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The Trapped Artist Paradox

*“That nothing runs better on MTV than a protest against MTV.”-
Capitalist Realism by Mark Fisher*

-Emidaka Rapsang, XII, Editor-In-Chief

They say an artist’s mind can hold heavens but what if these ‘heavens’ are just a compendium of contradictions? The paradox that plagues them and embeds itself like ancient runes. The paradox of many artists is the Trapped Artist Paradox, where their own work becomes their noose. These paradoxes entrap an artist, spirals them to their downfall and claim its victims such as punk artist, Kurt Cobain from Nirvana and street artist, Banksy. “Cobain seemed to give wearied voice to the despondency of the generation that had come after history, where every move was anticipated, tracked and sold before it even happened.” Quoted Mark Fisher, from Capitalist Realism. Kurt Cobain flourished as a punk artist yet decayed in his own personal life, in his own obsessive art. Cobain’s detested MTV which was an example of this paradox. The more he professed his angst, be it on his own commodification, the more worth was bestowed upon the commodity. This trap slithered its way up till Cobain’s death and churned it like venom. The claws of this paradox raked through Banksy as well. Albeit, his rage was not as haphazard as Cobain’s. Banksy not only targeted the art market with themes as old as 1914, authoritarianism, greed and poverty. This is expressed by art critic Robert Hughes with the sentiment that art has not become a “property to humankind” but rather the “property of those who can afford it.” The art market puts value on art pieces



Illustration: Immalemela Imchen, XI

that they become “rare commodities.” This can be like the sides of a coin, a right investment to some and a dejection to others. For if we truly see it, art now viewed not through the eyes of beauty but rather through the lenses of the wealth it makes for its creator. This imposes a grave hindrance on our appreciation of art and we are unable to dissociate between the price tag estimated by the elite and the value of the art by the artist. Art is bought to resell, as an investment, as a corporate object but that is not really art is it? Art encompasses universes and kingdoms, histories, stories, poetry, humankind and humankind cannot be bought as an investment, bad or good, expensive or cheap. We have a wonderful example of Banksy’s experiment where he anonymously sold his art as regular pieces without his name attached to the artwork. While the artwork drew interest some were bought while others walked by without a purchase. Had Banksy advertised his name, his art would have been sold to hundreds, because the brand Banksy would have overshadowed his art. The paradox lies in the fact that neither the art market nor MTV cares as much for the art or its creator but the monetary value it stands for. This is what fuels Banksy’s protest against the art market as does Kurt Cobain’s lyrics. Yet it is this very rebellion that funnels more money into the coffers of those the artists detest. For nothing sells more on the market than commodities against the market. And thus, it continues the fight for the love of art like an endless Greek tragedy.

Sonam Wangchuk

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

Indus Water Treaty

-Vidhi Chopra, VIII

Illustration: Gaurish Saikia, IX



Remember Phunsukh Wangdu from the Bollywood hit- ‘Three Idiots’? Sonam Wangchuk, the person who influenced this character was reportedly kept under house arrest after deciding to go on a hunger strike as an act of protest against the Indian government’s indifference towards Ladakh. Apparently, one’s fundamental right to protest comes to a halt when the state attempts to hide the errors made by the Union territories under the facade of ‘protection’. The story so far is that before the abrogation of article 370, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh were one state. However, the government funds were used primarily in Kashmir. This was unjust towards Ladakh who with their different demography, culture and language languished under pitiful conditions. The Ladakhi’s want equal opportunities and Sonam Wangchuk proposed to work with the government of India on tackling climate change, security, education, health and help improve the overall situation of the region. Ladakh’s Hindu, Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist communities all support him in his initiative which further goes on to prove that this is neither a religious nor a political movement. This is merely Ladakh fighting to save itself. Contrary to the popular saying from ‘Three Idiots’, all may not be well, in Ladakh and Sonam Wangchuk may just be doing the right thing after all.

