this Trinity of 'P'?

What is that common thing which has become even more evident during the pandemic, a time where the tyrant is a virus.

Every remote corner of the sphere is boiling with this force called It is because we have become programmed to the formal feeding of the tidings. Most of the societal agencies have heard off around our modes of communication way too freely without a single barricade warning us of them. They transcend all the physical barriers to have a place in our hearts; Fear, hence, is born in such a conducive atmosphere. Though existent since time immemorial, it was never used by democratically elected sacredness so heavily. Lately, medical emergencies have been less about health and more about power- regulation over people. Coronavirus became a tool which enabled seat holders to maintain the movement and even to confine it. But, here the debate arises, was it not necessary and what was the alternative?

It can not be denied that certain things and conditions are inevitable. A moment of courage should not translate into a series of irresponsible actions. But anything which lacks planning and spirit to solve the crisis must force us to question the sacredness of the legalities. Does this make us less of a citizen? Yes, because when we place something or someone at a pedestal so pious that the fear of curse and bane holds us tight, eliminating all the air of questioning from the aura of a political individual. The fear of being penalized works best in favour of those who want to resume the movement in the way of their agenda- campaigning.



Suvaiba Zaheen,
Third Year

Did fear fulfil anyone's hunger after keeping crores of lives locked up into the empty shelves, sans grain? Was sanitization a lot more than rubbing of the hands? Did social distancing norms really stop the bigger ties from mingling? How come lakhs fell deeper into the dungeons of poverty? The answer to all such questions lies in our forgotten capability to question.

Answer lies in the empire of fear where truth is a luxury at the cost of everything. 'Crony capitalism' became 'corona capitalism'; essence intact but situation revamped. Small businesses were already a case of the past but now the upper middle class too has suffered a severe blow straight into the leftover paper notes- what sounds like a cry are some coins struggling to be out of the bowl.

It's that time of history which intellectuals couldn't predict. How eventually, the perceived free market would turn into a politically backed monopol. Was public property made for citizens or was it a mere investment to be cashed when the value touched the sky? These could have been statements if the question mark dipped in fear. If the television screens demanded accountability instead of working hard on the sustainability of communalism. The differences widened more than the healthy distance of 6 feet, as planned. Ironically, during these times coronavirus was living Shakespeare's Masterpiece 'Seven Ages of Man' as if it's a man under a 'carefully woven veil'. It became a painter too- it's canvas was a mass of people.

Fear became the colour of hate, and race and religion were renovated through it's clean strokes, boundaries were sharpened and trespassers were to be prosecuted. Albeit the last stage prolongs even after the vaccine has set the last bed for it, it continues to thrive where and when needed as per the cord of the ring master's whim.

Now, most importantly the one who has to be put under the light of retrospection is our own self- how did we go through all that without a single word in protest, how this new shift from Political Science to scientifically backed up politics did not bother us; how did the forces that be convince us to be so cruelly discriminative during the times when the virus prior to human interpretation didn't decide to be selective, why we started revering what's perishable- fear!

Fear- The soul of the tyrant and the weapon of the ruling class. We are compelled to ask ourselves how has fear done more harm to us than the good a moment of courage could ever do to our bogus ozone of protection?

छात्र राजनीति

कॉलेज के छात्र: राजनीतिक रूप से एक मूक पीढ़ी?

इस अनुच्छेद का उद्देश्य भारत के युवाओं के संदर्भ में और यदि संभव हो तो, नीति प्रक्रिया को इंगित करते हुए, नीतियों के बारे में जानकारी लाना है। लेख में किसी भी राजनीतिक निर्णय को पारित करने की कोई प्रेरणा नहीं है।



**विशाल कुमार भगत,
प्रथम वर्ष**

पिछले दशकों में, विभिन्न अध्ययनों ने कॉलेज के छात्र जनसांख्यिकी पर ध्यान केंद्रित करके नई पीढ़ी के नागरिक और राजनीतिक स्वास्थ्य / जागरूकता का आकलन किया। यह परिणाम एक ऐसी पीढ़ी को चित्रित करते हैं, जिसके पास बहुत अधिक नागरिक क्षमता तो है, फिर भी

आश्चर्यजनक रूप से उनके कार्य पारंपरिक राजनीति के क्षेत्र से अलग है। मीडिया में एक सामान्य चित्रण के साथ व्यापक सबूत है कि आज दुनिया भर में कॉलेज के छात्र राजनीति के बारे में निंदनीय और उदासीन हैं। कई देशों में, 1960 के दशक से छात्रों में राजनीतिक सक्रियता शुरू हुई। इससे पूर्व भी भारत के स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में छात्र सक्रियता का एक शानदार इतिहास रहा है।

1980 और 1990 के दशक में छात्र राजनीतिक सक्रियता ने विभिन्न विचारधाराओं के साथ एक अलग चरित्र लेना शुरू कर दिया। कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों द्वारा पाठ्यक्रमों और सह-पाठ्यक्रमों के माध्यम से नागरिक सहभागिता को बढ़ाने का उद्देश्य जो कॉलेज के छात्रों को भीस्थानीय और राष्ट्रीय सभी मुद्दों पर भी विचार विमर्श करने के अवसर प्रदान करता है।

स्रोत

केस स्टडी: दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

पिछले कुछ वर्षों में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के सर्किट में छात्र निकायों की भूमिका में लगातार वृद्धि देखी गई है। सन् 2000 के बाद से, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय छात्र संघ (DUSU) ने विश्वविद्यालय में अपना महत्व बढ़ाया है। छात्र राजनीतिक दल कुछ महत्वपूर्ण राष्ट्रीय दलों द्वारा समर्थित हैं, जैसे अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद (ABVP), भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP) की छात्र शाखा है। राष्ट्रीय छात्र संघ (NSUI), भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस की छात्र शाखा है। कई अन्य छात्र राजनीतिक संगठन हैं, जैसे ऑल इंडिया स्टूडेंट्स एसोसिएशन या ऑल इंडियन स्टूडेंट्स फेडरेशन एवं कई अन्य। सूची में हालिया जोड़ आम आदमी पार्टी द्वारा समर्थित चतरा युवा संघर्ष समिति (CYSS) का है। चूंकि दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय भारतके सबसे बड़े और प्रमुख विश्वविद्यालयों में से एक है, इसलिए यह युवा पीढ़ी के लिए विभिन्न सामाजिक और राजनीतिक मुद्दों पर अपनी राय व्यक्त करने के लिए एक वृहद मंच के रूप में कार्य करता है।

एक छात्र संघ में सक्रिय रूप से शामिल होने से लोकप्रियता और नेतृत्व कौशल प्राप्त होता है। छात्र के पास विश्वविद्यालय के संविधान द्वारा प्रदत्त जिम्मेदारियां हैं। छात्र संगठनों की तुलना पश्चिमी से करने पर हम देखते हैं कि भारतीय छात्र संघ अभी भी उभर ही रहे हैं। छात्र राजनीति की सफलता और स्थिति का अंदाजा केवल उन छात्रों से लगाया जा सकता है, जो इससे सीधे प्रभावित होते हैं।

स्रोत

क्या कहते हैं दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के छात्र?

कॉलेज के छात्रों के साथ साक्षात्कार में छात्र संघों पर मिश्रित राय मिली है। कुछ छात्रों का कहना है कि संस्थानों में छात्र राजनीति अपरिहार्य है। किसी भी विश्वविद्यालय का लक्ष्य किसी विषय में छात्रों को प्रशिक्षित करना नहीं है, बल्कि जीवन की पेशकश करने वाली अप्रत्याशित और अकल्पनीय परिस्थितियों के लिए छात्रों को तैयार करना है। इसलिए, कॉलेज के पाठ्यक्रम के एक भाग के रूप में राजनीति बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हो जाती है। छात्रों का कहना है कि इतनी कम उम्र से राजनीतिक गतिविधियों में भाग लेने से उन्हें इस क्षेत्र में एक बढ़ावा मिलता है। पूर्व वित्त मंत्री स्व. अरुण जेटली जी, राजस्थान के वर्तमान मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत, पूर्व रेल मंत्री लालू प्रसाद और बिहार के वर्तमान मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार आदि ऐसे ही कुछ प्रमुख उदाहरण हैं।

परंतु कुछ छात्रों का यह भी मानना है कि छात्र राजनीति की बढ़ती लोकप्रियता ने छात्रों के शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड को प्रभावित किया है। एक अन्य परिप्रेक्ष्य के अनुसार, राजनीति एक आकर्षक करियर विकल्प के रूप में खड़ी है, हालांकि इसके साथ कुछ आलोचनाएँ भी जुड़ी हैं, जिनमें से एक है वंशवादी राजनीति। सिडनी मॉर्निंग हेराल्ड का एक लेख पूर्वोक्त दृष्टिकोण को इंगित करता है, जिसमें कहा गया है, "भारत में, राजनीति एक व्यवसाय नहीं है, बल्कि एक पारिवारिक व्यवसाय है।" इसके अलावा, एक स्वतंत्र पत्रकार, अमृत ढिल्लों ने भी टिप्पणी की, "आप जिस भी पार्टी को देखते हैं, उनमें मेरिट, सार्वजनिक जीवन में रिकॉर्ड, ज्ञान, कौशल, चरित्र, सभी अप्रासंगिक हैं। उनके उपनाम (Surname) के आधार पर उन्हें पार्टी का टिकट दिया जाता है।"

निष्कर्ष-

इस प्रकार छात्रों से लेकर विश्वविद्यालयों तक राजनीति को लेकर विचारों में भिन्नता होते हुए भी छात्र राजनीति के सभी रूपों को छोड़ने के स्थान पर व्यवहार में राजनीति में परिवर्तन को लेकर एकमत हैं। वर्तमान में, राष्ट्रीय संसद और कॉलेज परिसरों में विघटनकारी और विनाशकारी दोनों प्रकार की राजनीति प्रचलित है। इससे क्रमशः विधायी प्रक्रिया और शिक्षाविदों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ता है। समय की आवश्यकता है कि पूर्ववर्ती नेताओं को संस्था के अकादमिक अनुशासन को बाधित किए बिना ऐसे नए और गंभीर तरीकों का आविष्कार करना चाहिए जिससे निर्बाध रूप से छात्र राजनीति में भागीदारी करने के लिए इच्छुक हों। संस्थानों में राजनीति की प्रकृति में बदलाव लाने के लिए, इन संस्थानों की पूर्ण स्वायत्तता की गारंटी देना सबसे महत्वपूर्ण है। किसी भी विचारधारा से स्वतंत्र होकर ही विभिन्न मुद्दों पर सशक्त रूप से खड़ा हुआ जा सकता है।

निष्पक्ष राजनीति का मिथक अभी और मीलों दूर है। यह ध्यान रखना महत्वपूर्ण है कि संस्थानों में छात्र निकायों के बढ़ते महत्व से पक्ष और विपक्ष दोनों जुड़े हैं। छात्र राजनीति जो आज अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों में बढ़ रही है, ऐसे में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय छात्र राजनीतिक निकायों और लोकतंत्र के समग्र राष्ट्रीय पदानुक्रम में उनकी भूमिका का आकलन करने के लिए एक अच्छा उदाहरण देता है।

THE ONLINE SITUATION

How vividly I recall educational institutions opting for a shift to an online curriculum, which most claimed to be a temporary substitute, has now established itself as the new normal so to speak. Yes, the new normal that garnered and posed mixed emotions amongst the student community not only in India but also globally; some say it's an evolution of the conventional pedagogy, while some condemn it staunchly and some are not really bothered about the medium at all.



