



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



The race begins

Former minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam has made it clear: he wants to be a "president for a new era".

While Tharman has been widely respected for his work and public-facing candour, he's running for a job that many still see as purely ceremonial and, officially, non-partisan. A statement like his suggests a lot of things, but we'll have to see what he intends to put into black and white.

Meanwhile, his opponent, the candid and opera-loving businessman George Goh, has already responded. "If you are 20 years in the public sector ... you are already in a political system for so long," he says, according to a [CNA](#) report. "You are inside the box for more than 20 years."

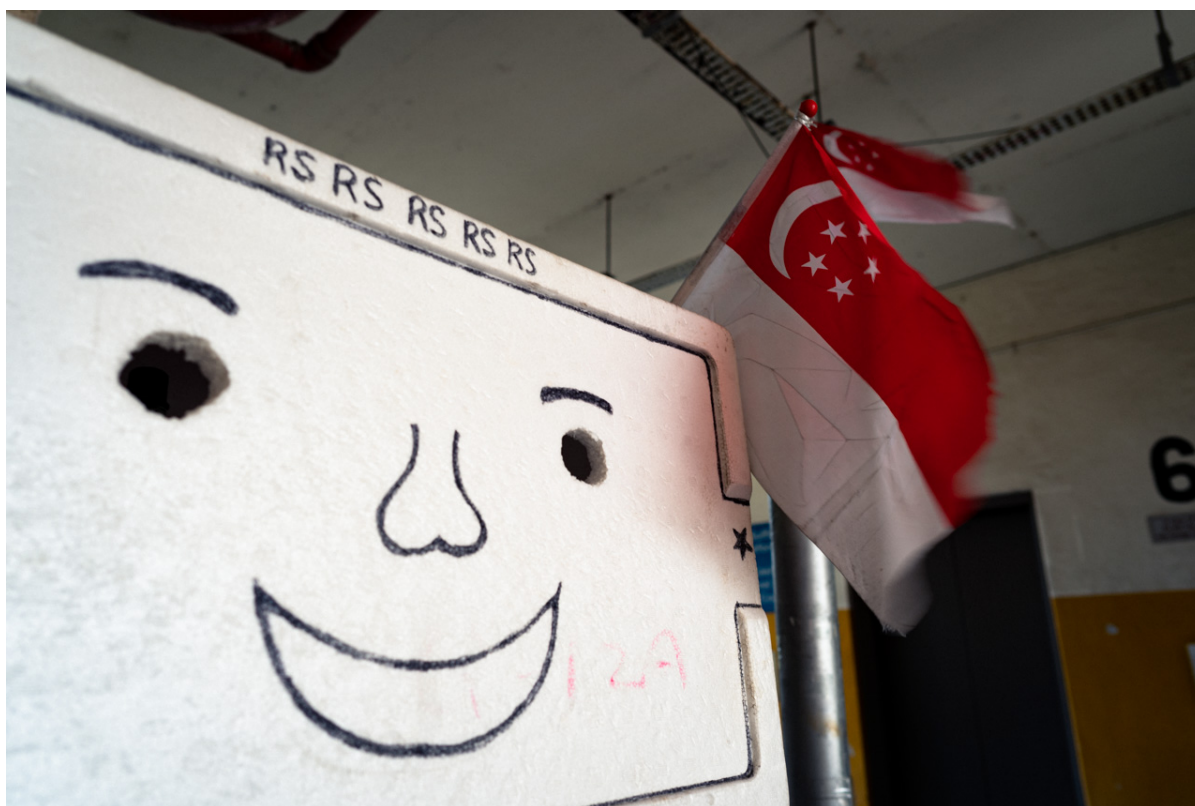
Ng Kok Siong, a former GIC chief investment officer, also in the running for president, submitted his agreement with a... Chinese idiom. "Our present is related to our past. We cannot easily separate our present from our past," [he told reporters](#) on Thursday.

