

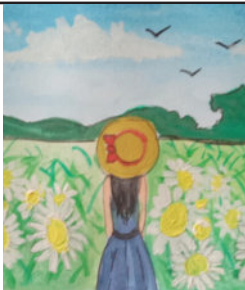
OUTPOST

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Life

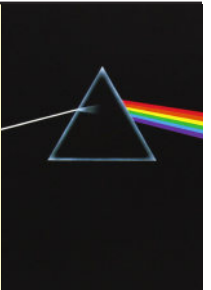
An article by Alda Nongmeikapam

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THIS WEEK'S
THE QUARANTINE PLAYLIST

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



the death of cde bipin rawat: air tragedy

- Claudia N.Marak, XI

On the 8th of December 2021, India's first Chief Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika, and 11 others were killed in a chopper crash. Their deaths came to the country as a rude and unforeseen shock.

The Chief of Defence Staff was on his way to Wellington, Tamil Nadu, to give a speech at the Defence Services Staff College. He took off from Palam airport in an IAF Embraer aircraft at 8:47 a.m, landed at Sullur air base at 11:34 a.m., and then flew to Wellington in a Mi-17V5 chopper at 11:48 a.m. According to government authorities, the helicopter crashed in and around 12:22 p.m. The lone survivor, Group Captain Varun Singh, was under treatment at a military hospital in Wellington but he too succumbed to his injuries on 15th of December 2021. Rawat and his wife were cremated according to Hindu rituals with full military honours and 17 gun salute. Their funeral was carried out by their daughters, Kritika and Tarini on 10th December 2021. Later, they took their ashes to Haridwar and immersed them in the Ganges at the Har Ki Pauri ghat on 12 of December. The aircraft they were traveling in was called the Mil Mi-17, a medium-lift helicopter built in Russia. Delivered to the IAF in 2011, it started working for the IAF from 2012. The helicopter had flown over 26 hours without incident post its most recent servicing.

The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on the evening of the disaster to decide on a further course of action.

As a tribute to those who lost their lives in the crash, the Opposition suspended its protests for a day in Parliament. A flight data recorder was recovered on the morning of 9th December. A flight data recorder also known as the black box, is an electronic recording device placed in an aircraft for the purpose of helping the investigation of aircraft accidents. They are painted in bright orange so that it can be spotted easily.

A probe was conducted by the Indian Air Force. Early in January 2022, an informal report showed that the inquiry was complete and the possible cause of the accident was Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT). This results when due to defective situational alertness the aircraft strikes the terrain. The chopper was reportedly flying at a low altitude when it entered a rolling cloud cover that severely reduced visibility. In the process of trying to fly out of the cloud cover, it hit a cliff and crashed.

On the 14 of January 2022, the court of inquiry's preliminary findings were officially made public. The court eliminated the cause of any mechanical failure, sabotage or negligence to be a cause of the woeful deaths. The cause of the CDS and the member of the fateful flight has been attributed to a possible 'spatial disorientation' of the pilot after the preliminary enquiries. The possibilities remain adrift and while the country waits for truth to emerge, the tragedy has the country united in mourning the monumental loss.

Illustration: Ssara Jha, X



IN A NUTSHELL: BUDGET 2022

- Hiyaneijemmy Das, XI

On the 1st of February, the Finance Minister revealed the Union Budget in a device enrobed in red, the second time a paperless budget has been presented. Here are the key takeaways. The FM made a bold and encouraging statement that India's economic growth is estimated at 9.2%, which is the highest among all economies. Many PLI schemes, are estimated to create around 60 lakh new jobs across 14 sectors. The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan covers broad areas of infrastructure. Under it, there has been great provisions for expansion and upgrade of National Highways, Railways, Ropeways, and other transport facilities.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

The Ken-Batwa Project has been launched to create landmark irrigation benefits to farmers and the novel use of Kisan Drones has been introduced. More than 2 lakh crores of MSP payment has been allocated. Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be revamped with infusion of funds, such as additional credit of 2 lakh crore rupees. The many portals to access MSME benefits will also be interlinked. The Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme with an outlay of 6000 crore rupees is a new initiative to be rolled out.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Breakthroughs in the health sector include an open platform for National Digital Health Ecosystem that is to be rolled out. A National Tele Mental Health Programme network has also been provisioned for 23 tele-mental health centres for quality counselling and care services.

Other efforts to improve remote education include:

i) An e-portal to be launched to provide skill development through online training.

ii) "One Class, One TV Channel" program will be expanded to 200 TV channels to boost education.

iii) 750 Virtual labs and 75 Skill Labs will be set up to promote critical thinking skills and simulate learning environments. There has also been a provision for high quality e-content to be developed to be used by teachers for digital learning.

iv) A novel Digital University will also be established to provide access to students to world-class quality universal education at their doorsteps. This will be made available in different Indian languages and ICT formats.

Illustration: Akum Marate, XI



Of course, the news that is making headlines is that India has forayed into the digital space with the introduction of the Digital Rupee by the Reserve Bank of India from 2022-23, and there will be a 30% tax levied on transfer of digital assets. Other exciting introductions are E-passports with embedded chips that are to be rolled out and a novel task force for the promotion of the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comic (AVGC) sector, which offers immense potential to employ youth. The Government has also made clear that it prioritises sustainability. It will contribute to the Research and Development (R&D) in Sunrise Opportunities, which are sectors that contribute to a brighter future, like AI and green energy. Sovereign green bonds are to be issued for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure.

