THE INQUISITOR

PICT MUN

Featured Article:

Coup d'etat
By Yugandhar Hujare
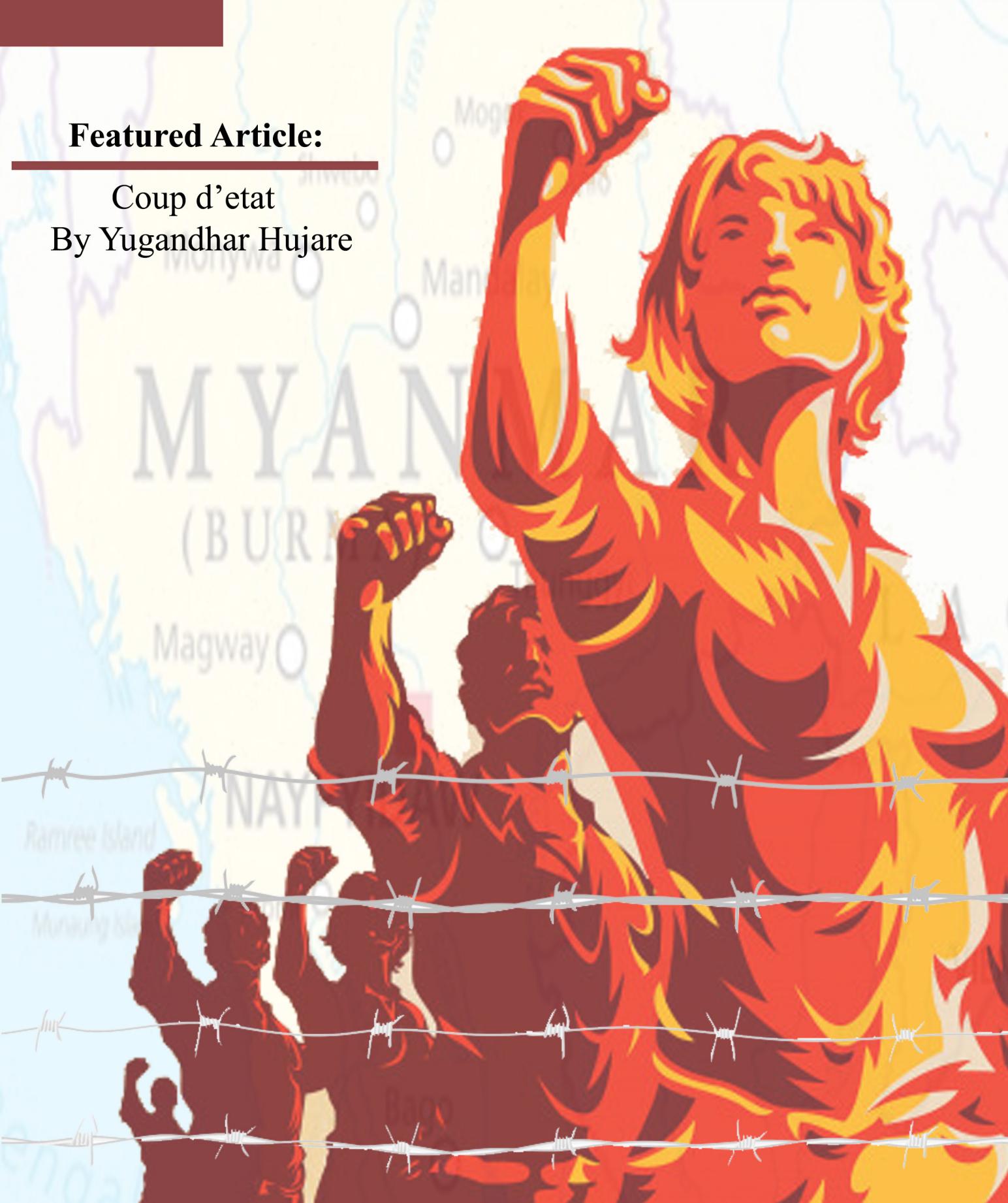
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Introduction

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 10.0 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 our interesting article writing contest- "WriteForUs 3.0". The contest provided a platform to express opinions on raging social issues where participants wrote articles on the following topics-
1. Women empowerment
2. Society and Social media
3. Cyberwarfare

Out of all the entries, the following top three articles are published in "Inquisitor 10.0".
1) Women Empowerment by Medha Badamikar
2) Society and Social Media by Shakti Tripathi
3) Cyber Warfare by Harsh Bhat

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

'News Media Bargaining Code' -
Will Tech Giants pay for News ?

