



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



S. Iswaran's leaving the country! Legally!

While he faces corruption charges, [CNA](#) reported yesterday that the ex-Minister for Transport will embark for Australia to help his son settle into university later this month. There, he'll likely guide Iswaran Jr. on the dos and don'ts of dorm life, telling stories of how "your old man" was probably "kind of cool". Maybe.

Listen, sir. If you're reading this, we know it's been a tough break for you this past month. Your son might just want you to bugger off. It's okay. (Also, you can buy tickets to watch *Wicked* in Melbourne [here](#)).

If you've gone overseas to study—in which case, lucky you—you've probably been through this ritual. And, depending on your relationship with your parents, it can either be incredibly helpful or incredibly annoying. This weekend, countless Chinese families will face that as they head out this weekend for the endless invasive questions from relatives. And that's on top of cleaning the house.

But, heck, it's a long weekend break, so let's kick back and enjoy what it has to offer. After all, at the end of it, most of us won't have corruption charges waiting for us. That's something to be thankful for.

*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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TikTok's CEO is Ticked Off



Last year, TikTok's Chew Shou Zi was put to task before the United States Congress over national security concerns with the wildly popular social media platform. This time, it got a wee bit... racist?

The Singaporean power player was terse and direct in his defence, but we couldn't help but sense another misdirection—an embrace of shallow identity politics to cloud over the real, pressing concerns of the app.

**TikTok's Chew Shou Zi
Really Wants You to Know
He's Singaporean**

Old School



We've heard the stories time and time again from both aisles. "Degrees are important!" says some fella. "Work experience matters more!" says another. But it isn't so clear-cut.

In partnership with Singapore Institute of Technology, we got to interview Singaporeans who decided real-world experience is crucial to lead them towards a degree worth their while. In corporate terms, it's ~synergy~.

**Is It Ever Too Late for
University?**

Detained Indefinitely



A new measure was passed in Parliament earlier this week.

The Sentence for Enhanced Public Protection (SEPP) may have an unassuming name, but its contents detail a new framework of preventive detention that's a little bit alarming once you look into it.

SEPP and the Moral Dilemma of Indefinite Detentions

Cheaper Thrills



The answers to the looming question featured in this piece's headline got immediate reactions from readers.

The consensus from our Facebook comments section alone reads as such: talk has gotten cheaper, lives have gotten cheaper, Singaporean citizenship has gotten cheaper. Spicy.

What Has Gotten Cheaper Over Time in Singapore?

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

- Corruption charges abound in the private sector, this time involving three ex-directors of Fullerton Healthcare. (via *CNA*)
- One of Singapore's oldest-living hawkers—the matriarch of Nam Seng Noodle House—has passed away at age 94. (via *The Straits Times*)

- In January, a Mr Coconut employee took to Facebook to allege unfair termination from the company due to her pregnancy. Mr Coconut didn't hold back in response, issuing a Facebook post with their "full investigative findings" that questioned her professionalism. (via Charissa Tan/Facebook)
- As expected, plan accordingly if you're travelling to Malaysia this weekend. It's going to be a crowded border. (via CNA)
- E-commerce complaints in Singapore have risen by 47%—one in five complaints involving the airlines, travel and hotel industries. (via CNA)



Amidst the festive rush of the incoming festive season, there's one place in Singapore that will be left mostly untouched—the CBD. Here's a poetic tribute to a place that goes to sleep when prosperity shines the brightest.

**Chinese New Year in the CBD:
An Oasis of Calm**

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. Unleash the dragon on the dance floor of The Projector at Cineleisure in the [CNY Wood Dragon Festival](#). Oh, and donations go towards relief efforts in Gaza.
2. Watch dragons dance around underwater. No cap. It's happening at the Sea Aquarium's [Spring in the Sea](#).
3. Dragons will be [lighting up the sky](#) in the form of drones, waltzing around the Marina Bay area.
4. Rediscover 1960s Singapore in an [audio-immersive tour](#) around the now-defunct New World Amusement Park.
5. Yes, another dragon-themed performance. This one's 88 metres long (because length really matters) and it lights up—all to usher in the good fortune we all need. Happening over at RWS' [Starlit Dragon Spectacular](#).

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