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POLITICIA



“Natura Vincit”

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Editorial

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

- Jane Goodall



To those wondering as to why a political magazine is talking about climate change, think about all the times you complained why it has gotten so hot this year or why the rains have been delayed. The answer is

quite simple actually, it is our fault. The ignorance of the common people and the inaction of those sitting at the top of the hierarchy is leading the world towards a new order, one where we have no future and the problem attacks us on all fronts, not just political.

It is a sort of parasitic relationship, where bad choices by the leaders lead to climate change and the increase in unfavorable conditions allows them to further their own propaganda and motives. Fuel going up? We will give you electric vehicles but rack up the tax so much, you need to take 5 loans just to pay off the price. Through this practice, they keep themselves safe while exposing you to real problems. When it will be you facing the challenges on the ground, they will be looking towards the bright side, enjoying the comfort from the things that turned the world into this dystopia.

Far-fetched? I know. Too much? I know. But the fact remains that climate change as a problem is being heralded by the ones who claim to fight it. This is just one aspect as to why you see climate change on the cover page of a political magazine. Politics is not just about the dynamics of power play, but also about the individual and the rights which they have when it comes to autonomy. It is more than a word thrown around by naive individuals who don't know its gravity.

It is a tool available to even the lowest of the low which makes sure that he is heard and his presence is felt.

On that note, It is my pleasure to introduce to you the first edition of Politicia for the year 2025. When it comes to politics, every word matters because it can spark controversy or even stop wars. Consider the words written on the very front, “Natura Vincit”. Translated from Latin the word means nature conquers all, signaling how nature has the tendency to maintain equilibrium. With how much humanity has disturbed this equilibrium, nature will fight back and the magnitude can't be estimated by us.

However, the scope of the world doesn't just end here for politics to sustain and so do the issues and the controversies which come along with it. Be it the great POTUS's executive decisions threatening the balance of the world or his military might striking fear in countries all over. From the literally Machiavellian philosopher's review to putting the spotlight on women in power, Politicia's got all your curiosities covered. It is believed that all wars are fought for a piece of land but have you ever imagined countries fighting for a land uninhabitable by humans? From the remotest corners of the world to covering the election in our very own capital Politicia, as always, gives you a variety of narratives.

As you turn the page, I certainly hope this year's and my first edition of Politicia leaves you with new perspectives as my aim for this year's editions is to provide you with perspectives unknown to you for Politicia is all about expressing unknown perspectives.

Signing In,

Arnav Aaditya
Editor-in-Chief

Trump's Top 5: The *New* America

As the 47th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump left an indelible mark on American governance through a series of impactful executive orders during his brief but influential three-month tenure in the White House. Aside from his bold statements toward neighboring countries and his ambitions of a 51st state, POTUS has been actively engaged in playing his trump card—the numerous executive orders that have taken effect since January 20, 2025. This article will show how these executive orders, alongside the "Make America Great Again" campaign, have truly seemed to live up to their name.

Firstly, let's discuss one of the most controversial of

Trump's 'Day 1' executive orders. While some refer to it as "the heart and soul of the U.S. Constitution," birthright citizenship, guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment, faced several changes. This executive order establishes a new federal immigration policy aimed at preserving American citizenship by redefining birthright citizenship eligibility. Under this directive, automatic U.S. citizenship will no longer be granted to individuals born on American soil if their mother was unlawfully present in the country and the father was neither a U.S. citizen nor a lawful permanent resident at the time of birth. Additionally, children born to mothers who were lawfully but temporarily present in the U.S.—such as those on student, work, or tourist visas—will also be ineligible for automatic citizenship if their father lacks U.S. citizenship or permanent residency. This policy seeks to reinforce the integrity of American citizenship and curb the misuse of temporary entry for birthright benefits.

Globally, many international forums have failed to recognize the influence of the United States in terms of geopolitical measures, financial resources, and other relevant factors that could alter the course of

these organizations. When the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) was found to have ties with the People's Republic of China—USA's biggest adversary—and had failed to report cases of the coronavirus pandemic, the United States—its largest financial contributor—made the decisive move to withdraw. This executive order formally removes the United States from the WHO, reinforcing a commitment to national sovereignty in public health matters. The U.S. exited the WHO in 2020 due to concerns over its mishandling of global health crises, lack of reform, political bias, and excessive financial demands on American taxpayers. By cutting ties with the WHO, this order aims to enhance public health security by reallocating resources

to domestic initiatives and appointing new personnel to manage health programs previously overseen by the organization. Additionally, it establishes new leadership positions within the U.S. to ensure independent and effective health governance, prioritizing America's interests over global bureaucratic influence. This policy has also extend-

ed to multiple international organizations and treaties thought to be 'not in the best interest of the United States.'

Building on his commitment to strengthening national security, President Trump issued two executive orders aimed at reinforcing border protection and safeguarding U.S. territorial integrity (Quite ironic the territorial integrity does not extend to Greenland). The first declares a national emergency at the southern border due to the escalating threats posed by cartels, criminal gangs, known terrorists, human traffickers, smugglers, and unvetted military-age males from adversarial countries. This order mandates the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and the U.S. Armed Forces to assess and deploy the necessary troops and resources to support the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in securing the border. In tandem, a second executive order clarifies the military's role in protecting U.S. borders from potential invasions, unlawful incursions by foreign nationals, and other transnational criminal



activities that disrupt national stability. This directive outlines the responsibilities of the Secretary of Defense and the Armed Forces in preserving the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity while ensuring that existing legal authorities and budgetary functions remain unaffected. Together, these actions reaffirm the administration's stance on border security, prioritizing the protection of American citizens against external (and internal) threats. For a country with the highest rates of school shootings in the world, Trump has found that tackling the borders is the best way to secure peace in America.