Yash Kale

In today's digital age, the very meaning of news is changing in front of our eyes. For decades, the source of news for people all around the globe has been newspapers, radio or television broadcasts Today, on the other hand, news is literally at our fingertips. In the age of the internet, the sales of traditional media outlets have started to decline. Millennials and Gen Z prefer to get their news online over newspapers. A future where more people watch YouTube than Television isn't too far-fetched. To an average Joe, this just seems like an inevitable future, but to large media corporations, this situation seems very scary.

News Corp, Warner Media and Walt Disney Television are large media companies whose importance cannot be overstated. These companies employ personnel, reporters, journalists who report on news from all around the world. However, these multinational companies have large overheads and cost a lot to run. The competition for free content has never been more fierce, and hence, these companies cannot generate huge revenue like they once did. As advertising revenue spreads thinner, this business model no longer seems viable.

'News Media Bargaining Code' is a piece of legislation proposed in Australia to solve this issue. It includes mandating that registered media organizations will have key insights into how Google's backend systems work. The legislation also gives the media companies exclusive access to selected user data. Traditional media do have a modest presence on YouTube, currently news organizations operating in Australia make about 10 Million USD every year on YouTube. By comparison, Google and Facebook made 4.3 Billion Dollars and 0.7 Billion Dollars, respectively last year from

advertising revenue in Australia, according to a document filed with Australian Securities and Investments Commision. News Organizations want to mandate that Google and similar platforms would pay at least 600 Million USD every year to them, in exchange for the content they generate that gets freely listed on Google or Facebook.

The public that oppose the passing of the bill claim that this problem can be solved by decentralizing the news media giants and reducing operational overheads. Furthermore, anaccess to Google's data and a peek at the algorithms might also be an invasion of user privacy. They state that the Australian news media outlets, which are largely conservative, may abuse this power and use this user data to promote their content, restricting access to other articles.

However, according to a poll, the majority of Australians agree that Big Tech has too much power and must be regulated. They also supported the moves to make Facebook and Google pay for the mainstream media content. Australia has a long history of market intervention, from high wages to strict gun laws, and soft protectionism for favored companies like the country's four major banks.

In response, Facebook banned users from sharing links to Australian news sources. Australian users were banned from sharing any news links - national or international. Pages of Australian publications were not allowed to host any content at all. This was to protest against the proposed laws. Similarly, Google also ran a campaign against the draft media code, arguing that it was unfair and also threatened to cut off 'search'. Google encouraged its users to fight the proposed legislation with yellow warning signs that read "the way Aussies search every day on Google is at risk from new government regulation". Google also took the campaign to YouTube, telling creators to forward their concerns to the ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) with objections, which is supposed to be Australia's anti competitive watchdog. The prime minister too stepped in and warned them against employing "coercion" in their opposition to his plans.

After a week of intense negotiations between the tech giants and the government, changes were made to the code. The amendments require the Treasurer to take into account whether the digital platforms have already struck commercial agreements with news publishers before passing further regulation to make the code formally apply to them. In the event the Treasurer decides to enforce the code, the tech giants must be given one month's notice. Another change will add a two-month mediation period into the code to give the parties more time to broker agreements before they are forced to enter a binding final-offer arbitration process. This comes on top of the existing three-month negotiation period.

Facebook has already agreed with Seven West Media to pay for news content and has restarted negotiations with Nine Entertainment Co. Facebook also attempted to restart negotiations with News Corp. Mr Zuckerberg assured that Facebook's intention was to reach deals with Australian news outlets. Google struck multimillion-dollar deals with major Australian publishers, including Nine Entertainment Co. Although Microsoft isn't covered by the current legislation, the company came out in support of the code last week, saying it was willing to comply with the reforms.

Australia's Senate has already passed the proposal and The upper chamber voted to accept the bill with the agreed amendments. The bill will return to the Australian parliament's lower chamber, the House of Representatives. This body previously passed the unamended version, so it is expected to agree to this edition. The House of Representatives is expected to vote onthe bill in the last week of February. If passed, it will then become law once it is signed by Australia's governor-general.

If the bill passes, it will make Australia the first country to implement such a system. In a blogpost on Microsoft's website, Microsoft's president Brad Smith said the United States Government should not object to Australia's media bargaining code, urging governments such as the US, Canada and the European Union to follow Australia's lead in forcing tech giants to pay for news content. Other countries have been eyeing the process, expecting to follow Australia's footsteps. The international news organizations hope that more countries would adopt this law, finally doing justice to their lost revenue.

Does US re-joining the Paris Agreement make a difference?

Sufiya Sayyed

Hours after being sworn in as the 46th president of the United States, Joe Biden took his position by undoing major changes the Trump administration had made, one of which includes re-joining the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement is a global plan towards tackling climate change, which is signed by more than 190 countries. The agreement works on a five year cycle wherein each country submits their increasingly ambitious climate targets in the form of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Each country is responsible to report their progress. How far are we from reaching these goals? Currently, projections suggest that the average global temperature will rise three degrees Celsius by the end of the decade. Even after multiple lockdowns and travel bans due to the pandemic, 2020 was by far the hottest year recorded. A variety of devastating repercussions range from the wildfires in Australia, to floods in India and various parts of Europe. We are far from undoing our mistakes.

