



The Marian Wire

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Wiring Marians Together

Edition No. 2

The Manipur Mayhem

On May 3, 2023, a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organized by the All Tribal Students' Union of Manipur (ATSUM) in the ten hill districts of Manipur. The march was held to oppose the long standing demand of the Meitei (the valley-based people group) community's inclusion in the list of the state's Scheduled Tribes (ST), which received a shove from an order of the Manipur High Court in April this year. Unfortunately, violent clashes between the tribals (who are majorly hill based), particularly the Kuki tribes, and the Meiteis in the district of Churachandpur broke out at the

end of the rally. The violence quickly spread across different parts of the state. There were already simmering tensions between ethnic groups in the Imphal valley and its surrounding hills after the BJP-led Manipur government started a drive to evict tribal villagers from reserved forest areas. Armed mobs attacked villages, set



house after house on fire, and ransacked shops and properties. The mobs brutally killed many ; including a young boy who was burnt alive along with his mother and relative in an ambulance while on his way to the hospital to get treated for a gun-shot wound, countless were injured. Even the central and state government officials were not spared of this violence and killing, simply because of their ethnicity. Despite curfews, internet bans, and the executive order of "shooting at sight" being imposed, the violence continued to grow. The state government and the state police failed to ensure law, order, peace, and stability in the state. The union government sent several columns of the Indian army along with several units of the CAPF to help restore law and order. Thousands have fled the state to seek refuge in the neighboring states of Assam, Mizoram and

Nagaland and become refugees. Many also fled to cities like Delhi across the country, to live with relatives who reside there. Over 50,000 people are displaced from their home state, afraid and uncertain of their future- around 350 relief camps have been filled wherein many live in deplorable conditions. There have also been calls for a separate administration and a separate state by all the 10 Kuki MLAs in Manipur, including two state ministers, alleging (in a press statement) that the N Biren Singh-led government had "miserably failed to protect" the tribal groups. The calls for a separate state or administration were sternly opposed by the Manipur government who is unwilling to compromise "the territorial integrity" of the state. In recent developments, heavy and sophisticated arms have been looted from police stations. This has become a serious concern for security officials. There have



been numerous instances of firing between security forces and "armed militants" and the setting off of "Improvised Explosive Devices". Security forces have so far neutralized around 40 "militants" and captured several, which the

which the State government alleges are Kuki. These allegations, however, have been refuted by the Kuki community. As the ongoing conflict in Manipur continues to simmer, the woes of the internally-displaced people- now scattered both within and outside the state- continue to grow. Most of them escaped with nothing but the clothes on their backs. The conflict has greatly impacted children and education in the state as well. While the adults' and parents' immediate concern is to have a permanent place to stay, students fear they might lose an academic year as they will, perhaps, not return to their schools. The school-going children, college/university applicants, and job-seeking youth in particular are staring at a bleak future. School textbooks, notes for competitive exams, and even academic certificates are among the things that were burnt to ashes by unruly mobs torching homes. Displaced higher secondary students have been particularly affected by the violence in Imphal. They haven't been going to school ever since the violence broke out.

The government has said that schools will reopen on the 1st of July but it is uncertain whether displaced students from both sides can ever come back. Those displaced who were to give exams like CUET, NEET, SSC, UPSC, UGC-NET, etc, and whose centers lie in Imphal, have had to miss these exams or wait in fear and uncertainty. Internet services in the state remain banned by the government who is apprehensive that anti-social elements would spread hate and false information while students and job seekers are unable to access the internet for learning and applying for jobs. Several working professionals are on the verge of losing their jobs, if that's not the case already, due to this ban. Such a loss cannot be compensated and will have a lasting impact on the generations to come. As someone who hails from Manipur, it makes me very

sad to see my home state flare up in flames. Off and on, over a period of time, Manipur has witnessed conflicts and violence in the past with different communities trying to assert their identity. The people are closely attached to their land. The recent conflict in the state, however, is of an unprecedented magnitude.



