



STAFF PICKS - 2

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NTMN was known for its witty takes on the politics of the day, social issues, the media, youth, everyday life, and popular culture. This e-book is part of a series that celebrates the legacy of some of the sharpest satire published on the Indian web before comic videos went viral and fake news became evil.

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Vyapam scam accused found alive under mysterious circumstances

August 20, 2015, Pratul Bagri

The conspiracy deepens. Another alive body has left the police perplexed.

The Vyapam scam took a turn for the worse when another person became victim to the claws of life. The body of Mr. Srinivasn was discovered by his wife, and was found to be quite alive and breathing at the time and after.

An ambulance was called and Mr. Srinivasn was rushed to nearest hospital. Unfortunately, the doctors declared him alive on arrival.

Currently, Mr. Srinivasn is in critical unit where he is fighting baseless claims that someone is killing all the accused in the Vyapam scam case.

Mainstream media was seen fervently praying for his ill-health and a quick recovery to the nearest grave.

Asaram Bapu to wear red mini skirt to get back his bhakt base

August 18, 2015, Punita Maheshwari

“My close aides advised me that it is time for me to take a new avatar. Devotees seem to like the red dress trend. If that is what my followers want, I wouldn’t think twice about entertaining their wish,” said the holy man from the prison.

It was Rupesh, a close aide, who suggested this move to Asaram. “Since I am not currently dealing with the assault case slapped on Asaram Bapu, I decided to take up the PR position. I strongly feel *bhakt jans* are desperately longing for a new avatar of baba.”

Asaram was seen in jail, dancing around in a skin-tight red t-shirt and a red mini skirt with a red cap. The red avatar *darshan* is now just a click away as his social media experts have shared his pictures on the internet.

However, it has been made clear that the pictures shared online are just a trial *darshan* and money will be charged after the trial period is over, the charges will be inversely proportional to Bapu’s skirt length.

Skirt outsourced from Radhe Maa

The skirt was apparently outsourced from Radhe Maa and is already creating much fanfare among the loyal followers.

Meena, a *bapu bhakt* had tears of joy upon seeing Bapu in skirt. “Just look at him, who else can be a better incarnation of God than this pure and pious soul dancing, and showing just enough legs,” she said wiping her tears.

First ever coalition *babgiri* formed

In order to reinvigorate his *bhakt* base Asaram will be forming a first ever coalition *babagiri* with Radhe Maa. “Both our fan bases contain completely different demographics,” the PR agent said.

“Hopefully this sharing of power will be beneficial for both of us. Eventually, we plan to cut in the *bhakt* share of other babas,” he added.

Meanwhile, sources have confirmed that in order to face lift the rapist’s image, Honey Singh will be composing some hip *bhajans* that could appeal to the misogyny of his ardent followers.

Narcissist Arvind Kejriwal's name spelled on his birthday cake, people shocked

August 16, 2015, Pratul Bagri

Megalomaniac, egomaniac and Machiavellian Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, was again in the news today and this time for yet another display of his abuse of political power.

Celebrating his birthday the Chief Minister had the audacity to have a cake with his name written on it. And eat it too!

Such ludicrous display of self-glorification has created an outrage and has positively “broken the internet,” much of twitter was in abusive mode over this self-masturbation.

People of Delhi are rightfully regretting bringing this Maoist scum to power. We talked to Mr. Adarsh who had much to say about this commie.

“I am absolutely appalled that a Chief Minister would force the cake makers to write his name on it. This clearly displays his communist tendencies. Such narcissism has no need in a democracy, to think that one could have such an ego is abominable.”

Kejriwal denies

Mr. Kejriwal has denied that it was his name on his birthday cake or that he was aware of the pre-planned birthday party.

He however said, and we quote, “I agree this is a wrong practice. I will stop this practice forthwith.”

Mr. Kejriwal later tweeted pictures of Sheila Dikshit’s and Najeeb Jung’s cake which had their names on it. However, a backlash followed immediately where people said that it was exactly because of previous government’s self-glorification that he was brought to power and now he was following the same steps.

Sources say that slogans of “Jai Arvind” instead of “Jai Hind” were shouted on Independence day and have further confirmed people’s view that Arvind Kejriwal is indeed a Naxal power monger.

(With inputs from Aashish Aryan)

Citing constitutional authority, Lt Governor Najeeb Jung cancels Kejriwal's lunch order

July 25, 2015, Shridhar Kurlageri

In what appears to be another case of power struggle in Delhi, Lt Governor Najeeb Jung displayed his dominance by cancelling Delhi Chief Minister, Mr. Kejriwal’s lunch order.

