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# SYMERAKI

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**Head Of International Press– Vaibhav A. Chugh**

**Editor In Chief– Siddharth Goel**

**Editor– Sanya Mehta**

**Layout Designer– Harshul Chugh**

**Discuss. Deliberate. Debate.**



# WEAPONS OF WAR

“Nuclear weapons that could be sold or stolen and fashioned into a nuclear weapon exist in dozens of nations. Just the smallest amount of plutonium- about the size of apple—could kill and injure hundreds of thousands of innocent people.”

- Barack Obama, former president of United States of America, 2010

The General Assembly continues to work towards resolving and improving global cooperation and reaching consensus on nuclear disarmament. The delegates from around the world are working to solve the greatest international conflict of this moment. The objective of Non-Proliferation Treaty is to prevent the spread of the nuclear technology and to promote its peaceful use. But has it really been effective in the continuously growing world of terrorism? Are nuclear weapons completely eliminated?

It's useless to disarm the hands, if the heart remains armed. The discussion revolves around that Peace is not just the end of wars, true peace arise by creating the opportunity that makes life worth living and to do this the countries must confront the common enemies of human beings; nuclear weapons.

Most states have chosen to forgo nuclear weapons, and have complied with their commitments under the Nuclear- Non Proliferation Treaty. Yet some states view such weapons as a status symbol, and some view them as means of defending themselves against the powerful nations. Today countries like China, India , Israel , France , North Korea, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States hold enough nuclear weapons that can destroy the planet hundred times over. Many people around the globe are still looking for solutions to fear their fear of nuclear weapons

Countries like Pakistan and India continue to make effective efforts to criticise each other by because of their relations and might be in a state of war with them anytime, whereas Israel proposed long-standing policy of deliberate ambiguity with regards to its nuclear program. The committee is hoping to find a solution towards achieving global peace and corporations that will improve the security and substantially enhance prospects for preventing the acquisition of nuclear weapons by new states and terrorist groups.



## This Tax is Easy, Right?

The Goods and Services Tax is perhaps one of the most comprehensive tax reforms this country has ever seen. It has allowed the country to be governed under a single market, simplifying many of the different tax structures across the nation. Considering this Law affects not just the Central government but also their rather tumultuous relations with states, one wouldn't shy away from calling Mr. Modi anything but an experienced statesman as he managed to successfully pass it through not just the Parliament but also 50% of the state legislatures.

However, this would be a rather rudimentary reading of the situation. Ignoring the flawed implementation of GST, Mr. Modi's ability to pass this law was not dependent on his popularity, but instead the hold his party has over the state legislatures. Unfortunately for him, the Indian political system has been growing more partisan over the years. Bills in the Parliament are no longer judged based on the benefits that would trickle down to one's constituents. Instead they are judged based on who introduced it. Any suggestions by the opposition are refuted not because they might be botched but because of partisanship. GST too had a rather similar path through India's *democratic institutions*. *After all, when UPA tried to introduce a similar law through the Parliament, it was opposed by a certain Chief Minister of Gujarat.*

### But, who is to blame?

Arun Jaitley was blamed for the dire state of the Indian economy by senior BJP leader, Yashwant Sinha. After all, Mr Jaitley was a key factor in Mr Modi's campaign. Modi went away from his party's usual Hindutva rhetoric and used his track record as proof that he could grow the economy further. All of this seems to be fading away now. GDP growth rate is slowing down and accountability is at an all time low. However it would be wrong to burden Mr. Jaitley alone. Mr Modi has managed to foster a culture of despotism where members of party aren't allowed to question his decisions. 'Double speak' is used frequently to change the rationale behind seemingly irrational decisions, such as that of demonetisation; which is happily consumed by right-wing media as common sense. It is the Indian political discourse which has allowed for complacency to be commonplace. *Culture war issues are used to decide one's party affiliation, and state of the economy is just a given part of it. Foundational measures has given way to mere populism and no particular economic ideologies can be seen. So much for having a right-wing party!*



## Sneak Peek: Ministry of Magic

The debate seemed to be painfully dragging on, without any meaningful debate or solutions in sight when the Executive Board made an Ad Hoc change in portfolios; wreaking havoc on the unprepared.