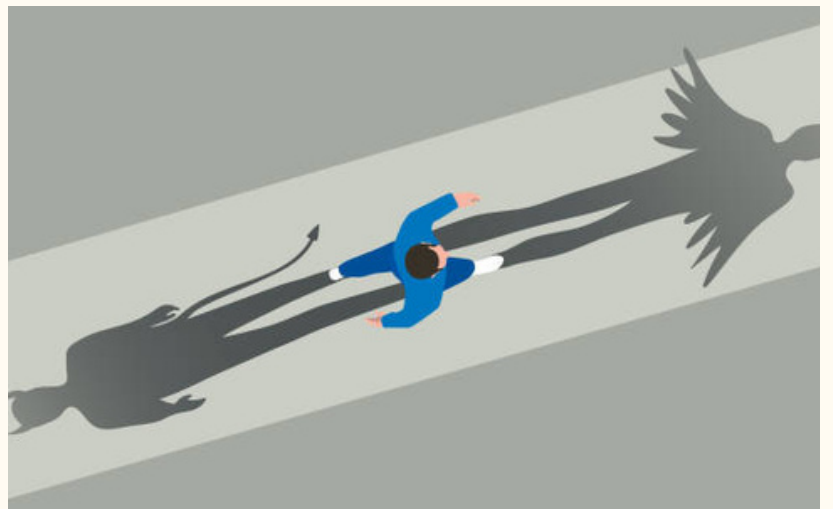
Everyone is looking for a solution and hoping to return back to normalcy. Pivotal questions still linger. In a region where the common people have been asking for the removal of AFSPA for so long, would it now help to bring in more and more army and CAPF troops into the state? Is "separate administration" the solution? Is there a solution that would be accepted by all stakeholders? It seems as though people have given up on having dialogues to find a solution to the problem. It seems impossible to live in harmony with each other for there's so much hurt and pain that has been inflicted upon people. Allegations and counter-allegations by different sides, strong support for one's own community, colored narratives on the conflict, etc. complicate the process to find peace and stability. There is no instant solution and finding a solution to the problem will be a prolonged political and social process. The lack, rather

absence of trust between the ethnic communities seem to be at the core of the conflict. I think to find a solution, to restore peace and stability, people must put aside their pride and ego and should be able to see what went wrong on their part, take ownership and apologize. Pressing allegations and blaming each other is not a way out. People must work toward trying, trying to have a dialogue, sitting across the table and talking through their differences. Giving up on dialogue won't help. I think healing the hurt and wounds caused by the conflict should be the priority and primary concern, so that trust is rebuilt between the communities. Then, and only then, I believe, will we be able to achieve a lasting solution to the conflict.

~Chihanya Ningshen

The Psychology of Evil

Have you ever questioned why individuals behave in specific ways, what determines a person's nature, or what may turn someone good or evil? Since man has been able to think, philosophers, dramatists, and theologians have debated these crucial issues, psychologists and social scientists alike are still searching for solutions in the present era. These same questions were posed to a well-known psychologist, and he received more answers than he anticipated. Philip Zimbardo is mainly recognized as the creator of the notorious 1971 Stanford Prison Experiment, a psychological study that startled the entire world. However, more than 30 years after it ended, Zimbardo has subsequently gone on to clarify what actually occurred, what it all means, and what he refers to as the Psychology of Evil.



The U.S. Office of Naval Research provided funding to Stanford University psychology professor Philip Zimbardo in August 1971 to conduct research on the psychological effects of serving as a prisoner or prison guard. As a result, Zimbardo and his research team recruited over 24 healthy, intelligent, middle-class male college students from the United States and