This exercise of authority has sparked an outrage in the Aam Aadmi Party.

Sources have confirmed that the cook at Kejriwal *bhavan* departed for a ten day vacation and Mr. Kejriwal had to order his food from outside.

After waiting for an hour the Chief Minister inquired about his *Dal-Roti* order from “*Jaggu da Dhaba*” and to his dismay his order was cancelled by Lt Governor Najeeb Jung.

Official confirmation given

Mr. Kejriwal received an official letter about the order cancellation from Mr. Jung. The letter contains detailed explanation of how Lt Governor has constitutional authority to override the orders of the Chief Minister.

The office has insisted that the Lieutenant Governor is the sole authority in Delhi on any major issues, including top appointments.

According to the office, Lt. Governor also has the authority to decide what Mr. Kejriwal eats, who can marry whom, who should be opening for India in test matches, whether Jadeja is in the team as a bowler or as a batsman, and does Rohit Sharma really has the potential.

Government of India approves

Government of India came out in support of Mr Jung. BJP veteran, Mr. Rajnath Singh issued a statement in favour of the Lt Governor.

“There is nothing illegal being done here. It is the prerogative of the Lt Governor to decide what can be ordered for lunch by a Chief Minister and what cannot be. This is all for the good health of Mr. Kejriwal.”

Currently the matter is with Delhi high court . The decision on whether Kejriwal can order *Roti* and *Dal* for lunch will be decide by Delhi high court by next week

Dr. Shashi Tharoor intellectual, eloquent and really, really hot, people have admitted

July 22, 2015, Pratul Bagri

In the light of Mr. Shashi Tharoor inflicting third degree burns on British colonialism during an Oxford debate, people have admitted that the Member of Parliament is intellectual, eloquent and really, really hot.

“I have always thought Dr. Tharoor was good looking, but when I saw him debate about Britishers owing reparations, it became quite clear that not only is this guy cute, but is actually really fucking hot,” said Prashant, a student at Delhi University.

“I mean, the way he dismantled the Britishers with just his eloquence is secondary to him being good looking. It really is his eyes that does it for me.”

“I would totally tap that,” Prashant added.

Shashi Tharoor just a pretty face?

Not everyone is happy with this new found hotness of Shashi Tharoor. Mrs. Kavita Jagmohan, a prominent journalist has said that many people are overlooking Tharoor's brilliance and are just looking at his face.

“Some dimwits are just listening to him because of his handsome face. The words that come out the mouth of this Greek god are equally important. His eloquence while speaking and the way this handsome son of bitch flicks his head to adjust his glorious hair—perfectly partitioned by Jesus himself—is brilliant.”

“For many people Shashi Tharoor might just be an eye candy but not for me. His sound logic and arguments are most inspiring. His sensual English accent, chiseled face, lustful eyes that radiate with the intensity of a thousand burning suns, might impress some people, but not me, not at all,” Mrs. Kavita said.

Delhi people would rather go back to President's rule, Yogendra Yadav's internal survey reveals

July 16, 2015, Kumar Pratik

NTMN's internal survey, conducted by our latest member Yogendra Yadav has revealed that Delhi people would rather go back to President's rule than prolong their suffering under the AAP regime.

After Arvind Kejriwal took his Robinhood Pandey image to its limits by hiking petrol and asking for donations from people on the same day, the people of Delhi were seen revolting loudly at their TV screens.

In what seems to be a classic case of “realizing the value of good things once you see the worst”, Delhites have regained their senses and are seen desperately reminiscing the good times of the Presidential Rule applied in the state before the incumbent government.

“We miss you, Najeeb”

“It was the petrol price hike that really did a number on us,” said Mr. Gupta. “Though he was already getting on our nerves with this reckless spending on advertisements and hosting parties for religious communities with our money.

And then, he says that the government is bankrupt. No shit, Sherlock. And he had the audacity to ask us for donations!,” Mr. Gupta said greatly, missing the President's rule.

“Ah, those were the days, when the future of Delhi was undecided and the state assembly was in suspended animation. Good times,” he added.

Congress 2.0 in making?

Arvind Kejriwal who is too busy building the Congress 2.0 of the country through opposing BJP by any means possible was unavailable for comment and was spotted sharing a cup of coffee with Janta Par Vaar leaders Nitish Kumar, Lalu Yadav and Mulayam Singh at Connaught Place CCD.

Meanwhile, former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit was seen fuming at the survey results. “If they wanted Presidential Rule, I could have just continued there as The Governor. Do you have any idea how expensive moving and shipping charges are nowadays?”

