

The COSMOPOLITICAL

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Monthly Newsletter
Department of Political Science
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EDITORIAL

The 26th of November, 1949 marked the beginning of a fresh chapter in the fabled history of the Indian civilisation, for it was on this day that the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India. More than two years had passed since independence from foreign rule had become a cherished reality, but our leaders were under no illusions regarding the depth of the challenge which lay ahead of a free India. It took them 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to formulate the most comprehensive governing document in the entire world. This was done to preserve the diverse cultural ethos of the country and would ensure that the dawn of a new nation was complemented by the lasting foundations which would benefit generations of Indians to come.

The Political Science department of K.C. College is happy to introduce the maiden edition of its monthly newsletter, 'The Cosmopolitical' on the auspicious occasion of Constitution Day. We aspire to carry forward the upstanding legacy of K.C. College as an institution which promotes the overall development of an individual by helping create a healthy ecosystem of debate and discussion. The primary aim of this publication is to provide a platform for our student fraternity to voice its opinion not only on issues related to politics, but also those which hold social, economic and constitutional relevance. The makers of the constitution truly recognised the invaluable role of our youth in the process of nation-building. It is imperative to provide young India with an outlet to channel her hopes, ambitions and more significantly, discontent about the state of affairs both domestically and abroad. Only when the youth realises the scale of its power to affect change and takes the initiative to do so on a consistent basis will the vision envisaged by our freedom fighters turn into reality.

At a time when many fear that constitutional values are being undermined and democracy is on the wane across the globe, we seek to uphold the shared humanitarian principles which our freedom fighters fought for. The Cosmopolitical welcomes all forms of creative expression, including opinion pieces, caricatures, poems etc. A 'Debate' section is also being planned for the following edition, wherein students would submit their opinions for or against the articles published in this edition. Dissent and criticism are the basic tenets of any vibrant democracy, and we seek to facilitate the inculcation of these principles amongst our readers. Above all, the student-run nature of this newsletter ensures that this is a publication created by you and for you, taking inspiration from our Constitution in this regard.

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ECONOMICS: ADITI PRASAD
INTERNATIONAL: VISHESH SINGH
INDIAN POLITICS: POORNA SAMANT & DEVANSHI SHAH
SOCIAL: PAYAL GHOGRE
FOREIGN CULTURE: HAMSIKA JASWAL
ART & COMPILATION- KUMARSINH DABHI
CONVENOR: DR. VRUTTANT MANWATKAR



The Government of India has recently launched the PM Gatishakti- National Master Plan for Multi- modal Connectivity, with the objective of coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure connectivity projects in next four years and has brought 16 ministries including Railways and Roadways under this project. This modal connectivity is to make possible an integrated and seamless level of connectivity among people for movement of goods and services from one mode to another. It is to ensure reduction in time travel for people and to facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure. This integrated approach to bring together 16 infrastructure ministries shall aim to remove long standing issues related to planning, standardisation and timely creation and utilization of infrastructural capacities. Some important aspects and highlighted aims of this scheme are:

- It will subsume Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure, launched in 2019.
- It also includes the extension of 4G network connectivity to all villages.
- It aims to increase cargo handling capacity and to reduce the turnaround time at ports.
- It involves the creation of Gatishakti Platform through which infrastructure projects can be efficaciously implemented.
- It will plausibly make India the business capital of the world.

The scheme is based on 6 important pillars:

Comprehensiveness, Prioritisation, Optimization, Synchronization, Analytical and Dynamic. Under this Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, etc. will be covered. This scheme will help to address past issues through institutionalising holistic planning for stakeholders for major infrastructure projects. Instead of designing and planning separately in silos, the projects will be designed and executed with a common vision. It will make efforts to address issues of time-taking approval process and multiplicity of regulatory clearances.

Quarterly Employment Survey

Aditi Prasad

Last month, the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment released the results of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the First Quarter (FQ) of 2021 i.e. from April to June. This survey is a part of All-India Quarterly Employment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) that covers establishments employing 10 or more workers in the organised segment in 9 sectors. These 9 sectors are manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation and restaurants, financial service activities, and IT/BPO. As the nation does not have the National Employment Policy (NEP) yet, this survey aids the government to frame a better and sound national policy regarding employment. With coverage only for establishments of 10 workers or more, this survey provides data comprehensively about the formal sector that has a great impact on the GDP but this also provide a partial glimpse of the labour market as 90% of the labour force accounts for informal sectors.

