

Pawar Play

-Tasmin Ahmed, XI

Hailing from Baramati in Maharashtra, which has long been his bastion, Sharad Pawar has remained in the vortex of national and state politics in his 56 years long political career. Known to be a master strategist, Pawar has been the Chief Minister of Maharashtra thrice and has been elected to the Lok Sabha six times holding key ministries during his tenure. Pawar began his career with the Congress but left the party over a Prime-ministerial bid in 1999 when PV Narasimha Rao was chosen over him to lead India. Instead he floated his own party the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Known as a king-maker, it is often said that it is Pawar's invisible hand which moves the power blocks in Maharashtra. Like the "invisible hand" of the economist Adam Smith, Pawar's haat (hand) is said to have shaped the contours of Maharashtra's politics for decades, in a testimony to his political prowess. Pawar, as many including those from his NCP assert, is a man who can flummox even the most seasoned politicians or journalists. Known for being unpredictable with plans that are tough to decipher, he perhaps embodies Winston Churchill's famous quote about being a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. In a bid to counter the rise of the saffron wave, Pawar tried to consolidate the scattered Opposition into a single common brigade. The individual ambitions of the State satraps have however been a barrier that even he has not managed to bypass. The big question that looms in the NCP is the question

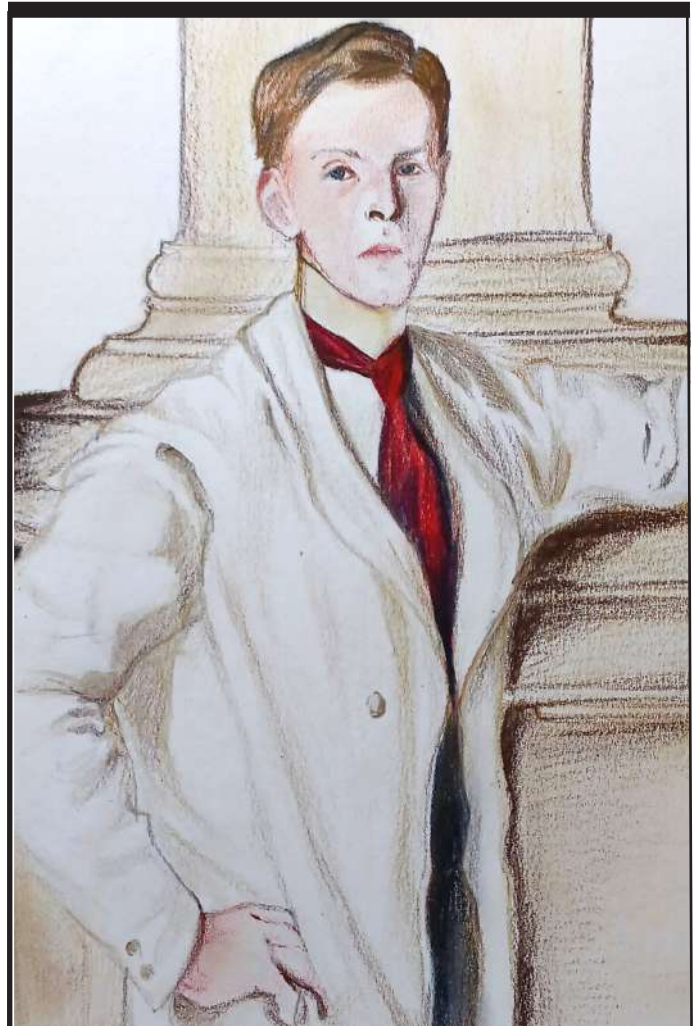
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of Pawar's successor. While his daughter Supriya Sule, an MP in the Lok Sabha has her eyes set on the national platform, Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar has his hold firmly over the party. In a dramatic move to quell dissent and unrest within the party and reemphasize who was the true boss, Sharad Pawar announced on the 2nd of May that he would resign from the president's post of the NCP. While Pawar's announcement took many by surprise, almost all Pawar watchers were unanimous about one postulation—Pawar would not quit active politics at this point. They were proved right three days later, when Pawar made a not-surprising U-turn. Pawar is described as a 24X7 politician and as someone who lives out his politics. His aides and supporters speak in awe about the never-say-die attitude of the cancer survivor, his elephantine memory, and his energy levels, which can put most younger leaders to shame. The Karnataka Poll results seem to have given not just the Congress but also the Opposition a shot in the arm. There are many more moves yet to come from this seasoned politician. The game of wait and watch has begun.

