



# Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



## We're here!

2024, the year of the (\*checks notes\*) dragon, apparently. And so, we glide on forward, roaring.

We took a bit of time back in December to think long and hard about what we're doing here—nope, it's not a moment of existential doubt, but a literal evaluation of ourselves as an active publication and a business. Our editor-in-chief, Ilyas Sholihyn, wrote about it [in impassioned detail](#) earlier this week.

This week, we want to tell you how RICE intends to serve you in the coming year—one that also involves this newsletter.

---

*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!*

*If you like our content and our vibes, consider being a **RICE Media patron** to support the work we do.*

---

# What's Going On?



First of all, a new year means a bounty of opportunities for all of us.

In the past year, the stories we presented—whether it was from our talented in-house team or our network of veteran freelance voices—were met with responses that reflect so much about the country we call home.

Telling a story and breaking new information is one part of the deal; the rest is what you have to say in response to it. You, dear reader, make our work worthwhile. We're so glad you're with us.

Looking ahead we want to refine our mission statement as an editorial brand. As Ilyas put it succinctly, RICE intends to be **a clarifying voice that guides people through volatile change.**

We're not overhauling what we're already doing.

Want in-depth investigations? We got them. Want insights amidst confusing political events? Sure. Want deeply human stories? Frankly, that's what we love to do the most—and we don't see that changing.



Our focus now, instead, aims to sharpen the way we tell these kinds of stories (and more) through two specific prisms that, we believe, will encapsulate the Singaporean experience within the coming months ahead: **Jobs** and **Identity**.

## ***Jobs***



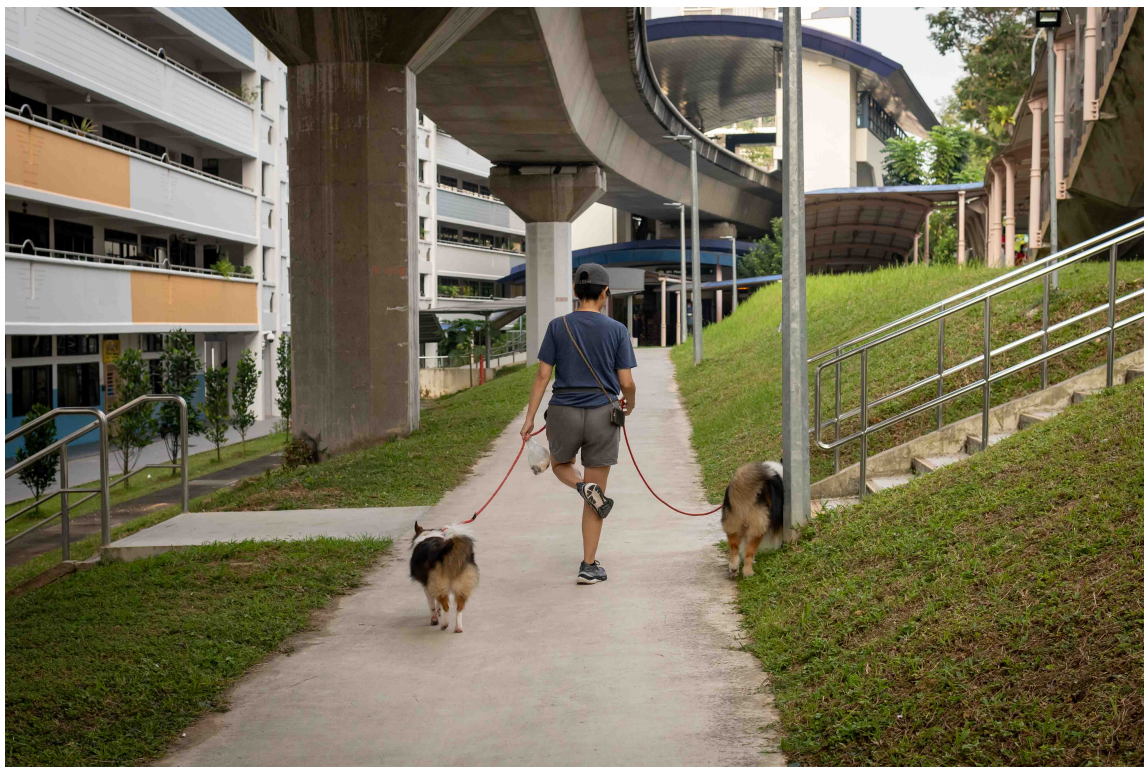
In Singapore, seeking change can come in several, albeit limited, forms. One, of course, is seeking a new path in your career. For those entering the workforce, it's tough when you aren't quite sure what you even want to do professionally.

This year, we'd like to embrace content that unpacks the culture of work and employment, as well as the impact of emerging technologies and societal trends on careers.

Broadly, though, it's a wider exploration of the changing definitions of success and how to make a living as a Singaporean.

Expect deep dives into career guidance, skills development, self-optimising, industry insights and entrepreneurship—thoughtful stories revolving around the professional realm.

## ***Identity***



Our jobs are also not our lives. This is why we're not turning into another LinkedIn, in case you were getting worried.

A big focal point for us is identity—the ability to form connections with the self, the people around us, and our larger surroundings in this country. It's a perennial and (we expect) crucial subject going into 2024.

Why? More than ever, our perceptions of self and others are coloured by the mediums we engage in: social media, breaking news, chat groups.

It's deeply personal in the way some of us reveal our true selves online—or at least a carefully-constructed version of it—and also deeply impersonal with the digital tools we have to respond to it. The ways we relate to each other can, sometimes, be thoroughly limited.

At the end of the day, we all just want to be seen. To be understood, to be accepted, and to be valued by others. That's the universal connection that ties everyone together, despite differing backgrounds, beliefs and communities.

## **RICE Bowl**





These tenets are best represented by two new editorial series we'll introduce in the coming months: **Grindsets** and **Districts**. These will find a home alongside our current series that have been running for years, like **Singaporeans Abroad**, **Coming of Age**, **Intimates**, **Amongst Us**, and the like.

*That pretty much sums up where our editorial ship is steering towards.*

We're also lucky that we've been able to take RICE on the road—just last month, we got to share with you about our work at the [Ethos Books Festive Market](#), and we navigated tough topics about ethnic identity with [The Black Sampan](#).

This year, you can expect much more from us in physical spaces. As much as we love writing to you in front of a big 1080p screen (we can't afford 4K), we prefer meeting face-to-face. E-meets are so 2020.

And then, there's this newsletter, **Takeaways**, our personal dispatch to you. We started it in June last year to engage with you beyond the confines of social media. The last few months have been deeply helpful in allowing us to tweak this format—to **figure out how to best bring stories and perspectives to your inbox**.

Through this weekly digest, we've been able to highlight the past week's coverage for your pleasure. Additionally, we've also been able to contextualize and enrichen it with the work we've done in the past.

We're hoping to bring more exclusive content to you through Takeaways, along

with giveaways to add a bit of a spice at the end of a long week.

So, to wrap things up, we'd like to hear from you! Our inbox forever remains open at [community@ricemedia.co](mailto:community@ricemedia.co)—tell us what else you'd like to see from Takeaways, where you see it going forward, what goodies you'd like to stake a claim for, and so on. Who knows? If your words resonate with us, you might find them here in a separate column.

As always, **thanks for reading**. We'll be cooking up a storm this year, and we hope you're hungry for more.

---

**Rice Media Pte. Ltd.**

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

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}

You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[View in browser](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

