



PICT MUN's Official Newsletter

The Inquisitor

Issue 2.0



SAY THEIR NAMES
#BLACKLIVESMATTER

Featured Article

Inspecting Police Brutality
and Reforms

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CONTEST WINNERS -

1. Work From Home - Pros and Cons - Anupam Patil
2. Atmanirbhar Bharat - Bansi Shelke
3. Work From Home - Pros and Cons - Kaivalya Deshpande

Introduction

The PICT MUN Club consists of a group of students who are passionate about social and political aspects of events that have and are taking place throughout the world. Our main goal is to enhance the spread of such awareness and information, which has a direct and imperative relevance, among the general public.

Our organization abides by the motto- ‘Think. Discuss. Prosper.’.

The PICT MUN team has developed Issue 2.0 of ‘The Inquisitor’ from scratch. It consists of In-house articles that have been written by the club’s members after carrying out extensive research in order to serve reports to the readers with the maximum possible factual accuracy. We plan on expanding the outreach of this esteemed newsletter with each edition and would love to accept articles from individuals who would be interested to get their work published. Feel free to communicate with us on - newsletterpictmun@gmail.com regarding the same.

For this edition, on popular demand we conducted an interesting article writing contest- “WriteForUs”. The contest provided a platform to express opinions on raging social issues where participants wrote articles on the following topics-

- 1)Analyzing Modi’s vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat
- 2)Right to Privacy- Regulation over the government’s invasion of privacy of citizens?
- 3)“Work from Home”- it’s Pros and Cons

Out of all the entries, the following top three articles are published in “Inquisitor 2.0”.

- 1) Work from Home- Pros and Cons by **Anupam Patil**
- 2) Atmanirbhar Bharat by **Bansi Shelke**
- 3) Work from Home- Pros and Cons by **Kaivalya Deshpande**

Our authors have ensured that the content is accurate up to the date on which the article was written. The views expressed in the articles reflect the author’s opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the organisation publishing this document.

The featured article for PICT MUN’s official newsletter this month is- “Inspecting Police Brutality and Reforms”. To support the protests against this horrendous act of cruelty we have decided to make the background colour of our newsletter in black. It is time for us to listen to the voices of prejudiced people of colour .We stand in solidarity with them.

With this, we invite you to indulge in controversial propogandas, urgent and relevant coverage of events taking place over the globe, and fresh, new perspectives on raging, intriguing topics of today’s day and age.

The members of the club have poured their heart and soul into this newsletter and we hope that the readers realise and appreciate these emotions.

Happy Reading!

Regards,
The Secretariat
PICT MUN

Inspecting Police Brutality and Reforms

Karthik Panicker

The world mourns the tragic killing of George Floyd, a resident of the city of Minneapolis, by Police Officer Derek Chauvin and three of his colleagues. Unlawful and despicable policing measures such as knee to the neck and chokeholds which are strictly against the code of conduct were used in the unfortunate incident. As a result, the four officers involved have now been rightfully suspended, arrested and charged. The heinous act has been widely condemned by the Leaders of some of the largest police departments in the U.S as they draw criticism not only to the tactics involved in subjugation of the unarmed man, but also fellow officers who might seek to justify Floyd's death. The incident has shed much needed light on the sensitive issue of police brutality which has been plaguing the very institution of police departments since its conception in 1844.

untowardly incidents are voluntary, but not mandatory, really kills the prospect of cross examination by the judicial system. Post the killing of Michael Brown, an unarmed black man in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014, extensive investigations suggested that the FBI undercounted fatal police shooting by more than half, indicating the failure of many police

among the police departments and the officers themselves. If cases like Derek Chauvin's, who had raked up 18 complaints in his law enforcement career and was involved in the fatal police shooting of Wayne Reyes, were given the attentiveness that they deserved, then maybe George Floyd would be walking the face of Earth today.



Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in different parts of the world starting May 24, 2020. The protests have marked one of the most expansive mobilizations in recent history, protesting against police brutality, lack of police accountability and racial inequality.

In Minneapolis, protesters have demanded city officials to defund the police or at least take stringent actions against on-custody police brutalities. The city council recently voted to ban officers from using unnecessary chokeholds and neck restraints as Asphyxia is the leading cause of deaths when dealing with these harsh policing measures imposed on criminals. In the nation's capital, more than 10,000 people poured into the streets, gathered near Lafayette Square by the White House, marched down U Street's historic Black Broadway, and coalesced at the feet of Abraham Lincoln at his giant marble memorial. Meanwhile, thousands gathered in New York's Central Park and Harlem for prayers

In 2015, The Washington Post began to note every fatal police shooting by an on-duty police officer in the United States and the results have been staggering. Till date, more than 5,000 such shootings have been recorded by The Post with the police officers being convicted less than one percent of the time. Although none of these cases are ever easy or exactly the same, the fact that police departments reporting such

departments to follow the procedures. This also showcases the ineptitude of the police department to maintain a national database of such records in this digital day and age, so much so that a media outlet has to do the bidding for them. Possessing such apparatus would largely reduce the risks of rehiring cops fired due to their roles in on-custody shootings or misconducts. These measures would lead to higher accountability

NYPD to release body cam footages of all controversial incidents by posting it online.