**Devnit Nangia
Chaudhari, First Year**

This swift digitization of the classroom has imposed great scrutiny over the infrastructure of schools, colleges and universities (both public and private) along with highlighting the need for a new digital friendly and tech-savvy student demographic. However, the pertinent question that remains is whether a digital integration of the student-teacher interaction would have taken place if it wasn't for the pandemic? In my view, I am highly wary of the notion that online curriculum would have been instituted otherwise or in due course (although we find its mention in the National Education Policy 2020). The pandemic struck havoc and sheer panic at a time when academic sessions were either concluding or had just begun i.e., around March and April. The timing itself prompted educational institutions to quickly create the digital arrangements in order to commence the new session smoothly with the safety of the students in mind.

When it comes to replicating the classroom model, applications such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet & Classroom, Skype and many more video conference software gained prominence in such trying times. As far as simulating the classroom dialogue with proportionate efficiency is concerned, personally I feel one will get varied answers across the country which in turn also construes the rural-urban divide in terms of availability and application of technology. During the course of the past year, we have frequently witnessed many complaints being raised by school-level and graduation/post-graduation level students about the low quality of online classes owing to erratic network strengths on their part or on the part of the administration. Rural areas or remote coverage areas, are facing a serious dearth of internet connectivity, which led to students situated in such places, to have substantially missed out on academic propulsion in the year 2020.

Moreover, with the lack of access to libraries, labs, auditoriums and student congregations, it is needless to say that it hasn't been an easy ride for us students. Most

of all for first year students, most of whom haven't even experienced a day of what we call 'college life'. I presume in the proverbial sense, when the going gets tough, the tough get going, has applied to all of us and we abide with full hope that soon the situation will better itself.

Another serious issue that has come about due to the induction of the online curriculum is that, as reported, a number of female students have been subject to household chores and errands that have impeded their unabated access to online classes. In fact, I, myself have heard incidents wherein some female students have been denied the use of mobile phones and laptops as only her brother or cousin is entitled to disruption-free attendance to online classes. To our uttermost dejection, we also reported a suicide of a second-year student from Lady Shri Ram College due to the fact that her parents couldn't afford the prerequisites that come with online education. The whole student community of the University and the rest of the country offered their heartfelt condolences and pleaded to educational authorities to resolve the issue of the digital divide so that such dreadful accidents never happen again.

Besides such saddening events, most of the institutions have managed through the hurdle of conducting fresher's induction, farewells, exams and even convocations! My university (University of Delhi) chose to conduct semester exams in online mode following the Open Book Examination (OBE) method which was a much-welcomed gesture from the administration for the students; they were delighted and almost forgot the despair of not having to go to college. The University of Delhi by and large has dealt with online curriculums in an organized and systematic manner. In the midst of all that uncertainty, DU had opened up the campus for final year students, but had to shut down soon after the infliction of the second covid wave that has completely gripped the nation.

Overall, it has been a precarious journey for students and most members of the youth with constant desire for things to change any minute. Protests were demonstrated to put an end to the online conundrum and to subsequently allow in-campus classes. However, protests have been rendered futile by the rate at which the pandemic has encroached into the lives of the Indian people. As a student, I am strongly of the opinion that things will improve soon for students and educational institutions, once vaccination amongst the youth has gained momentum and respective governments feel confident about students resuming their ordinary lives amongst teachers, professors and most importantly their friends. Hence, to conclude this article, I shall once again cite a proverb of relevance- absence makes the heart grow fonder- which can only mean that we miss our erstwhile lives dearly and are waiting impatiently to get back.

HER VOICE

“The last time, he strangled me nearly to death. I felt numb as I woke up. I was wondering whether I was dead or alive.” Dipti was trying to recall her memories, after she regained consciousness. (The name of the victim has been changed to protect her identity.)

Dipti said her husband attacked her because she would not give him food as per his satisfaction. Enraged, he put his hand around her neck and squeezed it in front of their children.

When Dipti’s 8-year-old daughter tried to stop the assault with her tiny fists, her father dragged Dipti by her hair into the bedroom.

She tried to scream from the open window, hoping someone might hear and help, but nobody did.

“He strangled me before but not to the point where I blacked out and urinated. Now, I had to make a choice to flee from this hell. I will have to. I will not survive if I stay at home.”

This was mid-April 2020. The whole state was under lockdown because of coronavirus. Dipti had to make a decision at a terrible point of time. She had two choices before her: stay at home to avoid coronavirus or flee from violence and abuse.

Violence against women is one of the oldest forms of violence in human history and is a very concerning issue in the 21st century. Although similar cases were quite prevalent prior to the pandemic, the issue has seen a horrifying surge where many women felt helpless as the whole country witnessed a nationwide lockdown leaving them with nowhere to go.

As the whole world was busy focusing on ways to combat the spread of the virus, many issues were neglected. While people were acknowledging the singular leadership of women for handling the covid crisis, unfortunately cases like Dipti’s were also being reported. The lockdown period saw a horrifying surge in the number cases related to domestic violence and gender-based discrimination. According to the National Commission for Women, between March 25,2020 and May 31,2020, 1,477 complaints of domestic violence were made by women and this 68 day period recorded more complains than received between March and May in the previous 10 years. At a time when women leaders like German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the Prime Minister of



Vaibhavi Medhi,
First Year

New Zealand Jacinda Ardern are proving to everyone that women leaders are equal to men in the task of national leadership, it is saddening that women are still discriminated against and are not given the freedom to make their own choices.

While the lockdown helped avoid virus transmission, it also led to a 'pandemic within a pandemic'. From domestic violence sexual assault, physical and emotional abuse, and cyber bullying carried out by predators who often happened to be fathers or husbands. The pandemic confirmed what we knew: there was an extraordinary increase in the domestic burden faced by women. They have been forced to shoulder added duties as a result of schools closing and work from home practices. It also added the pressure of financial strain. Malevolently, women were trapped with their male abusers in their own homes. Girls have been targeted online and in other cases women and girls have been sexually harassed in the streets now devoid of pedestrian traffic. In many countries, including in western democracies, when women attempted to go to the police, they were told that they were breaking lockdown rules and then turned away. Early on, an alarm was sounded about all this by women's rights organisations, NGOs, the United Nations and other stakeholders but it mostly fell on deaf ears. The governments deemed these issues of insufficient consequence to require putting mechanisms in place to protect women. Helplines across the globe have been reporting an increased demand, (up to 770% in some cases), for support since the outbreak of covid19. Hence, the pandemic has forced us to think differently and rebuild a better society for women, because every human being has the right to live a life free from violence. The pandemic has also seen rise in the number of child marriages in India where the children's helpline, 'Childline' reported a 17% increase in distress calls related to early marriage of girls around the months of June-July, in 2020 as compared to 2019. Reports have also emerged that women and children, during the lockdown volunteered to work to stave off hunger so as to supplement the income of their parents and partners, as a result of which they have become easy targets for traffickers. To minimise costs and make up for months of losses endured during the pandemic, the demand for cheap labour, majorly provided by women and children has increased. This sharp surge in child trafficking for bonded labour and forced marriages is a setback to the country's decades-long fight against children and women exploitation.

UN Secretary General António Guterres, amidst repeated requests for ceasefire in conflicts around the world, to focus on the shared struggle against the coronavirus has also called for a ceasefire at home. Analysis shown by UN Women shows that 135 countries have taken robust measures to address violence against girls and women.

These include novel approaches to ensure that women have access to information, concealing, support, and domestic violence shelters, even under covid19 conditions. We urgently need new thinking and momentum on this critical issue, we need to increase accountability and question the attitudes that enable violence. We must provide resources for women civil society organisations on the front lines. For this to happen we need concrete and measurable funded commitments to make progress.

“To all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful, and every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.”