Canada who happened to be in the Stanford area to take part in the study. After they consented, for the following two weeks, they would be studied. A simple coin toss would decide whether they would play the part of a prisoner or jail guard. Zimbardo and his crew converted the Stanford psychology department building's basement into a temporary jail by blocking off the hallways, barricading the windows, and installing steel bars in place of doors. A videotape recorder was positioned at one end of the prison hallway, and an intercom system was discreetly installed inside each cell to record inmate discussions. When good individuals are placed in an evil environment, what happens? Does humanity triumph over evil, or does evil triumph? These were the questions Zimbardo posed. The experiment ended after just six days

due to the startling indignities and harsh treatment the guards had been subjecting the inmates to, which would seem to confirm the latter argument based on his findings. Prisoners were subjected to frequent beatings, humiliation, physical and emotional abuse at the hands of the prison guards,



often without cause; in fact, after just two days, the inmates staged a revolt against the officers. Three convicts were released within the first four days because they had suffered such severe damage. Most detainees grew unhappy and confused, while many guards rapidly turned cruel and oppressive. This clearly shocked the public, and the experiment was quickly criticized for its unethical procedures that allowed participant abuse and unlawful recording, to name just a few. The American Psychological Association has since then made a greater effort to examine and protect the ethical foundations of psychological research, and this is frequently cited as one of the most significant reasons for doing so. The Stanford Prison experiment's greatest and most enduring legacy, according to Zimbardo, is what it teaches us about humanity and its almost limitless capacity for both good and evil. In his 2008 Ted Talk, Zimbardo claimed that the Lucifer Effect is nothing more than the use of power. In order to explain the idea of the Lucifer Effect, he describes the outcomes of his infamous experiment, "And so what we're interested in is what are the external

factors around the individual- the bad barrel, not the bad apples?," he says regarding the Lucifer Effect and Heroism. Change the environment if you want to change a person. You must identify and unleash the full potential within the system if you wish to change the situation. Heroism We must not always be the victim of our circumstances, to quote Zimbardo once more, "Heroism is the antidote to evil and we must promote the heroic imagination, especially in our kids, in our educational system, we want kids to think - I'm the hero in waiting for the right situation to come along and I will act heroically". The Lucifer Effect is just how good people can turn evil in the wrong situations, the opposite can also be true, the right conditions may just make unlikely heroes out of anyone. The core tenet of social psychology known as "the power of the situation" is what Zimbardo was advocating, and

it is not new. The "Power of the Situation" theory, which is supported by the American Psychological Association, holds that social context has a significant impact on our thoughts, actions, and emotions. The use of this idea in the way we think about Good and Evil in human nature, however, is relatively new. Zimbardo even founded a non-profit research



and education organization called the Heroic Imagination Project, whose mission is to design creative strategies by fusing psychological research, intervention education, and social activism to create everyday heroes equipped to solve local and global problems. Their mission statement is "We believe ordinary people can make a difference." How do you become more heroic in your daily life? To become an everyday hero? According to Zimbardo and the research he inspired, there is power in using one's heroic imagination and visualizing oneself as a hero in waiting because the more we mentally prepare ourselves to intervene and challenge, the easier it becomes for us to tap into our innate potential for bravery, positivity, and altruism. Visualizing everyday situations like standing up to a bully or helping a stranger. Simple tasks like asking ourselves who we think of as our heroes, what traits they all have, in trying to mimic their behaviors, and looking for opportunities to be a little

more heroic in our daily lives, may develop our heroic imagination. Since "the opposite of a hero is not a villain but a bystander" , in the end, we should push ourselves to take the initiative in stressful situations. How can you be a little more heroic in your day-to-day life? Are you prepared to unleash your heroic imagination today?

~Pranjali Singh

The Steam at Balasore

On June 2, 2023, a tragic accident occurred in Balasore, Odisha, resulting in over a thousand injuries and more than 200 fatalities. India has a vast railway network spanning 115,000 kilometers, with over 12,000 trains traversing these tracks daily. An astounding two crore individuals commute by train each day. This incident revolves around three trains: The Coromandel Express, The Bengaluru Howrah Superfast Express, and a goods train. The railway system comprises two primary lines—an upline and a downline. The Coromandel Express was proceeding along the upline, while the Bengaluru Howrah Superfast Express was traveling on the downline. The Coromandel Express maintained a speed of 128 kilometers per hour. While both trains had the capability to safely pass each other, an unexpected occurrence unfolded when the Coromandel Express deviated from the upline, resulting in a collision with a stationary goods train, causing it to derail. Subsequently, some of its coaches collided with the approaching train from the downline. Was this entire accident a result of overspeeding? How did the train suddenly change tracks? The driver was permitted a maximum speed of 130 kmph, and he was operating at a speed of 128 kmph. In fact, the driver claims to have received a green signal, which led officials to absolve him of responsibility. Certain aspects of the incident are still under investigation, and further revelations may emerge in due course, shedding light on additional contributing factors. According to our Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnav, this accident occurred due to a change made in the electronic interlocking and point machine, leading to a failure in the signaling system. The investigation is currently ongoing. A similar incident took place in Mysore back in February of this year, highlighting some serious flaws within the signaling system. However, no substantial measures were taken to address