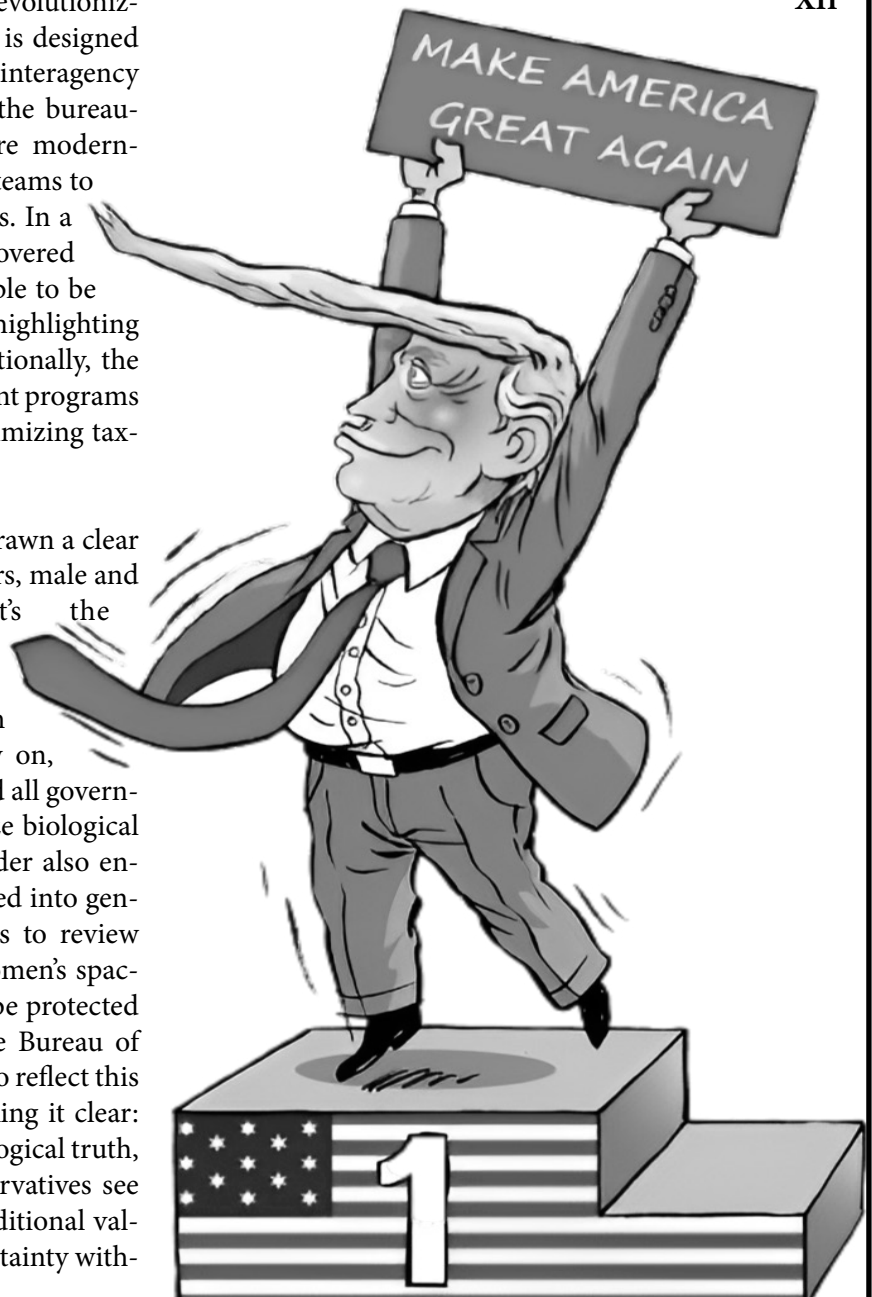
Once a Billionaire, always a Billionaire. Continuing his push for streamlined governance, President Trump established the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) under the leadership of the richest man on Earth, Elon Musk, and American-Indian entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. Through an executive order, DOGE was elevated from a non-governmental advisory group to an official federal agency, tasked with revolutionizing government operations. This initiative is designed to modernize federal technology, enhance interagency coordination, and drive efficiency across the bureaucracy. DOGE's agenda prioritizes software modernization and the formation of cross-agency teams to foster innovation and cost-saving measures. In a significant early breakthrough, DOGE uncovered a mysterious \$4.7 trillion payment (probable to be the works of the Biden Administration), highlighting the need for greater fiscal oversight. Additionally, the department has set new rules for government programs aimed at maximizing efficiency while minimizing taxpayer spending.

In a decisive move, President Trump has drawn a clear line in the sand—there are only two genders, male and female, determined at conception, and that's the end of the story. This executive order mandates that all federal agencies interpret "sex" strictly as a biological reality, with no room for gender ideology. From now on, passports, federal employment records, and all government-issued documents will only recognize biological sex. But it doesn't stop there—Trump's order also ensures that taxpayer dollars won't be funneled into gender ideology programs, directing agencies to review grant conditions and funding policies. Women's spaces, including single-sex rape shelters, will be protected exclusively for biological females, and the Bureau of Prisons must update medical care policies to reflect this definition. With this move, Trump is making it clear: the federal government will operate on biological truth, not ideological trends. While many conservatives see this as a long-overdue policy restoring traditional values, it has also sparked deep fear and uncertainty with-

in the LGBTQ+ community. For many, this order is like an erasure of their identities and rights. As a result, some members of the community have made the painful decision to leave the U.S. entirely, seeking refuge in more inclusive nations. Even high-profile figures like Ellen DeGeneres have publicly distanced themselves, citing Trump's radical stance on gender as one of the reasons for their departure. Whether one views this as a necessary return to biological definitions or an outright attack on personal freedoms, people must now proceed with caution when dealing with the United States of America.

To conclude, while I may not be able to list every executive order issued by President Trump, one thing is certain—we may not know if America will be great again, but we can all agree that America will never be the same again.

-Divij Gupta
XII



THE SACRED SPECTACLE: A DANCE OF FAITH AND REFLECTION

The Maha Kumbh Mela is more than just an event; it is a testament to the resilience of faith, a reminder that in an ever-changing world, some traditions stand unshaken. For centuries, this sacred congregation at the Sangam (the confluence of the rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati) has brought together millions of devotees, ascetics, and seekers, bound by a belief that transcends borders, politics, and time itself.

The 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela was historic, not only due to its astrological significance but also due to the fact that it was taking place after 144 years and the sheer magnitude at which it took place. Pilgrims from all over the country and the world, including many NRIs and foreigners, flocked to Prayagraj, drawn by the spiritual pull of this unique event. Devotees from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Australia arrived in large numbers, eager to witness and immerse themselves in this extraordinary spiritual gathering. Many international scholars and seekers participated in discussions and rituals, deepening their understanding of India's profound spiritual traditions. The air was filled with the sounds of hymns and chants, the aroma of incense mingled with the crisp winter breeze, and the grand processions of the Akharas showcased the deep cultural and religious richness of this holy gathering.

As millions traveled to Prayagraj, Ayodhya also witnessed an overwhelming influx of devotees following the grand consecration of the Ram Temple. Pilgrims, after visiting the newly constructed temple, proceeded to the Kumbh, further amplifying the spiritual fervor of the time. The streets of Ayodhya are brimmed with faith-filled travelers, creating an atmosphere of unparalleled devotion and celebration.

Faith is the heart of the Kumbh Mela. It is what compels individuals to undertake long and arduous journeys, enduring hardships in the promise of spiritual liberation. It is what brings together people from all walks of life—rich and poor, young and old—uniting them in the sacred waters in pursuit of divine blessings. The belief that a dip in the holy Sangam washes away sins and paves the way for salvation is what makes the Kumbh a phenomenon beyond mere ritual; it is an experience of profound devotion and surrender.



Beyond its spiritual significance, the Maha Kumbh Mela also brought an economic boost to the region. The influx of pilgrims led to thriving businesses, from local vendors selling food and religious artifacts to hotels and transport services witnessing record demand. The hospitality sector flourished, with accommodations ranging from ashrams to luxury tents catering to the diverse needs of visitors. Artisans, performers, and traditional craftsmen found a vibrant market, ensuring that the cultural and economic impact of the Kumbh was as profound as its religious essence.

The Maha Kumbh Mela is a vibrant expression of India's spiritual heritage, where sages and saints share wisdom, devotees seek solace, and traditions thrive in their purest forms. The elaborate arrangements, the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti, and the sight of millions lost in prayer create an atmosphere unlike any other. The event is not just a gathering; it is a divine confluence of faith, hope, and devotion, a reflection of the timeless spiritual essence of India.

The Maha Kumbh Mela is a national treasure, a living, breathing tradition that defines India's spiritual core. It stands as a beacon of faith, a symbol of unity, and a celebration of the divine. As generations continue to participate in this sacred event, the Kumbh remains an eternal reminder that devotion transcends all boundaries, illuminating the path of seekers for centuries to come.