The move is intended to bring transparency and to rebuild the broken trust between the people and the police departments.



and protest. “Harlem is extremely significant when it comes to talking about the disproportionate impact on black and brown communities of so many things – for example, Covid-19 and police surveillance,” said Jacquelyn Martell, 33, one of the protest organizers in the neighbourhood. “But part of this movement is to bring communities together and ameliorate divisions brought forth by systemic racism and bring some healing as well.”

The nationwide protest, while mostly being peaceful has had a fair share of violence associated to it, case in point being Minneapolis, the birthplace of the riots where numerous businesses were looted and vandalised, immense damages to public properties such as burning of the 3rd Precinct of Minneapolis PD and destruction of monuments to name a few. United States, like any other democracy, supports the rights of the citizens for peaceful protests. But as soon as there is an undertone of violence associated with the dissent, it violates the very right to

protest according to the constitution and also erroneously shifts the attention from the real issues to the misdemeanour of the rioters.

To bring about favourable reforms, the protesters must take a page out of the book of history to practise the ideologies of ‘Satyagraha’ propagated by Mahatma Gandhi, who was a pioneer in the fights against injustice and class division in South Africa and propelled the country towards a no class or ethnic discrimination society.

On June 16th, President of The United States, Donald J Trump, met with the families of nine victims of police or racially motivated killings offering condolences and on the same day signed an Executive order aimed at guiding police reforms after weeks of nationwide unrest. The order includes reforms like the credentialing process, under which chokeholds would be banned except if an officer’s life is at risk. It also emphasizes on looking for new advanced and powerful but less lethal weapons

to prevent deadly interactions. The departments will also need to share information about credible abuses mandatorily so that officers with significant issues don’t simply move from one department to the next, thus creating an ecosystem of accountability for their actions. In addition, the order would direct federal funding to support officers dealing with having mental illness and substance abuse. This would be done by providing more resources to correspondents such as social workers who can help the officers manage these complex encounters and prevent the interactions from escalating.

Although this is a good start, more reforms are needed desperately and should be advocated for, at the House of Representatives by both the Republicans and the Democrats, setting their differences aside by formulating the bills together. To make salient structural reforms, The United States of America direly needs all hands on the deck.

Why not a permanent seat?

Shravani Dhas

On 18th June 2020, along with Mexico, Ireland and Norway, India was formally elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council through a secret ballot. This was a significant victory for the country and wasn't unexpected as India was the only contested for the Asia-Pacific seat.

India's campaign brochure highlighted its demand for transparency in mandates for UN peacekeeping missions and push for India-led Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, and had called for joint efforts for UN reform and expansion of the Security Council.

However, now is the time that India also sets on its pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council instead of triumphing over just the two-year tenure. Some of the roadblocks that India is facing are as follows-

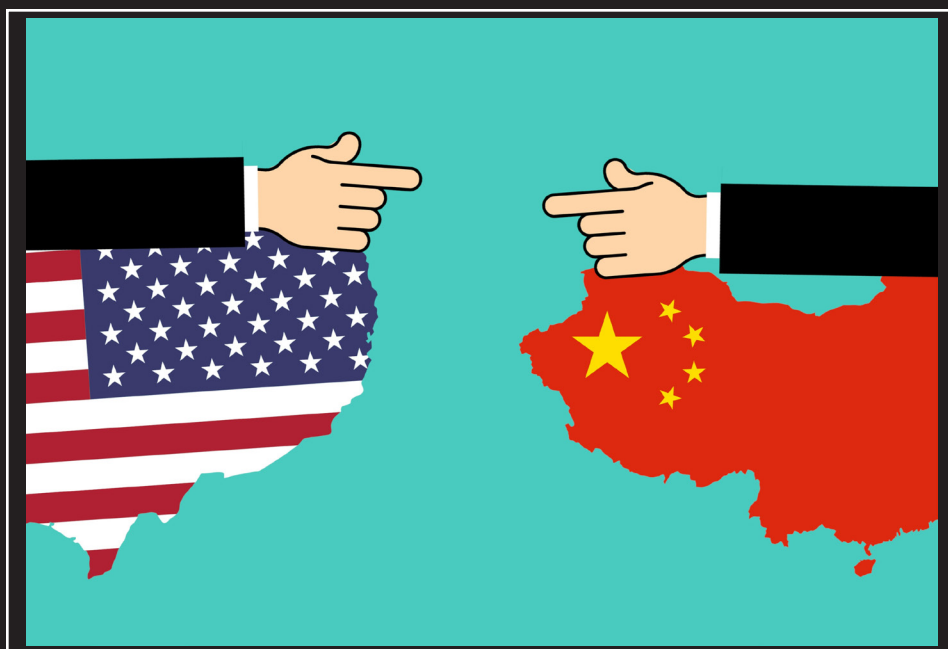
- The permanent members (P5) of the UNSC do not have consensus on the possible expansion of UNSC. While France and UK are in support of India, Russia and China are against any change. The US has maintained ambiguity on its stance.
- The major western criticism is that India has not shouldered global security responsibilities. India has not taken any stand on these issues and has maintained a neutral role.
- India's non acceptance to agreements like the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is also one of the challenges.
- India is lagging behind in various socio-economic and developmental indicators. India's rank in Human Development Report 2019 is 129, it has missed on many targets on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and it ranked 167th out of 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2020.
- Asia already has one representative i.e. China, whereas there is no participation in the P5 from Latin America and Africa.
- Among other impediments are allegations of human rights violations in Kashmir and North-Eastern India and the brimming unsettled border disputes with Pakistan and China.