The Labour Bureau took the charge of AQEES under them to provide better and frequent updates about the employment and related variables of the establishments belonging to the nine selected sectors. The AQEES subsumes mainly two components:

1. Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) - It would provide the employment estimates for the establishments employing 10 or more workers.
2. Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES) - It covers the unorganised segment (with less than 10 workers) through a sample survey.

The aspects of QES Data 2021 are significant as:

- It shows an increase of about 28-29% in employment in 9 sectors with 3 crores and 8 lakhs during the months of April to June 2021 when Covid-19 was at its peak.
- It marked a slight decline in the share of female workers from 31% in the 6th EC, 2013 to 29% in QES, 2021.
- Seven sectors out of nine remarked a tremendous growth with 152% growth in IT/BPO sector, 77% growth in Health, while 39% in Education, 22% in Manufacturing, 68% in Transport, 42% in Construction sector, and 48% growth in the employment in financial services. However, in two sectors the employment growth saw a decline. A decline by 25% in Trade and 13% in Accommodations and restaurants was witnessed.

World Bank's GDP Projection for India

Aditi Prasad

The World Bank being an international organisation offers developmental aid to low-income and middle-income countries and strives to create a poverty-free world. It has different groups to manage the creation of a poverty-free world. The World's Bank Prospect Group is one of them. It conducts in-depth analysis of key global macroeconomic developments and their impact on World Bank member countries. Recently, the World Bank has projected for India's economy, South Asia's largest, a growth of 8.3% for the fiscal year 2021-22. The projected growth (8.3%) is supported by an increase in public investment to bolster domestic demand and schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI). It has been reported that India's GDP has increased by 20.1% in first quarter (April-June quarter) of financial year 2021-22 in the backdrop of "a significant base effect, limited damage to domestic demand and strong export growth". Due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in India, the economic recovery was paused and the high frequency data suggested that the recovery also declined for a brief time. However, it has been on the process of recovery as per the World Bank report:

- Sectors like manufacturing and constructions recovered steadily in 2021.
- Economic prospects are most likely to be determined by its pace of vaccination against COVID-19 and with the successful implementation of agriculture and labour reforms
- Household recovery and activities under informal and formal sectors' normalisation are most essential for the country's economic recovery extent determination.

The economic recovery will most likely be faced with certain risks like high level of inflation, slow down in vaccination process, worse impact on the financial sectors associated with debts and loans, etc. Thus, to avoid more such risks it is essential to integrate and develop the informal sector as more than half of the population of the nation is employed in this sector. It is time to reform economic and environmental policies to protect the nation from any further shocks like that of COVID-19.



Halloween is a widely-celebrated traditional holiday in Ireland on the night of 31st October. Its origin is thought to date back more than 2000 years to Samhain, a Celtic New Years' Day that fell on the 1st of November. According to some historians, it has its roots in the Gaelic Festival, where the Gaels believed the border between this world and the otherworld became thin and the dead would revisit the mortal world. Demons, fairies and spirits of the dead were thought to steer the world.

The term Halloween, means "saints' evening", and dates back to about 1745. Trick-or-treating is a customary celebration for the children on Halloween; it was started by the adults and later on carried forward by the children, making it a much-known custom. Children across the country wear different types of costumes and go from house to house, trick or treating. They go around asking the question "trick or treat". Here, the word trick implies a "threat" which is usually a light-hearted act of mischief towards the homeowner.

The Leprechaun, a diminutive supernatural being features prominently in Irish folk culture. It is a mischievous fairy-type creature in emerald green clothing which when not playing tricks, spends its time busily making shoes. The Leprechaun is said to possess a pot of gold hidden at the top of the rainbow, and the person who captures the gold is granted three wishes in exchange of the Leprechaun's release. It is said that the leprechaun's principal occupation is making and cobbling shoes, and he also enjoys playing practical jokes.

Halloween spread to the West not until after the mass Irish and Scottish immigration in the 19th century. Due to this, Halloween became a recognised festival in America.

Holidays and festivals

Hamsika Jaswal

The culture of Ireland comprises of language, literature, art, folklore, and sports associated with its land and people. For most of its recorded history, Irish culture has been Gaelic. It has also been influenced by Anglo-Norman, English, and Scottish culture.