-Atharva Agrawal
XII

THE DELECTIONS '25

The most anticipated election of the year has left many in a sight of joy and at the same time some in utter dismay. With the most unexpected events taking place, turning the tables as very less had been thought of, the Bharatiya Janata Party demolished the 'fortress' that the Aam Aadmi Party had tried creating. Making a comeback in the capital after 27 years, the Lok Sabha election results in 2024 from Delhi itself were very convincing for the BJP. These results were already hinting towards the coming dominance that we could and have now witnessed in the 2025 Delhi Elections.

The absence of any involvement in the elections for India's oldest political party was very much expected, especially since the last four elections in Delhi, two legislative and two Lok Sabha Elections. The Indian National Congress has managed to get its seat tally to a total of zero in the last five elections that they have contested in Delhi. The BJP won 48 seats out of the 68 seats that it contested in the 2025 Delhi Elections. AAP was able to secure only 22 seats out of the 70 seats that they could contest in. Both BJP and AAP suffered a change of 40 seats in their tally from the previous election where the AAP had formed their government quite comfortably.

The BJP's election tactics were seen to be very different from the last two times in Delhi. The first big opening for them was in 2022 through, The Delhi Liquor Policy Scam. This was a severe hit to the Aam Aadmi Party as several of their party members and senior leaders were convicted in this. AAP's senior leader and Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had been behind bars for almost two years, affecting his hold and credibility in the state. Most of all, the conviction of AAP's national frontrunner and Delhi's Ex- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, changed the game. The circumstances taking place just before the elections lead to even more distress in the AAP's campaign. The party popular for its

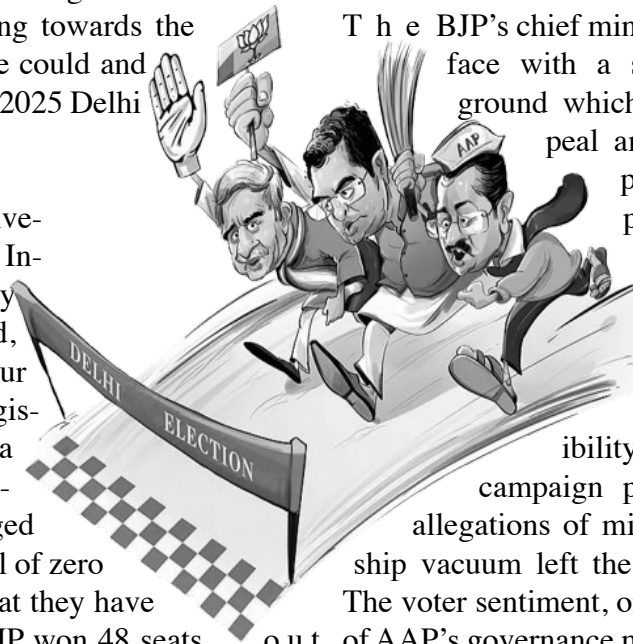
anti-corruption narrative was stuck with a massive corruption charge to its head.

Despite AAP's efforts to save its campaign with aggressive outreach and last-minute promises, the party could not counter the BJP's well-planned strategy. The BJP not only used the anti-corruption narrative against AAP but also focused on strong booth-level mobilization. Their workers put in relentless efforts to turn their Lok Sabha success into a state victory.

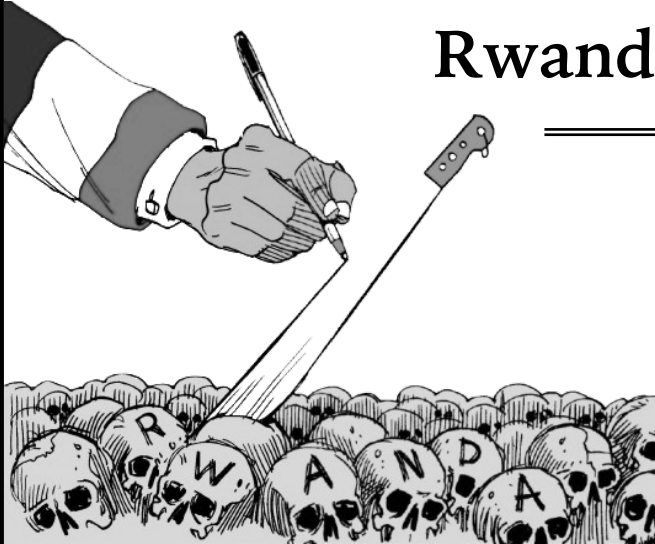
The BJP's chief ministerial candidate was a fresh face with a strong administrative background which further solidified their appeal among unsure voters. Unlike previous elections where the party struggled with infamous local leaders, this time they projected a clear alternative to Kejriwal's hollow leadership. On the other hand, the erosion of AAP's credibility became more evident as the campaign progressed. Internal dissent, allegations of mismanagement, and a leadership vacuum left the party pleading for support. The voter sentiment, once overwhelmingly in favor of AAP's governance model, had now tilted towards BJP's promise of a 'new era' in Delhi.

With the BJP's big victory, Delhi's political scene has changed completely. Now, the real test begins— not just for the BJP to prove it can govern well, but also for the AAP to decide if this loss is just a small setback or the start of a long decline. No matter what happens next, the 2025 Delhi elections have reshaped the city's political future.

**-Devvardhan Agarwal
XII**



From Ruins to Resilience: Rwanda's Steadfast Recovery



The nation of Rwanda is characterized both by great tragedy and the enormous strength of resilience. In fact, serious happenings did take place within the country not so long ago, with an appalling murder in 1994 by genocide, where over 800,000 people, mostly members of the Tutsi ethnic group, lost their lives in just 100 days. Chaos reigned everywhere, as the political structure and social order had collapsed. However, from the ashes of this brutal period, Rwanda has emerged as one of the most powerful forces in Africa, with women at the forefront of this transformation. The Rwandan genocide of 1994 had its roots in ethnic tensions between the Hutu majority and the Tutsi minority, which had been simmering for a long time. Such tensions had existed for some time, and it was only when the plane of the then president Juvénal Habyarimana was shot down that they really erupted. This ended up in a wave of violence which aimed at killing the Tutsi population and any of the Hutu moderates who opposed the massacres. The genocide left the country in shambles, moving millions of people out of their homes, separating families, and bringing the economy low.

Under such atrocities, Rwanda had a huge task at hand: how to rebuild the nation that had been brutally divided and deprived of human resource. The newly established Rwandan Patriotic Front, led by the present President Paul Kagame, took over the country and started this long painful healing and reconstruction process. It might not be easy, but nothing speaks better of Rwanda's recovery.

The other factor to which Rwanda owes much of its recovery was the participation of women in politics, business, and society. Since the genocide majorly took toll on the male population, there were 70% of survivors who were women; thus, women represented the majority of the population left behind to rebuild their homes and their communities. The government realizing this saw the importance of empowering them and including them in the decision-making processes held in the country.

The country today holds the highest percentage of women parliamentarians worldwide. The state currently boasts of more than 60% occupation by women in parliament, becoming a marvel for such gender representation not just in Africa but also in other parts of the world. Women have proven to be important policy definers in education, health care, and poverty reduction to take Rwanda through to stability and growth.

This is Rwanda's new generation, bred mostly during the aftermath of the genocide and whose majority are looking forward to a clear breakaway from the pain of the past. They aim at making Rwanda a prosperous and an indivisible nation. Through available technology, education, and entrepreneurship, the young generation of Rwanda is stepping into leadership and changing face for this country to modernize. They are particularly concerned with the questions of unemployment and economic diversification as well as international relations.

