



PICT MUN'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

THE INQUISITOR

Issue 6.0



FEATURED ARTICLE

Violence Against Women and their Safety

By Zeel Patel

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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 6.0 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.

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.

With this, we invite you to indulge in controversial propagandas, 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

UN and the Nobel Peace Prize

Sufiya Sayed



Having invented explosive dynamite, Alfred Nobel worried about its outcomes and how he would be remembered. He thus signed a will to use his fortune to award prizes to those who would “confer greatest benefit to mankind”. The Nobel Prize is a prestigious award given for landmark achievements or discoveries that change the shape of the world.

The United Nations (UN) is an organization that aims to maintain international peace and security among nations and achieve international cooperation. Since its foundation in 1945 post World War II, the UN has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twelve times for their remarkable achievements. They received their first prize in 1950 for the work done by Ralph Bunche. He was a political scientist and an incurable optimist. He mediated the Arab Israeli conflict in 1947 and through his mediation a negotiation treaty was signed. He was also involved in the formation and administration of the UN.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was awarded twice in 1954 and 1981. The award encouraged the

committee to continue to help and find solutions to the ever-increasing refugee problems. A constant rise in refugees continues to escalate problems in relations between countries. The refugee crisis saw a rapid increase as the number of refugees shot up by nine million in 2019, the maximum it has recorded so far.

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) was the second UN agency to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for fulfilling Nobel’s will of promoting brotherhood among the nations. UNICEF provided aid to many vulnerable children that lived in poverty and were neglected by society. With its many schemes and programs, it is able to help create a better life for future generations

The International Labor Organization (ILO) aims to eliminate poverty, improve working and living standards, and strengthen social rights of employees. ILO successfully introduced reforms that removed the injustice in working environment, particularly in Europe. In recognition of the work done, ILO was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969. They continue to work to ensure enforcement of labor standards, and devel-

op programs and policies to promote equal work for all men and women.

In 2001, the Nobel committee awarded UN and Kofi Annan, who was the Secretary General, for their constant efforts and work for a better organized and more peaceful

community. The committee said, “The organization is at the forefront of efforts to achieve peace and security in the world.”. Recognizing the achievements and reforms done by the UN, the Nobel committee encouraged them to continue their work to meet the world’s economic, social, and environmental challenges

The UN also received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for the work done by World Food Programme (WFP). It is the world’s largest humanitarian organization that promotes food security, and helps communities feed themselves. It has provided aid to 97 million people in 88 countries. Covid-19 pandemic is likely to leave 265 million people starving adding to the global food insecurity. In a mix of conflict and pandemic, countries like Yemen, South Sudan, Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso have seen a rise in the number of people living under starvation. The programs have shown tremendous efforts to help people in times of despair and have stated, “Until the day we have a medical vaccine, food is the best vaccine against chaos”.

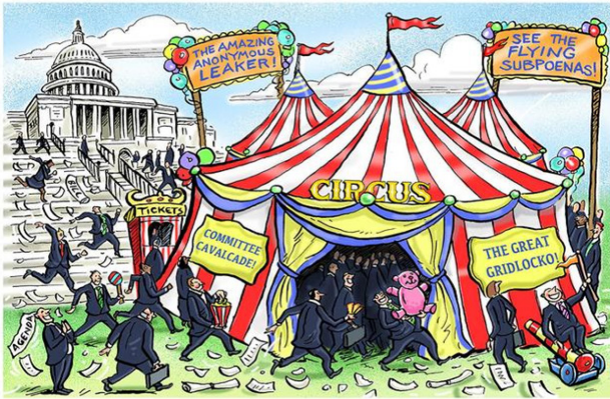
The United Nations has worked to promote peace and tranquility among world nations and continues to do so. With the many programs and agencies under its umbrella it hopes to provide a better future for all beings.