According to the Gaelic calendar, the majority of Ireland today still reflects the old pagan customs, with later Christian traditions also having significant influence. **Christmas** in Ireland has several local traditions, some which are not connected with Christianity by any means.

The national holiday in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is the **Saint Patrick's Day**, which falls on 17th March. It is the traditional date of demise of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland. An official Christian feast is celebrated on the day since the 17th century. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. It is also widely celebrated in the United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand, especially amongst the Irish diaspora.

In Northern Ireland, the Twelfth of July, or the **Orangemen's Day**, commemorates William III's victory at the battle of the Boyne. The parades are colourful affairs with Orange Banners and sashes on display along with music in the form of traditional songs such as The Sash, and Derry Walls; performed by a mixture of pipe, flute, accordion, and brass marching bands.

Saint Stephen's Day, 26th December in Western Christianity and 27th December in Eastern Christianity, is celebrated in honor of one of the first Christian martyrs, Saint Stephen, who was stoned to death in 36 AD. It is an official public holiday in Ireland, Wales, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Valencian Country, Alsace and Moselle, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Finland, and Bulgaria.



Irish sports

Tanushree Menon

Irish sports include Gaelic Games such as football, hurling, and camogie, association football, equestrian, show jumping, greyhound racing, basketball, fishing, handball, motorsport, tennis, hockey, golf, rowing, cricket, and rugby union. Gaelic games is a cluster of different games in Ireland under the auspices of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). Hurling is a country-wide sport and the two most famous Irish sports activities are hurling and Gaelic football. Irish games have roots way back in the ancient period, before any written history in Ireland started.

Hurling: Historically, Hurling first appeared in writing during the 7th and 8th centuries. Early accounts of hurling seem to be found in the Tain Bo Cuailgne legend. Even though the oldest surviving copy dates from the 12th century, the story itself dates from around 500BC. In hurling, wooden sticks known as 'hurleys' are used (similar to hockey sticks but with much wider and flatter heads) along with a hardball known as a 'sliotar'. The sport is considered to be the fastest field sport in the world, and it is also dangerous since players can catch the ball and hit it in the air with a hurley, just like a baseball bat or tennis racket.

Camogie is played exclusively by women and often by children in the street or the schoolyard. While camogie is popular in Ireland, handball and rounders do not have the same level of popularity. Hurling and Camogie are both listed in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Gaelic Football: Caid was the first recorded name for Gaelic football, and it dates back to the 18th century. Caid used to be a phase of the Tailteann games, an annual Celtic wearing competition that started in 1829 BC and persisted for nearly 4,000 years till 1169 AD.

Literature and the Arts

Hamsika Jaswal

The island of Ireland has made an immense contribution to world literature in both the Irish and English languages. The island's most widely known literary works are undoubtedly in English. Notable works are those of James Joyce, Bram Stoker, Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, and Ireland's four Nobel Prize winners for literature; William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, and Seamus Heaney.

The early history of Irish visual art is generally considered to begin with ancient carvings found at sites such as Newgrange and has been traced through Bronze Age artifacts, particularly ornamental gold objects, the Celtic brooches and illuminated manuscripts of the Insular Early Medieval period. During the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, a strong indigenous tradition of painting emerged, that included figures as John Butler Yeats, William Orpen, Jack Yeats, and Louis Le Brocquy.

The Irish tradition of folk music and dance is also widely known, and both were redefined in the 1950s. In the middle years of the 20th century, as Irish society was attempting to modernize, the traditional Irish fell out of flavour to some extent, especially in the urban areas. During the 1960s, inspired by the American folk music movement, there was a revival of interest in the Irish tradition and groups like The Dubliners, the Clancy Brothers, and Sweeney's men and individuals like Sean O Riada emerged. The annual Fleadh Cheoil Nah Eireann is the largest festival of Irish music in Ireland. During the 1970s and 1980s, the distinction between traditional and rock musicians became blurred, with many individuals regularly crossing over between these styles of playing as a matter of course.



Pegasus, the malicious spyware developed by the Israeli surveillance firm, NSO group has been the subject of thorough scrutiny. This malware was designed to infiltrate devices seamlessly with the sole purpose of tracking down criminals and preventing crimes. The firm claims that this software is sold only to “vetted” government agencies.