Still, there are enormous political challenges that Rwanda has to overcome. The Kagame administration comes across as one of the most restricted about liberties in politics and strong media control. There are, among other things, mixed views and reports pointing to a lack of political space for opposition parties and freedom of expression and these might damage the long-term stability of this nation.

From being one of the world's most devastated nations through genocide to being among the most stable and fast-growing economies in Africa, Rwanda is proof of people's resilience, particularly women. With political leadership involvement, the new generation is pushing for innovation and to move forward. Despite the fact that there are still kinds of political challenges facing the country, the recovery of Rwanda is an example of how a country can recover and thrive from the darkest of times.

**-Adhyayan Gupta
XII**

AT THE HELM: A WOMAN'S VISION FOR SRI LANKA

September 24, 2024, marks a new era in Sri Lanka, with the new Prime Minister, Harini Amarasuriya, opening this new chapter in the history of the nation. The rise to the top executive office of this woman is not only a landmark for her but also reminds one of holding a powerful testament for Sri Lanka to be empowered and embrace gender equality and the new age of progressive leadership.

Whereas Amarasuriya does tell a story of resilience and purpose toward political leadership rather than the classic nepotism story, she actually made her career in academia first and gained huge recognition as a senior lecturer on social anthropology at the Open University of Sri Lanka. Her interest in social justice, gender equality, and youth empowerment provides a context for political work later on.

She joined the National People's Power, a party combination for marginalized segments of society, in 2019. She was academically oriented combined with the deep commitment towards the community-driven solutions, ensuring that she is a strong voice within the party. She represented the underrepresented voices of the nation. Amarasuriya's ascent to Parliament in 2020 was a stepping stone that solidified her as a key player in Ceylonese politics.

Sri Lanka, a country where gender equality has often been sidelined by entrenched patriarchal norms, now finds itself under the leadership of a woman who has consistently championed women's rights. Her appointment is more than symbolic—it's a feminist victory. With her emergence, it shows that glass ceilings can be broken; women can hold the reins of power without compromising their vision or values.



Erosion of economic and social peace is one of the crises Sri Lanka faces. Amarasuriya would bring in a form of governance that emphasizes inclusiveness and national unity. Being an academic, her policies are going to be based on evidence and won't be populist but practical solutions to real issues. She wants to build across ethnic and religious divides a national identity that co-exists with trying to rectify economic inequality.

It is evident from her bold decisions that Amarasuriya focuses on reforming the sector. She has ensured political interference is not introduced into the education sector by restricting politicians from attending school events. This will help develop an education system with high independent thinking, free from any partisan influences. Her emphasis on public administration with an increased momentum on trade and food security, giving importance to long-term sustainable development programs, is also noteworthy.

The premiership of Harini Amarasuriya heralds a new beginning for the future of Sri Lanka. Her leadership promises a brighter future for a society with social justice and economic fairness at its core values, not afterthoughts. Radical yet practical, this country needs innovative leadership that responds to the crisis of the hour. Harini Amarasuriya has prepared Sri Lanka for a bright and inclusive future.

-Anagh Bajaj
XII

Natura Vincit

As one of the most prominent issues of the 21st century, impacting communities, economies and the environment all over the world, climate change is only projected to get worse in the future. The reason it has become such a concern in recent years is due to its direct impact, which is now visible. Till now, it was subject to our denial; a phenomenon which individuals only believed to be theories but when 2024 became the hottest year on record, minds all over the world changed. In 2024, the global average temperature was 1.46°C higher than pre-industrial levels. Even when estimated carbon emissions were taken into account, the rise in temperature was still too high compared to the estimated rise.

While it may have become a household term in recent years, let's begin from the basics, from understanding what climate change actually is and its causes. The primary drivers for the problem is global warming which is directly proportional to the growth of humanity. Do you need more buildings? Build them, but let's ignore the tons of carbon that we will be releasing into the sky, the carbon which becomes stationary in the atmosphere and then traps heat in the atmosphere, leading to "global warming". Many people actually believe that global warming and climate

change are interchangeable terms, but that is definitely not the case.

Global warming refers to the gradual increase in temperature over the past few years, while climate change is the overall umbrella under which global warming falls. Things such as changing weather patterns, the acidification of ocean water, the rise in sea levels are also what contribute to climate change. However, since global warming is



the biggest cause of climate change, let's try to understand more about it. Global warming is caused due to the increasing concentrations of major greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide among others. These gases have reached unprecedented highs in recent years, majorly due to human activities.

The past decade has been the warmest decade on record, with each year beating the previous when it comes to the list of the top ten hottest years. While the rise in temperature can be considered somewhat reasonable as it is happening to combat the rise in population, it still feels unnecessary.

With sudden changes in the climate over the world, humans are not adapted to the problems which it might end up posing. Be it the mutations which the viruses and the germs themselves undergo or the domestication of the human species which has happened overtime, should an epidemic start now, it

would be devastating due to the lack of immunity of the human race as a whole. More than that, climate change brings about heat related illnesses and an increase in vector-borne diseases because such conditions are favourable for that. What it all means is that, climate change just isn't directly bad for nature but also for the health of the people.

What climate change directly affects is the ecological balance of the world. Be it the rising sea levels or the melting glacial ice, a future where water is a scarce resource and a deadly killer at the same time is not far away. According to research, coastal cities are expected to be underwater by 2050 while at the same time, the cost of running water for home purposes is increasing and the quality is dropping along with that. In simple terms, we are heading towards a future where the coastal people will learn how to breathe underwater to survive while the ones on the mainland



figure out a way to live without it.

What is seemingly the worst thing about climate change is its cyclic and parasitic nature. The factors which cause it, it feeds to them and increases them till both the problems become something which can only be dealt with using supernatural means since the present seems too bleak to counter them in any way. Be it the untimely rains and the drawn out monsoons, or the heat waves which are leaving crops all over the world spoiled, it is not a baseless assumption to say that climate change is causing severe weather events. These extreme scenarios such as hurricanes, floods and droughts are not only threatening the ecological balance of the world but also the personal lives of people all over the world, forcing them to survive through whatever means necessary, even if that means diverting the forces of law and order which govern their respective countries and the world at large.

At present, it is not just about humans anymore because this problem threatens all of biodiversity. Be it the species struggling to adapt to these problems because of low populations or those facing habitat loss, it is worse for these creatures because they have no means of saving grace, which we as humans have in some form or the other.



The extinction rates, which were already accelerating due to human activity, now face another threat, a threat from the worst enemy—nature itself.

At the same time when the global average temperatures started to go up, the number of extinct species also began to go down. While the latter can be attributed to other factors as well, it is not a far-fetched thought to connect the dots between these two problems. With declining forest covers, untimely weather events and threat due to human activities, the habitat, the annual rhythm and the very lives of the existing biodiversity is at stake.



To review global efforts done to combat climate change, many landmark agreements such as the Paris Agreement have been set up. This agreement attempts to keep global warming to 1.5°C over pre-industrial levels. However, if considerable reductions are not made, existing emission trajectories indicate a potential rise of 3.1°C by the end of

the century. To meet climate targets, more policies and international cooperation are required. The European Union has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, and nations like Denmark and Costa Rica are setting the standard for the use of renewable energy. However, in order to have a significant effect, big emitters like China, the US, and India need to move more quickly away from fossil fuels.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions requires a shift to renewable energy sources. Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower provide cleaner, more reliable energy systems than fossil fuels. While reducing the effects of climate change, investments in renewable infrastructure can stimulate economic growth. In the meantime, technological advancements like electric cars and carbon capture and storage (CCS) are assisting in the

continued reduction of emissions. The global carbon footprint can also be decreased by individual acts like sustainable consumption, plant-based diets, and energy saving. These changes can easily be brought about through the cooperation of local residents. While individual work to prevent climate change may seem futile, these individuals when combined with the efforts of the whole community can bring about significant change.

