

Yeh dil mange more

An article by Saksham Jain Benjamin Lal
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Campus Caricature

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THIS WEEK'S
THE QUARANTINE WATCHLIST

Featuring:
The Other Boleyn Girl
The Truman Show
Young Royals
Josee, the Tiger and the Fish

THE TRUMAN SHOW 1998
WRITTEN BY: ANDREW NICCOL
DIRECTED BY: PETER JACKSON
PRODUCED BY: ANDREW NICCOL, SCOTT BRIDEN, EDUARDO S. FELDMAN
CASTING: JIM CARREY, ED HARRIS, LAURA LINNEY

Geopolitics: India's Maritime Affairs

-Hiyaneijemmy Das, XI

India has much reason to concern itself with maritime security and global maritime affairs. After all, it is a peninsula with more than 7,000 km of coastline. The Indian Ocean Region is one of the most important water bodies in terms of trade, communication, and geopolitics. It goes without saying that India will prioritise its coasts and maritime relations. The major conflicts India is embroiled in, involving maritime activities, are with Sri Lanka and China. Sri Lanka and India have a tumultuous history in maritime disputes. Firstly, their maritime boundaries are very close and poorly defined. The very little distance between the two coasts has made it difficult to apply internationally-recognised maritime boundary rules. This has led to fishermen from both countries contesting fishing areas. Indian fishermen use a method called bottom-trawling, which is considered an offence in Sri Lanka. These fishing conflicts are highlighted by regular news of fishing vessels being seized, and fishermen being arrested, missing, or even dead. Secondly, it was agreed upon by both countries that Sri Lanka enjoyed sovereignty over Katchatheevu Island while Indian fishermen were granted restricted access. This decision to this day is unaccepted by many fishermen. Thus, a range of maritime conflicts plague the two countries. China has long claimed 80% of the South China Sea whereas by international law, it is entitled to only 20%. This claim, and subsequent disputes with other countries is of great concern to India, due to its proximity to India's wown naval bases. Further-

more, tensions between China and India in other matters have spilled over and increased naval aggression and activity on either side. Chinese submarines have come as close as Sri Lanka while India makes great strides in gaining international support from other countries who are also concerned about China's unending claims and aggressive actions at sea. In order to address these threats and others, the Indian Navy has adopted a maritime strategy based on four main missions. The first of these is 'sea control,' a defensive mission that involves ensuring that Indian and friendly naval forces have the temporary and local command of the ocean. The second mission is 'sea denial,' an offensive mission that involves weakening enemy naval forces who try to operate in the maritime space for a period of time. The third is ensuring the safety and security of Indian shipping by providing escorts, attaining sea control in key areas, and otherwise neutralizing threats; the overall mission being the protection of sea lines of communication. It is in this respect that for the very first time since independence India has begun to reconfigure its position in the strategically placed Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshwadeep islands. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, India emphasizes the importance of diplomacy in securing a nation's maritime interests. India has pursued maritime diplomacy that attempts not only to counter China's influence in the region but to increase its own geopolitical influence. As such, India is deepening defense ties with the US, France,

Australia, Japan, as well as neighbouring countries, all the while entering into significant military pacts and maritime security arrangements. It is clear that India will continue to face geopolitical concerns due to its prominent position in the

Indian Ocean, but if anything of the future can be said by looking at the past, India looks like it has little to worry about if it continues the calculated and effective approach it currently employs.

KNOW YOUR HAQQANI

-Ms. Ishita Malhotra, Department of Political Science

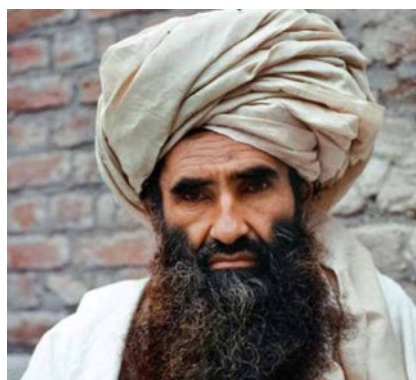
A terror outfit and potent faction of the Taliban is today spearheading the Taliban led regime in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Having dubbed Islamic Fundamentalism 'The Haqqani Network', the latter originated in the late 1970s during the Afghan War (1978-1992). The Haqqani Network takes its name from the leader of the group, Jalaluddin Haqqani. Its chief areas of operation are South-eastern region of Afghanistan and the North-western region of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan.