At last, Mr. Kejriwal was seen resorting to desperate measures by trying to perfect his cough.

(with inputs from *Pratul Bagri*)

Rape case lodged against a man a day after he called Akhilesh Yadav fat

July 14, 2015, Shridhar Kurlageri

In what appears to be yet another case of politicians misusing their power to influence the truth, local man Amit was booked on for a rape charge, just after the day he stated a factually correct statement i.e. Akhilesh Yadav is fat.

Amit, who was discussing politics and the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh with his friends at a tea shop, casually said “*Akhilesh bohot mote lag rahe hain aaj kal.*” This was supposedly overheard by a member of the Samajwadi Party. When Amit woke up the next day, he found the police at his door step with an arrest warrant against him.

Being called fat a greater insult than being called incompetent

Azam Khan of the Samajwadi Party said, “how dare someone calls our Chief Minister fat? Akhileshji has been called corrupt, incompetent, inefficient, opportunist, and many other things. But he has never been called fat. This is a great insult to our leader. ”

Amit’s father said that they have been receiving threat calls from Akhilesh’s supporters. When confronted about this Azam Khan said “This is all false. Akhileshji goes to gym everyday. He is of course hurt by such misinformed statements. But he would never threaten anyone for calling him false names.”

Don’t like it? Ban it!

A bill has been legislated and submitted in Uttar Pradesh assembly that makes it illegal to call Alkhilesh Yadav fat. Taking a cue from this the Congress party has banned the use of more than 200 words for Rahul Gandhi. Words like dumb, *pappu* useless, *buddhu*, *shehzada* and Rahul Gandhi itself are a few of them.

Vyapam scam declared a natural disaster by Madhya Pradesh government

July 3, 2015
, Shridhar Kurlageri

Madhya Pradesh government today held a press conference and declared Vyapam scam as an official natural disaster. This announcement comes after the death of 41 people related to the scam, 24 of which are unnatural.

All the ongoing investigations of these unnatural deaths have come to a halt as the government has blamed wrath of god for these deaths.

Speaking to the media the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh said, “whenever mankind indulges in heinous activities, and immorality takes over the society, god punishes us with such natural calamities. God has served the justice. More people will be punished for their crimes by the god.”

When asked about further justifications for closing the investigations into unnatural deaths, the Chief Minister replied, “is the police or CBI greater than god? Are the rulings given by a court better than the god’s rulings? Justice has been delivered and don’t you worry all the 2000 suspects who have been arrested and questioned by the police will also be served appropriate punishment.”

Opposition backs the move for the first time in history

This move by the MP government has attracted praise from unexpected corners. Digvijay Singh of the Congress party said, “this is a really good way of handling scams. I think we missed a trick or two when we were in power. I think this is a far better approach to handle scams than [Zero loss theory](#). It’s never too late to learn. Rahul baba has already enrolled into “*How to turn scams into Natural disasters*” course at IIN. I personally think this course should be made compulsory for all politicians”

Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh government has set up a Vyapam disaster relief fund to help the victims who are still alive. If sources are to be believed Prime Minister Modi has ordered 1,00,000 packets of Maggi to provide relief to those suspects who have not yet been claimed by the Vyapam natural disaster.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi completes yet another selfie tour

May 18, 2015, Pratul Bagri

The one year of Modi *sarkaar* in power was wrapped up with the completion of yet another selfie tour by the Prime Minister. For the first time in history even the Mongols were caught off guard and were shot by the selfie-specialist.

Mr. Modi who just returned from China after signing a series of important selfies made it straight to Mongolia for a different selfie background.

Why the obsession with selfies?

While some say that the Prime Minister is just trying to fit in with the cool kids other believe that Mr. Modi is trying to set a world record of “Selfie-with-every-world-leader.”

Rumour around the Lutyens zone say that an Instagram page of the leader will soon be functional. While some people might look over the achievements of Modi government and criticize his selfies, Modi *bhakt*s have given the name “*Shiv-selfie*” to the phenomenon. *Bhakt*s have been sighted worshipping the *Shiv-selfies* accompanied with “*Namo-namah*” mantra.

On the other hand, the selfies have been generally well-received among common folks. “With all the work he does I think there is no harm in taking selfies, I think this kind of personalization is fun. People know what their leader is up to,” said Mr. Rajdeep, the father of Selfie Pe Kharcha *yojna*.

“As long as he doesn’t make a duck face while clicking pics, I am a happy man,” he added.