How have classics turned from being something people ached to read and understand to being labeled as pretentious if one says they enjoy it? When did classics, the pinnacle of literature used to sharpen the minds of adults and teenagers alike become less favorable to the general public than some badly put together commercialized trope-filled books with less complex sentences than a high school level essay? 'Classics are called classics for a reason' is a sentence that we are all too familiar with, but have you ever thought about why it's so widely used? The answer lies in the questions: do you think that the themes of transformation, morality, and art discussed in 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' is relevant only to the time period that it was written in? What about 'The Great Gatsby' with its message of greed, power and the American Dream; is it not as relevant now as it was then? It's possible for us to sit here and list off many more classics as examples but it all boils down to one point which is that the timelessness of these pieces is what makes them objectively great works of literature. There is something to give the 'book-tok' authors credit for which is that their burst in popularity in recent years has brought in an influx of new readers. However, everyone has to graduate from Ana Huang to Fitzgerald one day or the other, and once you do there is a hundred percent guarantee that you are not going back because no 'book-tok' authors could ever compare to Austen's irony and realism, or Tolstoy's depth and understanding of the human psyche, or Hemingway's simplicity and clarity, and most definitely not a single trait of Shakespeare or Homer. Classics never 'dumb it down' for their readers. Either you get it or you try to get it, one way or the other it will not only improve the obvious qualities like your grammar and vocabulary but also your understanding of the intricate and complex themes of these plots. With understanding will dawn the realization that is ridiculous-ridiculous with 'incomprehensible' sauce and a pinch of 'absurdity', but pride and ignorance will be pride and ignorance, and people will be people no matter how hard you campaign for classics in the modern-day.

-Atoti Zhimomi, XI

Illustration: Imnalemla Imchen, XII



OSCAR WILDE

The Picture Of Dorian Gray

The Met Gala

-Zaheen Shah, X

The Met Gala has come under fire over the years for being a platform for the really wealthy and attractive to flaunt themselves and their goods in the name of charity. Although the Met Gala does not always live up to its billing as a "charity event," there is no disputing the innovation and fashion it highlights. One of the biggest gatherings for fashion, celebrities, and pop culture is the Met Gala as we know it today. However, it wasn't always the star-studded and dramatic costume-filled night it is now. It first started off as a charity event created by publicist Eleanor Lambert to raise funds for the then-newly founded Costume Institute. The event took a cultural shift when Diana Vreeland was tapped as a consultant for the Costume Institute, changing the venue of the Met Gala to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and adding gala themes. Now, Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour oversees the benefit, guest list, and theme, working closely with the Met each year for the event. The red and white carpet of the gala this year was woven at Kerala and saw many Indian celebrities grace the walk.

King's Coronation

-Neilginryan Das, X

The UK seemed to be in a flutter over the coronation of King Charles who finally walked the coveted path at the age of 74. The event however was mired with multiple controversies beginning with the question if the world ought to be subjected to celebrate the very symbol of British colonialism with pomp and 'bending the knee'? Many British artists including Sir Elton John and Harry Styles refused to perform at the ceremony. The King's procession would have had to face anti-monarchy protests had they not been hastily cleared off by Scotland Yard. Not to mention the entire saga of the prodigal son Harry being relegated to the crowd. The exorbitant ceremony comes at a time when Britain is reeling under inflation and there have been mass protests for salary hike and against rising cost of living. Perhaps it is time that the UK introduces colonial history to their curriculum to reintroduce the royalty who have become nothing better than a sideshow

Karnataka Polls

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

The Karnataka polls have come as a shot in the arm for the Congress which won an overwhelming majority of 135 in the 224 Assembly seats. The BJP battling a massive incumbency against the government languished at 66 seats. With BJP's sole mass leader B.S Yediyurappa, retiring from active politics it was left to CM Bommai to meet the onslaught of anger against the incumbent government which had suffered from inaction, corruption charges and clear infighting within the party. While the Congress have emerged victorious the true challenge for the High Command rests in selecting the Chief Minister of the State. The race is between D.K Shiv Kumar, President of the State Congress and Siddaramaiah, the only mass leader in the Congress. While the duo had kept it together during the election campaign, the fight for the seat is now in the open. This could lead to the Congress breaking up in two in Karnataka if both the leaders were not handled with care. The only thing to do is now sit back and watch the game of thrones unfurl.