—Hillary Clinton



कोरोना और मेरी समझ

जब कोविड के दौरान विश्व में व्यापक स्तर पर लॉकडाउन लगा, तब मुझे पहली बार अपने पूरे परिवार के साथ समय बिताने का मौका मिला। हालांकि मुझे याद है, पूरे समाज में भय और अफरा-तफरी जैसा माहौल था। रोज़ नई नई अफवाहें फैल रहीं थी, तरह तरह की बातें की जा रही थीं। लेकिन मुझे लगता है, मनुष्य के जीवनकाल में ऐसे ही कुछ क्षण होते हैं, जो उसे आजमाते हैं, परखते हैं कि हम कितने विवेक से काम लेते हैं।



रितेश शुक्ला
प्रथम वर्ष

जैसा कि स्वाभाविक था, भय तो मुझे भी था, कि आखिर आगे न जाने क्या-क्या दृश्य देखने को मिलेंगे, परंतु हमारे पूरे परिवार ने विवेक से काम लिया।

सब हसीं- खुशी बीता। इसी बीच जब टीवी पर देखने के लिए केवल भयावह खबरें थी, तब रामायण और महाभारत के प्रसारण ने मानो, जीवन में एक नई शांति की लहर उत्पन्न कर दी थी। मुझे याद है, जब पूरा परिवार साथ में बैठकर रामायण देखता था। यह परिवारों में एक बार फिर से नैतिक सुविचारों को पुनर्जीवित करने का एक अच्छा कदम था। जो ज्ञान और शांति इसे देखने से मुझे मिला, उसकी व्याख्या करना कठिन है।

ऐसे ही महीनों तक हमने अंधकार के बीच अपनी शांति के दीप को मशाल की तरह जलाए रखा और साथ-साथ एक दूसरे का ही नहीं, पूरे समाज को प्रोत्साहित किया। इस महामारी में हमारे उन कोरोना योद्धाओं को भी प्रोत्साहित करना पूरे समाज का कर्तव्य था, और ऐसा किया भी। कभी ताली बजाकर, तो कभी दीपोत्सव करके पूरे भारत ने इन कोरोना योद्धाओं को संदेश दिया कि यह महामारी सभी के लिए घातक है और इससे लड़ने में सभी का कुछ न कुछ योगदान जरूरी है। मेरे निजी विचारों में, राजनीति अपनी जगह ही ठीक लगती है। लेकिन दुख की बात यह थी कि कुछ मूर्ख लोगो ने नकारात्मक राजनीति करने में कोई कसर छोड़ी नहीं और दीपोत्सव को एक मज़हबी रंग रूप देने लगे।

कुछ ही महीनों में देश की अर्थव्यवस्था डगमगा रही थी, और समाचार पत्रों में लॉकडाउन धीरे-धीरे हटने की खबरें भी ज़ोर पकड़ रही थी। इसी बीच मेरी रुचि इस बात पर बढ़ी कि आखिर लॉकडाउन के बाद लोगों और समाज के व्यवहार में क्या बदलाव आएगा। परंतु दुर्भाग्यवश इंसानियत बदनाम होती ही रही, और अब स्थिति यह आ गई है कि मनुष्य एक बार फिर से चारदीवारी में कैद हो चुका है।

THE GIFTS OF 2020 : CURTAIN CALL

"There are decades when nothing happens and weeks when decades happen."

-Vladimir Lenin

This was the most frequently shared quote this year, quite rightly so. The year 2020 has changed our perception of time. It has shown us the flipside of life- weeks felt like days; the same day over and over. Our world shrunk to the bare essentials, our goals came to a standstill and our words did not do justice to the extreme nature of events. 2020 was that kind of a year. A year that caught us off guard. A year that felt like a Shakespearean Catharsis.

We all want to delete it from our lives. I am, however, going to ask you to save it. 2020 has taught us many lessons, from around the world, from countries far off to nations next door. Lessons that I'm sure most of us will relate to and would want to save as we enter the post-covid world order.

LESSON #1 - A lesson in preparedness and determination taught to us by Taiwan. Located right next to the epicenter of this pandemic, it is caught in a never-ending David vs Goliath battle with its giant neighbour. Despite everything, the self-governing Island managed a truly admirable pandemic response in less than ideal circumstances. Taiwan has emerged a winner with less than 800 cases and seven deaths.

LESSON #2 - France taught us to stand up for what's right, no matter the consequences. It decided to put the constitution above faith, reason above religion, and to make all citizens equal by law despite the global backlash. France upheld freedom of speech, rejected the politics of appeasement and showed determination to wipe out extremism.

LESSON #3 - At the same time, let us also learn to move on, to put historical disputes and religious differences to rest. A lesson taught to us by four countries in West Asia and Africa- UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan- four Arab states that made peace with the Jewish state of Israel. They ended decades of animosity and established diplomatic ties with Israel. As the year 2020 ends, why don't we all let bygones be bygones?

LESSON #4 - Let's also learn to be honest, a lesson taught to us by Japan. The former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, resigned due to health reasons and ended his run as the country's longest serving Prime Minister. Most leaders try to hide their health issues. They try to prioritise power over people and cling to their positions. Mr. Abe



**Anjali Mishra,
Third Year**

broke the norm.

LESSON #5 - Speaking of power, how could we forget the President of the United States- Captain Chaos, the one and only Donald Trump. There's an important lesson for the whole world to learn from his loss, you can't always brazen it out and act on whim, blaming others everytime something goes wrong. One moment, Trump was attending the Namaste Trump event in India, the next he was calling India 'filthy'. Trump's policies were driven by his personal idiosyncrasies, his mood. His White House was driven by his family. Let us take this as a lesson on why we need to strengthen institutions, not individuals. Decentralisation and checks and balances prevented Donald Trump from undermining the election results. They are an important lesson for every democracy.

LESSON #6 - There's also a lesson to learn from Joe Biden's victory, perseverance. Biden is not an overnight success. His political career spans over 50 years. He has been applying for the same job for 32 years. He ran for President in 1988, then 2008 and got lucky the third time in 2020. Some things in life take time. Let this be the most significant lesson from Joe Biden's win, Perseverance!

LESSON #7 - Another significant lesson from 2020. You cannot underestimate the power of the youth. From the United States to Hong Kong to Thailand to Myanmar, Gen Z led some of the most powerful movements for change. Some even became a nuisance for their country's leaders in ways good and bad. Some were crushed by authoritarian regimes, others continue to fight for reforms in their country rather creatively.

LESSON #8 - 2020 also taught us to choose friends wisely. A lesson Nepal learnt the hard way. Kathmandu chose a neighbour famous for laying debt traps over a time tested friend and ally. The country's Prime Minister fixed maps, claimed Indian territories. Where did all of this take him? To a constitutional crisis- the country's parliament stands dissolved.

LESSON #9 - Now we come to Pakistan. Yes ! There's something to learn from Pakistan too. The importance of keeping our debts under check. Islamabad never saved enough to dealwith a health crisis like this. It had to repeatedly turn to foreign aid. In July

2020 the loans jumped by 263 per cent. We're in 2021 now. Things have turned so bad that even China is seeking guarantees for its loans. The lesson here is, always keep some finance ready for emergencies.

LESSON #10 - Let's learn from Turkey. A country paying the price for its leader's adventurism, for waging costly wars and unnecessary fights with world leaders. The lesson to learn is this, do not let personal ambitions shape public policy. When a leader's personal ambitions shape a country's public and foreign policy, the country is bound to go downhill.

LESSON #11 - Let's also learn from Australia. The first country in the world to pursue an investigation into the origins of this pandemic. It faced threats, tariffs and boycotts from China but Australia did not budge. It taught us to be unapologetic if your fight is for the truth.

LESSON #12 - Let's learn from the Philippines. It showed us the importance of changing with time. After 90 long years, the country raised the Age of Consent from 12 to 16 years. It has a long way to go, this is a major start nonetheless for a country that has become a global hub for sexual abuse.

LESSON #13 - Let's learn from Canada, on why we must not meddle in the internal affairs of other countries. The Canadian Prime Minister offered unsolicited advice on the protests in India. He also cracked down on protests in his own country, he was left embarrassed and faced criticism the likes of which he had never seen before. The lesson here is, " those who live in glass houses, should not throw stones at others."

LESSON #14 - Let's learn from China too on how not to make friends. Transactional friendships can be toxic. Instead of using your friends, instead of keeping a score with your allies, encourage and strengthen them. Do not try to steal the share of others. Else, you'll be left friendless.

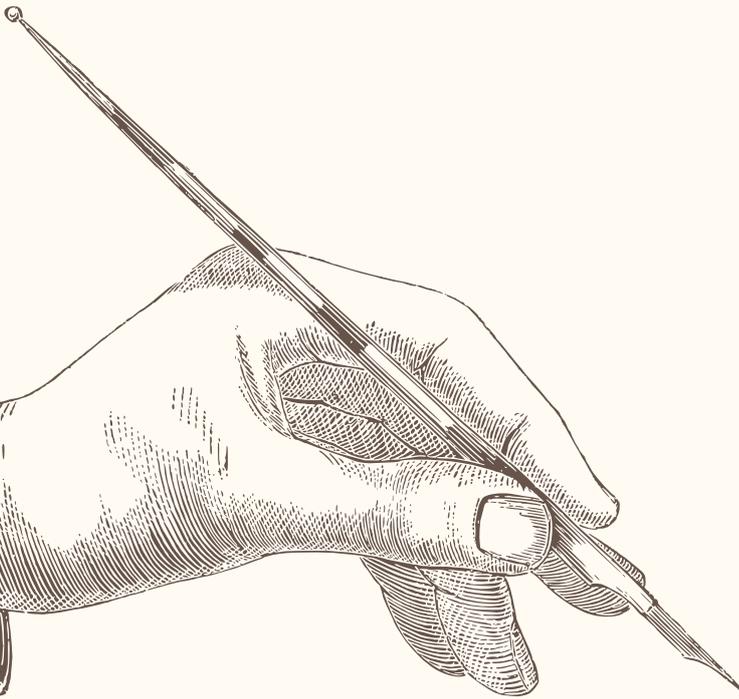
LESSON #15 – Finally, Let us learn from India. On how to respect boundaries, how to reach out to neighbours, how to take everyone along and help others in times of need. There are far too many lessons that 2020 has taught us. The list is never ending. The pandemic may not be coming to an end just yet, but there's something that has ended-2020. A year that made us realize that we're so vulnerable and yet so powerful. A year of loss and learning. I say, keep the lessons! Carry them to the next year and beyond.



POEMS



कविताएं



मेरे मुल्क की आवाम की आवाज़ है !