When India got partitioned, along with the land borders, its rivers were also divided. On 16th of September 1960, the Indus Water Treaty was signed. This treaty gave control of the eastern rivers - Beas, Ravi and Sutlej - fully to India. The rights of the western rivers - Indus, Jhelum and Chenab were given to Pakistan. This treaty has stood the test of time and waters have continued to flow, until last week. Most of the Indus tributaries generate from Himachal and India has the potential of generating electricity through them. The dispute arose over the project of Ratley Dam on the Chenab River in Kashmir. Pakistan believes that the prime intention of the project is to cut off the waters from it. No amount of proof of intention from India seemed to assuage Pakistan’s worries. To solve the dispute, India wanted a neutral expert. However, Pakistan resorted to a Court of Arbitration where two representatives of both countries along with the chairman of the world bank would try to solve the problem. This was supported by India since it would put a stranglehold over the project on Chenab till a verdict was passed. The squabbles between the two countries have long exhausted the patience of neutral countries it was decided by the World Bank to try and find a solution for this through both the suggested procedures. India, unhappy with this decision, has refused to send a representative to the Court of Arbitration.

Pervez Musharraf

-Tanveer Ahmed, X

Pervez Musharraf, the former leader of Pakistan, passed away on February 5, 2023, at the age of 79, at an American hospital in Dubai. According to the hospital, Musharraf had been suffering from chronic amyloidosis. Musharraf was born in Delhi in 1943. He migrated to Pakistan after the country's independence. At the age of 18, Musharraf enrolled in the Pakistan Military Academy. In 1964, he was assigned close to the Indo-Pak border, where he participated in his first war—the Second Kashmir War. Known as the architect of the Kargil war, for having masterminded it and implemented it despite the disagreement of the then PM Benazir Bhutto, he was also laddled with its failure. The Pakistani economy saw a swing in its economy during its tenure primarily due to the aid Musharraf managed to get from USA for supporting the former in its operations in Afghanistan.

Musharaff was convicted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan for the murder of Benazir Bhutto and lived the final years of his life exiled in Dubai. While he managed to escape the death sentence in Pakistan his legacy was one wrought with controversy. Despite all he did for his country he was refused state funeral although his family did bring him back to the country to be buried. Musharaff will be remembered for having turned the course of Pakistan's trajectory to the brink of desperation it stands today.

THE OUTPOST

America finds itself cornered over the Nord-Stream gas line as proof piles high over its involvement in the blasts. It could award itself for having started most global disputes this century. Tensions mount in Japan and South Korea as Kim Jong Un tests missiles despite a starving population. Amrit Pal Singh a newbie from Dubai projects himself as the notorious Bhindranwale 2.0 and creates tension as he fuels the doused separatist Khalistan movement in Punjab. AAP government appears helpless in the face of the onslaught even as its Minister with all portfolios, Manish Sisodia is arrested under the liquor scam.



Illustration: Sara Jha, XI

Campus Caricature

I am vengeance

-Imnalemla Imchen, XII



CAMPUS NEWS

Staff vs Student Cricket match

A cricket match was organized between Staff Vs. Students on February 18, 2023 at AVS greens. The Staff team scored 115/7 in 15 overs. The Headmaster Dr. Amit Jugran scored the highest runs with 51 in 33 balls with 5 fours and 2 sixes and helped his team to put up a substantial total for the students team to chase. The most successful bowlers of the match were Nishanta Bora, Class 8 (3 wickets) and Arihant Ghorawat, Class 8 (3 wickets). The students team scored 67 runs and lost by 48 runs.



ALUMNI NEWS

We are happy to share that Diganta Saikia, ISC Batch of 2007, Manas-445, Sports Captain, co-founder of Dibrugarh-based meat delivery startup named "Mankho" along with his brother Vardaan Saikia, ISC Batch - 2010, Dhansiri- 713, House Prefect, have been awarded the "Most Promising Innovative Farmer" award at the "Regional Livestock & Poultry Show - 2023", which was organized by the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Assam & Assam Livestock & Poultry Corporation Ltd. from 15th to 17th February 2023 at Khanapara, Guwahati. Heartiest congratulations to Diganta and Vardaan Saikia.