The Government has promised better litigation management to make paying taxes easier and to avoid repetitive appeals. Taxpayers are also allowed to file updated return within two years for correcting errors. There are also tax reliefs to persons with disabilities. Items like clothes, gemstones, farming goods, phones, are getting cheaper while all imported items, audio devices like headphones, and solar cells will increase in price. Certain aspects of the economy were almost completely untouched while there were completely unexpected additions and changes. Amongst all the discourse on the Budget, if there is one thing to be agreed upon, it is that this is a Budget that despite being introduced in the shadows of elections is stressing on infrastructure and growth.

Know the Key Members of the Finance Minister's Team who designed the Budget 2022:



TV Somanathan: is the senior most official and will over see how the capital expenditure will be spent this year.



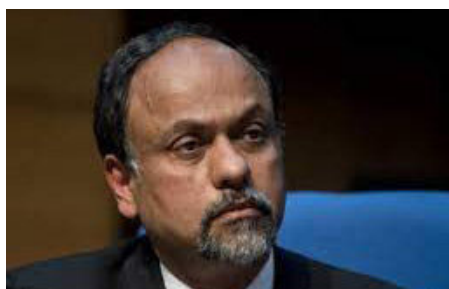
Ajay Seth: The rather shy bureaucrat is in charge of drafting all the Budget speeches of Sitharaman, and will allocate large amounts in big projects to bring in revenues and create jobs.



Tarun Bajaj: Revenue secretary of the finance ministry, he played a key role in facilitating healthcare packages during the pandemic.



Tuhin Kanta Pandey: played the key role in the disinvestment of Air India. He other major projects is the LIC IPO.



Debashish Panda: Thanks to him, banks have performed well despite the pandemic.

Life

- Alda Nongmeikapam, XI



Life is a journey not a destination. Each individual travels this journey called “ Life “ in their own unique way. It is hard to describe life in only a word or two because it is a mixture of various things, from emotions to experiences, to adventures to lessons and beyond. Life is a rollercoaster of happiness, sadness, success and failures, comfort and pain, love and hatred, relief and struggles. It may not be perfect, but it remains nonetheless, beautiful.

In life, each being comes across ups and downs, great storms and bumpy roads and one cannot avoid them. These hurdles are not the ones that matter for what matters does is ones determination to overcome these obstacles. The lessons that we learn and the courage that we acquire to stand up and continue to on this journey, is what matters the most.

“We do not remember days , we remember moments.” , was rightly said by Theodore Finch, the protagonist of the novel, ‘ All the right places ‘. Each moment in life matters. It may be a happy one or a sad one but what we should keep in mind is that it is with the help of

these moments, that we as individuals grow. Life is not at all about lying down in a bed of roses. We should not judge anybody just by what we see nor should we stereotype people on the basis of how we perceive them.

Life is a set of challenges that continue to come and go. We must learn to open our minds and see that not all that life throws at us is negative. As one walks through this journey, a wide range of opportunities are found, waiting to be taken. The real question lies with us, and the choice we exercise whether of not to grasp the opportunities it throws at us or do we merely walk past them.

Life is a beautiful struggle but it is essential to keep the journey going, not because of what it guarantees but because of the many possibilities it holds. There is a big world out there, waiting to be discovered, aspirations to be met and knowledge to be learnt. When one goes through a negative, we must always remember to stand still and wait for the wave to pass on for the good things are always around the corner waiting to come our way.

THE SUMMER DAY

-Aditya Agarwal, VIII

Who made the world
Who made the swan , and the black bear ?
Who made the grasshopper ?
this grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving hers jaws back and forth instead of up and down

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away
I don't know exactly what a prayer is
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass
how to be idle and blessed how to stroll through the fields
which is what I have I have been doing all day
Tell me , what else should I have done ?
Doesn't everything die at last , and too soon ?
Tell me , what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life ?

Campus Caricature

QUARANTINED

- Hayishan Odyuo, XI



THE OUTPOST

Russia continues the war threat with Ukraine as they perform drills with 30,000 troops near the country. Cryptocurrency takes yet another hit as major firm Wormhole was hacked; sustaining 320 Million dollars in damages. Omicron continues to ravage the Far East as Hong Kong issues work-from-home orders. The Beijing Olympics Bubble has been established in the country that started the need for a Bubble, with aspiring athletes warming up in the new billion-dollar ice arenas. The Canadian Truckers send Trudeau hiding as the trucker's protest picks up momentum. Most in India agree that Karma does indeed bite.



Illustration: Ssara Jha, X

Ripple #175

-Mahita Jindal, XI

*Mesmerized, he was
admiring those twinkling
stars
When he saw one of them
fall.
He smiled and said,
"Rest in peace my only
wish.*

The Quarantine Playlist

There's no better way to kill time in quarantine than to fully immerse yourself in a new album. Give these a try!

FUZZYBRAIN: By bedroom-pop star Dayglow, this indie pop album is filled with warm instruments and bittersweet lyrics; perfect for channeling your inner main character and musing about growing up.

BOMBAY DREAMS: From Arunachali guitarist and singer-songwriter Taba Chake, this album spans multiple languages, and with the personal lyrics and virtuosic music, takes you through a range of human emotion.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON: A conceptual album by the classic rock band Pink Floyd, it is one of the most iconic albums of all time. With its stunning vocals, ingenious music, and excellent production; it begs a listen from beginning to end

AVENTINE: Agnes Obel's sophomore album centres heavily around fluent and hypnotising pianos and dulcet vocals. It makes the perfect soundtrack to your day- be it studying, tidying up, or simply talking to friends.

Keep It Reel!

Escapade

-Yash Raj Agarwal, XI



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