Aim

Its aim is in consonance with its attainment. Its desire to re-instate Afghanistan the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has unravelled twenty years of emancipation and brought back to Afghanistan her dotage that none were yearning for.

The core members of the Haqqani Network are currently incumbents of offices that were not too long ago democratic in every sense. These are :

Sirajuddin Haqqani: Interior Minister of the Haqqani network supremo



An appointment that is a finger in the eye of the international community. He has been an UN-designated global terrorist since 2007, and the FBI has a reward of \$10 million for

information. The UN listing of Sirajuddin says he "participated in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities in conjunction with al-Qaeda, and Jaish-i-Mohammed.

Khalil-Ur-Rahman Haqqani: Minister for Refugees

He is the uncle of Sirajuddin who had been categorized as a terrorist in 2011. The listing says he travelled to Gulf countries, as well as in South and South-east Asia to raise funds



on behalf of the Taliban and the Haqqani Network.

Najibullah Haqqani: Minister for Communication

Classified as a terrorist, he had been a minister in the previous Taliban regime as well — first the deputy minister for public works, and later, deputy minister for finance. He was militarily active until 2010.

Sheik Abdul Baqi Haqqani: Minister for Higher Education

An associate of Jalaluddin Haqqani, he is the sole member of the Haqqani Network as part of the government who has not been designated as a terrorist by the UN Security



Council. However, the sanctions have been imposed on him by the European Union.

Yeh dil mange more

-Saksham Jain Benjamin Lal, VIII

The modern Olympic Games are leading international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports competitions in which thousands of athletes from around the world participate in a variety of competitions. The Olympic Games are considered as the world's foremost sports competition with more than 200 nations participating. India's performance in Olympics has been dismal. Despite being the world's second-largest population, the ninth largest economy and the largest democracy, India lags behind in the race to Olympic Glory. A century since first participating in Olympics, India has merely 35 medals to its name. The USA on the other hand, leads the medal tally with 2,522 medals under its belt.

As a country, we are obsessed with a singular sport and that is cricket. It is only during major events like Olympics when other sports are given a part of the limelight and fan cheering. For the rest of the year, we stay ignorant of who's who of other sports. They are promoted less, there are fewer sponsors for the other sports and trolling of athletes is incessant when they do not get desired medals. The fallacy that festers in every small or big Indian town lies in the age old adage, पढोगे लखोगे बनोगे नवाब जो खेलोगे कूदोगे तो होंगे खराब (Studies will bring you respectability while playing sports will spoil you). Indian youth are discouraged from pursuing a career in sports while parents remain obsessed with the likes of medical and engineering. The entire philosophy revolves around getting a job that promises a secure stable future which sports does not. Our success as an academically-oriented society is proven in the number of engineers and doctors we have placed across the globe. The lack of proper administration, policies as well as facilities are the prime concern with Indian sports. Non-Involvement of ex-sportsman in administra-

tive staff is also a major reason why India lacks in this sector. There is still relatively very less allotment of funds for sports despite the number of youths who are willing to take it up as a profession. The National Institution for Transforming India or NITI Aayog announced an action plan named 'Let's Play for Revitalising Sports in India' with the aim to target 50 Olympic medals in the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. India has won 7 medals in the Summer Olympics with one gold, two silver and 4 bronze. Names such as Mirabai Chanu, PV Sindhu Lovlina Borgohain Ravi Kum Dahiya Bajrang Punia, and the javelin star Neeraj Chopra have become household names.