आज इक लंबे रोज़ बाद इक असल दास्तान ज़हन में उतर आई है,
ये मेरे मुल्क पर आ रहे गर्दिश-ए-आयाम के साये और इंसानियत की तन्हाई है।
यहां सियासतदानों के फलसफों से हो रही कानूनों की तबाही है,
यहां हुकूमत की रंजिशों से हो रही मेरे मुल्क की जम्हूरियत की रुसवाई है।



यहां पानी पीने पर भी मज़हब का कारोबार हो रहा है,
यहां मोहब्बत पर भी हुकूमत की मर्ज़ी का इंतजार हो रहा है।
यहां उनके खिलाफ उठती हर “आवाज़” का कत्ल-ए-आम हो रहा है,
यहां ख़ालिक-ए-कुल के नाम पर हर नापाक काम बेख़ौफ़ बेबाक हो रहा है।

शीन
प्रथम वर्ष

यहां बिक रही सरेआम नफरतें हैं,
सच कहूं तो आज कामयाब हो रही उनकी साज़िशों की हसरतें हैं।
यहां किसी दोषीज़ा की आबरू लुट जाने पर इंसान देने में वक्त लगता है,
लेकिन यहां किसी शख्स के इंकलाब में शामिल होने पर, उसकी वतन परस्ती
पर शक लगता है।

यह मेरे मुल्क की आवाम की आवाज़ है, यह मेरे मुल्क में नए दौर के इंकलाब
का आगाज़ है।

आप कंटीली तारे लगाएंगे, तो उन तारों पर भी फूल उगाकर अब हम उस पर
कब्ज़ा रखते हैं,
हम मजबूर किए गए हैं जनाब, अब तो हम अपनी स्याही में आपका काला
किस्सा और अपनी कलम से उस पर सवाल करने का जज़्बा रखते हैं।

यह मेरे मुल्क की आवाम की आवाज़ है, यह मेरे मुल्क में नए दौर के इंकलाब
का आगाज़ है।

तारीख भी खूब वाकिफ रही है, इनकी साज़िशों की किस्से कहानियों से,
आज शायद मेरे मज़हब से डाल दिया जाए मुझे भी गद्दारों के घरानों में,
अब तो अरसा हुआ इस इज़्तीरार को, कि यहां मज़हबों से वतन परस्ती को
मापा जा रहा है,

कि ये इंसानियत के कातिल हैं और अपने नामों को फकीरों में गिनवाया जा रहा है।

यह मेरे मुल्क की आवाम की आवाज़ है, यह मेरे मुल्क में नए दौर के इंकलाब का आगाज़ है।

कि क्या कभी तूफान भी हवाओं के रुख से डरा करते हैं,

कि क्या कभी तानाशाह भी जम्हूरियत के जुमले कहा करते हैं,

खैर ये वक्त भी निकल जाएगा,

आज ये तस्कीन और हम तफक्कुर में हैं,

कल को इनका गुरुर भी ख़ौफ़ ख़ायेगा

ये अपनी नफरतों की आग पर गुमान करते हैं,

जनाब मुझे तो ये-

इंकलाबी तूफानों से, मोहब्बत के पैगामों से, पासबानों के हौसलों और दहाड़ों से अंजान लगते हैं

इस कदर वतन को ताराज तक ले जाने का इनका मंसूबा ज़रूर शिकस्त ख़ायेगा

इन्हे आवाम के इंकलाब का दरिया मोहब्बत से जो वाक़िफ़ करवाएगा

कहना बस यही चाहूं कि-

इस उज़्ज़ार-दारी में सारा हुजूम एक साथ डटेगा,

ये इंकलाब है जनाब, मज़हबों में थोड़े बंटेगा

ये गुलिस्तान-ए-हिंद है जनाब, तानाशाह की हुकूमत से थोड़े डरेगा

आखिर यह मेरे मुल्क की आवाम की आवाज़ है, यह मेरे मुल्क में नए दौर के इंकलाब का आगाज़ है।

रानी

हां कभी मुझे भी बनना था किसी राजा की रानी,

सोच थोड़ी बदल चुकी है और, अब खुद को ही बनना है एक रानी।

जरूरत नहीं हर रानी को एक राजा की,

विद्रोही नहीं हूं मैं, समाज को बस आदत नहीं है,

बेड़ियों में सांस की आदत छोड़,

आदत लीक से हटकर चलने की है,

चाहत एक कहानी बिन राजा पूरी करने की है।



अर्चिता मिश्रा

प्रथम वर्ष

WHO AM I?

Is it the sky,
Or the rivers passing by?
Is it the smile to pacify,
Or the tears to specify?
Is it the air,
Or just the skin colour too fair?
Is it the land,
Or the heap of sand?
Is it the life to live,
Or the faith to believe?
Is it just the beginning,
Or the end?
Or do I need to die,
For the world to know,
Who am I?



Aditi Ranjan
Second Year

कैसी ये माहामारी

है ये बीमारी या माहामारी,
दिनों दिन है ये बढ़ती जाती।

दुनिया में आतंक मचाती,
तालाबंदी भी काम न आती,
बच्चे, बड़े और बूढ़े,
सबके मन में डर फैलाती,
मजदूरों की जान को खाती,
अर्थशास्त्र की वाट लगाती,
लोगों में दूरी बढ़वाती,
देश विदेश हर शहर शहर की
स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था की पोल खुल जाती,
बस एक बात समझ न आती,
क्यों राजनीति से दूर भाग जाती?

है ये बीमारी या माहामारी,
दिनों दिन ये बढ़ती जाती।



पुमंग कुमार गुप्ता
द्वितीय वर्ष

देखा है मैंने

पृष्ठभूमि:-

(यह कविता 2020 में हुई महामारी से उत्पन्न समस्याओं पर है जिससे पूरी दुनिया मृत्यु के निकट है। लोग भूख व प्यास से मर रहे हैं, दर-बदर भटक रहे हैं। लेकिन जब हमारी (सरकार) महत्वपूर्ण कदम नहीं उठा पाती तो कुछ लोग मदद कर रहे हैं, कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं। तब एक फरिश्ता इंसान के रूप में इंसान का उद्धार करता है।)



अभिनव
तृतीय वर्ष

ऐसा दौर देखा है, जहां सारी दुनिया मृत्यु की आगोश में है।
और देखा है मैंने, जहां हमारे राजनीति धारक खामोश है।।

देखी है भूख, देखी है प्यास, देखा है मैंने आवास का अभाव।
और देखा है मैंने, इंसानियत पर अटूट विश्वास।।

देखी है उम्मीद से भरी आंखें, और देखे हैं तिरस्कार करते चेहरे।
और देखा है मैंने, अपने ही देश के अंदर पहेरे।।

देखी है भीड़, देखा है सन्नाटा, सुना है लोगों के अंदर का शोर।
और देखा है मैंने, राजनीति थी मशगूल कही और।।

देखें हैं विद्या के मंदिर बिकते।
देखा सरकार को कठपुतली बनते।।

देखे हैं आंसू, देखी है मौत।
और देखी है मैंने सरकार की निरर्थकता।।

देखा है वह मंजर जब मौत दस्तक देकर चली गई।
और यह मंजर, सरकार देख कर चली गई।।

देखा है मैंने भगवान का करिश्मा, जिसने भेजा एक फरिश्ता।
और देखा है मैंने इंसान का इंसानियत से रिश्ता।।

BACK TO OUR ORIGIN !

Can't you see,
souls are never set free!
A garden of skeletons fleshed with spree,
Always craving for that forbidden tree,
Now you should know where are we!
A long tunnel to chastiser's marquee.
Everyone is last yet the first,
Where Satan has thoroughly traversed,
That round grave is about to burst.
Here, the blood in veins has been disbursed,
For the gold in glass to quench the thirst!
Intangible labels will decide your weight,
Either worth an estate or another filthy crate.



Suvaiba Zaheen
Third Year

(privilege Says)
“The one filled with greasy hunger,
Oh, such a show; intended slander,
This dusty soot always sticks to a high-end boot”
Just like It rains over a mansion,
And flood for a roofless artisan,
The black over a gown is mark of class,
But such a skin is an awkward crass!
The common land wrapped into contrasting roads,
Pale piles of skin govern the height of opulent's abode!
On the seats, under the tables,
Into the papers; only heroes of fabricated fables.
Stunted bones carved a full pocket,
Next is mind and will on the docket!
Shrieks and peals of eerie laughter,
Gag chinking coins for immaterial hereafter
All cry similar tears,
When inhaling deadly fears.
But here skinny wins!
Already used to tight coffins,
While they pass a heavy grin,
The fat melts into a tasteless ruin!
(Then pauper Says)
“This is just to begin
The life back to origin”

ये हिंदुस्तान है और मार्च अप्रैल का महीना है

ये हिंदुस्तान है और ये मार्च-अप्रैल का महीना है।

और एक फैसला आपको करना है।

ठीक है कि फिज़ा ठीक नहीं,

मालूम है कि माहौल का डर है।

बदसूरत सत्राटे की आहट सुनी हमनें,

धुक-धुकी है छाती के भीतर।

फिक्र है बुजुर्गों की, बच्चों की,

दुकानें बंद है, सड़कें वीरान हैं,

हमारी दादी कहती हैं, मुल्क को किसी की नज़र लग गई है।

सारी दुनिया सख्ती और नरमी दोनों का सही इस्तेमाल सीख रही है।

सारी दुनिया समझ चुकी है कि यह लड़ाई बंदूकों-जहाजों की नहीं,

धीरज और प्रेम की है।

जल्द ही हम देखेंगे,

जब हमारी बसों में,

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के छात्र-छात्राएं एक-दूसरे से बात करते हुए जाएंगे।

देखना, बहुत जल्द होगा,

जब ऑनलाइन क्लासेज़ से परेशान विद्यार्थी की थकान हारेगी।

जब मिल बैठेंगे कई साल पुराने दोस्त,

फिर से आसमान गुलाबी होगा।

डर है तो हो, पर नफ़रत न हो।

कैद हो तो हो, अकेलापन न हो।

शक है तो हो, स्वार्थ की जगह न हो।

देह बीमार हो सकता है पर आत्मा बीमार न हो।

तो ये हिंदुस्तान है जनाब और मार्च अप्रैल का महीना है और एक फैसला आपको करना है...

तो जाइए पहले हाथ धो आइए

और पड़ोसी को फोन करके वाई-फाई लीजिए

और चिल्लाइए खिड़कियों से,

या धुन बनाकर गाइए इसे।

किसी का हाथ छूना नहीं है,

पर किसी का हाथ छोड़ना भी नहीं है।

और कल जब सब कुछ खुलेगा तो देखना

हमारी इन्ही आसमानों में उड़ते हुए पंछी कहेंगे कि

देखो इंसानों की जिद्दी-जात

एक लड़ाई और जीत ली!