While this change certainly came as a surprise, the Board believed this would encourage the delegates to think on their feet.

However, dissatisfied from the half-hearted debates that ensued, the portfolios were switched back to the original with a number of over-the-top updates being issued. The delegates, who were already reeling from the sheer astonishment of the situation, made attempts to come with half-baked solutions which the Executive Board deemed to be vague and lacking clarity.

A tangent was further added when the acting Ministers of Magic revealed that one of the members was actually a mole, leaking information to the other side. However, satisfactory justification was mainly lacking.



## HUMAN RIGHTS- AN ILLUSION

If human rights are a commodity which only the most “developed” societies can afford, then the United States’ attempted imposition of its own human rights standards upon the less developed societies of the world is both unrealistic and self-defeating.

Today they claim that this idea of ‘human rights’ is universal. However, so vague a term as “human rights” is easily warped to politicians’ advantage. The essence of it is demolishing over time and it remains as disregarded as The United States’ cultural history. Modernization has seemed to create a very futile image of human rights. The application and rightful claim of these rights remain in theory and have been dug deep in the archives of history and humanity.

It is satirical how we seek to secure territories and insensitively ignore the social aspect of it. The subjective nature of human rights, along with the limited resources owned by the governments, contributes to the delay of implementation of human rights laws in most of the countries.

The United Nations gains its sustenance from the funds contributed by the developed nations but it is the so-called less developed countries that are working in the backdrop towards maintaining peace and security in the world. The efforts of these countries go unnoticed and it is the permanent members that enjoy the authority of decision making. It is funny because these very puppeteers were absent in the committee!

Human rights violations are evidently prevalent across the globe but there is ambiguity regarding who is accountability. Everybody seems to be doing their part but somehow it is still not enough. Questions remain unanswered and allegations remain unacknowledged. We are in this war but who are we fighting for?

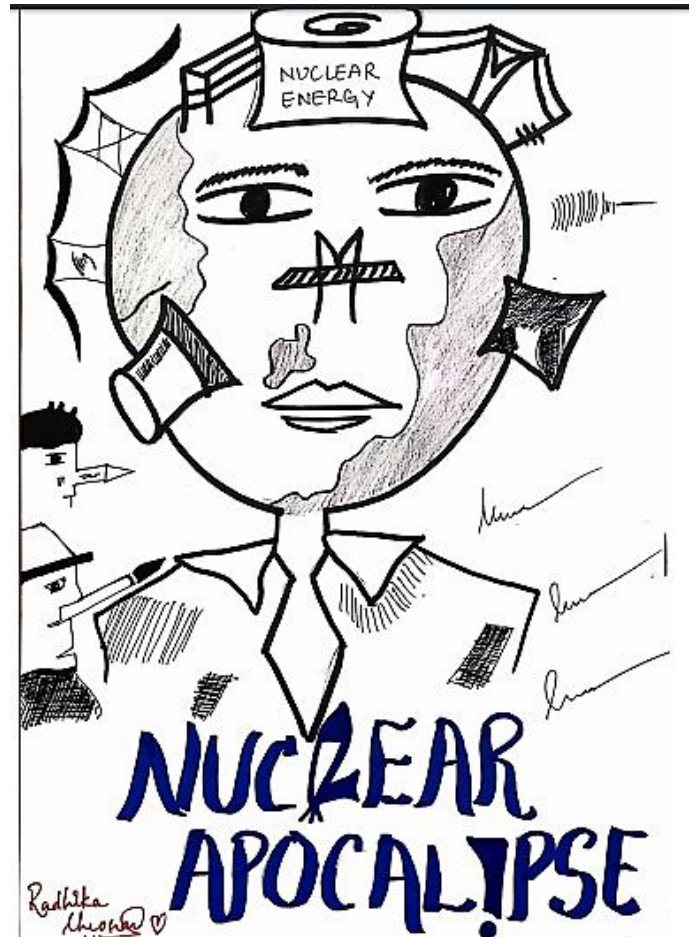




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Radhika Sheoran



# THE CRISTIC



**Heads of Photography—Bharat Singh Shekhawat**

**Parth Gupta**

**Photographers- Atul Pratap Singh**

**Shivang Sharma**

**Usama Shehzad**

**Himanshu Gupta**

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