The grave threat posed by climate change necessitates a swift and persistent response. Governments, corporations, and individuals must work together to address this catastrophe. We can lessen the effects of climate change and ensure a habitable future for future generations by implementing sustainable habits, promoting renewable energy, and pushing regulations. Now is the moment to take action.

**-Samarth Agrawal & Tanveer Madan
XII/XI**



HARD POWER of America

It is funny to think that Russia, a nation built on barely nothing, would dare to challenge the great United States of America in a war. Are they forgetting the fact that had it not been for the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), their “great” motherland would have faced a devastating loss at the end of the Cold War and would have resulted in more than just 15 countries. It would have resulted in poverty, even more than their people face in the present. It would have resulted in more UN interference just to stabilise their condition, even more than what is required now but never received by their people. It would have resulted in even more civil unrest, even more than what happens now but is always shot down by their “democratic” leader, Mr. Vladimir Putin.

The United States of America has one of the highest annual defence budgets in the world, roughly around 800 billion \$. It is not a commitment to war, rather a sign of how much the nation values the security of their nation and its citizens (unlike Russia). What this high sum signifies is the potential that the US armed forces hold and the resources they hold in their hands to crush anyone who crosses their path. In comparison, the Russian budget pales—with only around 65 billion \$. With over 12 times their budget which is invested into cutting-edge technology, global intelligence as well as state-of-the-art equipment, the USA easily wins against any conflict with Russia.

Even the active military personnel present outnumber those present in the other “nation”. Combine that with the superior technology, extensive training and the positive experience they get from high-stakes global engagements such as rescue missions and other international field missions, and you get superior military as a result. Don’t forget to take into account the fact that the military personnel in the USA are at least happy and respected for their service. A contrast to the forces in Russia, whose social standards and happiness indexes are falling day by day (similar to their economy).



Now to address a point which a lot of people would be interested to know about, nuclear capabilities. While the Russian Federation’s nuclear warheads do outnumber the warheads present in the USA (their commitment to peace surely stands strong), let’s not forget the fact that the USA has more allies than Russia can even count. Be it members of NATO or the global alliances it has in the Asia-Pacific, there are a lot of nations which are ready to aid the USA. In stark contrast, Russia has a limited number of allies such as China, Belarus and Armenia. What’s more is the fact that the USA’s allies have access to similar modern technology, increasing their might tenfold.

Even on the nuclear front, while the USA pales in number, their capabilities and abilities far surpass the ones present in Russia. Be it an advanced nuclear triad ensuring dominance from the air, land and water or the progressive stealth and precision technology, America stands stronger than Russia. Even though both the countries possess hydrogen bomb technology, the USA’s cutting-edge research in the field and the resources it holds in its arsenal make it more powerful in comparison.

With the unmatched weaponry and technology that the USA possesses, it doesn’t just lead the battlefield; it holds the power to shape it. Be it the F-22 Raptors or the 5-35 Lightning II jets and the missile defence system of the nation, our arsenal holds combat experience and can be trusted. In comparison, Russia relies on Su-57 jets and older defence systems such as the S-400, which have had limited combat exposure and seem to be more primitive in comparison. Being a leader in cyber defence, the USA has even got such a field covered in which Russia still hasn’t had its baby steps. The USA holds the power to protect and advance before Russia can even think of acting.

The reach the USA holds represents a global footprint, one willing to squash any opponent when necessary. This footprint is represented in the form of over 750 military bases in over 80+ countries. In comparison, what Russia holds is concentrated, outdated power centred in Syria and a few other Central Asian states, showcasing its limited dominance and outdated strategies. The bases aren’t just for defence, they also serve as launch points for international response and support, a concept which might seem extraterrestrial to Russia.

America doesn’t just match or outpace the capabilities that Russia has, it redefines them. This new definition sends across the message that a conflict with the USA would be met with overwhelming power and innovation, which will lead to more than just the decimation of Russian “might”.

-Samarth Agrawal
XII

The Geopolitical Battle for Antarctica

Antarctica, often considered as a remote and pristine wilderness, is increasingly becoming a focal point of geological interest. As climate change continues to melt ice at a tremendous pace, it opens new untapped natural resources for them to exploit. Thus, complex geopolitical dynamics involve concerns to the environment, claims to territory, and the question of international governance.

The unique aspect about Antarctica is that it is governed under the Antarctic Treaty system, first established in 1961. The treaty forbids military activity, promotes scientific research, and suspends claims on a territory. Nevertheless, there are seven countries claiming over the continent: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom (UK). Even though this treaty has held the seven countries' claims largely dormant, the rising interest for the region's resources give rise to the question: What will happen with this region in the future?

Other countries like Russia and China have been moving their presence around Antarctica through establishing research stations and going on expeditions. The country of China has also been accused of wanting to play a key role in Antarctica's governance. This may cause tension among the claimant states and the non-claimant states because each country tries to get into these resources such as oil, gas, and minerals.

Environmental implications of geopolitical interests in Antarctica are huge. Melting ice sheets contribute to alarming rates of sea-level rise as the continent warms. The risk is immense when natural resources are exploited in a fragile ecosystem, and debates concerning sustainability and conservation arise. Although the Antarctic Treaty emphasizes scientific cooperation and environmental protection, it has been under heavy scrutiny lately as more countries are showing interest in extracting natural resources.

It is not only an environmental factor, but it also has geopolitical implications. Those countries that face climate-related disasters will likely turn to Antarctica for solutions, such as geoengineering projects that might disrupt the thin balance of the continent. Such entanglement of national interests with environmental issues raises diplomatic tensions and requires multilateralism.

Although the Antarctic Treaty prohibits any military presence, the geopolitical importance of Antarctica cannot be denied. It is now a frequent platform for military exercises by most nations in the Southern Hemisphere. The increasing naval presence surrounding the Southern Ocean hints at not-too-distant military interests. Research bases are established and prepare the ground for further military operations under the garb of scientific research, which further complicates the geopolitical scenario.

International cooperation will be the future of the governance of Antarctica. The Antarctic Treaty System has been a prototype for cooperative management, and the test of its ability to evolve in response to new challenges is in the offing. The countries must find consensus on matters such as climate change, resource management, and territorial claims. New agreements may have to be instituted or existing treaties amended to ensure that the region continues to be a zone of peace and scientific inquiry.

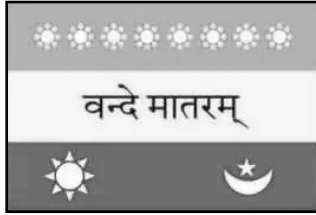
In conclusion, Antarctica is at a crossroads. The confluence of geopolitical interests, environmental challenges, and the need for cooperative governance creates risks and opportunities. It will be the ability to work together that determines the future of this unique and vital region as nations navigate through these complexities. Commitment to dialogue and a shared vision will address these geopolitical issues to protect one of the world's last frontiers.