Four years after signing the deal, many countries are falling short of their set goals. The countries submitted a comprehensive NDC report in 2020. According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the goals set in 2010 were to reduce CO2 emissions be by 54% by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050. However, after the analysis of 75 NDCs, it was found that the current climate policies fall short of what is needed and will not come close to achieving the Paris agreement goals.

Being a developed country and one of the largest polluters, the United States' contribution is crucial to reduce the global warming effects. However, a return to the agreement is nearly not enough in combating issues we face today and whose repercussions will last for a long time. The other countries wait to see whether US will strengthen their efforts to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Another important aspect of the agreement that the US needs to focus on is adaptation to the current devastating changes. Research shows that the population most affected due to these changing temperatures include the most vulnerable section of society. These impacts tend to aggravate the existing inequalities. To overcome the disparity, it is important to create more opportunities in clean economy jobs. Currently there are more than three million people employed in the clean energy economy. This would ensure a boost in the economy and a step towards sustainable development.

The next steps of the current administration are vital to reverse the time lost in climate inaction for past four years. It is important to reduce GHG emissions and invest more in advanced research

and development in order to find solutions which can help protect families and future generation. The US needs to cut its emission to 50% by the end of the decade to address the crisis and urge other countries to take action. President Joe Biden and administration are devising new NDC for lowering emissions by 2030 which is expected to be announce during Leaders Climate Summit on Earth Day on April 22.

The upcoming years will determine how we curb and lower the temperatures and overcome impacts of the past mistakes. We can hope for a change if every country follows their said targets and takes responsibility for their actions.

Coup d'état

Yugandhar Hujare

Irony and Tragedy have grappled the turbulent Southeast Asian country. Unrest has entrenched Myanmar, with citizens pouring into the streets to challenge Tatmadaw, the country's powerful military, after it overthrew the fragile democratic government in a coup d'état on Feb. 1

Myanmar's affair with democracy, civil rights and politics is a complicated one. Civil wars, military dictatorship and its human rights abuses have always been a difficult contour in the socio-political landscape since its independence in 1948. In 2020, The National League for Democracy (NLD), the political party led by Myanmar's not so civilian leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was poised to stay in power after winning what was only the second truly contested election the country has held in decades(though one in which many voters from ethnic minority groups were prevented from casting their ballots.). But, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government arrested human rights defenders during its previous five years in power, just as the military junta once imprisoned members of the National League for Democracy for their political activism and the delusion of the grand dream of democracy which eluded the people soon faded but the military-linked Union Solidarity and Development Party rejected the emerging results, urging that a fresh election be held with the military acting as observers and this is where things started going south.

The new Parliament was expected to endorse the election results and approve the next government. The possibility of the coup emerged after the military, which had tried in the country's Supreme Court to argue that the election results were fraudulent, threatened to "take action" and surrounded the houses of Parliament with soldiers. The military detained the leaders of the National League for Democracy and other civilian officials, including Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint, cabinet ministers, the chief ministers of several regions, opposition politicians, writers and activists.

The coup was effectively announced on the military-owned Myawaddy TV station when a news presenter cited the 2008 Constitution, which allows the military to declare a national emergency. The state of emergency, he said, will remain in place for one year. The military quickly seized control of the country's infrastructure, suspending most television broadcasts and cancelling domestic and international flights. Telephone and internet access were suspended in major cities. The stock market and commercial-banks were closed, and long lines were seen

outside A.T.M.s in some places. In Yangon, the country's largest city and former capital, residents ran to markets to stock up on food and other supplies.

The major question here is how the country ended up in this chaotic state. To answer that, one need not look too far in the history. The saga of abuse starts with the infamous Rohingya genocide, one of the greatest desecrations in modern times. Rohingya Muslims had faced decades of persecution under Tatmadaw rule, but it was General Min Aung Hlaing who masterminded a campaign of terror that forced more than three-quarters of a million Rohingya to flee the country. As Rohingya villages burned, nationalists rejoiced at the expulsion of Muslims, who were considered foreign interlopers. The army chief's popularity soared. Since taking power as the country's state counsellor in 2016, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly praised the army, while refusing to acknowledge the military's drive to rid the country of Rohingya Muslims. The world's most shimmering icon of democracy has lost her lustre. Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, 75, has turned into an apologist for the very generals who once locked her up, downplaying their murderous campaign against the Rohingya Muslim minority. Her strongest critics accuse her, as a member of the Bamar ethnic majority, of racism and an unwillingness to fight for the human rights of all people in Myanmar.