The Circus of Democracy

Yugandhar Hujare

Clowns have become politicians and politicians have become clowns, democracy is screwed, and we are bound to be doomed! Welcome to the 'Circus of Democracy'! The night was as unusual, useless and unimportant as every other night before and after it, the news anchors with their theatrical antics continue effortlessly to make mockery of the democracy. Politicians are clowns in the Circus of Democracy! The cracking video and voice on the old television combined with the shouting of the news anchor made the topic of the debate absolutely unclear, as if impairing our sens-



es to distract us from perceiving reality. The debate was on a very important cultural issue and according to the anchor an issue of national importance, one-hour discussion on a minute or two of advertisement. The jewelry brand had committed a heinous crime of supporting harmony, thus threatening the largest sector that employed millions of uneducated, unemployed youth, the theatrical sector of politics! Some jewelry brand apparently believed that society is a homogeneous cocktail and that women had freedom to choose to do whatever they deemed right!

We are doomed to be ruled by unfit leaders until and unless the common transaction of stupidity in society is stopped. It is indeed one of humanity's wisest traits that it simply cannot be united in support of a good cause and hence as a result, cunning and crooked politicians continue to exploit the fractured and fragile order that is the norm of the time and the trick of the trade. Pulitzer and Hearst are laughing in their grave and uttering two words 'Yellow Journalism'!

As though the nationalist news anchors were not enough for the propaganda machinery, the bridge to

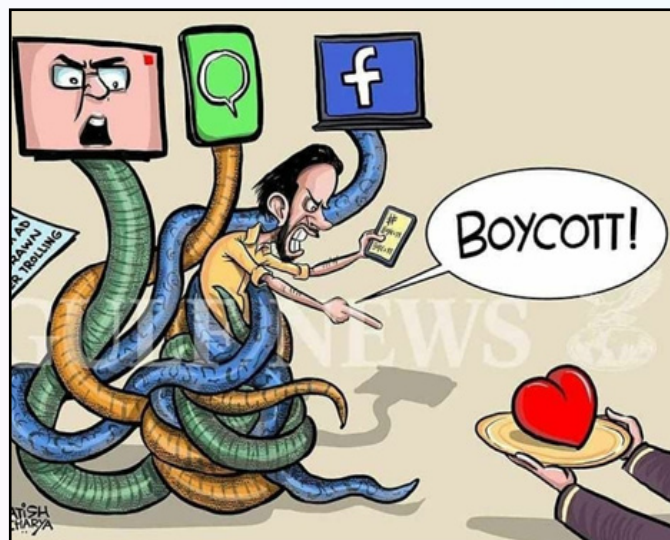
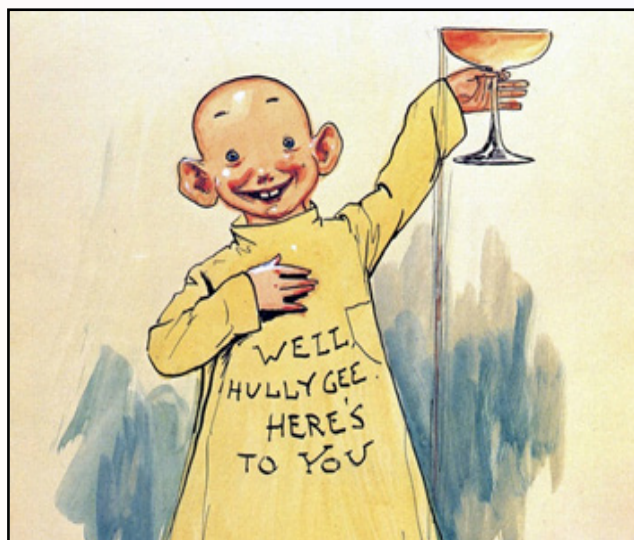
sanity is blocked by trolls on the Internet. It's another one of these lousy and noisy midnights on Twitter; common sense seems to be simply a degenerating trait caused due to the evolutionary process ever since humanity became a civilized species. Journalism is too serious to be taken jocularly by the irresponsible Social Media. Social Media was supposed to be the ray of light that pierces the night at dawn, supposed to amplify each individual's voice by inherently weighing each voice with equal importance, which it has clearly failed to do. Every individual, rational thinker's voice is suppressed by thousands of bots on social media because the people in charge are busy counting their money and monitoring the stocks!