**-Rakshit Bajaj
XII**



DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG

First unofficial flag of India hoisted in Calcutta (now Kolkata). It had three horizontal stripes: red, yellow, and green, with "Vande Mataram" written in the centre.



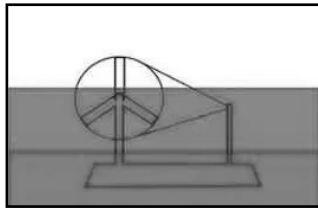
19
06



Bhikaji Cama's flag (also known as the Berlin Committee Flag) unfurled in Stuttgart, Germany. It was the first Indian flag to be hoisted on foreign soil.

19
07

Dr. Annie Besant and Lokmanya Tilak hoisted a new flag during the Home Rule Movement. It had five red and four green horizontal stripes arranged alternately, with seven stars in the Saptarishi configuration.

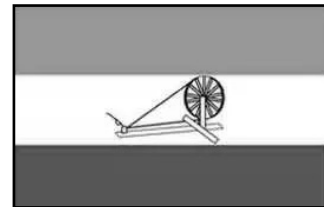


19
17



Mahatma Gandhi proposed a flag. The flag was made up of two colours red and green that represent the two major communities Hindus and Muslims. At that time Gandhiji suggested adding a white strip in the flag that will represent the other communities. The spinning wheel was added to symbolize the nation's progress.

19
21



A landmark year when the tricolour flag – saffron, white, and green – was adopted by the Indian National Congress. The spinning wheel was placed at the centre.

19
31



19
47

The Constituent Assembly adopted the present national flag. The spinning wheel was replaced with the Ashoka Chakra.

Seven Nations, One Bay: The BIMSTEC Vision



BIMSTEC, or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, is a multinational organisation based around the Bay of Bengal region, including key South Asian and ASEAN players like India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

It pursues regional cooperation in 7 broad sectors: Agriculture & Food Security; Connectivity; Environment & Climate Change; People-to-People Contact; Science, Technology & Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment & Development. The main purpose of its existence stands to be the presence of an international body of cooperation for South Asian nations, specifically the ones situated around the Bay of Bengal, while developing and devising new and better policies that facilitate better economy, institutions, and general life facilities between the member nations.

The BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision, 2030 served as the most significant outcome of the very recent Summit held in Thailand on the 4th and 5th of April this year. This plan, the first of its kind for the newly classified-as organisation, aims to build a PRO (Prosperous, Resilient and Open) BIMSTEC by the year 2025, transforming the Bay of Bengal region into one that is economically vibrant, capable of withstanding global challenges and characterized by enhanced connectivity and cooperation. This marks the first time the organisation has ever endorsed long-term strategic plans with goals as ambitious as the one they've taken

on, highlighting the great possibility of increased future significance that the organisation can hold in the years that follow.

With all this said, India finds itself at the core of such integral circumstances, and with the potential to use this forum as a medium to engage in and influence international politics. India has been actively pushing for a Free Trade Agreement across the Bengal sea, an opportunity which can serve to give a significant boost to the Indian market, securing the nation more exports, economic flexibility and potentially attracting increased foreign investment into our economy.

But trade and commerce is not the only purpose that BIMSTEC serves in Indian geopolitics. In a recent international visit, the Bangladeshi Interim-Prime Minister Muhammad Yunus remarked upon the North-Eastern region of India, making comments like calling the region "landlocked" and proclaiming Bangladesh as the "only guardian of the Sea" in the region. The fact that these remarks were made in China added to the sensitivity of the situation, with an overall stance that suggested a proposal by Bangladesh to serve as a conduit for Chinese economic activity into Northeast India. The Indian government used BIMSTEC as a forum to deliver subtle rebuttals to these what-one-may-presume-as "outrageous" remarks, as foreign minister S. Jaishankar advocated the economic and transportation significance of North-East India while making more direct statements like "cooperation is an integrated outlook, not one subject to cherry-picking."

In conclusion, BIMSTEC provides India with a crucial opportunity to strengthen its diplomatic presence in the South Asian region, while developing international treaties and strategies that further our national interests. In this post-pandemic VUCA world, India must act for itself, for the world is no fairytale, and all must fight to survive.

Credit: bimstec.org

**-Ahan Sparsh
XI**

Politician's Review-

Rekha Gupta

Rekha Gupta's appointment as the Chief Minister of Delhi is more than just a political change; it is a moment that might reshape the future of the capital. After almost thirty years, the BJP is in government again with a chief who has devoted decades to grassroots activities leading the party. But what then is Rekha Gupta's leadership really for the people of Delhi—one who is Rekha Gupta?

With the ABVP, the student body of the RSS, Gupta's political career began in the 1990s. She was a student leader then, campaigning for issues and making her voice heard at Delhi University. She gradually entered local politics, where she interacted with the public and solved daily concerns more closely. With a clear victory in the Shalimar Bagh constituency, she is now the Chief Minister. Though the journey has been long, her success marks a fresh beginning for Delhi's administration.

Getting her objectives clearly stated early into her tenure. Among her early major initiatives is the 2,500 rupees every month Mahila Samridhi Yojana, which assists women from poor groups. Focusing on the development of economic autonomy for women is something felt in a society where financial stability can be life-changing. There is also an emphasis on gig labor—the drivers, delivery riders, and service providers that run the city but frequently go ignored in policy decisions. Gupta's administration is recognizing an ever more necessary and expanding labor force by establishing a committee to create welfare policies for them.

Still, she isn't simply halting welfare legislation. Zeroing on healthcare, pollution control, and infrastructure improvements, she has developed an

aggressive 100-day action plan. While campaigns to clean up the Yamuna River and to improve sanitation are already in progress, the Ayushman Bharat scheme is being rolled out to enhance access to healthcare. The policies in action are straightforward: transform Delhi into a more efficient, clean, and healthy metropolis.

Naturally, leading Delhi is also about handling long-standing issues, not just starting fresh projects. Every administration has wrestled the monster of the city's pollution dilemma. Gupta's ability to present actual answers at the table is under question; then there is the difficulty of negotiating a completely different political terrain as India moves from an AAP-led government

to a BJP-led one. How easily the change takes place will characterize her early days of direction.

So, where does that leave us? Early in office, Rekha Gupta comes across as a leader who is driven, determined,

and set to revolutionize things. Still, politics is uncertain and the real test will be in how much of her vision materializes. For the time being, all eyes are on her. Does she become the leader who changes Delhi for good or will she get caught up in political spirals that very often hit the capital?

-Adhyayan Gupta
XII



Philosopher Review - Niccolo Machiavelli

Niccolò Machiavelli, a figure of enduring significance within the canon of political philosophy, is one of the most influential political philosophers to ever exist. To engage with his work is to confront the stark realities of power, unburdened by the comforting illusions of moral idealism. This review seeks to elucidate the core tenets of his thought, contextualize his arguments, and assess their enduring relevance.