Despite all these impediments, India has a reasonably good chance to represent as a permanent member of the Security Council. It is the World's largest democracy, third largest economy in Asia and largest contributor to UN peacekeeping force. Moreover, India's foreign policy has historically been aligned with World peace and not with conflicts.

“Hence, to serve its interests and push for its agenda of multilateralism and reforms, India must adopt value-based positions that are not transactional, aspire for leadership and be the voice of the weaker nations.”

Effect of COVID-19 on the Trade War

Anuja Dinesh Patil



\$200 billion more of US goods and services over for about two years and expel boundaries to different US trades. The US too agreed to cut off an additional 15 per cent tariff to be imposed on around \$162-billion worth of imports from China and diminish some recently forced obligations. But the Covid-19 outbreak since January gave a new dimension to the above equations.

Because of the Pandemic, most of the Chinese companies had to declare a “force majeure” - an arrangement that excludes them

Since July 2018, the American and Chinese economies have been opposing parties in a full-blown Trade war. The United States pioneered the entry of China in the World Trade Organization (WTO), and also gave it the MFN (Most Favoured Nation) status, after which China became the top Trade partner of the US. This was until the tables were turned by Donald Trump’s presidency, as he claimed that China has consistently taken advantage of the American economy with practices that undermine fair and reciprocal trade. Thus, the Trade War has resulted in increase in tariffs (by about 25%) on Chinese goods worth \$34 billion in the United States and

major cut down on US exports in China. The worst affected economy among both the nations is the United States, where farmers and small-scale industries which relied on Chinese consumers, have faced loss because China is the largest trading partner of the United States. The trade war also affected the global supply chains by having an adverse effect on the countries that supply raw materials and intermediates to China for final processing and export to the United States.

Eventually, on 15 January 2020, the Phase-1 trade deal was signed to start from 15 February. Under this agreement, China would buy

US-China trade war impact: India gained \$755 million additional exports to US

India gained about \$755 million additional exports, mainly of chemicals, metals and ore, to the US in the first half of 2019

from legally binding commitments due to which Chinese officials said that they would honour the commitments for agricultural imports from the US (worth around \$32 billion) but additional manufacturing purchases and energy goods might get affected. Since then on 12th May, China started giving favours to the United States by announcing tariff exemption on 79 American products which included chemicals, ores, and medical essentials.

But in the current situation of pandemic, the Chinese exports in the US and the ensuing lockdowns over the world influenced exchange radically affecting the Bilateral deficits. Even the trade share of China in the US has fallen as compared to 2018. In March 2020 only 10 per cent of US merchandise imports came from China, which accounted for less than one-fifth of

the US merchandise trade deficit.

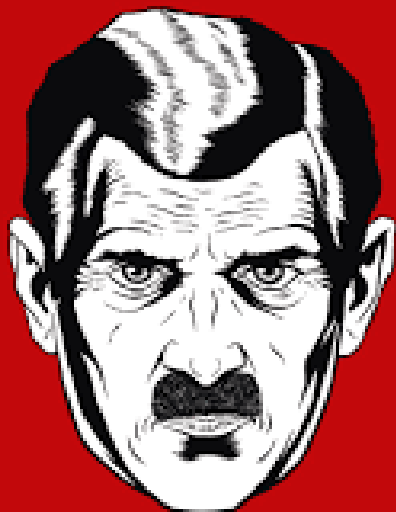
Despite all this the president of United States Donald Trump tightened up the talk with China by accusing them in suppressing vital information about the virus that allowed the subsequent spread, which is indeed questionable but has even allowed to dishonour its connections with the Wuhan Lab. So, this questions the real motive behind this Trade War. Is it the Economic development or Political and Technological Dominance? On 15th May Trump abandoned Chinese company Huawei from using US software and hardware. Now Trump is also trying to pressurise the European economies to do the same and hold back collaboration with Huawei.