पूतू कुमार

प्रथम वर्ष

कोरोना का कहर

यह कैसी महामारी आई,
कि थम गई दुनिया सारी।
हर ओर सन्नाटा है यहां, लोग हैं लोग से दूर,
हर रोज़ मौतें बढ़ रही, ये कैसी है दस्तूर?

कोरोना ऐसा कहर बन कर बरसा है,
कि पूरी दुनिया में इसकी चर्चा है।
वैज्ञानिक ढूंढ रहे इसका इलाज हैं,
पर न जाने कितने लोग हो चुके इसके शिकार हैं।

वे सब मजदूर हैं,
पर आज वक्त से मजबूर हैं।
ताले लगे, रास्ते रुके,
जाएं कहां, वे घर से दूर हैं।

है पीठ पर सामान लदे,
और कंधों पर बच्चे बैठे,
जाना तो था मीलों दूर तक,
पर बीच रास्ते में ही प्राण गंवा बैठे।

इन सबों के बीच देखने को रोज़ मिलता एक अलग नज़ारा,
राजनैतिक दलों का हो रहा है प्रतिदिन न्यारा व्यारा।
आज चुनावी भाषण तो कल विजय जुलूस,
सारे नियम कानून का धञ्जियां उड़ाना, यही है उनकी करतूत।

इन सब घटनाओं के बीच मनुष्य बन गया है सैंडविच,
वो हर पल सोते जागते, जी रहा है आंखें भीच।
किंतु अस्त्र शस्त्र के बिना यह जो छिड़ा रण है,
उसे समूल नाश कर मानवता को बचाना, यही हमारा प्रण है।



इशानी सिंह
द्वितीय वर्ष

CORONA : THE SOUNDS OF AUDACIOUS RESTLESSNESS



Nature living beneath man
Augment of the sciences
An adversity for the mankind
Never did they amend the boundless
Creation of god
For their own benefits
For men are selfish, cunning and greedy.

Not worrying much, the rich smile,
Struggling too much, the poor whine,
On this face of earth,
Looking at this miserable life
The corona makes us crumble,
Petrified thoughts left us struck
For some, no options left,
Just stare, stare, stare!
Until everything fades away.

Such a trauma the year 2020 is!
Confining everyone to the rooms
And the buffaloing thought of impending life
Thousand miles away, the one stay
Helplessly missing home, losing minds,
Thinking how and when to be back at home.
Day by day the surge of the cases
Elongating lockdown days
Intensifying the divide of rich and poor,
Higher and higher.



**Ngamthoilen
Khorong Chiru
Second Year**

पढ़ो

पूछो, मजदूरी की खातिर लोग भटकते क्यों है,
पढ़ो, तुम्हारी सूखी रोटी पर गिद्ध लपकते क्यों है,
पूछो, काली रात में कुछ ही तारे चमकते क्यों हैं,
पढ़ो, तुम्हारी मेहनत का फल सेठ गटकते क्यों है?

पढ़ो, क्या लिखा है दीवारों पर मेहनतकश का नारा,
पढ़ो, क्या कहता है शिक्षक, वो भी है मित्र तुम्हारा,
पढ़ो, अगर अंधविश्वासों से पाना है छुटकारा,
पढ़ो, किताबें कहती है, सारा संसार तुम्हारा।

पढ़ो, अगर मेहनतकश को है उसका हक दिलवाना,
पढ़ो, अगर इस देश को है, सही ढंग से चलवाना।

पढ़ना लिखना सीखो, खुशहाली की चाह रखने वालों,
पढ़ना लिखना सीखो, ओ मेहनत करने वालों।



तनवीर खान
प्रथम वर्ष

क्या तुझे ये कबूल होता?

मैं बिंदास होकर घूमती शहर में और
तू चार दीवारी में कैद होता ।
तो बता, क्या तुझे ये कबूल होता ?

घर मेरा होता और विदाई तेरी,
पेरेंट्स साथ होते मेरे और जुदाई तेरी,
तू पहचान बनाने निकलता समाज में
पर अगर मेरे नाम से ही तेरा नाम होता,
तो बता, क्या तुझे ये कबूल होता ?

मेहनत तेरी, नाम मेरा
आवाज़ तेरी और इनाम मेरा
काम तू भी करता और मैं भी,
पर अगर सिर्फ मेरे काम का ही सम्मान होता ।
तो बता, क्या तुझे ये कबूल होता ?



खुशब् मिश्रा
तृतीय वर्ष

इंसान तू भी, इंसान मैं भी
भावनाओं में और जज़्बात में भी
पर अगर समाज की नज़रों में
बुढ़ापे की लाठी मैं और सर पर बोझ तू होता ।
तो बता, क्या तुझे ये कबूल होता ?

OH SWEET TOMORROW

Oh sweet tomorrow
End this sense of sorrow
The pandemic has made me a bedroom star
Posting my pics to followers far apart
Faking my personality to stay smart
Fashion is no longer an art
Markets are shut, schools are ceased
Prayers are sung for the diseased.

Oh sweet tomorrow
End this sense of sorrow
The pandemic has brought us millions down
Loss of human resource is common now
Scrolling memes and trawling news
Having dream, creams and sipping mountain dew.
Kicking out our lives to an empty road
Alive to lifeless load
Doctors and nurses are fulfilling their duty
While I'm applying a pack for facial beauty.

Oh sweet tomorrow
End this sense of sorrow
Make some lyrics for this fading sun
Chant some blessings for everyone
Put an end to this disgrace
and give a smile on everyone's face.



Rythem Sagar

Third Year

ये कैसा है वक्त आया?



कैसा कुदरत ने खेल दिखाया,
कैसा हाहाकार मचाया,
जो कभी न देखा वो हमें दिखाया,
ये कैसा है वक्त आया?

जिसने अर्थव्यवस्था को भी गिराया,
गरीबो को पैदल चलने पर मजबूर कराया,
ये कैसा है वक्त आया?

किसानों की तो बात ही अलग है,
बिन मांगे तोहफ़ा है पाया,
वाह कैसा वक्त है आया?

है वैक्सिन का इंतजार सभी को, है इसी का करार,
अब बारी पेट्रोल की आयी, इसने भी है सबको रुलाया,
कॉलेज की है अलग कहानी जिसने ना खुलने की बात है मानी,
SSC की भी है मार,
अब है बस रोजगार का इन्तजार,
हर जगह मोदी जी रोजगार दो का है नारा,
अब यही है अंतिम चारा,
क्रिकेट ने भी खेल दिखाया, नये स्टेडियम मे है आग लगाया,
ये कैसा है वक्त आया,
जिसने सभी को है रुलाया।



चांदनी कुमारी
द्वितीय वर्ष

विश्व व्यथा

अपने मनमणि की शैल पर,
अब बैठ कोई एक लेख लिखूं
जग रीत प्रीत की भूल रहा,
इस कुंठा से अब द्वेष लिखूं।

उदारवान खुद को कोई कहकर,
वोट - नोट से खेल रहा,
हर समय रक्त की बूंद को खो कर,
वीर आपदा झेल रहा
हर धीर के तन - मन में बैठे,
नए भय को अब कुछ देख- लिखूं
अपने मनमणि की शैल पर,
अब बैठ कोई एक लेख लिखूं।

कोई क्षण भर तक का कर्म नहीं,
कर्तव्य ये दीर्घ - काल का होगा
प्रचंड आपदा देख! है फैली,
प्रहार विशाल सिरे से होगा
रंज प्रकट करते अब कांपे,
हाथ मेरे ये इस कागज़ पर
रोग - युद्ध का हल न निकले,
कंकाल गिरे प्रतिक्षण भू - पर
अब कट्टरता के इस काले,
स्याही से कुछ छंद लिखूं

जग रीत प्रीत की भूल रहा,
इस कुंठा से अब द्वेष लिखूं।



आकाश कुमार
प्रथम वर्ष

BOOK REVIEWS



HELLO BASTAR

by Rahul Pandita

Hello Bastar offers a deep, detailed and vivid picture of the nuances of the Naxal movement in India- a movement which erupted due to a conflict between farm labourers and landowners in the Naxalbari Village in West Bengal, that marked the beginning of India's most lethal mass movement since Independence.

The author Rahul Pandita who has shared a meal with the naxalites has portrayed an unimagined and neglected truth behind the cause. India did gain independence from

the aliens but continued to suffer from grave socio-economic inequalities which ruined the lives of many Indians. This unnoticed wound rapidly multiplied itself until it became feasible for the poor, neglected people to choose the sword over the pen. The massive sufferings of the poor farmers reminded them of the great Proletarian revolution in the People's Republic of China where Mao Tse Sung carved out a new China from the noble efforts of the proletariats thereby eliminating the tyranny of the bourgeois. Hence, the Naxal movement began with the same spirit of a nationwide Proletarian revolution which would eliminate the inequalities from the socio-economic and political realm.