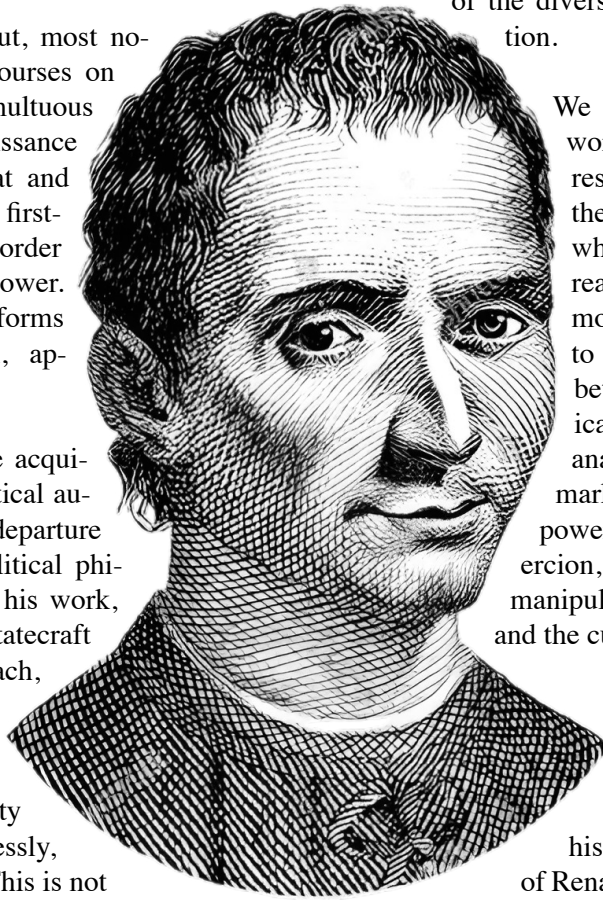
Machiavelli's intellectual output, most notably "The Prince" and "Discourses on Livy," emerged from the tumultuous political landscape of Renaissance Florence. A seasoned diplomat and political observer, he witnessed firsthand the fragility of political order and the ruthless pursuit of power. This experiential foundation informs his pragmatic, often cynical, approach to political theory.

"The Prince," a treatise on the acquisition and maintenance of political authority, constitutes a radical departure from traditional moralistic political philosophy. Machiavelli, through his work, tells us that the exigencies of statecraft necessitate a pragmatic approach, wherein moral considerations are subordinated to the preservation of power. He argues that a ruler must possess the capacity to act decisively, even ruthlessly, when circumstances demand. This is not an endorsement of inconsiderate cruelty, but rather a recognition of the inherent immoral nature of effective political administration.

The assertion that it is preferable to be feared than loved, a cornerstone of Machiavelli's thought, has been under fire ever since its coinage. However, Machiavelli is able to logically explain in the context of governance how such approaches lead to better administration. He contends that while love is inherently fickle, fear, when judiciously applied, provides a more reliable foundation for political stability. This perspective, while unsettling, reflects a keen awareness of the human propensity for self-interest.

It is imperative to acknowledge that Machiavelli's po-

litical philosophy is not devoid of nuance. His "Discourses on Livy" reveals a profound appreciation for republican governance and civic virtue. This apparent tension between the pragmatic realism of "The Prince" and the republican ideals of the "Discourses" underscores the complexity of his thought. He was not a mere apologist for tyranny, but rather a keen observer of the diverse forms of political organization.



We see several key themes in his work. Machiavelli's work represents a seminal contribution to the tradition of political realism, which prioritizes the practical realities of power over abstract moral principles. He compels us to confront the inherent tension between ethical ideals and political imperatives. Secondly, his analysis of power remains remarkably true. He recognized that power is not solely a function of coercion, but also a product of strategic manipulation, psychological acumen, and the cultivation of public perception.

Thirdly, a thorough understanding of Machiavelli's historical context is indispensable for a comprehensive assessment of his work. The political instability of Renaissance Italy acted as a catalyst for his pragmatic and often cynical worldview. His works consistently place the health and stability of the state as a top priority. Many of his controversial statements can be understood through this lens.

In conclusion, Niccolò Machiavelli's legacy remains one of the most controversial ones in history. His work, characterized by its unflinching realism and its penetrating insights into the nature of power, continues to challenge and provoke idealism in the status quo. To engage with Machiavelli is to confront the enduring dilemmas of political life, thereby enriching our understanding of the complex interplay between morality and statecraft.

-Shreyas Shah
XII

POLITICAL LEXICON

Communism

The political system in which the state owns and controls factories, farms, services, etc, and aims to treat everyone equally.

Communalism

Communalism is an ideology that divides society into groups based on religion, ethnicity, or beliefs. It can lead to conflict and violence between groups.

Laissez-faire

Laissez-faire literally translates to the phrase "allow to do" and it's the policy of allowing private businesses to develop without government control.

Hegemon

A hegemon is a leading or major power.

Proxy War

A proxy war is a conflict fought by one or more major powers that do not themselves become directly involved.

COMPASS

DROUPADI MURMU is the 15th and current President of India, a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). She made history by becoming the first person from a Scheduled Tribe to hold this position. Born in 1958, she is also the youngest person to ever serve as India's President. Before her political career, Murmu worked as a teacher and later entered Odisha state politics. From 2015 to 2021, she was the first woman to hold the office of governor of Jharkhand. Her presidency is seen as a significant step towards greater representation and inclusivity in Indian politics.

DINA BOLUARTE is the current President of Peru, having taken oath of office in December 2022. She previously served as the First Vice President under Pedro Castillo. Boluarte is the first female president of Peru. A lawyer by profession, she has worked in the National Registry of Identification and Civil Status. Her presidency began in the midst of political instability following the impeachment of Pedro Castillo. She faces the challenge of uniting a divided nation and addressing pressing social and economic issues.

CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM PARDO is a Mexican politician and scientist who became the first female president of Mexico and took the office on October 1st, 2024. She previously served as the Head of Government of Mexico City from 2018 to 2023. Sheinbaum is a member of the Morena party. A climate scientist by training, she holds a Ph.D. in energy engineering and has contributed to reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Her political platform focuses on social justice, environmental sustainability, and combating inequality.

HALLA TÓMASDÓTTIR is a businesswoman and politician who was elected as the President of Iceland in 2024. She previously ran for president in 2016. Tómasdóttir is known for her work in business ethics and leadership, and for co-founding an investment company with an emphasis on social responsibility. She emphasizes values-based leadership and promoting a more inclusive and sustainable society. With a background in entrepreneurship, she is a strong advocate for gender equality.

This Day That Year

April 12th:

1861: U.S. Civil War Ignites: Confederate forces attack Fort Sumter, triggering the start of the American Civil War, a defining conflict in U.S. history.

1945: Roosevelt's Death, Truman's Ascension: President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death during World War II results in Vice President Harry S. Truman assuming leadership during a critical period.

1980: Zimbabwe Achieves Independence: Zimbabwe breaks free from British colonial rule, signifying a major shift in the political landscape of Southern Africa.

1983: Washington's Historic Mayoral Victory: Harold Washington's election as Chicago's first African American mayor marks a significant milestone in U.S. urban politics.

1992: Maastricht Treaty Forges EU: The signing of the Maastricht Treaty establishes the European Union, a pivotal moment in European political and economic integration.

1606: Union Jack Symbolizes British Unity: The adoption of the Union Jack as the national flag of Great Britain represents the political unification of England and Scotland.

2002: Chávez Briefly Ousted in Venezuelan Coup: A short-lived coup attempt in Venezuela highlights the nation's political instability under President Hugo Chávez.

April 13th:

1865: Lincoln's Assassination Impacts U.S.: President Abraham Lincoln's assassination leaves a profound political void and shapes the course of post-Civil War America.

1919: Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Sparks Indian Resistance: The British massacre of unarmed civilians in Amritsar fuels the growing Indian independence movement.

1949: NATO Forms Cold War Alliance: The establishment of NATO creates a crucial military and political alliance to counter Soviet influence.