What did we do wrong and How did we end up like this? Today secularist is an abuse and communalist a title! Democracy is a fragile, frugal institution, which solely rests on people's belief in its subsidiary institutions. The easiest way to autocracy is by destroying people's belief in democratic institutions and placing it in the feet of one narcissistic person! Good Politicians face difficult circumstances, Great Politicians create one!

The land that was once drenched by the torrential rains is now drenched by the internment weeping of the people! Why are we selectively and conveniently deaf



to the voice of millions and millions of farmers who are protesting and suddenly enchanted by the words of the leader of the land who claims that millions and millions of people are being misled not by the mighty beings in power but by feeble allegedly anti-nationalist opposition parties! The Leader of the Land has the audacity to remain silent in critical matters, who is even capable of giving power if not the people of the land! When the whole nation was weeping over the demonic act of cruelty, the state was busy pro-



over the demonic act of cruelty, the state was busy protecting the victims? Even though the bleeding wound may heal, the tears may stop, the scar will always remain! The question still stands 'Who is not to blame?'

The bells are tolling loudly, the air sirens piercing the veil of silence all warning us laughing with a suspicious smile. How can we ever realize the premonitions of the future? How can we ever wake up if all we do is sleep in hope of a good dream? In the 'Circus of Democracy', like any other circus, we laugh when we see the funny antics of the clown, but when everyone including the clowns are laughing, we are left to do nothing but wonder who is laughing at whom?

Impact over Forex Market apropos Covid-19

Yash Kale

Covid-19 has had an undeniably large impact on the global economy, as the mandatory lockdown in countries all over the world has created a demand and supply shock. Industries are unable to produce goods to their full potential, and the demand for services has dipped to an all time low. Manufacturing has taken a hit, creating unemployment. The lack of cash flow in the economy has led to financial insecurity. The second wave of Covid-19 being experienced by many countries poses a threat to the Foreign exchange market.

A creditor nation is a nation that invests more money in other nations than the world invests in them. In simpler terms, creditor nations spend more than they borrow. A creditor nation has a cumulative balance of payment surplus. This grants them economic power and influence, especially over debtor nations.



A debtor nation is the opposite of a creditor nation. It imports more than it exports. Debts of these nations exceed their foreign investment. These nations have a trade deficit.

Amidst a crisis, the dollar tends to appreciate – especially against emerging market currencies – and dollar liquidity becomes scarce.

Creditor Nations have seen an appreciation of their currency amidst this pandemic.

Japan, which is considered as the largest creditor nation, seems attractive to investors, as the Japanese Yen is a currency that is considered a financial haven, owing to its stable nature. The ratio of USD to the JPY seems to simply fall in value. The Japanese yen has been trading within a very tight trading range throughout the crisis.

As for the Western creditor nations, the Euro has been



advancing against the USD, in part due to a better Covid-19 response by the European Union, in contrast to the US. Some analysts predict that the European economy will bounce back faster than the US economy and see higher growth.

The UK Health secretary recently announced that restrictions would increase, and London will be upgraded to 'Tier 2' restriction status to curb the spread of Covid-19, which has led the Pound to decline. Prior to the announcement, the pound had been holding its ground against the euro and suffering softer losses against the dollar. Investor attention had been focused on Brexit negotiations, which have entered a crucial stretch.

On the other hand, the currencies of debtor nations like New Zealand and India have depreciated.

The New Zealand Dollar is an example of this phenomenon. Currencies of countries with negative external imbalances usually depreciate in times of heightened market volatility. Tourism and international education has seen a devastating



impact. However, experts expect a quick rebound, owing to its quick pandemic response and high internal stability.