Yet even as Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi has squandered the moral authority that came with her Nobel Peace Prize, her popularity at home has endured. It is hard to think of a human rights hero whose global prestige has tarnished so quickly. Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi travelled to the International Court of Justice in The Hague to defend the military against claims that it had committed genocide against the Rohingya Muslims. She unapologetically insisted to the court that while "it cannot be ruled out that disproportionate force" had been used against the Rohingya, inferring genocidal intent presented an "incomplete and misleading factual picture." Her Facebook page once carried the post "Fake rape," abruptly discounting the systematic and well documented sexual violence committed against the Rohingya.

Across the world, with the rise of populist regimes bent on undermining human rights continue to enjoy popular support, people should realize that it's only a matter of time when the amoral oppressor hunts for another target. It is more important now, than ever to understand and act upon the words of John Kennedy: "The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened." Myanmar's failed experiment with democracy is a lesson for the rest of the world. The apolitical population, who are vary of the dirty nature of politics should realize that they can't afford to remain silent when its time to speak up!

An Episode on Digital Dynamism

As narrated by Shruti Kakade to Zeel Patel
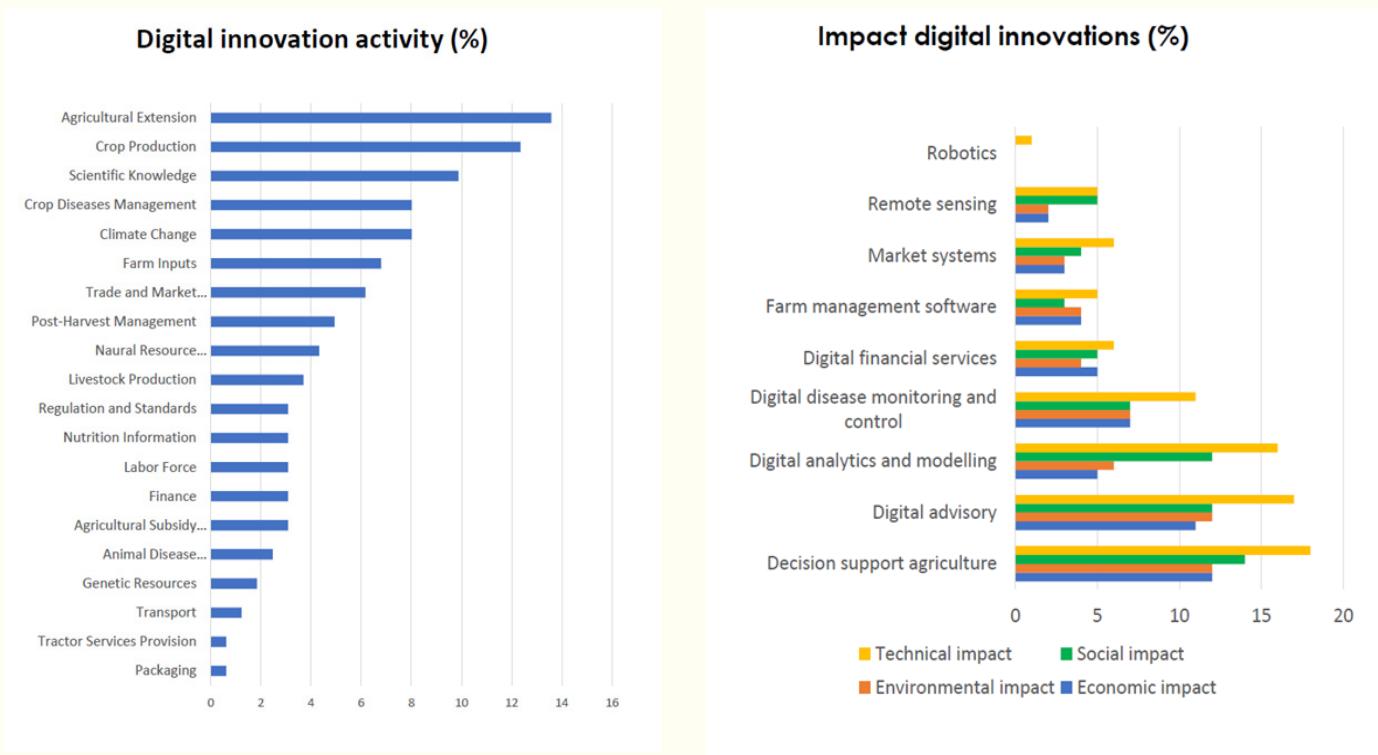
The agricultural sector is the backbone that supports everyone regardless of their nationality, gender or wealth status. Hence, it is crucial to support individuals that directly contribute to and are a part of the agricultural sector itself. Since the past decade, a lot of governments, organisations and individuals have put in efforts to make this sector more regulated and organised for the sake of the individuals that are a part of this sector. This step would enable concerned parties to carry out proper studies and surveys by which one could collect relevant data and generate conclusive reports that would, in turn reflect what kind of aid is required by the farmers. If all this data and all these reports are available on one single platform, individuals who wish to learn about the state of the agricultural sector and contribute towards it by taking up projects, etc. would save a lot of time and also produce better results due to the access to the vast amount of aid and resources that they would have. Here's where Digital dynamism comes into the picture.