1975: Lebanese Civil War Erupts: The outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War initiates a prolonged period of sectarian conflict and regional instability.

2019: Assange's Arrest Raises Press Freedom Concerns: Julian Assange's arrest reignites debates about freedom of the press and the political implications of information dissemination.

1877: British Annexation of Transvaal: The UK's annexation of the Transvaal demonstrates colonial expansion in southern Africa.

1927: Shanghai Massacre Ends Chinese United Front: Chiang Kai-shek's purge of communists in Shanghai shatters the First United Front, escalating the Chinese Civil War.

X


 **Rahul Gandhi**  @RahulGandhi

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill is a weapon aimed at marginalising Muslims and usurping their personal laws and property rights.

This attack on the Constitution by the RSS, BJP and their allies is aimed at Muslims today but sets a precedent to target other communities in the future.

The Congress party strongly opposes this legislation as it attacks the very idea of India and violates Article 25, the Right to Freedom of Religion.

10:32 PM · Apr 2, 2025 · 2M Views


 **Narendra Modi**  @narendramodi

President Trump often talks about MAGA.

In India, we are working towards a Viksit Bharat, which in American context translates into MIGA.

And together, the India-USA have a MEGA partnership for prosperity!

@POTUS @realDonaldTrump



6:55 AM · Feb 14, 2025 · 25.8M Views

11K 38K 288K 4.9K



 **Narendra Modi**  @narendramodi

BIMSTEC is an important forum to further global good. It is imperative we strengthen it and deepen our engagement. In this context, I proposed a 21-point Action Plan covering different aspects of our cooperation.



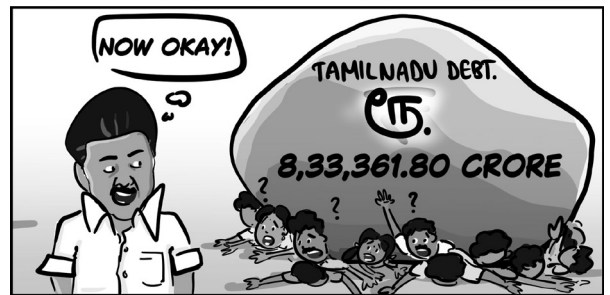
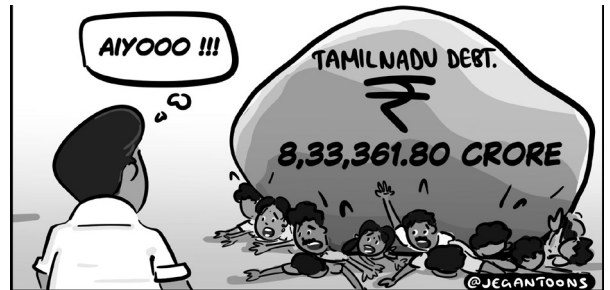
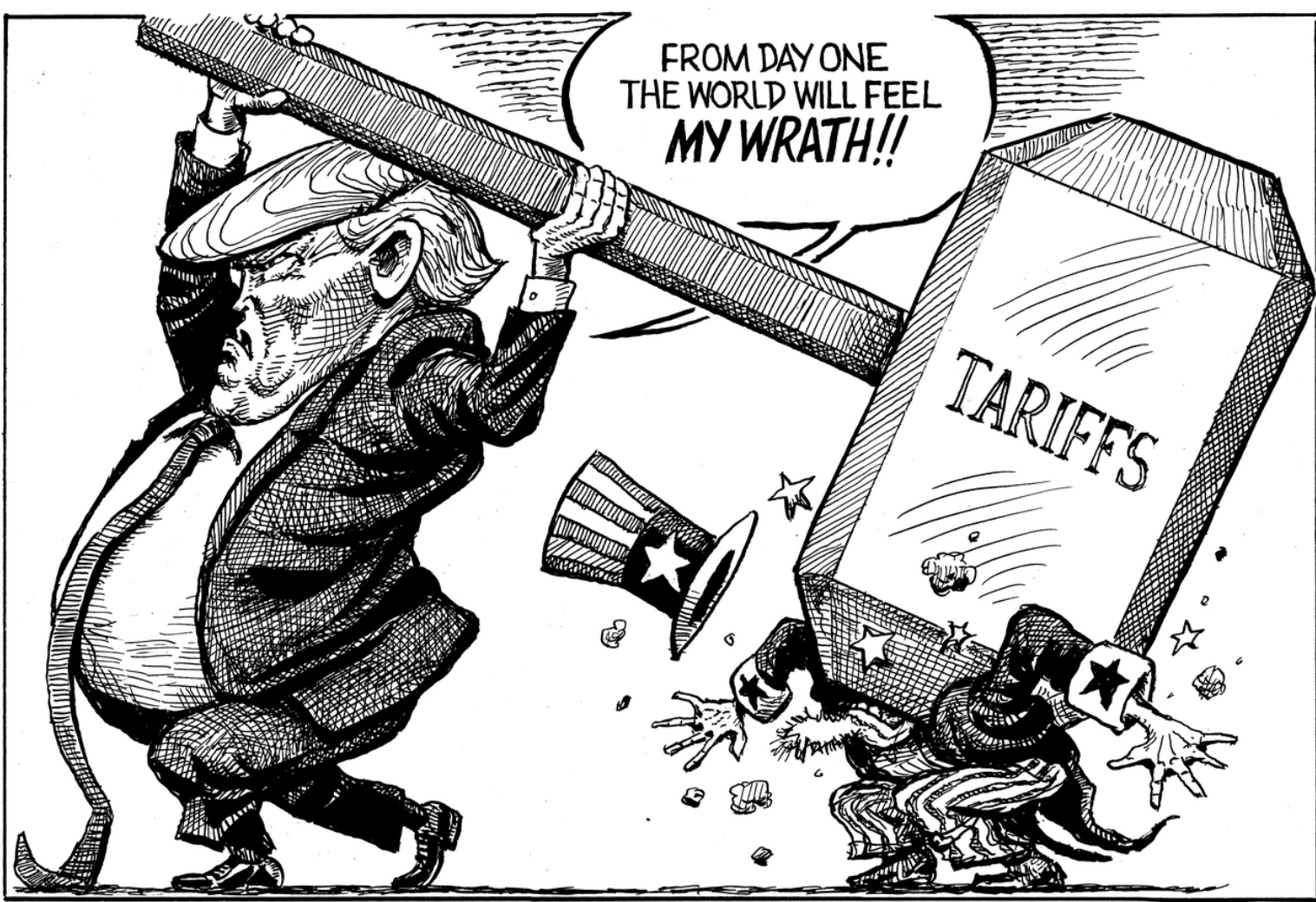
12:10 PM · Apr 4, 2025 · 1.3M Views

539 3.6K 19K 408

 **Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump · Apr 1

The Iran-backed Houthi Terrorists have been decimated by the relentless strikes over the past two weeks. Many of their Fighters and Leaders are no longer with us. We hit them every day and night — Harder and harder. Their capabilities that threaten Shipping and the Region are rapidly being destroyed. Our attacks will continue until they are no longer a threat to Freedom of Navigation. The choice for the Houthis is clear: Stop shooting at U.S. ships, and we will stop shooting at you. Otherwise, we have only just begun, and the real pain is yet to come, for both the Houthis and their sponsors in Iran.

23K 42K 266K 61M



Cartoon Credit: www.google.com

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