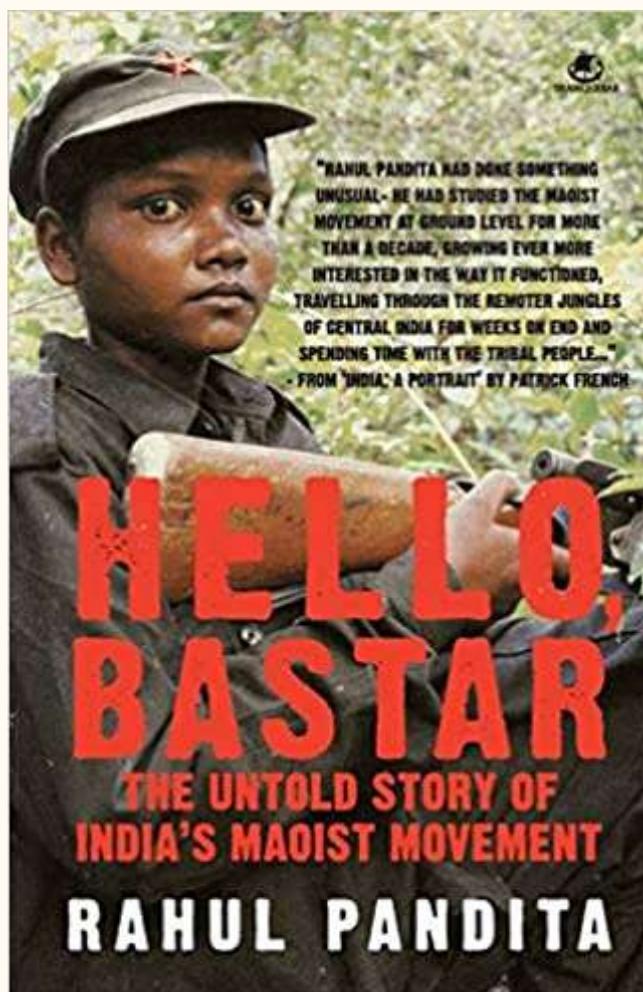
The movement was piloted by Charu Mazumder, a thin and skinny radical communist revolutionary who was determined to apply the theory of communist manifesto and Mao Tse Sung in practice. The communist had also crowned Mao as the Chairman of Communist party of India and hence forged a robust Political cult. The Naxal movement in India has received hefty donations to further the revolution and establish a Red Corridor in India.

It is evident that poverty is the biggest bane which has been the cause of many evils. This happened when the poor people in poverty-prone areas which were bereft from the mainstream new life, associated themselves with the Naxal movement. The pearl in the ocean for the Naxals is the unconditional support from the native tribes, who associate themselves more to the violent and barbaric non-state actor than to a civilised state which remains in a cosy comfort zone in New Delhi.



*Surya Prakash
Singh, Second Year*

One senior police officer who has served in the Naxal affected areas states that "The tribal you saw plucking dead tree branches during the day, might turn into a gun toting Naxal in the night."



What flummoxes the reader is the brilliant and sui generis military capacity of the naxalites. Each and every member is adequately trained in the physical, emotional, and mental realm. They bear the extraordinary skills to launch warfare in forests where it tends to be a mind numbing task for the police and armed forces to challenge them. Education is given high priority and gender equality is adhered to. The Naxals have a strong clout spread across the jungles of Orissa, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and parts of Bihar and UP, which is systematically framed with devolution of powers at various levels which maintains their control at the grassroot level and maintains a balance of power and discipline in the organisation.

The Naxals did succeed in their cause to create an egalitarian society which would uproot the immoral tyranny of the bourgeoisie and ultimately usurp huge

amounts of lands from the rich landlords and distribute it among the poor farmers. But as Gandhiji has said that the means and end must be pure , the means of the Naxals was/is violent and hence it has lost its legitimacy in India.

Long story short, the Naxal movement has failed to create an egalitarian society and has engaged in corrupt practices due to inadequate guidance and strong vision after the death of their stalwart leaders. And in the 21st century, the Government of India has also realised the importance of including the poor and neglected tribals into the mainstream of life and beginning of the panchayat system is a positive sign. Also, the government is supporting the 'Ghar wapsi abhiyan' for the naxalites to abdicate their violent path and contribute in nation building.

One ponders what would have been of India if our great Indian soldiers would have succumbed against the Naxals? Mao as the Chairman and dictatorship of the communists all over India?

THE INDIA WAY: STRATEGIES FOR AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

by Dr S. Jaishankar

'Wisdom is to live in tune with the mode of the changing world', beginning with a quote by Thiruvalluvar, the retired Foreign Secretary and incumbent External Affairs Minister of India Dr S. Jaishankar as a career diplomat with four decades of experience, and a vantage perspective starts the project in his book the *The India Way : Strategies for an Uncertain World* with an attempt to try to anticipate and understand the developments in IR and proposes strategies to analyze them and present a composite worldview in today's changing global order.



*Anjali Mishra,
Third Year*

The author gives into account the positioning of the key aspects of international relations that is evident in the repositioning of the United States of America and its engagements with the world in a very different manner, the rise of China and its direct implications for India as a neighbour, the changes coming out of Russia and its great activity in many regions, new factors like Japan in International politics and developments in Europe, particularly after Brexit, and the emergence of covid pandemic. Global developments are clearly the overarching context in which our national performance is assessed. The coronavirus epidemic is not only a reminder of this reality but also a harbinger of changes that the world will now experience.

In *The India Way*, S. Jaishankar analyses these challenges and spells out possible policy responses. In the third lesson of the book, while embarking upon 'The Strategic Culture of a Rising Power' recounts that 'A nation that doesn't honour its past has no future'. He places this thinking in the context of history and tradition, appropriate for a civilizational power that seeks to reclaim its place on the world stage.

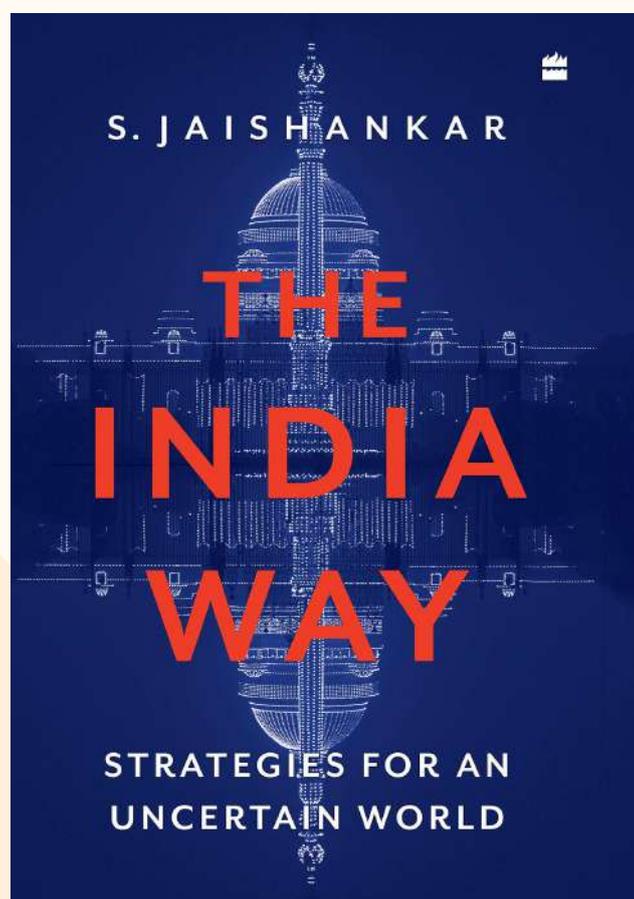
The author seems to have questioned the unipolarity of the world. According to him, Multipolarity is the Future. If it was largely bipolar during the Cold War and

then briefly unipolar after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, there are signs of emerging multipolarity. Global order is undergoing changes. China is already the world's second largest economy and a major military power. Russia has come out of its self-imposed strategic retreat. From Germany to Japan and India to Brazil, middle powers are expected to play key roles in the new order. With these aforementioned observations he says, "This is a time to engage America, manage China, cultivate Europe, reassure Russia, bring Japan into play, draw neighbours in, extend the neighbourhood and expand traditional constituencies of support."

The chapter on 'The Pacific Indian' starts with the line, 'You cannot cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water', is an effort to try to 'Re-emerge India's Maritime Outlook' in the Indo-Pacific. "The Indian Ocean is about people, culture and commerce. It should be approached with empathy, not as a business. It must be treated as a partner, not as an arena. The goal must be interdependence, not dominance." An over-idealistic outlook about India's capacity is well highlighted. In this spirit, the book advocates a bigger role for India.

The decade from the 2008 global financial crisis to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic has witnessed a profound transformation of the world order. Changes in the very nature of IR and its rules are visible in the existing global order. For India, this means optimal relationships with all the major powers best advance its goals. It also requires a bolder and non-reciprocal approach to its neighbourhood. A global footprint is now in the making that leverages India's greater capability and relevance, as well as its unique diaspora. This era of global upheaval entails greater expectations from India, putting it on the path to becoming a leading power.

Capturing the foreign policy vision, direction and action of a 1.3 billion people-strong country like India in just around 200 pages is an astoundingly difficult task that the author accomplishes in the book with considerable



aplomb. The author deploys his vast diplomatic experience, profound strategic knowledge and meticulous narrative skills to seamlessly lead the reader through the expansive landscape of India's foreign policy objectives in the ever changing 21st century world geo-political order. While the entire book is incredibly engaging, two chapters stand out – the ones on China and Japan. Dr Jaishankar has used his experience as an ambassador in those countries to give the reader a first-hand perspective.

The India Way is a must-read book for all the foreign policy enthusiasts – especially the younger ones. It is a commendable and courageous effort by the writer as it is not easy for a serving foreign minister to articulate the nuances of foreign policy so openly. The author deploys his diplomatic language throughout – that makes some parts less comprehensible to readers unfamiliar with the profession. The pedagogic style used by the author calls for attentive reading. In spite of these minor challenges the book makes a great addition to the resources available on the dimensions of India's foreign policy doctrine and priorities in a rapidly changing global landscape.

HOW FASCISM WORKS

by Jason Stanley

Jason Stanley through his book *How Fascism Works*, seems to have hit the nail on the head at a time in the world when multiple countries around the world have been overtaken by far-right nationalism by describing ten prominent characteristics of fascist politics dedicating a chapter to each of these— the mythic past, propaganda, anti-intellectualism, unreality, hierarchy, victimhood, law and order, sexual anxiety, appeals to the heartland, and a dismantling of public welfare and unity. Though it can be contested whether to label such phenomena as fascist or

not, the author has generalised this term for ultranationalism of some variety (ethnic, religious, cultural), with the nation represented in the person of an authoritarian leader who speaks on its behalf. Now, this very definition may not be labelled as fascism but can certainly be called as fascist politics.

The dangers of fascist politics comes from the particular way in which it dehumanises segments of the population. By creating a concept of 'us' and 'them', that is when a particular segment of population is dehumanised to exclude certain groups or community which could lead to justification of inhumane treatment, repression of freedom, mass imprisonment, expulsion and in extreme cases, mass extermination. Myth-making and use of propaganda are the most common tools which help in creating conspiracy theories and fake news, and replace reasoned debate; creating an intolerant social fabric creating tension and conflict in society. Another very important feature of a fascist government and a leader is the idea of a hierarchy, that is in complete denial of the principle of equality, and supports the view that certain traditions are superior to others, such as the concept of 'superior race' in America.