That's a lot of words that don't tell us what they intend to do as president. August is going to be very interesting.

*P.S. We've also learnt some of you found your way here through your friends. If you haven't already, **subscribe** to our weekly newsletter today!*

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Definitions for a Debatable Nation



Singapore politics is facing a heatwave of tension and drama. No doubt, there's already a need for a definitive guide to Singapore's political lexicon.

Like our writer says, you're never too young or old to brush up on your political meme lingo this year. We still have four more months! Who knows what else will happen?

**The Urban Dictionary of Singapore
Politics for 2023 (So Far)**

With STDs, YNWA



In new, exciting relationships, the topic of sexual health isn't one to be had when you're having the time of your life. Yet, it's mainly taboo because it feels isolating. Our writer finds out how it doesn't need to be.

**The Unexpected Joy of
Undergoing STD Tests with Your
Partner**

Malaysia's Cross to Bear



You might've heard about the ill-fated Good Vibes Festival incident with The 1975 by now.

Matty Healy, its headline-grabbing frontman, has aspired to make his band a symbol of rock'n'roll obscenity with a message. Malaysia certainly received it, and what appeared to be an act of edgy transgression did not go down the way he thought it would.

**The 1975, Matty Healy, Malaysia,
and the Problem with Saviour
Complexes**

Fake It till You Make It



There's always the belief that late-stage capitalism is something we have to live with. These days, to get a job means to get shelter and food.

But what does it mean when we learn our colleagues in the trenches got there through ways that aren't, say, ethical?

**Would You Know if Your
Colleagues Faked Their Way Into
the Job?**

To Work and *Werk*



Many of us find ways to juggle our different hustles. Some are passion projects, some are purely income builders, some are just, well, fun. The dissonance is what can make life interesting in this crumbling world.

For Bryan Yap, a fashion model, he finds joy and meaning in his family's vegetable supply business.

**Carrots and Couture:
A Double Life as Fashion Model
and Vegetable Vendor**

Short Grains, or *piping-hot topics by the spoonful.*

- Ministers K. Shanmugam and Vivian Balakrishnan intend to sue over Ridout Road allegations by Lee Hsien Yang. Well, only if he doesn't apologise. (via CNA)

- Australian comedians had a field day over the Tan Chuan Jin scandal. (via *r/Singapore Reddit*)
 - This week, UFO believers have been feeling mightily vindicated. (via *The Guardian*)
 - China president Xi Jinping is setting his sights on Singapore, and you might even know why. (via *The Washington Post*)
 - Here's the full transcript of DPM Lawrence Wong's record-setting interview with BBC. (via *PMO*)
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Train enthusiasts are aplenty in an MRT train-rich Singapore. Here's a day in the life of one of them.

**The Boy Who Really,
Really Loves Trains**

We like to go out! We also hate our weather.

But as much as our team is full of contradictions, we simply can't go by our weekend without checking out some things. If you're still deciding on where to go, let us highlight some unmissable events for you:

1. World Chess Day is happening on Saturday, and you can bet that enthusiasts and professionals will be out celebrating it. Head on down to [45 Sultan Gate](#) for the festivities.
2. The world-renowned dance music party brand Boiler Room finally reaches our shores this weekend, thanks to Heineken and a host of talented Singaporean DJs. Tickets are sold out, but you can join the waitlist [here](#).
3. Here's one for the book-loving fiends: [Weekend in the Wormhole](#), a weekend of books, tarot readings and more at Old Airport Road.
4. Find your new favourite artists at [Illustration Arts Fest 2023](#) this weekend, which will also host paid workshops where you can get your hands dirty.
5. Flowers for you? Gardens by the Bay will be celebrating [Orchid Extravaganza](#), a showcase of regional orchids that will, no doubt, take your breath away before you can take a picture.

Rice Media Pte. Ltd.

27a Ann Siang Road, Singapore 069707, 069707, Singapore

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