Indian Rupee suffered a fall due to the same reasons. Rising debt and investors pulling out of investments in favour of safe havens have only worsened the decline. On 16th April, Rupee tumbled to an all time low of 76.87. Oil demand has plummeted and seen record low prices. This has helped the rupee, as oil plays a major role in India's trade deficit. However, RBI, cutting interest rates and making borrowing easier, can put a downward pressure on the currency.

Developing countries like India suffer from a paradox like situation, where increasing the domestic interest rates might save the currency from a downward spiral, but, this won't help the local economy cope with the increasing economic pressure due to Covid-19 regulations.

Violence Against Woman and their Safety

Zeel Patel

Harassment and sexual violence against women and girls are an everyday occurrence around the world both in urban and rural areas and in developed and developing nations.

Empirical evidence shows that globally, 7 per cent of women are sexually assaulted by someone apart from their partner and as many as 38 per cent of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner. This heart-breaking, truly disturbing statistic simply highlights the tough truth: women round the globe are simply not safe.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) suggests that 30 per cent of women in the reproductive age (between 15 and 49 years) in India have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. This doesn't mean that a girl below 15 years of age is safe. In a recent news, a 2-day old baby was found brutally and mercilessly stabbed to death, wrapped in a shawl and dumped beside a temple: causes you to wonder how could someone be so heartless.

To prevent female foeticide, the Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act of 1994 (PCPNDT Act, 1994) was modified in 2003 to focus on medical professionals, but the Act has proven ineffective due to the shortage of implementation.

India's average rate of reported rape cases is about 6.3 per 100,000 of the population. Unfortunately, these statistics include only reported rape cases and lots of girls and ladies are afraid to speak and report cases. In step with a recent report by Livemint, about 99 per cent cases of sexual violence go unreported. The fact that majority women do not report rapes is spine-chilling.

Honour killings have notably increased in some Indian states which led to the Supreme Court of India, in June 2010, issuing notices to both the Indian central government and 6 states to include preventative measures against honour killings. There is an urgent necessity of getting a separate law to accommodate such crimes due to the special nature of the so-called Honour Crimes placed within the malignant class structure. Usually, such crimes are committed by members of the

family of the girl and their community who are sometimes backed or maybe dictated by caste-based institutions like the Khap Panchayats. This makes it tougher to prove the guilt of the people involved within the crime.

Ranging from eve-teasing and outright molestation on the streets or at workplace, to harassment for dowry, molestation in public transport vehicles, and reported rapes; crimes against women reflect the vulnerability and deep-rooted problems associated with the position of girls and women in the Indian society. As claimed by the NCRB, 24,923 cases of rape were reported in 2012, amounting to at least one rape every 22 minutes.



Gender-based violence, especially crimes like rape, are a multifaceted problem. Although the incorporation of stricter laws and punishments are important to prevent people from committing such crimes, the answer to the issue is far over just promulgation. It is vital to tackle various other facets that act as contributing factors and thus play an equally important role,

such as the commodification of women in Indian media, especially cinema. This bears evidence to the deep-rooted prejudicial attitudes towards women and other deeper societal issues that are contributory to those crimes.

Introducing sex education and making it compulsory would make a giant difference in order to tackle various against women. More campaigns that raise awareness about rape and violence against women should be introduced to empower, help and support women.

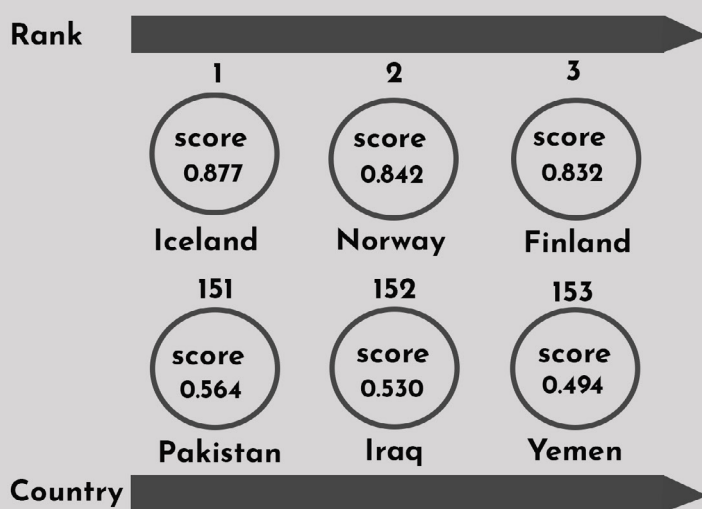
The UN Women's Global Flagship Initiative is the first-ever sui generis global programme that develops, implements, and evaluates tools, policies and comprehensive approaches on the prevention and response to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls across different settings