the issue. Therefore, the accident may be attributed to such negligence. In airplanes, there is a black box that records flight details and provides crucial insights in the event of a plane crash. It captures information such as the time of the incident, actions taken by individuals,



and other relevant details. Similarly, trains are equipped with a data logger that records data related to the signaling system, station activities, and the driver's actions. Analyzing this data logger will reveal a comprehensive account of what transpired. Unfortunately, certain media agencies deviated from this approach and instead chose to interview passengers, causing panic and frustration, rather than assisting the investigation. This approach proved futile since the true sequence of events can only be ascertained through a thorough examination of the event logger. Various peculiar reactions have come to light following the incident. Certain individuals are attempting to attribute a communal angle to the entire event. On Twitter, people began asserting that the accident occurred on a Friday and shared drone footage, suggesting that the nearby structure might be a mosque. However, it has been confirmed to be an ISKCON temple. Simultaneously, some politicians sought to exploit this incident for political gains. The focus solely revolved around assigning blame to a particular political party rather than addressing the necessary reforms within our system. This development is distressing news for India. Train derailments and accidents have been a recurring issue in India. In 1981, the Island Express collided with a local train near Peruman in Kerala, resulting in the tragic loss of over 150 lives, another devastating incident took place in 1955 when the Purushottam express collided with the Kalindi Express in Firozabad, UP, claiming 358 lives. In 1998, the Jammu Tawi Selda Express collided with the Kalindi Express at Khanna in Punjab, causing the death of 212 people. Furthermore, in 1999, the Brahmaputra Mail collided with the Awadh Assam Express in Assam, resulting in the loss of 290 lives. Several factors can contribute to train accidents, including the mistakes of the driver, signalman, mechanic, or even deliberate sabotage. According to a CAG report covering the period from 2018 to 2021, derailments accounted for 70% of all accidents, highlighting the persistent



occurrence of such incidents. It is imperative to urgently find a permanent solution to address this issue. How can we solve these problems? Kavach is an automatic train protection system developed by our Research Design & Standards Organisation. Its purpose is to prevent accidents by activating and taking control of the train whenever

the loco pilot, or train driver, ignores a signal. The system automatically applies brakes in such instances, effectively addressing the issue of Signal Past a Danger (SPAD), which is a major cause of accidents. Moreover, if an obstacle suddenly appears in the train's path, the system applies brakes as well. Thus, had the Kavach system been activated in this particular incident, it is likely that the accident could have been averted or its severity reduced. Another feature of this system is that it automatically sounds a whistle when the train passes through a level crossing, thus helping to minimize accidents caused by driver errors. A successful demonstration of the Kavach system took place last year. As of March 2023, it is operational on a total of 1,465 km of tracks, 77 locomotives and 135 stations. By March 2024, the system will be implemented on the New Delhi to Mumbai and New Delhi to Howrah routes, which witness high train traffic. However, it will take approximately 5 to 6 years to implement this system nationwide. According to our Rail Minister, the possibility of sabotage has not been ruled out, suggesting that someone may have intentionally caused this accident. Consequently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will be involved in the investigation. In a similar incident in 2010, the Gyaneshwari Express derailed, resulting in the tragic loss of 148 lives. Maoist group was found to be involved in that particular case. It is imperative to implement stringent measures to prevent such incidents. Employing various technologies such as CCTV cameras, drones, infrared sensors, radar, and LiDAR systems can aid in detecting any tampering with railway tracks. Our railway