At the Tokyo Paralympics 2021, the Indian contingent put up a magnificent show winning a total of

19 medals of which 5 were gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals. The names of Sumit Antil, Pramod Bhagat, Krishna Nagar, Manish Narwal, Avani Lekhara, Yogesh Kathuniya, Nishad Kumar, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Praveen Kumar, Devendra Jhajharia, Suhas Yathiraj, Singhraj Adhana, Bhavina Patel, Harvinder Singh, Sharad Kumar, Sundar Singh Gurjar, Manoj Sarkar, Avani Lekhara will remain imprinted in a billion hearts. The story of the Indian Women and Men's Hockey Teams demand a different article altogether. In the 75th year of India's independence, there can be no greater sense of achievement than to watch the Indian national flag being hoisted to glory besides its compatriots, the moment having been won through the sweat and sheer dedication of its sportspersons. This is the calibre of this country and as they saying goes, 'Yeh dil mange more!'



Illustration: Anushka Jitani

Feature Page



Olympics is more than a competition. It is a stage where not only sports is performed but also sportsmanship. India's performance this time was the best it had ever been, and I see this graph only climbing.

Raghav Agarwal, XI



It gives me immense pleasure of the achievements that our players have brought for our country in the Tokyo Olympics. Hoping for the best to follow in the coming years too.

Irom Calvin, XI



Indians played a prodigious role in Tokyo Olympics and provided immense contribution. It was therefore exhibited that attention is sought not only in academics, but sports as well.

Dhirya Khersa, XI



The Indian athletes did really well in the 2020 Olympics and it can be justified with the number of medals won. Their hardwork pushes us to do better.

Sampada Malpani, XI



The 2020 Tokyo Olympics has undoubtedly been India's best show at the Olympic Games in terms of medals. We saw the athletes perform their best and even though there may have been heartbreaks, the players never lost hope.

Tiara Kharpuri, XII



It is an absolute proud moment for the whole country as India won the championship for javelin throw for the first time in Indian history. I feel very lucky to be a part of India.

Anushka Jitani, IX



The Indian participants in the Tokyo Olympics have made the whole country proud by their astonishing performance and all the hard-work and efforts put in by all players is evident from their achievements.

Bishal Dey, XI



From Neeraj Chopra winning India's historic gold medal to Mary Kom losing her last Olympics, Tokyo Olympics has created a sense of patriotism in the hearts of every Indian.

Mahita Jindal, XI



1. Why do you want to be a teacher?

-Because I love to play different instruments and love to teach as well. I want to inspire the same passion and interest in my subject amongst my students.

2. What inspired you to join The Assam Valley School?

-I want to work for the Assam Valley School because it will give a platform where I can implement the skills and knowledge I have acquired through my education and experience and also I love the energy in AVS. Looking forward to contributing to School.

3. What do you find most frustrating about teaching?

-Parents whose total lack of concern for disciplinary issues is reflected in their child's attitude towards discipline.

Back to the Future



Illustration: Karun Thapa

Hindi Divas

-Aanya P Sarkar, VIII

On the 14th September, The Department of Hindi organized a 'Kavita Panth- a recital', on the eve of Hindi Divas in celebration of the Hindi language. Mr. Anil Yadav was the Master of Ceremony for the event which took place physically at the WMH as well as on the virtual platform where a larger audience and participants had joined in. The afternoon began with a brilliant performance by the Music Department. Anushcka Joshi took to the stage next and recited a poem highlighting the importance and beauty of the Hindi language. Dr. Pooja Jain recited a beautiful poem called 'Kya Kashmukash hain Zindagi' a poignant rendition which left the audience thoughtful. Mr. Lovesh Sharma then beautifully recited a self-composed poem on Corona which resonated with all. Mr. Dulu Dutta took to the podium next and recited a self-composed poem called 'Tarap' which reflected on the turmoil brought on by the pandemic. Vasuman Lohia on the virtual platform, recited the poem 'Safar mein dhup to hogi' which spoke about how it is trials that bring out the best in us. Ma'am Raya Mukhopadhyay roused the audience with her rendition of 'Parshuram ki Pratiksha'. Aditya Upadhyay took to the stage next and recited 'Kahani Karna ki' giving us a glimpse of the famous warrior from Mahabharat. In a similar tone, Mr. Mukund Madhav Chandrachuda Shukla roused the audience with a powerful rendition of 'Krishna Ki Chetavni'. Sidhi Agarwal, joining in virtually and recited 'Beti aur samajh' which spoke about feminism and equality. Mr. Devesh Prajapati took to the stage and beautifully sang 'Hum rahe ya na rahe'. Next, Jia Agarwal recited the poem 'Jo Beet Gai so baat Gai' leaving the audience to ponder over the wisdom of the words. Dr. Kuljeet Singh recited couplets from the famous Urdu poet Rahat Indori on the many nuances of life. This was followed by Ojasvi Agarwal who recited the poem 'Jan Jan Ki Bhasha'. Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj took to the stage next and recited an inspiring poem by the legendary Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. From the virtual platform Dev Agarwal recited a hilarious poem a parody on