Drones Over Kremlin

-Tanveer Ahmed, X

On May 3, 2023, two drones crashed over the Kremlin, the hot seat of the Russian Government. Russia claimed that these drones were sent by Ukraine in an attempt to assassinate the Russian President, Vladimir Putin. Luckily, Putin was not present in the complex at the time of the attack. The Ukrainian President's press secretary completely denied this accusation saying they had no information about the "so-called night attacks on Kremlin". These US-based drones may have been launched from inside Russia, according to experts. Additionally, it is highly likely that the USA orchestrated the drone crashes and used Ukraine as the front. The biggest puzzle, though, is how the drones got into one of the most heavily fortified and guarded regions on earth. Russian claims state that Ukraine has attempted to kill the Russian President six times. One can speculate that it would take more than drones to take down the Russian strongman Putin.

Campus Caricature

MOTION MADNESS

Illustration: Ssara Jha, XII



CAMPUS NEWS

INTERHOUSE CHESS

The Chess Society of The Assam Valley School organized an Inter-House Chess Competition for Upper and Lower schools on 16th of May 2023. This year AVS Chess Society conducted competitions for both categories, Upper and Lower Houses. The competition saw 16 matches being played between the teams each competing to earn maximum points for their individual Houses.

Each House enrolled 2 students from Lower and Upper and made a single team of 2 Boys and 2 Girls.

Results at a Glance:

- 1st Position: Bhoroli-Lohit (14.5 points)
- 2nd Position: Kopili-Dhansiti (13.5 points)
- 3rd Position: Subansiri-Namdang (12 points)
- 4th Position: Jinari-Manas (7points)

The competition went off smoothly and was conducted by the AVS Chess Society under the guidance of the Head of Activities and Coordinator of Activities.

Heartiest congratulations!



TOPPERS OF ICSE CLASS X



Krishna Agarwal with 99.00%



Pratiti Barua with 98.80%



Anushka Jitani with 98.80%

Heartiest congratulations!

TOPPERS OF ISC CLASS XII



Utkarsh Jajodia with 96.50%



Adella Massar with 96.00%



Mahita Jindal with 95.50%

Heartiest congratulations!

BUDDING CHEFS

The Department of Home Science under the guidance of Mrs. Torali Baruah held a cooking contest on March 21st, 2023. It was an activity conducted for the 10th-grade Home Science students. Four groups of students competed with a set of interesting recipes. Each team was required to prepare a dish along with a beverage and present it to the judges while describing how they had prepared it. The Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, the Dean of Studies, Dr. Kuljeet Singh, and the Chair of Humanities Mr. Thajeb Ali Hazarika, were the judges for the event while the Headmaster Dr. Amit Jugran, was the Chief Guest. Students collaborated and worked together as a team. Group 2 consisting of Kasak, Yakshi, Taveine, and Harshita of Class 10 were adjudged the winners. Each group received a gift and it was an afternoon well spent.



PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

The AVS Photographic Society organized a sunset photography trip to Kalia Bhomora Bridge, Tezpur on the 14th of May (Sunday). Kalia Bhomora is one of the longest bridges of India and has a sweeping, breath-taking view of the sunset. This spot is not a tourist attraction, but is well known for its scenic sunset views. The young photographers enjoyed the trip and made the most of it coming back with an excellent collection of photographs.



Photography: Mr. Anubhav Sarthar

THE OUTPOST

A massive win in Karnataka has given the Congress a shot in the arm and roused the Opposition. They now feel confident to turn the 2024 Lok Sabha elections into a Rahul versus Modi pitch. Troubles brew for Congress in Karnataka as the CM's post sees D.K Shiv Kumar face off with Siddaramaiah. Zelensky is on a whirlwind tour flying from Berlin to Paris to London where he received the red carpet welcome and promises of more fire power. Presidential elections in Türkiye between pro- democracy Kilicdaroglu and Erdogan will play an important role in where Europe heads next.



Illustration: Sara Jha, XII

Ripple #206

Emidaka Rapsang, XII, Editor-In-Chief

The moon looked over
their frail forms,
Laying in a patchwork of grass with
singing cicadas.
Their heart beats drumming in their
ears with reminiscing patterns.
As the small towns melt into cities,
and their childhood hidden within
the hills.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "I am increasingly smaller."- Deubale Meru, XII, Deputy Editor (*And you're getting increasingly dumber.*)
2. "Give me that water of water." - Ssara Jha, XII (*Your English disappeared with the milk.*)
3. "My umbrella lost him." - Kaexaz Kholie, XII (*Just like your ability to speak English.*)
4. "I look at him and my boil bloods"-Bhavini Tanwar, XII (*That boil needs some anger management.*)
5. "I put my washing machine in my clothes" - Atoti Zhimomi, XI (*These newcomers get weirder each year.*)

Keep It Reel!

Burning skies

- Taniskha Sharma, XII



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