It refers to the new food system-wide capabilities that can be built in the context of rapidly digitizing economies and societies worldwide, leveraging their speed, adaptability, ease of connection across actors and domains, the potential precision of resulting tools and practices, and new avenues for reaching scale. Digital Dynamism for Adaptive Food Systems, will examine food system resilience and highlight how digital tools and technologies can help us sense, respond and (re)build better systems in times of global food security crises.

The aim is to discover, map and evaluate how the proliferation of digital technology and data analytics in agriculture is contributing to the lives of farmers and agricultural service providers in developing countries' economies.

Shruti P. Kakade – a former Data Analyst and PICT alumnus- is currently working as an Applied Machine Learning Engineer. Combining data science, technology, data-driven innovations to make sustainable social changes in food, farming and society is something that Shruti is extremely passionate about. She is motivated to combine Digital Dynamism and closing the AI gap to find innovative solutions for huge problems prevailing in the world such as hunger and food security. Her passion to put technology and her data skills to make a sustainable change and help in the social outlook was why she started exploring different socio-tech events across the globe. Inspired to make a difference and get the exposure of an International network, she then applied for "Youth in Data Bootcamp 2020" where she had then been accepted as a Youth in Data delegate 2020 by Big Data CGIAR. At the Bootcamp, they thoroughly discussed the agenda- Digital Dynamism for Adaptive Food

Digital innovation activity (%)

Impact digital innovations (%)

Systems- along with several concepts such as 'Future Farming', 'Computational Stability', etc. The session also included data-driven innovations for food and nutrition security and animal health and welfare in the livestock sector.

The Agricultural revolution can be categorised into four major stages- The Adoption of Modern Agriculture, Mechanization Post WW1, the Green Revolution and finally, the Digital Revolution. Keeping this in mind, Shruti began to work on a project to incorporate Data Science to create a better guide in the agricultural and farming sector. Her project focused on the State of Evidence in Digital Agriculture. There is a rapid spread of digital innovation in all regions. India, Kenya, and Ethiopia are high regions for innovatory advancements. These have been

the markings to new beginnings in the farming sector. Vast changes leading to betterment in the field have made them a turning point in history.

Different reports marked that farmers are the primary target group of the current digital innovations and the focus is to support digital innovations and activity in developing countries. Digital innovation in the agriculture sector has an enormous impact. The efficiency increase is up to 75%, with the technical efficiency proving to be a lot higher than that of social, environmental, and economical efficiency. Along with making a significant impact, this changes the way traditional farming is perceived. Social changes like these go a long way in helping society grow and prosper. It is because of changemakers like Shruti, that all this possible and advancing!

WRITE FOR US

CONTEST WINNERS

Women Empowerment

Medha Badamikar

From time immemorial, women have been portrayed as beautiful, soft-spoken, obedient, submissive damsels in distress, waiting to be rescued by valiant, heroic men of honor. This depiction gave rise to the notion that women are dependent on others for their survival. It was this dependency that made women oblivious of self-identity. They felt indebted to the males, as it was the men's livelihoods that ensured smooth functioning of the household. The young girls would repeatedly hear from older women about how their role is to "sacrifice". No one told them that being in the reins of patriarchy is wrong. That going against the flow of prevalent practices and being a rebel is sometimes necessary.

Fortunately, the present-day scenario has ameliorated. Thanks to all the iconic women across the globe who believed they could change the perception of male hegemony. One such inspiration was Princess Diana. Her royal title demanded that she dressed, walked, talked, conducted herself in a prescribed manner. But she went against these predefined practices and went on to become the queen of common people. When she was combatting severe eating disorders and depression, she had absolutely no support from the royal establishment. According to a study, she was one of the most photographed people, which meant constant hassling by paparazzi. Despite such catastrophic circumstances, she did not disintegrate. She decided to stand up for herself. And that's what women today need to focus on. Self-empowerment.

A brilliant example of this is the self-help group

model in our country. A self-help group is a rural financial intermediary committee, comprising of 10-20 local women. The members invest small regular contributions for a few months until sufficient capital is generated. These funds are then used for lending purposes. The SHGs are further linked to banks for delivery of credit. The primary objective of SHGs is economic empowerment of women. Women are now able to monetize their dexterous embroidery and intricate pottery items, which they wouldn't have thought of otherwise. They independently deal with the money matters, which boosts their self-confidence.