It came into the spotlight when it was revealed that Pegasus had been used to spy on a legion of journalists, politicians belonging to opposition political parties, human rights activists and even various government officials. India has a democratic structure of government and the Government is legally bound to strike a balance between national security and the fundamental Right to Privacy which the Constitution guarantees to each citizen. The government’s perceived infidelity towards its citizens has been a matter of grave concern. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi stated that “Pegasus is an attempt to crush Indian Democracy.”

The escalation of this matter led to a hearing of the Supreme Court. The Government of India refused to acknowledge their charges by not filing a detailed affidavit pertaining to the allegations that they jeopardized India’s democracy and violated citizens’ Right to Privacy by using the spyware Pegasus. The court on October 27th articulated its decision to form an independent committee that would probe reports regarding the malware invading and accessing the mobile phones of the citizens. A panel was set up to delve into the matter. After this definite order by the Court, the Israel’s Ambassador also made a public statement that spyware was only sold to the government agencies. The law allows authorities to permit surveillance when it is absolutely necessary to protect national interest. The discretion in these matters is resulting in the abuse of powers which needs to be curtailed. To summarise, spying on the citizens of India through a spyware is a threat to the Indian Democracy.

Which way will the wind blow in 2022?

Devanshi Shah

The results of the by-poll elections for 3 Lok Sabha constituencies and 29 assembly constituencies across 13 states were released recently. The assembly by-elections were held for five seats in Assam, four seats in West Bengal, three seats each in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, two each in Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan and one seat each in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Mizoram and Telangana.

The results of the assembly elections are as follows:

- 1.Assam:** The BJP and its ally UPPL won all 5 assembly constituencies.
- 2.West Bengal:** The TMC won all 4 assembly seats.
- 3.Madhya Pradesh:** Out of 3 assembly seats the BJP won 2 seats while the Congress secured 1 seat.
- 4.Himachal Pradesh:** The Congress secured all 3 seats.
- 5.Meghalaya:** Out of 3 assembly constituencies, the National People’s Party (NPP) won 2 seats while the United Democratic Party (UDP) secured 1 seat.
- 6.Bihar:** All 2 assembly seats were secured by JD(U).
- 7.Karnataka:** Out of 2 assembly constituencies the BJP and the Congress secured one seat each.
- 8.Rajasthan:** The Congress won 2 seats.
- 9.Andhra Pradesh:** YSRCP won 1 assembly constituency.
- 10.Haryana:** Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) won one assembly seat.
- 11.Maharashtra:** Out of 1 assembly constituency the Congress won 1 seat.
- 12.Mizoram:** The Mizo National Front won 1 assembly seat.
- 13.Telangana:** The BJP won 1 out of 1 assembly seat.

The BJP won 7 seats and its allies won 8 seats. In total it is a win of 15 seats for the BJP.

The Congress party won 8 seats and other non-BJP parties won 6 seats.

The results of the by-election of three Lok Sabha seats are as follows:

- 1. Mandi Lok Sabha seat** in Himachal Pradesh was won by the Congress.
- 2. The Dadra & Nagar Haveli seat** was won by Shiv sena.
- 3. The Khandwa Lok Sabha seat** in Madhya Pradesh was won by the BJP.

Encouraged by these results, the Congress claimed that the voters had punished the Narendra Modi Government for its “arrogance over the three farm laws and petrol and diesel prices.”

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram of the Congress claimed, “The honours are even today.

Which way will the wind blow in 2022?”

Why is Politics so deeply rooted in Indian society?

Ashka Masturlal

Politics is an integral part of Indian society. It is something that is discussed in every Indian household by every adult while sitting with their family, sipping tea and reading the newspaper. It is a common practice in Indian society and one cannot separate politics from the Indian mindset. But why is it that politics has become an indispensable part of our society? The first and foremost reason is our cultural diversity. With India being home to many religions, cultures and ethnicities, it is obvious people will become biased towards the political parties and politicians who support them or favor them against other religions or cultures. People support a political party not only to show their loyalty but also show their disagreement with the policies of other parties.