This concept is often supported by false claims made by majoritarian leaders about minorities, as being 'lazy' and unworth who just live on the profit and welfare of the majority community. Thus, most fascist leaders have distaste for welfare policies though they may wear a facade of socialist outlook, such as in the case of Nazi



*Priyanshu Singh,
First Year*

Germany where Hitler's party was named as National Socialist, but their leader was a staunch critique of welfarism.

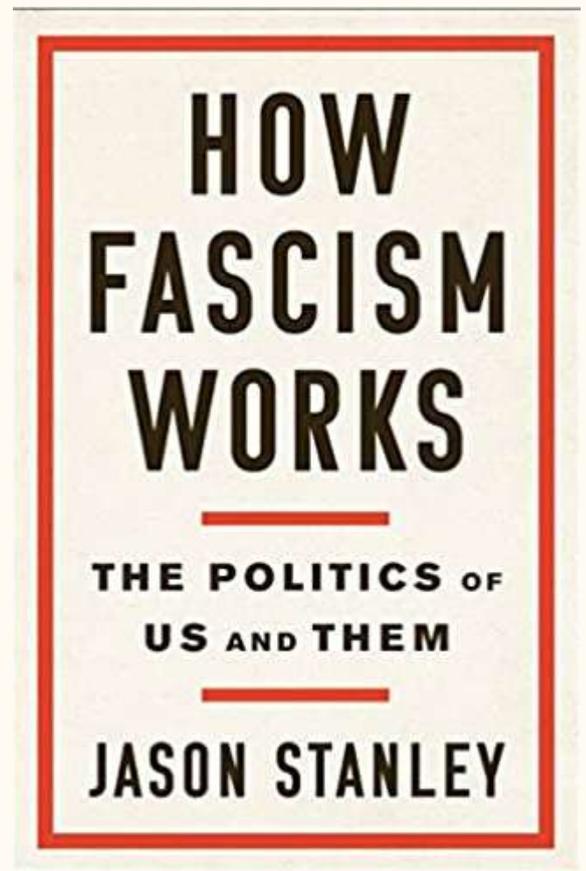
Further, the highlight of the 'anti-corruption' movement usually supported and fueled by the right-wing against the liberals and the leftist governments and its institutions provides them with added legitimacy to come to power and clean up the corrupt system. This very phenomenon can be well reflected on the way the anti-corruption movement in India in 2014 provided BJP a fertile ground to come to power.

Apart from this, the author has explored each of these subtopics and has also substantiated his

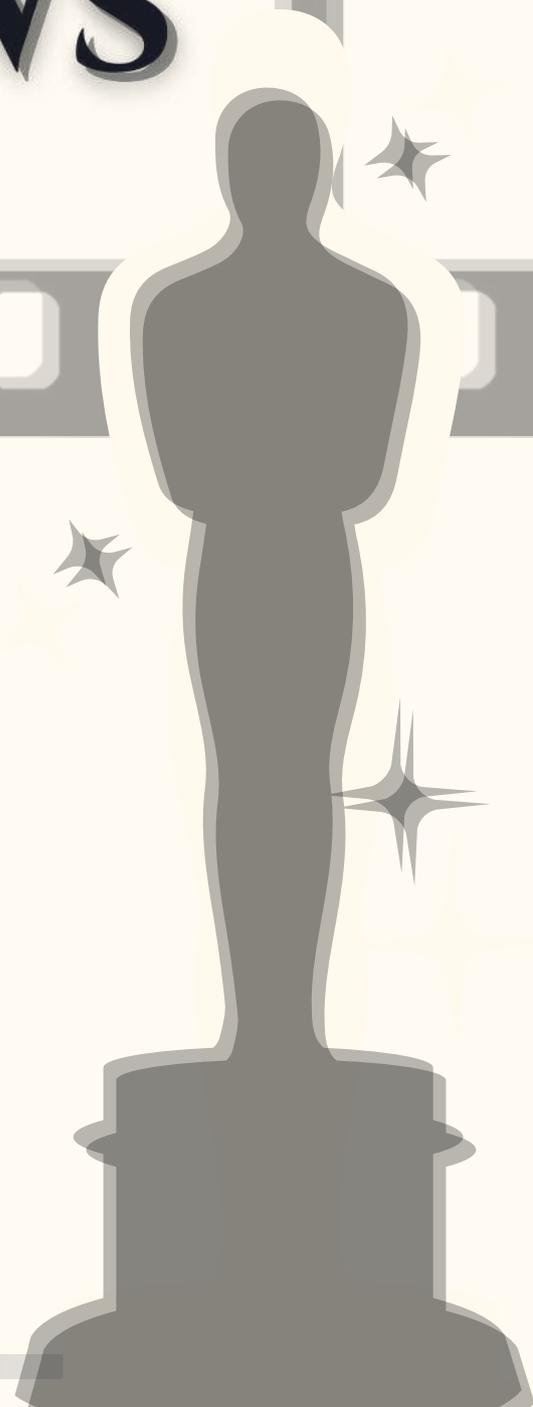
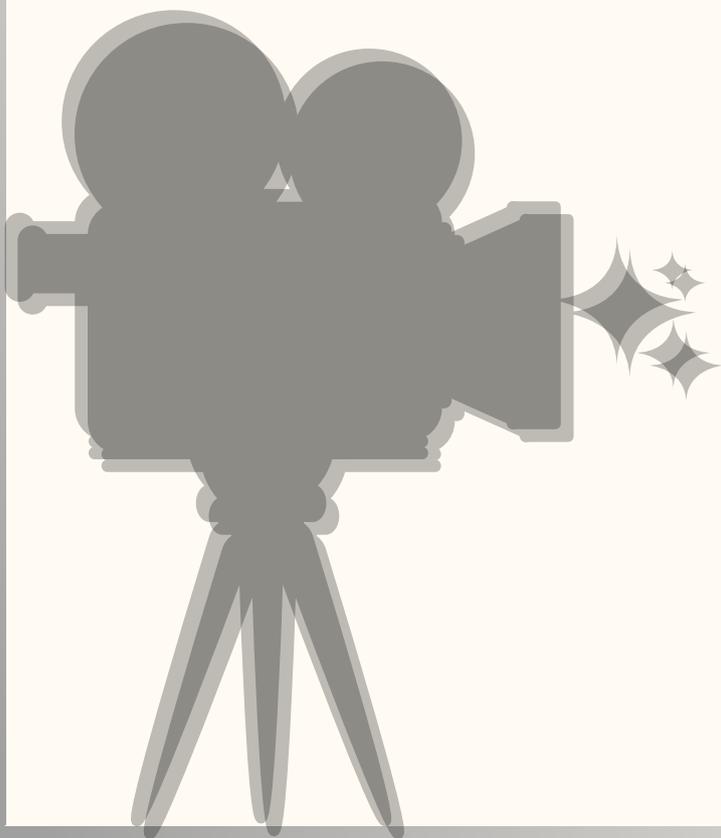
observations and arguments through examples of India, US, Turkey, Brazil, Germany and Myanmar. Stanley also takes reference from the work of Hannah Arendt, one of the greatest theorists of totalitarianism, to explain fascist ideology and its fall out in a very comprehensive manner.

Though each of these topics are from a separate chapter in their own right, they have a line of common thread among them, thus making them coherent to one another.

Therefore, a thorough reading of this not so lengthy two hundred page book, opens a window for introspection towards the socio-political situation in the country and around the world.



MOVIE REVIEWS



AN INSIGNIFICANT MAN

-Khushboo Ranka and Vinay Shukla

As the title says 'insignificant', meaning-of little importance or too unimportant to be worth consideration; the documentary shows how a common man or insignificant man (in this case, Arvind Kejriwal) changed the faith and face of Indian politics. It is a socio-political documentary co-produced and directed by Khushboo Ranka and Vinay Shukla. Khushboo and Vinay manage to extract some remarkable, uncommon, first-hand pictures and sequences from the four hundred hours of pictures of continual monitoring of the beginnings and the boom of the anti-corruption motion, the upward push of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and of Arvind Kejriwal. The filmmakers selected, edited, and set up the most compelling bits into an exciting 90 minute narrative.



Mohd Shahzeb
First Year



image source : imbd.com

It captures the day-to-day functioning of the AAP between December 2012 and December 2013, emergence of the Jan Lokpal bill, the formation of the AAP and its eventual victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, the documentary shows it all.

Best out of Documentary:

- 1) An AAP person says we are not in power, the people replied: We will give you power!
- 2) After difficulties, hardships and a deadly struggle, AAP's win in the Delhi election.

Drawbacks:

Anna Hazare was the main leader in the anti-corruption movement but in the movie his appearance is almost null.

Though this film was initially denied a theatrical release in India by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the film-makers fought for it in the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal and got the permission to release it.

Their hard work paid off and the film received a standing ovation at its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and has gone on to have sold out screenings at major festivals across the world including the BFI London Film Festival & Busan International Film Festival.

PEEPLI LIVE

-Anusha Rizvi

With 'live' in its title and 'suicide' in its theme, Peepli Live makes for a perfect paradox.

This movie shows the problem of Natha- a farmer and the TRP- hungry media and the interests of a political party.

The main characters of the movie are the poverty-struck farmer Budhia and his younger brother Natha, who have lost their piece of land to the bank since they couldn't repay the loan. When Budhia learns of a government scheme that provides monetary aid to the family who

commits suicide, he convinces Natha to commit suicide but their problems don't end there.

On the other hand, the movie shows the eye of the media who exaggerate the issue and sensationalize it for TRP gains. Under media pressure and with elections around the corner, politicians also get drawn in the matter with the center throwing the blame on the state government and vice versa. Unexpectedly, Natha becomes fodder for national news and a scapegoat for political parties, all exploiting him for their benefits, with none concerned to resolve his quandary.

Peepli Live has the same satirical shade like Danis Tanovic's Man's land, which brings out the bureaucratic hypocrisy and media malice.