It is worth mentioning that women have smashed stereotypical barriers by occupying deemed positions in fields like the automobile industry, right from running a locomotive, to heading a spacecraft. Significant participation of women has also been witnessed in finance, politics, national defense, and many other sectors, that were traditionally dominated by men. Gradual recognition and acceptance of women is being observed globally.
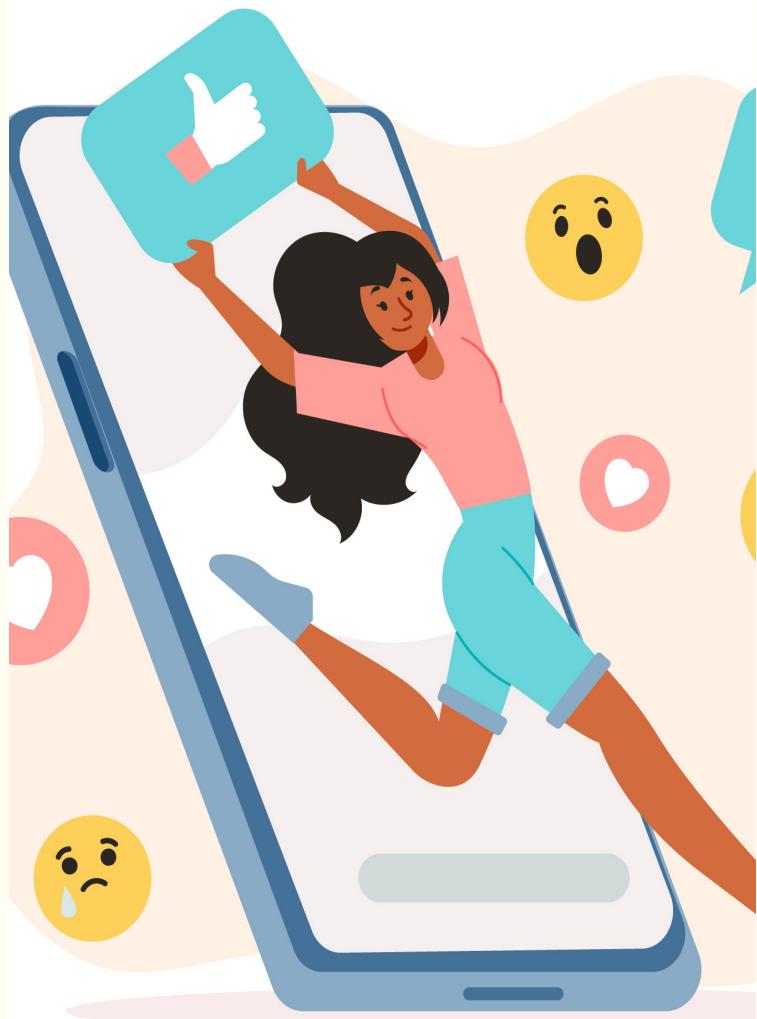
Yet thriving in a highly judgmental society is challenging. The dropout rate of girls from secondary educational institutions has still not satisfactorily depleted. Abundant awareness among all communities must be consistently created. The conservative mentality of a few should not hinder the upliftment of several others. After all, how long should women wait for the society to validate them? How long before it accepts them as equally qualified members? Either way, waiting for the governing bodies to address this matter is futile, since some of its own members possess a condescending attitude. When problems like women illiteracy and gender pay gaps are eradicated, only then can we say that our society is a "progressive" one.

Society and Social Media

Shakti Tripathi

Welcome to 2021, age of social media is on the rise or in other words is taking over the life and minds of people for good or for bad. Social media can be termed as a medium or platform for social interaction and also a way to access news from all over the world and stay updated. Its more like a compulsion these days to be on social media rather than a choice. The emergence of social media over past 20 years has largely been associated with development in Information as well Communication technology sector. The emergence has been gradual but exponential thus enabling its rapid rise .