Secondly, the process of creating a vote bank. Politicians go to extreme lengths to create a vote bank for themselves by appeasing the minority communities, giving false hopes and fake promises or by maligning and defaming other political leaders in public. Talking about the history of politics in India, it has always been a major factor and contributor to the administration of various regions and dynasties. The hereditary succession in politics which was present before independence is still very much prevalent even after 75 years of independence. During the Mughal rule, emperors like Akbar adopted various policies and strategies to govern and expand his empire. He won the loyalty of non-Muslims and was known for his secular views. His idea of 'Suhl-I-Kul' or peace and harmony between different religions showed his strong political leadership. Aurangzeb's political views were very different from those of Akbar. He wanted to make Islam the dominant religion and hence became unpopular among the non-Muslims. During the British Raj, control was established in the Indian subcontinent through political manipulation by pitting one ruler against the other.

In recent events, one can observe how politics has become a predominant factor in shaping this democracy. Be it the removal of Article 370 or the Aryan Khan drug case, politics is omnipresent. Hence we can conclude that where there is a clash of cultures and religions, politics has a deeper role to play.

Highlights of COP 26

Vishesh Singh

The Annual Climate Summit (COP 26) came to an end with the adoption of a weaker than expected agreement called the Glasgow Climate Pact. While most countries said that the agreement was a small but important step, observers saw it as a missed opportunity to enhance global climate action. The focus of the Glasgow talks was to improve the Paris agreement made six years ago by further cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the warming to levels that do not threaten human civilisation. Going into the Glasgow talks most countries including US, China and the 27 European Union members declared new and more ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some like India announced additional measures at the meeting itself.

Within the official negotiations, countries agreed to focus on the main part of the 2015 Paris agreement i.e. keeping the global warming from going beyond 1.5°C. Before COP26, the planet was on the course of dangerous 2.7°C of global warming. Based on the announcements experts estimate that now we are on the path of 1.8° celsius to 2.4°C of global warming.

The Paris Agreement calls on all countries to take action against climate change. However, there is a difference between the ability of developed countries to take action quickly, and the needs of developing countries. The same options cannot be applied to all countries. The group of developing countries which includes India, China, and several others accused the developed countries of attempting to transfer their responsibilities to the rest of the world and trying to impose new rules. India's environment minister Bhupendra Yadav argued that developing nations should not be denied the opportunity for development. Every country will arrive at net-zero emissions as per its own strengths and weaknesses. Developing countries have a right to their fair share of the global carbon budget and are entitled to the responsible use of fossil fuels.

The Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan was held on the 10th of November, 2021 in the capital of India, New Delhi. The National Security Advisors of India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. The participants discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan, especially the security situation and its ramifications around the globe. The sides paid special attention to the current political situation in Afghanistan and threats arising from terrorist organisations, radicalisation and drug trafficking as well as the need for humanitarian assistance.

The following are the highlights of the Delhi Declaration:

- Reiterated support for a peaceful, safe and stable Afghanistan while emphasising respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.
- The members committed to combat terrorism in all its forms.
- Urged the regional members to ensure that Afghanistan should never become a safe haven for global terrorism.
- Ensuring fundamental rights of women, children and the minorities.
- The assistance should be provided in a non-discriminatory manner across all sections of the Afghan society.
- Called for cooperation against radicalisation, separatism and drug trafficking in the region.

The Delhi Declaration is a reflection of the consistent policy India has adopted for bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan. One important pillar of the Delhi Declaration is that it “reiterated support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan while emphasising the respect for sovereignty, unity and non-interference in its internal affairs”. This aspect needs to be under greater spotlight because the trouble that Afghanistan is facing is largely due to the sinister moves on the part of Pakistan and China to achieve their respective geopolitical objectives. While for Islamabad it is aimed at securing “strategic depth” in Central Asia, for Beijing it means capturing Afghanistan’s rich mineral wealth. The emergence of the Taliban provides Pakistan and China an opportunity to achieve their objectives. However, the Delhi Declaration is a setback to both Beijing and Islamabad’s plans in Afghanistan as Russia and Central Asian countries — considered China’s and Pakistan’s friends in Afghanistan — have rejected their motives.

Being Geopolitically lost is not Funny!

Keshav Ladha

The current world powers have been successful in establishing their dominance over the world owing to their clear national interests, well-planned policies pursuing those interests mixed with a perfect blend of hard power and soft power. The problem with India is that it does not have clear national interests and policies directed towards them for achieving global superpower status, in spite of having its best International Relations since its independence in 1947.