**Pumang
Kumar Gupta
Second Year**

Director Anusha Rizvi's storytelling is very straightforward in the first half but the narrative picks up pace and graphs in the second half. The film largely spoofs the electronic media and the scheming politicians, and ironically unleashes their true colour and conduct through it.

There is a famous line in the movie "Zindagi ban gayi hai bell - botton aur khud khushi ban gayi hai jeans pant" which very aptly symbolizes the contemporary concerns of rising rate of farmers suicide in a satirical shade.

The movie weaves a sardonic story around the issues of farmer suicide using the medium of press and politician.

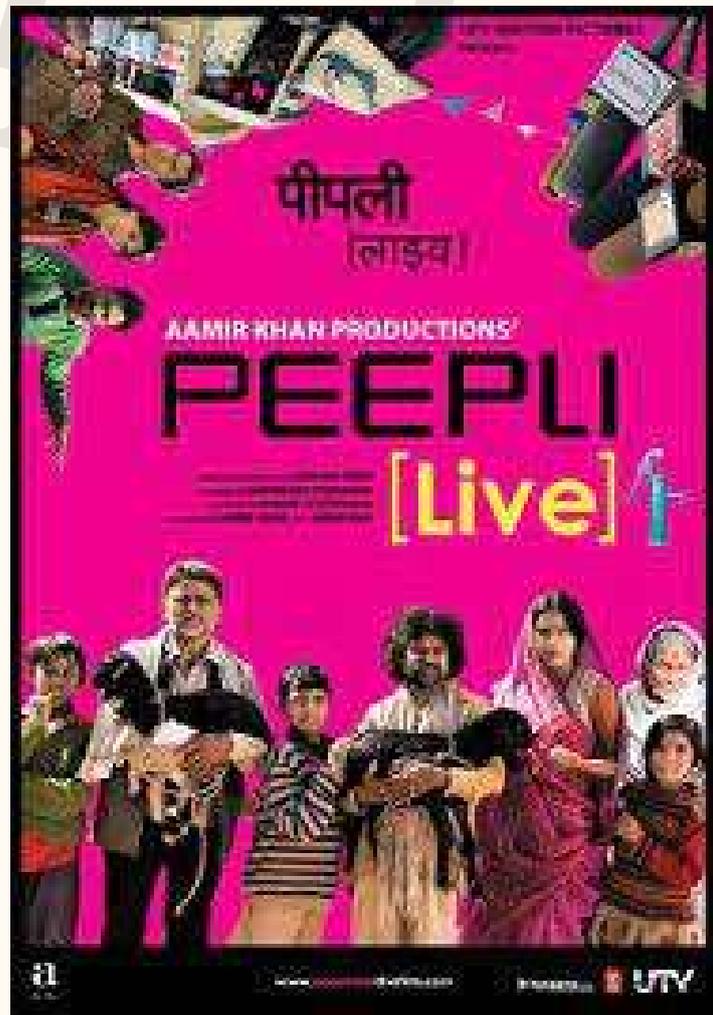
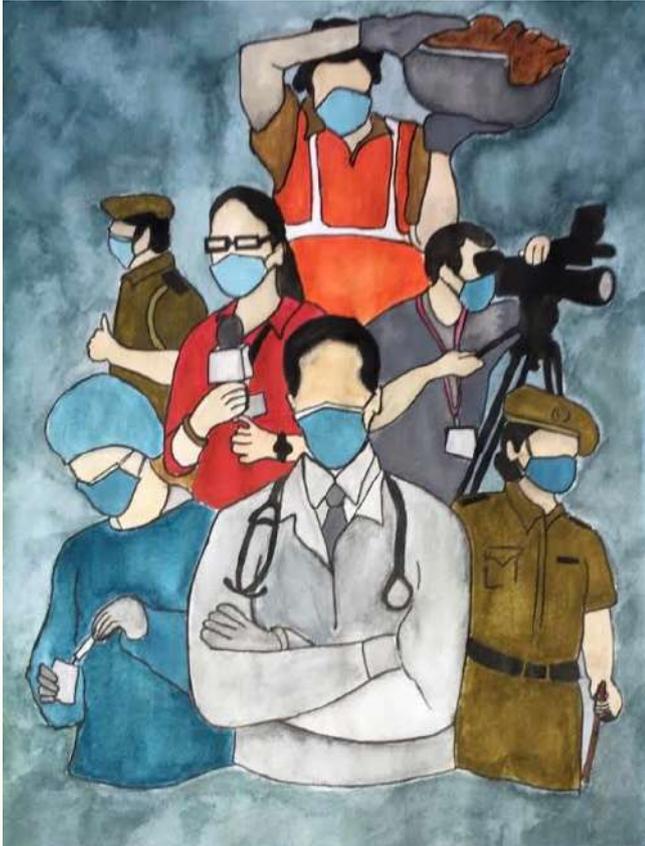


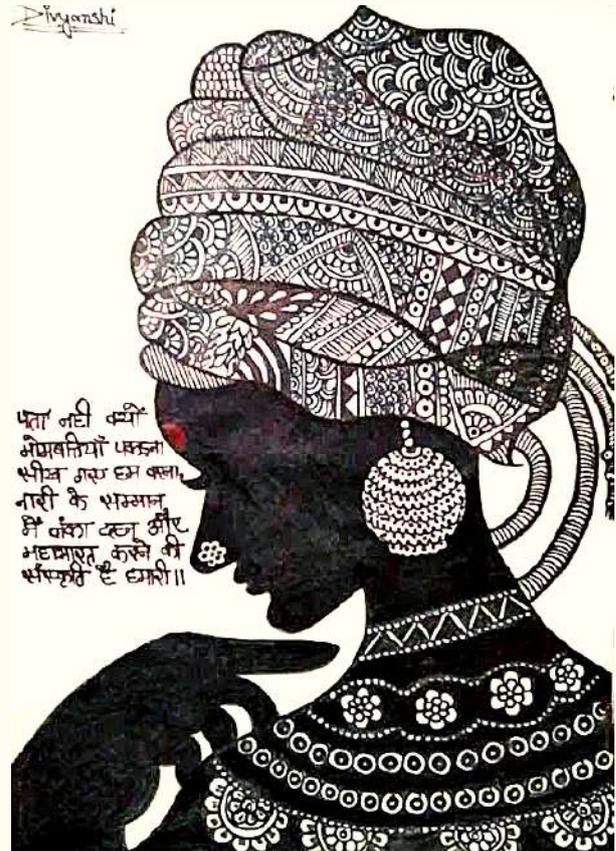
image source : en.wikipedia.org

Art and Aesthetics



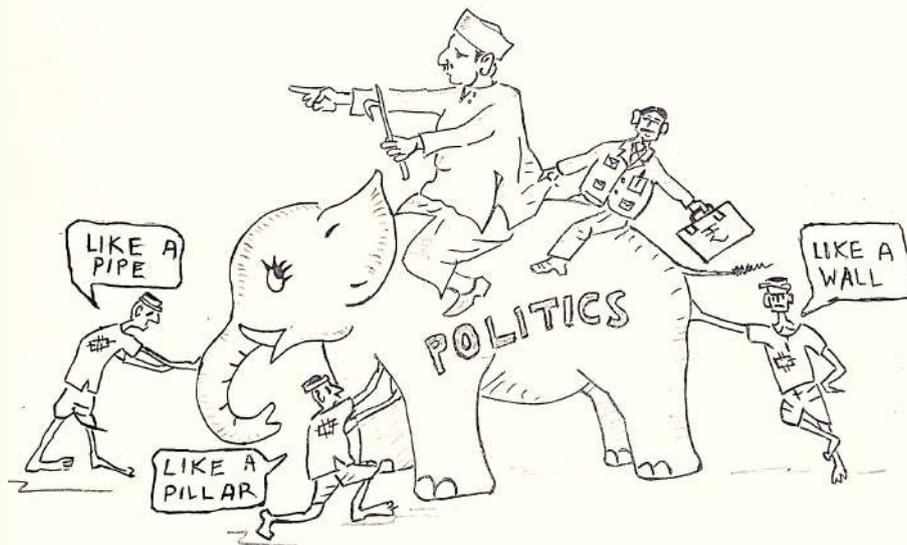
A salute to the Frontline Work
Vaibhavi Medhi, First Year

Divyanshi



पता नही क्यों
 भोगवतियाँ पकड़ना
 सीख गए हम कलाम
 नारी के सम्मान
 में लंका दहन और
 महाभारत करने की
 संस्कृति है हमारी॥

पता नही क्यों!
 मोमबत्तियां पकड़ना सीख गए हम,
 वरना नारी के सम्मान में तो लंका दहन और
 महाभारत करने की संस्कृति थी हमारी
Divyanshi Gautam, First Year



**Politicians ride the elephant while
 common men keep guessing**
Nishant Chaudhary, First Year





Helping others in need is an act of humanity, which needs no boasting or explanation. Thousands of families associated with a socio-political organisation contributed home made packaged food, daily for 4-5 months to migrant workers and people who were in need.

Sakshi Vats, Third Year



This pandemic has taught us to make the best with the things available to us. I grew some microgreens that are used in our kitchen in daily lives. I had a few spare plastic containers at home, so I thought that this is the best way to reuse them. So I sowed herbs in each one of them. Besides being a baby step towards the conservation of our climate, this activity taught me a lot of patience.

Aarti Bansal, Third Year

COVID CAUTION!

Step 1 :

- Wearing a mask is very crucial as COVID-19 is classified as an airborne disease.
- Wearing a mask properly, (covering your nose, mouth and chin) will prevent or reduce the amount of virus that enters your system.



Step 2 :

- Washing your hands even if they are not visibly dirty, with soap and water is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and is the first line of defence against COVID-19.

Step 3 :

- The Govn. of India has announced vaccination for all above the age of 18 starting 1st May 2021, if eligible get yourself registered and get the jab.
- Vaccination reduces the chances of infection and severe illness among the population.
- It also reduces the number of people who need to hospitalised, reducing stress on the health sector allowing them to treat active cases better.



Source : mohfw.gov.in, who.int
date : 24.04.2021

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For direct submission and any other queries, please contact:

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