Every Coin has two sides and this analogy is no exception for social media. Everything has good or bad side depending which outlook a person prefers. With Social Media, its pros and cons are neck to neck. On the pros side, its reach is unimaginable, from east to west, south to north, it just takes a moment to share anything with anyone on anytime. Influencing term has received a new dimension with introduction of social media as many influencers share their journey or path to success with thousands of people. Advertising has reached a whole new level which enables small, local businesses to grow and explore and increase their reach. Social Media has played a important role in bringing out truth or real side of many things most notably "Politics".
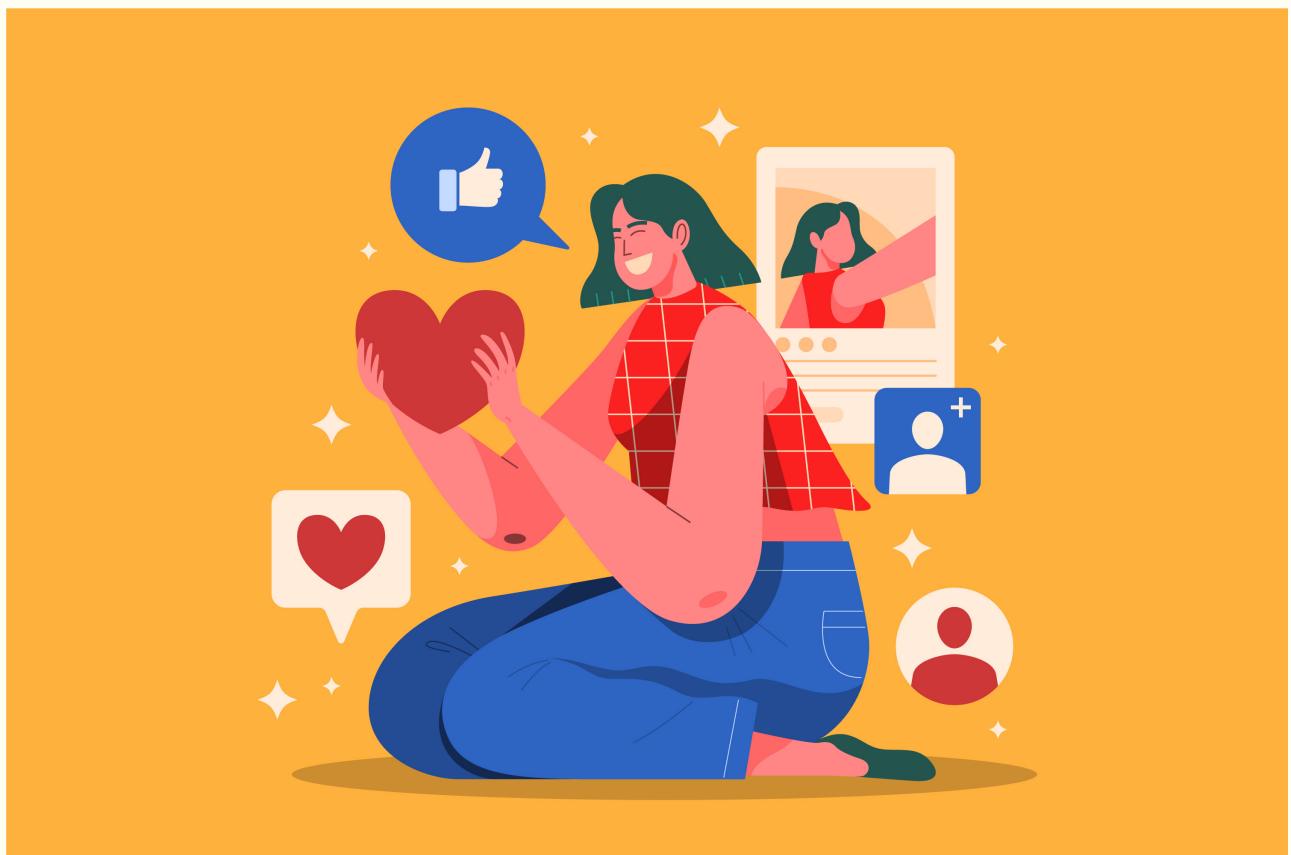
Various Scams have not just being exposed but also the level of exposure has been nothing short of tremendous showcasing the power and reach of social media. Interacting with people from different regions is an important part of an individual's personality development. We have seen talented people getting recognition they deserve and become overnight sensations. Platforms like LinkedIn have enabled people to find jobs online and build their network.

But on the flip side, things haven't been that rosy as they look. Showing off has become a serious issue as people especially teenagers have taken drastic steps to showcase the side of themselves that just does not exist. "What you see is what you get" has been modified to "What you see is what is real". Social Anxiety, Performance Pressure which were terms reserved for only for dictionary but are now clearly visible in our youth. Accessibility issue is a very undermined

threat as people get things that they don't need or things that they should stay away from. The urge to get likes , comments on Instagram, facebook, etc have altered the thinking of teenagers . Privacy is something we all value because there are somethings that we wanna keep it to ourselves. Several platforms like Facebook have been found of tracking their users but little to no action has been taken against them thus leaving the privacy at mercy of such platforms. It can be easily said that these platforms know people better than people themselves. Issues of tampering, take videos have put a lot of question marks on credibility of social media.

Lastly there is one question is social media a boon or a curse . Answer should be neither, it all depends on user. Knowledge of what's good or what's bad for oneself is best way to control something's influence on oneself and help reap it's rewards .