The United States has a cultural narrative famously termed as ‘American Exceptionalism’ which states that USA is different from other nations and has a mission to transform the world. France has been historically powered by the idea of revolution and thus continues to aggressively follow its policies protecting its national ideologies at any cost, as seen in recent times. China has expansionist policies, as is evident by the border disputes with all her neighbouring countries and very cunning financial practices, i.e., China’s Debt Trap. This is because it has had a history of civil wars which have happened when the Chinese ‘Emperor’ starts losing his control over the nation and becomes subjected to public discontent, which eventually topples the Government and a new government is established. Therefore, the Chinese Communist Party has to assert its global influence by all means necessary otherwise history will repeat itself much sooner. The common theme is that all of these countries have sound international policies.

India has had a strong history, culture and legendary political figures throughout time, yet our policies are designed in a colonial fashion making us disconnected with our identity. This renders us clueless about our national interests which eventually affects our policy making and geopolitical stance. From USA, we can learn to take pride in our nation and culture. From France, we can learn to aggressively follow pursuits in favour of the nation’s greater interests despite various types of pressures. From China we can learn to play smart geopolitical moves processed through our own moral and cultural ethos. It is my belief that we are bound to develop our own global hegemony and accelerate the process of nation-building, making India the next superpower once such concrete steps are taken.

On the 5th of September, 2019, the Government decided to remove Article 370. The Home Minister introduced a bill to divide the state into two union territories. With that the government made air-castle promises like better opportunities for youth, industrialisation, safer environment, and a flattering economy.

A lockdown was placed on that very night of the decision in Kashmir before COVID even existed. Kashmir saw a Rs 15000+ crore loss after the removal of Article 370 in only one year. No new government jobs were created after the removal in J&K. There was no internet for about 200 days and partial internet for 550 days. This adversely affected the online education of the children during COVID. Through the new Media Policy 2020, the local press got demolished. Attacks on journalists and use of UAPA against them has increased. The bureaucrats made laws without considering the needs of the citizens. This also shows why there was an increase in militancy in 2019 in comparison with 2018.

On the 16th of October, 2021, two people from outside J&K and two suspected militants were killed in a gunfight at Pampore. It was the 9th civilian killed by the militants in the Valley. Till date, the civilians killed included a non-local Hindu vendor, a local Hindu teacher, a Sikh school principal, a Kashmiri Pandit chemist and many more. One more piece of tragic news came recently on the 18th of November, 2021 as four civilians were encountered at Hyderpora. Dr. Mudasar Gul's 13 year old daughter mourned her father's death and how the policemen were shamelessly laughing when she asked them why they killed him. His wife is constantly asking the cops for proof. The cops claimed that Dr. Mudasar and Altaf Ahmad Bhat had links with militants. The bodies of Dr. Gul and Bhat were returned to the family after two days though the body of Aamir Magray is yet to be returned. The police are yet to give evidence for the incident. Every citizen of J&K has only one question to ask them - Till when will our people be slaughtered mercilessly?

NCERT's Removal of LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Training Manual

Payal Ghogre

On the 6th of September 2018, India witnessed the abrogation of Section 377 by Supreme Court, as homosexuality was legalised. The progressive youth was delighted with this decision. However, owing to a lack of education and awareness about the LGBTQIA+ community, our conservative society is yet to accept the law. It was still considered a luxury for the community to live like normal citizens. People coming out and moving with their same-sex partners continued to face harassment at the hands of the authorities and citizens alike.

A victory for common sense finally took place. In the first week of November 2021, NCERT released a training manual on the inclusion of transgender children in schools for teachers. This was a spring in the step for inclusion of trans kids in the very primary level i.e. school. In our country, gay marriage is illegal even after the decriminalisation of section 377. Hence, homosexuals still do not have basic rights as citizens. Lately, the Centre made a statement while arguing against gay marriages that marriage is a term only associated with heterosexual couples. The Dabur India advertisement on Fem bleach about a same sex couple performing the *karwachauth* ritual got bashed for the very reason that it offended sentiments of people who believed that it was against their culture even though the advertisement was not a proper representation of the queer community and rather a promotion of fair skin. Besides, the prominent reason for the company bringing down the ad was that people found it to be against their religious beliefs. Therefore, an LGBTQIA+ inclusive mindset is essential in our country.

A former RSS missionary, Vinak Joshi filed a complaint against NCERT under National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Later, NCERT took the training manual down. We were one step closer to having a healthier environment for our kids. Alas, a golden opportunity is lost.

