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EDITORIAL

How does one focus on an Editorial for this issue? The world has gone mad. I try, but I can't find a glimmer of positivity in the backdrop of invasions, wanton killings, devastating climate disasters, and an attempt to remove a people from the face of this earth. I decided instead to introduce you to the contents of this particularly interesting issue.

Can you imagine life in West Bengal without rice? That is exactly what happened in the late 1960s and early '70s when rice was not available in the open market. 'A Rice Story' is about the impact of scarcity, both personal and political.

There is another story of Tara Chand Wazir's chance encounter with M. K. Gandhi on a train on his way back home to Kashmir. The story is all the more interesting because Mr Wazir was quite unusual. He confesses, 'I myself knew precious little then about Gandhi Ji!'

M. K. Gandhi is the focus of another article, this time from the medium of photography. From the vast material available on a much-photographed personality, the article foregrounds the little-viewed photographs taken by his grandnephew, Kanu Gandhi. A question asked repeatedly, and to which there is no answer, is brought up once more: how is it that no photographer was present when Gandhi was assassinated?

Amongst the personalities of this same period, Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1917) is an unfamiliar name these days. Affectionately called the Grand Old Man of India, this article comes to you on his 200th birth anniversary and highlights his personal achievements and public contributions.

Moving to the contemporary we have an almost philosophical article on the present-day global crisis, most appropriately christened 'Time of Monsters'—from political events to climate change and more.

Most people in this country have little respect for the police. Yet, it is an institution that citizens should look up to with trust, confidence and hope in times of distress and crisis. Written by a former police officer is an article on building and maintaining community trust for successful policing and law enforcement.

In the Summer 2024 issue we carried an article on India's G20 presidency. The author now offers a balanced assessment of Brazil's G20 leadership, and also the challenges faced by G20 in the near future.

Finally, the photo essay, this time in my much preferred monochrome, that speaks so much more through shades.

Sit back and enjoy reading this issue.



OMITA GOYAL