system is under tremendous strain, leaving insufficient time for track repairs and maintenance. However, by incorporating advanced technology and enhancing our signaling system, we can significantly improve the safety and reliability of these trains, which are crucial for the well-being of the people of India. Disturbingly, the CAG report indicates that the funds allocated for track renewals remain unused. This implies that despite having a designated budget, repair and maintenance tasks often go unfinished due to inadequate execution. No amount of compensation can fully alleviate the pain and loss suffered by those who were injured or lost their lives. Nevertheless, it is crucial to recognize and commend certain remarkable aspects that emerged from this incident. Odisha is renowned for its state-of-the-art disaster management system, which swiftly mobilized 15 fire rescue teams, 100 doctors, 200 police personnel, and 200 ambulances to the scene. Local bus operators also played a crucial role in transporting the injured to hospitals. Within a mere 12 hours, over 500 blood donors came forward, with the blood banks having to turn volunteers away due to an abundance of supply. Remarkably, numerous women were among these selfless blood donors. Several companies also stepped up to provide assistance. Adani committed to offering free education to children who lost their parents in the accident, while the Reliance Group launched a comprehensive 10-point program to aid the victims. This group generously supplied free fuel for the ambulances engaged in emergency services and pledged to provide free ration for the next six months to support the victims. Reliance also extended support to women who lost their husbands in the accident by offering training and skill development opportunities. Thus, numerous individuals and organizations are actively contributing to resolving this crisis and providing relief to the affected people, showcasing the indomitable spirit of India.



~Pranjali Singh

'C' is for Chaos

What is this plight;

Who is right?

Where's the light?

Where are happy faces?

Must tears of sorrow be shed?

Where do we go

When we fight for rights and spaces?

Leaders, administration, and courts fail

Mistrust, insecurity, and fear upscale;

No time to listen, No time to introspect

Everyone's right, everyone's wrong

In everyone's eyes

Fire burns, sparing none

Smoke thickens- choking and blinding

A new generation.

Fueled by hostility,

Hurt people hurt people.

Bitterness and coldness, now nurtured

In ways to justify actions done and words spoken

Against injustices experienced;

"Unity in diversity!"

But divided by ethnicity.

*Even the stars abandon the Earth
They don't show up
When there is a desire to make a wish!!*

*Heart-breaking and agonizing
It is wounding!
Is the mess created
In itself or by itself?
Or is there a force that creates this mess?*

*'C' is for chaos
'C' is for calm;
The two contrast
One must leave, one must stay.*