So, this brings us to the conclusion that the Covid-19 outbreak has resulted into confused equations and stats. It has not only affected

the Trade War but also the Global supply chains. Somewhere it is even favouring China by taking advantage of the situation in expanding their trade with other economies apart from the US as China is the world's largest importer and has made many nations dependent on it. So, it is important that the US-China trade war should be renegotiated in the favour of economic development.

Right to Privacy

Arnav Kulkarni



**BIG BROTHER IS
WATCHING YOU**

“Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve nothing and lose both.”

– Benjamin Franklin

Privacy is an essential element of person's autonomy as it maintains the freedom of an individual to preserve his/her beliefs, ideologies, choices, preferences and thoughts against discrimination or societal demand of homogeneity. It is not a modern concept, it has been there since the beginning of human civilization, and from the 'sense of privacy' evolved basic necessities like clothes and houses.

The 'Right to Privacy' (abbreviated as RTP) is our right to control the extent and manner of access to information in our private domain by others. United Nations' declaration of Human Rights (1948) recognises the Right to Privacy under its Article 12.

Hon'ble Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice J.S.Khekar ruled on August 24, 2017, that Right to Privacy is a fundamental right of every Indian citizen under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. This judgement was a milestone that showed us the dream of a private utopia safeguarding our liberty, but only if the government had followed the script.

Even after three years of the verdict we do not have a strong data protection law prescribing higher standard of observance for the state or an effective policy to protect and enforce the RTP. The State continued to implement mass surveillance programmes, like the one by UIDAI or Income Tax Department's 'Project Insight' and the intelligence agencies

continued to intercept, monitor and decrypt any information regarding its citizens without their consent. The government also attempted to force WhatsApp to allow scrutinising of the messages of users.

We never 'demanded' the change because we don't realise the stakes. In words of a French philosopher, Michel Foucault, 'Knowledge is the power and by granting enormous access to the knowledge about us to any private corporation or even the government is empowering others to influence us for their benefit'.

For example, the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica scandal proved that with people's personal data in hand even election campaigns can be influenced.

Therefore, arguing that we don't care about privacy because we have nothing to hide is like saying that you don't care about free speech because you have nothing to say.

Privacy ensures survival of freedom of speech and expression. In absence of privacy, people would censor themselves under the fear of state action and will never enjoy the true liberty. Only an unfettered mind can experience the democratic ideals of pluralism and diversity of opinion. Hence, keeping privacy at gunpoint is like pushing journalists, human right activists and all political critics into an invisible prison and burying the democracy.

Recently, India's Covid-19 tracker Aarogya Setu app came under hammer of RTP activists worldwide because of several reasons like-

1. It has capability of location tracing using GPS, which can be used to monitor travel history of users.
2. Users provide several personal details like their medical history,

which are stored in the government databases, without any information about the lifetime of these databases.

3. The government should maintain adequate transparency with such kind of projects, which it seems reluctant to.

4. Risk of Data breach is a huge concern, mainly due to a clause that says- government is not liable in case of data breach.

India is the first nation to make its covid tracker mandatory. Government argued that the app has kept privacy as core consideration but forcing citizens to install an app is undemocratic.

There are several repressive regimes across the world like Eritrea, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and China, which show that invasion of privacy and pushing censorship into the throats of citizens destroy civil liberties in long run. Therefore, it is essential to regulate the powers of the government (or private big brothers) to monitor and censor us all the time.

India as a nation has reached a critical point where it is important to take steps towards protecting the fundamental right of its citizens. Points that need to be considered are:

1. Legislate a Personal Data Protection law and penalise misuse of personal data.

2. Restructuring the usage of data to conform to specific purposes, granting facilities for individuals to know all the exceptions and constraints of data collection.

3. Effective framework must be established for every internet user to exercise their 'right to be forgotten'.

4. Techniques like anonymization of data should be used to protect the privacy of people.

5. Along with legal system, attitude of people has to be broadened and every citizen should respect others' private decisions like sexuality, abortion rights etc.

Once and for all, we need to understand that the question isn't 'What do we want to know about people?' it has to be 'What do people want to tell about themselves?'