Cyberwarfare

Harsh Bhat

Cyber wars-What do we conceive on reading about it as lay men? We picturize a group of computer geeks writing some strange code and trying to hack into a system. Many people even firmly believe that its just a fad for people knowing about computers to gloat about. A few are ignorant to an extent where they deny any claims of cyber security and stuff.

But the reality is quite different and very harsh. Cyber warfare is the most extensive form of attacks, espionages and security concern all over the world. Its spread is so vast that even a person who is in least contact of technology has been a victim of cyber warfare at some stage. In fact, those with the least knowledge of technology are most susceptible to cyber crime.

We do have many pre-conceived notions when we us the word 'warfare' or 'fight'. We imagine the destruction, the heavy armory, guns, bullets, grenades and a lot of things. But the truth is, the scope of cyber warfare goes over and beyond the guns and grenades, and the destruction caused, real or superficial, is a lot worse than traditional wars.

The chief mode of weaponry used in cyber warfare is data. 'Data' is the most valuable commodity one can possess in the modern world. There's data everywhere and every time. Each word we speak is data. Each action we commit is data. Each minute, each second of our life generates unimaginably large amount of data. Now, it's a valid question that why is data so important? It is an invaluable asset as every bits and pieces of one's life can by accessed by accessing his/her data. Its is as simple as someone knowing your utmost private secrets. Just imagine its repercussions!

When this type of data theft is done on purpose for extracting extremely secretive information about policies of military alertness or political situation, it become a form of cyber warfare. Its like having spies all over the world on click of a button. The information gathered by these cyber spies can be put together to a devastating effect.

The first well-known incident of cyber war was the joint attack of American and Israeli computer worm called 'Stuxnet' which targeted the downfall of Iran's nuclear program in 2009 and 2010 and carried it out successfully. Although, the attack was explicitly denied by either country, it is understood that the worm was built in a collaborative effort known as the 'Olympic Games'. The worm 'Stuxnet' primarily attacked the automated electrochemical processes being carried out in the nuclear power plant and altered them without getting detected. The worm was introduced to the system by means of an infected USB drive.

Along with the cases of clear cyber warfare, there are dozens of prominent examples of cyber espionage being carried out by hackers. One of these examples is the infamous 'Night Dragon' operation which was initiated by Chinese hackers in 2011 for attacking few of the largest

European and American businesses. Another infamous incident was the alleged spying of Barack Obama during the American Presidential Elections of 2008.

From all the above stated examples, it is clear that no computer in this world is completely safe from cyber invasion. Hence, precaution becomes the most necessary form of defense against cyber espionage.

Prominently, we must become 'Cyber Literate' in order to protect ourself. We must have a firewall installed in our device and keep the software up-to-date. Ignore any suspicious emails, phone calls or text messages. Don't use unknown USB drives without scanning them properly. We always need to remember that we are the

first line of defense for our nation's cyber security.

To conclude, I just want to reiterate the fact that the era of cyber warfare may seem too futuristic, but it isn't. It is the world we all live in. Also, it is worth to note that in today's world, waging wars on military basis is a very difficult task for all the countries involved. But cyber wars and espionages can be carried out very easily all over the world with soldiers who sit comfortably in front of their computers. So, the knowledge of cyber warfare is pre-emptive.

Thus, cyber warfare is a challenge to humanity and must be dealt with properly or else, the repercussions are damaging. In words of Geoff Livingstone, aptly described-

"Cyberwar is the battlefield now!"

SOUTH AMERICA

Amid supply concerns, Brazil receives 2 million Covid-19 vaccine doses from India.

The Covid-19 pandemic has worsened gender-related violence in Venezuela, with murders of women having surged in the past year.

AFRICA

The COVAX program, a global vaccine-sharing initiative to reduce vaccine inequality in low-income countries, rolls out across Africa.

Rwanda's economy enters recession due to restrictions imposed to curb the coronavirus, piling pressure on the economy as thousands face unemployment and risk falling into poverty.

ASIA

US and Japan single out China as a threat, vowing to 'push back if necessary', in recent 2+2 dialogue.

Global alarm grows as 149 dead, hundreds disappear in ongoing Myanmar crackdown.

NORTH AMERICA

Minneapolis will pay George Floyd's estate $27 million after city council votes to settle lawsuit with family.

8 dead in Atlanta spa shootings, raising fear of anti-Asian bias.

EUROPE

Members of the European Parliament vote in favour of declaring the EU as a 'freedom zone' for the LGBTQI community.

Finnish giant Nokia to cut upto 10,000 jobs worldwide to finance new 5G drive.

AUSTRALIA

Tens of thousands rally in Australia to demand gender violence justice following allegations of sexual assault in the nation's parliament.

Large earthquakes measuring upto 8.1 magnitude near New Zealand's remote Kermadec Islands spark Pacific-wide tsunami threats.