~Chihanya Ningshen

Ecotopia

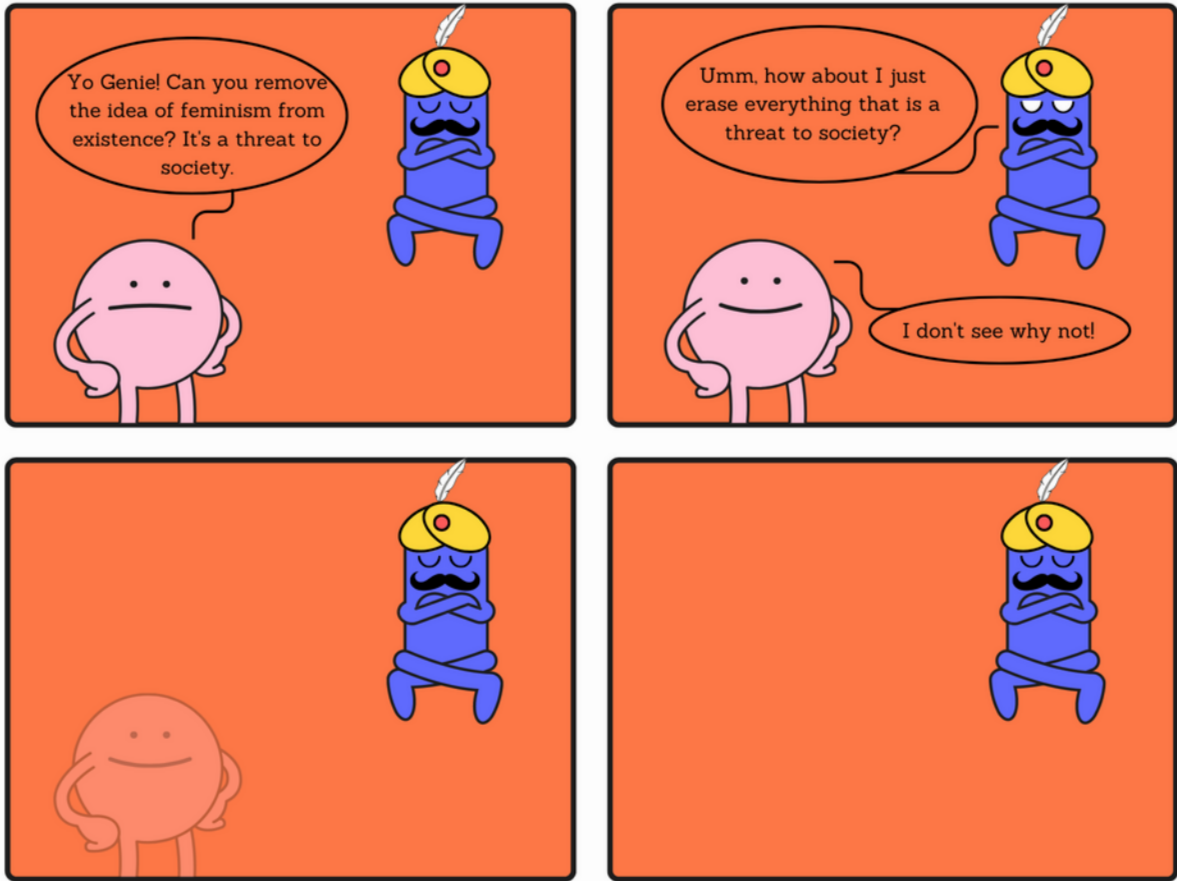
The Concept of a Green School refers to one that creates clean and eco-friendly surroundings for its community; for instance, by using sustainable energy. In St. Mary's, it has a pseudonym- Ecotopia which also stands for the club that will lead these changes. This article includes data and remarks on how our school has been achieving some significant milestones, in this pursuit. Wastes generated from school include- food waste, floor sweeping remains, sanitary waste, aluminum foil, stationery items; plastic is the most abundant waste in this assemblage. Separating waste is the first step in managing a school's trash. One of St.Mary's policies is following and advocating the 5 R's- Refuse, Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Recover. It has been practicing the usage of two separate bins to segregate dry waste from wet waste. A persistent sustainable approach is taken towards development. It seeks to educate teachers and students about environmental sustainability

through involvement in various workshops and activities. Students are asked to practice efforts to achieve the common goal of a sustainable environment. In the past, many noble initiatives have been carried out by students. Gate duties by chosen green warriors make students walk their last 500m to school to decongest the road, this helps in creating a pollution free and peaceful environment, benefitting both the students and the nearby residence. Some students had created bio-enzymes for sanitation, eco-friendly syrups made from citrus fruit peels and jaggery after 3-4 months of fermentation. They can constitute the cleaning syrups we use, as they are more affordable, efficient and eco friendly. Students collected used paper, soaked them in water, created a mesh of it and produced recycled pages. When E-waste is produced, our arts and crafts team, occasionally, incorporates them for art work. A zero-waste and sustainable approach in a school requires rethinking how we use and reuse the resources available to us. It also involves encouraging the idea of a sustainable society. A long road awaits us as it is something that can only be obtained through continuous implementations of a variety of eco-friendly practices, as opposed to occasional individual efforts. This is only possible through the integrity of the people who will follow and believe that- St. Mary's School, one day, would be called - 'The Ecotopia'.