BREXIT : A Simplified Guide

Soham Naik

1. Events leading to Brexit Day

Brexit has been quite a controversial topic over the past few years. It refers to the exit of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). Nearly 4 years back, in June 2016, the referendum to leave or stay in the EU was taken by the UK government. The result went in favour of leaving the EU by a margin of four percent i.e 52% people voted in favour of leaving as opposed to the 48% people who wanted to stay. The then British PM David Cameron, who was a strong advocate of remaining in the EU, resigned and gave the office to fellow Conservative member- Theresa May. The negotiations for a Brexit deal between the UK and the EU began in March 2017 with a deadline of March 2019. So irrespective of whether an agreement was reached by both sides the UK was slated to leave the EU on 29th March 2019. Negotiations went for 2 years but neither party was happy with the deals that they were getting. On 21st March 2019, the UK filed for an extension which was granted till 31 October 2019. Meanwhile in the UK parliament the Brexit deal put forward



by Theresa May was rejected thrice by the members of the parliament. After the third rejection of the deal, she announced her resignation from the post of Prime Minister and Boris Jhonson was elected as the new Prime Minister. After assuming the office, he re-started the negotiations and applied for a further extension till 31st January 2020 which was granted by the EU. He modified the deal made by Theresa May and introduced it in the parliament. The first time he proposed this deal, it was rejected in the parliament. He then decided to

call a snap election hoping to secure a majority in the parliament. The results of the election came in favour of his party and he retained his post as the PM. Once again, after the results, he further modified the deal and put it in front of the MPs. This time the deal was passed by the majority and so finally after almost 4 years of the referendum, the UK exited the EU on 31st January 2020, known as the 'Brexit Day', and entered a transitional period, wherein the future UK-EU relationship will be discussed, till 31st December 2020.

2. Cause for delaying negotiations

The primary cause of the delay in reaching an agreeable deal and forcing the UK government to apply for an extension twice was the issue of the island of Ireland.

The island of Ireland is divided into two parts. The northern part called Northern Ireland is one of the four countries comprising the UK and the remaining part of the island is the Republic of Ireland. This territory has experienced quite a violent past due to this bifurcation as many people in Ireland want Northern Ireland to be included in the Republic of Ireland. As both the Republic of Ireland and

the UK were a part of the EU before Brexit, there was no hard border between the countries. This more or less helped to maintain a harmony in the region. But after Brexit, the border between them would cease to be the one between two EU countries and will become a border between an EU country and a non-EU country. Hence border checks would have to be installed as per the EU policy. But installing a hard border would escalate the tension along the border, ergo both the UK and Republic of Ireland did not want hard borders to return. Thus a lot of discussions and debates were held on this topic to arrive at an amicable solution. In the

original deal negotiated by Theresa May, this problem was tackled by introducing a ‘backstop’. It meant that the UK would be a single customs zone but Northern Ireland would stay aligned to some EU rules. This would avoid checks at the Irish border — but would mean some controls between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. This enraged the parties from Northern Ireland as they felt that this would cut them off from the UK and would compromise their freedom. Also what was the point in still getting entangled with the EU if they wanted to leave. This was the main reason behind the MPs rejecting her deal thrice.

The last such referendum held in the UK was 40 years back. The question at that time was whether to leave the European Economic Community (EEC), precursor to EU, or stay. The people voted overwhelmingly in favour of staying in the EEC.

3. The final solution

When Boris Johnson re-started the negotiations one of his main points was obviously to find an alternative for the ‘backstop’ and secure a Brexit deal as a no deal Brexit would be disastrous.

He modified the terms of the ‘backstop’ and called it the ‘New Protocol’. The terms under this protocol were:

1. Northern Ireland remains

legally in the UK Customs Territory and part of any future UK trade deals. This results in a soft customs border on the island of Ireland, between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

2. The EU tariffs would be levied on the goods going from Great Britain to Northern Ireland that are “at risk” of then being transported into and sold in the Republic of Ireland; if they ultimately aren’t,

then firms in Northern Ireland can claim rebates on goods where the UK had lower tariffs than the EU.

3. Northern Ireland will have the full freedom to exit from this protocol by a simple majority in their parliament.

This protocol tackled effectively the discrepancies left by the ‘backstop’ and as a result the deal was passed by a majority in the House of Commons.

4. *Future Implications*

1. The UK leaving the EU is just the first step of Brexit. The difficult stage is yet to come. During the transitional period Britain and the EU will launch into negotiations on their future relationship, racing to strike new relationships for trade, security and a host of other areas by the end of 2020. Within 11 months Britain and the EU have to come up with an effective way to tackle all these sectors vital to the development of the European continent.