KBC called Kaun Banega Canjoospati and left the audience in splits. Ma'am Rupali Borah sang beautifully 'Yeh mulakat ek bahana hain' which proved to be a treat for the audience. Alka Jhamag recited a poem on Hindi Divas reminding the audience of the relevance and importance of the occasion. Ma'am Ishita Malhotra took to the podium and recited the motivational poem 'Sanskrit se Sanskriti hamari, Hindi se Hindustan hain'. Kashvi Agarwal then recited the empowering poem 'Tu khud ki Khoj mein nikal'. Dr. Parinita Goswami, Mrs. Prarthana B Phukan and Mrs. Durba Goswami of the Assamese Department graced the stage and sang a melodious song on the purity and importance of the Hindi language. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Dixit gave a powerful performance reciting while playing on the Tabla in the typical Lucknowi aandaaz, Lanka Pati se Mandodar which gave a brilliant glimpse of the legendary wife of Ravana in Ramayan. Next Mr. Pranjal Saikia beautifully sang a song celebrating the essence of Hindi Divas. The evening concluded with the Headmaster, Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal regaling the audience with fascinating stories from the world of Hindi literature and its remarkable writers who remain giants in our society. He also delivered the vote of thanks and brought the wonderful evening to a successful end.





Photo credits: Mr Vivek Kumar and Mr Sanjay Kumar Dixit

THE OUTPOST

Afghan women around the world posted pictures of their vibrant cultural attires protesting the rights of the Afghan women against the Taliban regime's Hijab Mandate. Given the circumstances it seems like the least of the evils. As the world enters a new political climate, China denounced the Indo-Pacific nuclear alliance between the US, UK and Australia. It continues its strategic friendship with the Taliban even as chaos creeps towards the Pak-Afghanistan border. The political broil over the Bhawanipur by-elections continue as face-off between Mamta Banerjee and Priyanka Tibrewal warms as Bengal politics takes center stage yet again.



Illustration: Elozini Senachena

Ripple #167

Temjenrenla Jamir, XI

*Have you ever seen the
life of a hikikomori?
The outside world to
them is that of purgatory
People say, 'The life you
lead is that of nurgatory'
But spiteful words must
never come before the
story*

The Quarantine Watchlist

Feeling sick and tired of the same four walls at home? Well grab your popcorn and immerse yourself in the world of media, here is a list of some of our suggestions:

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL: This movie follows the fictionalised lives of the two aristocratic Boleyn sisters Mary and Anne and their connection to King Henry VIII.

THE TRUMAN SHOW: Truman Burbank is oblivious to the fact that his entire life is a TV show. And when he discovers it, decides to run away.

YOUNG ROYALS: This show focuses on the Crown Prince, Wilhem and his life at a prestigious boarding school after he is involved in a public scandal.

JOSEE, THE TIGER AND THE

FISH: Tsuneo, an ordinary college student and diver becomes the caretaker of a young wheelchair bound girl in order to earn money to go diving in Mexico

Keep It Reel!

Reach your peaks

-Mahita Jindal, XI

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