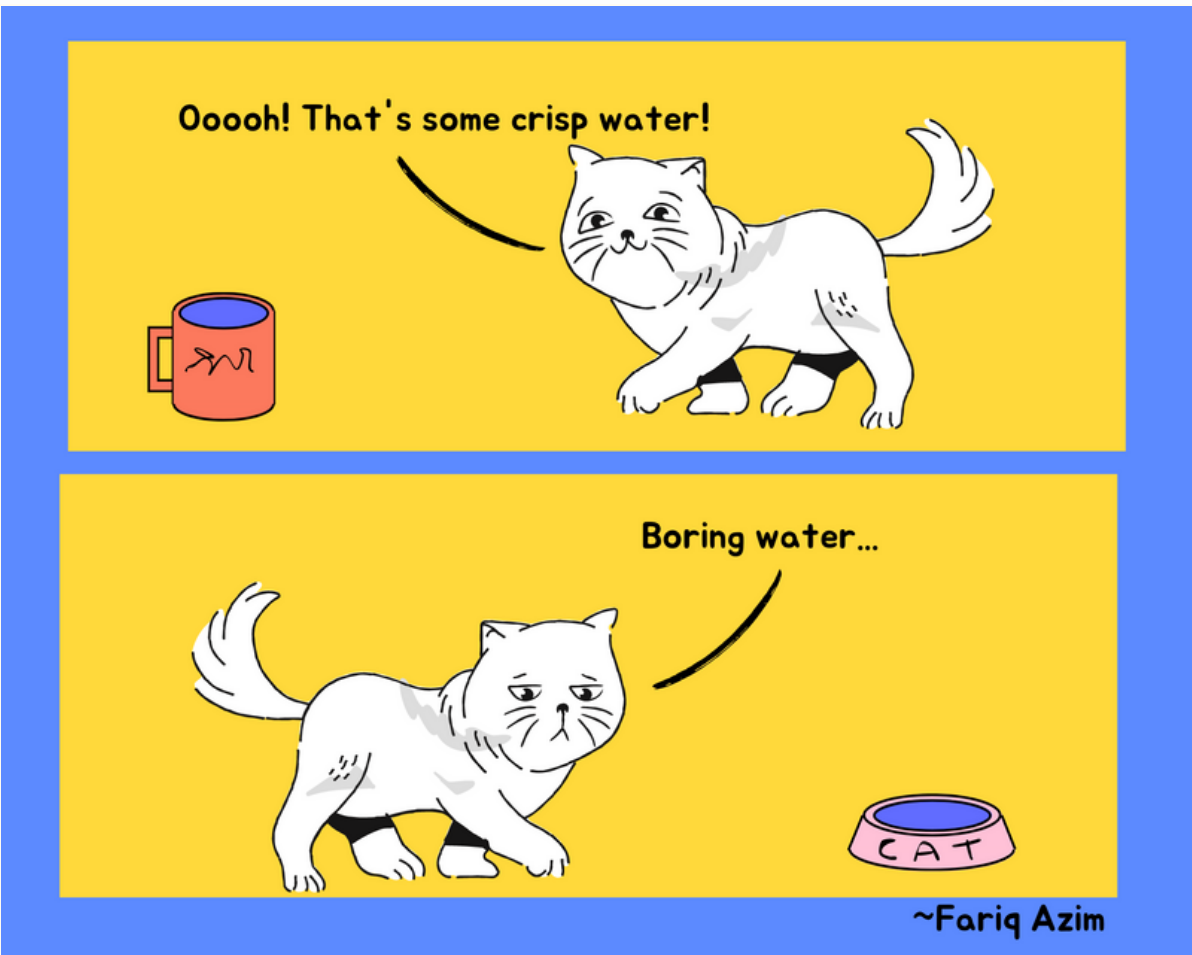
~Nelly Christopher

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Be the first one to solve this
sudoku and mail it to
themarianwire@gmail.com
to win a prize!



~Fariq Azim



~Fariq Azim

About Us



The Marian Wire is a non-funded, liberal and uncensored newsletter. We bring to you crisp news, unadulterated and transparent. We cover a wide range of topics, from socio-political issues to what's happening in the school.

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