2. The failure of the UK to achieve an open trading and investment with the EU post-Brexit would have negative implications for the UK and EU, and provide

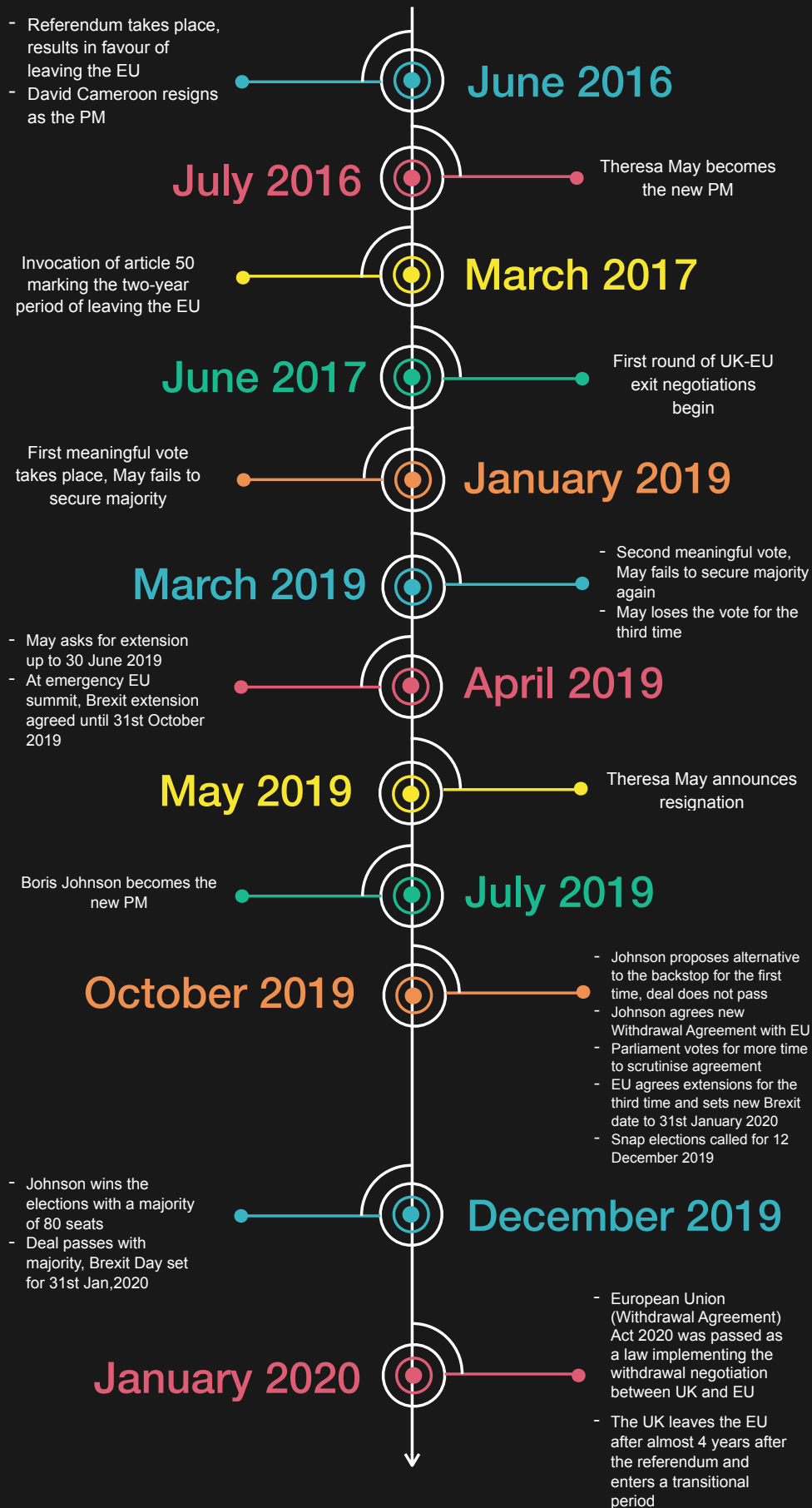
little, if any, gain for the US.

3. The UK has to pay a “divorce bill” amounting to almost 33 billion pounds which will definitely have a negative impact on the British economy especially considering the current COVID-19 situation.

4. The Scottish government believes that staying in the EU is the best for Scotland and the U.K. It has been pushing the U.K. government to allow for a second referendum. To leave the U.K., Scotland would have to call a referendum on independence. It could then apply for EU membership on its own. This could result in further disintegration of the United Kingdom.

5. Brexit will have a pessimistic impact on the globalization of the world and the efforts of the EU to allow Europeans to enjoy a model of coexistence unseen anywhere else in the world.

6. All factors considered, Brexit will prove to be a major event in shaping the future policies of all the countries towards the European continent. And in this post-Brexit uncertain juncture, the stage is set for some dramatic events and unpredictable repercussions in the near future, but if there's one thing people are certain about, there will be more losers than winners.



CONTEST WINNERS

Work from Home: Pros and Cons

Anupam Atul Patil



We seem to be living in an array of scenarios; a loafer's wish, an extrovert's nightmare, an employee's dream(?). Of course, I'm talking about the Covid lockdown, which our lives have been heavily influenced by and may continue to be so. While the world switches gears to keep pace with the situation, it seems that the workplace is what is in for the most reforms. The world might seem at a halt, but our economies certainly can't be; it's only a matter of time before we find an effective alternative to put our worries at rest in this regard, thus marking the start of a new work era; in simple terms- Work from Home. The term itself has drawn quite some flak, with employers worldwide raising their concerns on its effectiveness while trying to find a better equivalent in these pandemic-ridden times, and this is what I wish to address.

