



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



The state affairs stans.

We all know that one fella.

Whether if it was in school, at a 2am party in an industrial building, or at a crowded bar, most of us have that one guy who deems himself a "fan of politics".

You might think, at first, "*huh?*", followed by "*got such thing?*". Before you can even digest that fact, he's rattling off the tidbits he'd learned from reading Lee Kuan Yew's biography for the fifth time.

Digging into politics is a nerdy thing (non-derogatory)—there's specialized value in knowing the inner mechanics of your local government, along with exercising razor-sharp analysis on each minister in Parliament and what they bring to the podium.

But *politics*... well, isn't it a part and parcel of a democracy? Its impact trickles down to the average Singaporean in both highly visible and thoroughly unseen ways.

It seems hard to be a "fan" of something that sometimes requires your active participation as a citizen (eg. elections, policy-making, public measures). Playing *Magic: the Gathering* is a hobby. Indoor climbing is a hobby. Politics is more than a fact-sheet of people, places and events—it's a constant churning machine that affects our daily lives.

This came to our minds as the announcement was made earlier this week that Deputy Minister Lawrence Wong will officially lead the charge next year, succeeding Lee Hsien Loong. The facts of it are humdrum and plain to see. But it did get us thinking hard about the ramifications for Singapore's future. That, we're a fan of.

*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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Educating Amidst Enmity



Most of Singapore knows about Palestine. Not many of us have actually been there.

Even as vast, intimate perspectives are accessible to us over social media, what we know about Palestine and its people comes with the baggage of chaotic online discourse and misinformation. What is certain is that its people will continue to face immense danger and tragedy, lest a ceasefire be finally called.

Atikah, a volunteer now based in Lebanon, shares with us her experience teaching young Palestinian students—kids without the ability to "compare what life was like before the occupation and now."

What Teaching in Palestine Taught a Singaporean Volunteer

Monotonous Minister-isms



It's official: Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong is set to take up the reins of the role currently occupied by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

As our writer Kimberly notes, Wong's ascendance to the top seemed gradual and almost inevitable. She argues that Wong's quiet competence—while uneventful—could be a good thing for the country's future.

Why It's Good That Singapore's Political Power Transitions Are So Boring

Red Eye to Berlin



Debbie Chia, an avid lover of techno and all things dance music, didn't *need* to move to Berlin.

And yet, after a spur-of-the-moment decision between her and her husband, she now counts the German capital her home—a place where she can continue her craft as a DJ and, in recent years, a mother.

**Meet Debbie Chia,
the Singaporean DJ Who
Followed Her Beat to Berlin**

C What C



It's not a flaming hot opinion to say that the 5Cs touted as the components of an ideal Singaporean life—cash, credit card, condominium, car, and country club—is kinda lame.

Putting aside the changing aspirations of a wide demographic (some of us think condos are way too small), we're also working under an unrelenting economy. The 5Cs have long been diminished as a list of tangible life achievements—they're not even remotely appealing to some of us anymore. What now, then?

**The '5Cs' of The Singapore
Dream Are Outdated.
The True 'C' We Need Is Change.**

Rainy Day Guilt



You don't need to make any apologies for your GrabFood/Foodpanda habit—it's a lot more common than you think, even if demand is dipping this year. But, when push comes to shove, food deliveries end up being the only solution on a busy work day.

When such a day is also showering with rain, the urge to press the button comes with the knowledge that delivery workers battle the storms to get us our food. They tell us how they feel about this.

**Delivery Riders Speak on the
Ethics of Ordering Food on Rainy
Days**

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

- There are only four existing licensed kelongs left in Singapore. We speak to the owners of one of them as they fight for its survival.

- A month after his release on parole, Amos Yee is back in custody. He has new mugshots too. (via CNA)
- Ex-Malaysia minister Syed Saddiq—who previously made headlines in Singapore for, well, studying here—has been charged with corruption and sentenced to seven years' jail. He intends to appeal the conviction. (via The Straits Times)
- Another million-dollar HDB record: this time, it's in Ubi. (via AsiaOne)
- After its abrupt closure, Flash Coffee is now confirmed to owe S\$14.9m to about 120 creditors, including former employees. (via The Straits Times)



Vimen, a longtime volunteer at the Sri Mariamman Temple, shares what goes through his mind whenever he steps into the fire pit—as part of a tradition during Theemithi, which takes place a week before Deepavali—and why devotees and non-Hindus alike return every year.

**Walking on Fire: A Path of
Courage**

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. As with every year, Little India will be transformed into a full-blown Festival of Lights this weekend. [Here's what will take place in the district.](#)
2. And if that's not enough, the Indian Heritage Centre plays host to a [Deepavali Open House](#), which ends this Sunday.
3. Today, the annual [Affordable Art Fair](#) begins—just in time to stock up on gifts before the consumer rush of December.
4. Ever crossed paths with that one strange uncle at the guitar shop who insists Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* syncs perfectly with *The Wizard of Oz*? Experience it for yourself at [The Projector](#) this weekend.
5. For the rest of November, starting today, the film and TV characters of Warner Bros. will [stage a takeover at Sentosa Beach](#).

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