But while awareness, education and woman empowerment are very important; in a country that has innumerable issues with gender discrimination, bringing about the

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GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX 2020



India	
Rank	112
Score	0.668

Global Gender Gap Index

	rank	score
Economic Participation and opportunity	112	0.668
Educational Attainment	149	0.354
Health and survival	150	0.962
Political empowerment	18	0.411

GENDER WAGE GAP VS UNEQUAL PAY



Gender pay gap stems from the difference in the number of men versus women who work.

Socio-economic factors, structural discrimination, lack of leadership training etc, affect employment in women.

India ranks 149th in economic opportunity and participation.

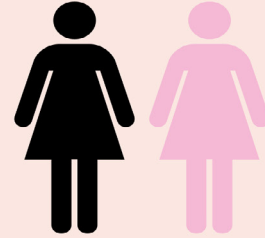


Unequal pay refers to situations where women are paid less than men for doing the same work.

Women are paid 34% less than men for performing the same job with the same qualifications.

India ranks 117th in terms of wage inequality.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The Facts



Every 16 min in India a rape case is reported



Studies suggested that upto 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.



The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds each year



Violence is a bigger threat to the health of women ages 15-49 than cancer, malaria and traffic accidents combined.

The Numbers

	Physical	Sexual	Physical & Sexual
Not reported	79.5 %	80.6 %	61.3 %
Reported	9.0 %	9.5 %	9.9 %

The Truth

In 2020, between March 25 and May 31, 1,477 complaints of domestic violence were made by women. This 68 day period recorded more complaints than those received between March and May in the previous 10 years.

NORTH AMERICA

Michael Jordan opens second health clinic for underserved communities in North Carolina, addressing health equity gaps exacerbated by the pandemic.

Texas Governor limits mail ballot drop off centers to 1 per county, thereby upending some counties' election plans and drawing accusations of voter suppression from across the state and country.

SOUTH AMERICA

Large 2000 year-old cat geoglyph from the late Paracus era discovered in Peru's Nazca lines, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Cocaine worth \$500m, destined for Israel, found in a charcoal shipment in Paraguay; presumed to have come from Bolivia, world's third largest producer of the drug.

EUROPE

Green policy think-tank predicts one in seven cars sold in the EU to be electric in 2021 as a result of strict CO2 emission regulations from the European Parliament.

Hundreds demonstrate in Warsaw after Poland's highest court imposes ban on abortions due to fetal defects, constituting around 98% of total abortions conducted in the country; permits it only in cases of rape, incest or threat to the mother's life.

ASIA

Japan and US begin major bilateral military exercise Keen Sword; include cyber and electronic warfare training for the first time as concern about China grows.

Sudan becomes the third Arab state, after UAE and Bahrain, to set aside hostilities with Israel this year.

AFRICA

Wavel Ramkalawan wins Seychelles presidential election in sixth attempt marking the first opposition victory since the country's independence, a major milestone towards democracy.

#EndSARS protest against police brutality in Nigeria turns violent as attacks continue on peaceful demonstrations after announcement to dissolve the infamous Sars police unit falls short of demands for accountability and justice.

AUSTRALIA

Jacinda Ardern's Labour Party secures victory in New Zealand election with a promise to tackle social inequality in the second term.

Rescue operation underway as 270 pilot whales stranded on sandbars off the Tasmanian coast.