It's almost utopian some might say; the commute is just a room apart, the sofa is your office chair, no one keeping constant tabs on you, taking breaks as & when you want! Such an environment is surely something all of us would look forward to, whilst giving us a sense of independence from our monotonous routines, always maintaining the social-distance in such desperate times. This not only allows better flexibility, but also may prove to be more productive as each individual has his/her methodology of working thereby enhancing the overall work quality as well. You may be able to fulfil your duties to your employer and family without having to compromise at either end in such a scenario. Also, the meetings are always pin-point, leaving no room for digressions. There is an overall enhanced satisfaction to all of this, thereby driving home a sense of corporate optimism.

While it may all seem quite idealistic, the question of credibility ever-looms. There may be instances of plagiarism as well, something the corporate world could do without. This is one of the prime reasons why majority corporates offer lower salaries to employees who prefer working from their personal workspace. Access to technology platforms is another issue, a thing quintessential while working on newer technologies. From the employee's perspective, the distinction between work and leisure time is almost abstract, many finding themselves working around the clock most times. Also, textual communication is heavily utilized in such scenarios, which may often lead to the misconstrue of tonality in messages, something that is to be avoided in a corporate setup at all costs. And lastly, a sense of cabin fever may arise, owing to no distinct change in scenery to the human eye.

Under the current circumstances, we aren't spoiled for choice; we have to be able to adapt to the situation and work in the prevailing conditions. That being said, the current set of events is sure to drive innovation in the direction of creating the ideal virtual workspace. Many tech-giants already have their products in place, working by the day to enhance them even further. However, even with the progress in technology, there will always be nuances that can't be effectively bridged; the 'human element' as I like to call it.

As of now, the virtual workspace doesn't even come close to replicating the feel or essence of its physical equivalent. But surely, if ever faced to live with similar conditions in the future, we'd be better prepared, both mentally and physically as it is a mere matter of getting used to, thus adapting towards a sustainable future.

Atmanirbhar Bharat

Bansi Shelke

At the stroke of the toughest hour, when the world strives, India will fight a revolution against the pandemic and be hailed as Atmanirbhar Bharat.

**The days so tough,
About to get a historical attention.
The cyclone hits the east and the west,
With a north-south continental tension.
With the tiranga on the Matterhorn,
And the love from the world so efficient.
We amidst the pandemic
Have decided to go self sufficient.**

Our honourable Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, urged the fellow Indians to adopt the path of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', which was for a strange reason taken as a social amuse but what we fail to realise is the number of minds working behind that notion.

Establishing dominance on the world export and trade, China has played its symbolic role as the dragon. Sticking to the facts, India imports around 70% of the raw materials from China to run our own nation. The Indian genius emerging through the start ups of technology are in peril as the prime investors of the same are Chinese companies.

Atmanirbhar Bharat is the self reliance campaign where the Government has issued a package of 20 lakh crore rupees, which is 10% of the Indian GDP. It will be reserved for the "Vocal for the Local" scheme. Simply speaking, it will be using Indian treasure, for India, by India and in India which will reduce the dependency of India of other countries for its basic needs.

Bifurcating the view into different aspects, we can broadly see that India is heading towards Import substitution and mustering the power to produce the raw materials required for empowering every sector that bring economy for India.



As far as the Indian Electronic sector is concerned, the plan focuses on a five year span where an incentive of 40,000 crore will be given to Indian start ups for the export of mobile phones world wide.

**The other side of coin awaits,
As this is a plan, my friend.
On paper, the maze has a clear way out,
But the real maze can play tricks, no doubt.**

Being an Indian, we know how impeccable our planning is but when we get going on the road to execution we stumble.

If not for the amendment in FDI policy in April 2020, Indian start ups jeopardize the system as the neighbouring hunter take advantage of the cheap share price and halfway begin to penetrate the decision making body. To stop this and improve the easy business ladder, India has to face many Everests.

Also, due to lack of free trade agreements, India suffers around 9.5% custom duty and lag in the race

of international trade. What we ought to do is, support local brands without comparing them with the cheap imported goods and go for the upliftment of our own produce.

This doesn't entirely mean boycotting foreign goods, as today under the heat of the moment, our fellow Indians talk about banishing such goods. What they fail to realise that the foreign based companies that manufacture in India do employ a great deal of Indians. Banning them is nothing but seizing the daily bread from some Indians.

It's a slow process and will only be implemented

if we decide to make in India, and be self sufficient to produce raw material in the country itself.

That way there will be a patriotic employment along with self reliance.

And you watch from the window,

The sun rise and shine.

Now also see the land,

Dig out treasure from the mine.