National Science Day

On the occasion of National Science Day, it's with pleasure that we share the achievements of the AVS Science Club. Anvita Dey of class 12SA along with Dr. Alpana Dey recently received a Patent for their design of a "Smokeless Camping Stove," which was published in the Patent Office Journal, dated January 27, 2023. Anvita Dey along with her teacher Dr. Alpana Dey, modified the design of the Smokeless Chullah with the help of their team and received a patent for their design from the Patent Office, Government of India. Many congratulations!

Interhouse Tennis



Results:

Namdang- Subansiri: 1st
 Dhansiri- Kopili: 2nd
 Manas- Jinari: 3rd
 Lohit-Bhoroli: 4th



IPSC Equestrian Championship

Mayo College, Ajmer hosted the IPSC Equestrian Championship 2023 from 2nd February to 5th February. About 130 riders from six prominent schools participated in the event in different categories.

The Chief Guest for the closing ceremony was Mr Rupinder Singh, IPS IG Ajmer Range.

Runner-Up: The Assam Valley School, Balipara, Assam

Results at a Glance (AVS Riders):

Children-2 Dressage (Individual):-

Gold Medal: Rudrakshi Bharadwaj, Class 6

Silver Medal: Atreyo Joy Das, Class 6

Bronze Medal: Shannia Riddi, Class 6

Children- 1 Dressage:-

Team- Bronze Medal (Buhumsa Daimari, Class 7, Dibakar Singha, Class 7, Priyanka Narzary, Class 7 & Injamul Rahman, Class 6)

Junior Dressage:

Team- Silver Medal (Karan N. Gam, Class 11, Anikaith A. Joshi, Class 10, Babli Kanwar, Class 9 & Hemansh Raj Goenka, Class 9)

Children- 2 Stick & Ball:

Gold Medal: Agastya Jaju, Class 6

Bronze Medal: Purab Deka, Class 5

Children- 2 Accumulator:

Silver: Atreyo Joy Das, Class 6

Bronze: Shannia Riddi, Class 6

Junior Jumping Normal:

Team- Bronze Medal (Karan N. Gam, Class 11, Anikaith A. Joshi, Class 10, Babli Kanwar, Class 9 & Abhigyan Roy Sarkar, Class 7, Class 9)

Ladies Hacks:

Bronze Medal: Babli Kanwar, Class 9

Children- 2 Jumping Normal

Silver Medal: Shannia Riddi, Class 6

Six bar Jumping Junior:

Anikaith A. Joshi, Class 10 - Bronze Medal

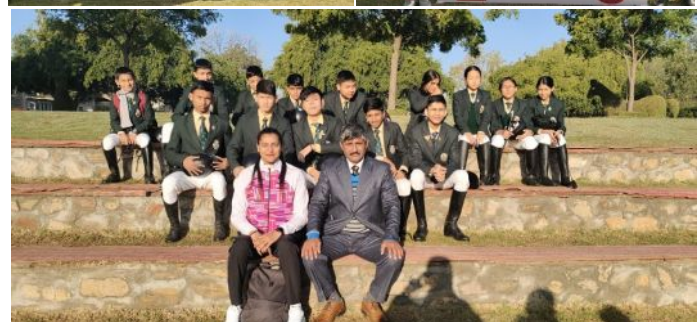
Total Medal Tally= 25

Gold Medals: 05

Silver Medals: 07

Bronze Medals: 13

Heartiest congratulations to the AVS Riding Club and their coach, Mr. Jalam Singh.



Ripple #201

Emidaka Rapsang, XII, Editor-In-Chief

*Their names etched on dingy desks,
Their memories on painted walls.*

*Their youth on pinboard art
And their mischief on an inkstained floor.*

*Their summer lasted eternities
Away from winter's fragilities*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Master of one Jack." - Emidaka Rapsang, XII (*And slavery is back?*)
2. "Do you like my espresso shot?." - Chingloi Angh, X (*It left me bitter.*)
3. "Goodness Gracias." - Samarth Mahatta, XI (*You're welcome.*)
4. "Run back to the basketball field." - Arhan Sharma, XII (*And bring some baskets.*)
5. "Zip the pants of your buttons." - Neilginryan Das, X (*Zip your mouth first.*)

Keep It R

Winning it!

-Photographic Society



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