Mine that has the traits of ancient golden bird

The bird was called India, so you must have heard.

Work from Home: Pros and Cons

Kaivalya Deshpande



Sitting at your cosy desk with a cup of hot home-made coffee as your only companion sounds almost like a fantasy! Compare that to gazing at the relentless workaholic and wage-desperate faces of your office colleagues. “Less stress, more play,” right?

76% of office-workers label their daily shunts as outdated and believe telecommuting to be the new paradigm.

Before diving right into the never-ending list of the tantalising benefits and equally repellent drawbacks of this new style, it is equally essential to know that perspective matters! Its simple. A businessman yearns for that rising curve. An employee, for his safety and financial security. Overall, the value of each point listed below, lies entirely at hand of the position of the reader.

Certainly, creating an exhaustive list is not practical, and so it’s not done that way. What is a disadvantage for someone else might be a blessing for you. You can, however, see through the eyes of an actual telecommuter if their daily experiences are summarized. Ultimately, that leads to the list that you want to see. The following points wouldn’t force an interpretation upon you. Instead, they’re designed to get you the broader, comparative picture.

The first line in the text is the first benefit. You get to work from home! There’s no need to even step out, fuel savings, trimming out commuting time ... just so many benefits! This is naturally the first thought. Specially for the unwilling commuters. But what you see is not always true. When your very home is your workplace, you might have no definite edge between work and leisure. This specially applies if you once belonged to the ‘obsolete’ lot.

No work-satisfaction would shove you toward extending your work hours. Subsequently, a study showed that 54% of remote workers felt “overly stressed during the workday,” when the exact opposite was what you anticipated. Isn’t that quirky?

Next, on the one hand, you have a chance to save a lot of time on your chores. Chopping greens, vacuuming and wiping the floor, while attending meetings is plausible. Not just that, you also get to stay close to your family, especially when you have kids. On the other hand, it is hard to avoid ‘distractions,’ which the daily shunters would delight in, without guilt. Also, staying close to your loved ones does not mean spending time with them.

And after all that, if you are not a multitasker, the foresight of doing chores while attending meetings blurs again.

Moving on, it is undoubtedly noble to not experience the pressures of an office-environment. But it is certainly not fine when they drop below minimum. That happens when you’re low on self-discipline. The consequence is delay. The same study referred to above, suggested: “37% of remote workers and 35% of office workers said they “procrastinated on a task until its deadline.” This may be a game changer for some of us, but there are people

who work passionately despite the casual environment.

Coming to the most awaited context of COVID -19, we must, forcibly, work from home. At least until the lockdown is lifted. There’s no option. It’s all of us. Even the simplest of tasks: passing documents, start to consume significant energy and limit working speed. Meetings include chatter with often bizarre electronic hullabaloo, management turns hefty, people lose track, and everything turns to a muddle. That is the outlook we have lately gained.

It’s however important to note that it is not the general case! There is a difference in you working from home, and the world working from home. Indeed, the virus has caused a lot of damage. But there’s one thing that it did good. It made us realise the significance of inculcating into us, disaster-oriented thinking. That is the biggest benefit!

The grass is, however, always greener on the other side. While on the way to your office, you appreciate the joy of your telecommuter friend who is yet to leave the bed, you curse the strains of not leaving the house and constantly staring at your laptop like a kook. It therefore makes less sense to form a never-ending list of ‘pros and cons’ that would actually benefit someone. But it sure does entertain and fuel you up to get you to work for some more hours, huh?

- The US Supreme Court delivers a major victory as it rules to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation against LGBT employees in the workplace.

- Trump authorizes sanctions on ICC after court opens US war crimes investigation in Afghanistan.

- The European Union mobilises almost €100 million to support the most vulnerable in the Horn of Africa region.

- Kosovo withdraws from Serbia peace talks after President is charged with war crimes.

- As US and China continue their fight in gaining IP Supremacy, Japan takes the lead in building the world's fastest supercomputer, 'Fugaku', on track to achieve its 'Society 5.0' plan.

- In Yemen almost 2.4 million children could be malnourished by the end of year, UNICEF warns, appealing for urgent aid.



- Brazil's Government appoints economist Carlos Decotelli as its first Black Minister of Education, since its creation in 1930.

- Displaced Venezuelans amid deteriorating economic crisis included for the first time in UNHRC annual report suggesting forced displacement of 80 million people worldwide.

- Uganda temporarily reopens border to thousands of people fleeing violence in DRC despite coronavirus concerns & strain on financial resources.

- Full scale proxy war feared in Libya as cold war brews between the Arab nations for dominance over the country's vast economic resources.

- Novavax begins human trials with potential COVID-19 vaccine in Australia.

- New Zealand military to oversee border quarantine operations after expats test positive for coronavirus, ending the country's 24-day COVID-19 free run.