Selfie Pe Kharcha

Sources have confirmed a new scheme called Selfie pe kharcha. Formally known as “Narendra Modi Front Camera Yojna”, is a scheme in which people will pay to take a selfie with the Prime Minister. Under this *yojna* common folks would also be allowed to inspect the 56-inch chest of Mr. Prime Minister. A signed selfie with the Indian leader could be exchanged for a cup of tea anywhere in India, sources say.

(Concept: *Shridhar*)

Elitist in love with Bollywood after watching Furious

April 21, 2015, Pratul Bagri

Changing his opinion quickly, a 23 year old self proclaimed Hollywood aficionado is apparently now in love with Bollywood after watching the much hyped *Furious 7*.

Always known for subjecting his friends to his pseudo intellectual snobbery, Mahesh is now all for movies with unintelligent plot lines, physics defying action scenes and aesthetically appealing actors who look nothing like common folk.

This change dramatically took place after watching the movie *Furious 7*, whose action scenes could put any South Indian movie to shame.

“It was an absolute cinematic experience,” said Mahesh. “I now realize Rohit Shetty sir, god bless him, was trying to bring this treat to the Indian cinema,” he said commenting on the huge feats of physical impossibilities performed in the movie.

Reportedly Mahesh used to detest Bollywood for its “leave brains at home” movies. His friend, Mansi shed some light on how Mahesh turned into completely different person with completely new found wrong opinions.

A few months back, after watching *Birdman*, Mahesh vowed never to see a bolly flick again. “Western movies have always influenced his personality,” Mansi said. “After watching *Birdman* Mahesh turned into a pretentious prick, he publicly belittled his best friend for watching *Bodyguard* reruns on the television. ”

“He used to call Bollywood ‘literally Hitler’,” Mansi added.

On being confronted about this U-turn in less than 6 months, Mahesh was quick to take offense.

“Look man, I have grown, we have all grown.”

“Furious 7 has left a deep mark on me, I want to watch movies with skimpily clad women who only function as eye candies, I want to watch movies like *Bol Bachchan* which reinforces gay stereotypes, I want to watch movies which do not require any brain work, we do that enough in life, and most importantly, I just want to watch some cars getting blown up.”

On being questioned why would anyone want to subject their to eyes to such nonsensical movies, Mahesh just said two words, “My choice.”

At last, Mahesh was seen commenting “The good die young :(” on Paul Walker Facebook fan page.

(Idea: Brototi Roy)

Ashok Khemka to transfer himself after six months; says not used to working for more than that

April 6, 2015, Vishal Dayama

Ashok Khemka, the honest IAS officer got into the news again and surprisingly this time, it wasn't the government's fault. After getting transferred to tourism, Mr. Khemka declared that he will transfer himself to another ministry after a long and productive period of six months.

Explaining the logic behind his decision he said, "I am not used to working under secure and peaceful conditions for a long period of time. I need to pack my shit before I start loving this place. It won't be easier for me if the government transfers me to some Harappan-Mohenjodaro old age home after I finally start enjoying it here."

Ashok Khemka, who has been passed around more than Jennifer Aniston, was reportedly fed up with all the transfers and is choosing to do the deed himself to display his indifference to the government.

Government incapable of detecting sarcasm

Like most Indians, the government also seems incapable of noticing irony and sarcasm, and welcomed his decision happily. A senior leader said, "he can do whatever he wants to – we are no one to interfere."

Earlier, the same senior leader had inquired Khemka's family about his future plans. He also had records of his eating, drinking, walking, sleeping habits and knew exactly when he takes a shit.

On being confronted about this, the senior leader said that, this wasn't interfering. "This is snooping, which is a completely different thing," the senior leader explained his incorrect logic.

Khemka, in order to avoid the fate of late I.A.S officer D.K. Ravi , is considering a job offer from Robert Vadra's company. Reportedly, Khemka immediately got the offer after being removed as Haryana Transport Commissioner. Sources say that Mr. Vadra requires his expertise to scrutinize all the future land deals to avoid getting in another mess due to some *chipku* officers like him.

(With inputs from *Adarsh Ladda*)

Historians justify ban on rape documentary, say, "Knowing the truth is not part of Indian culture"

March 7, 2015, Shubham Agarwal

A day after the ban on BBC's documentary on the 2012 rape victim, "India's Daughter", many eminent historians in the country have come forward and tried to explain the phenomenon that has puzzled the greatest minds for many years now.

"I am holier than thou. No, I am holier than thou."

"Knowing the truth is just not a part of the Indian culture", the historians unanimously concluded. "Pretension and holier-than-thou spirit is what really sets this country apart. Truth for an Indian is akin to a pepper spray for a rapist. That's why it stings so much, you see." Ramachandra Guha, one of the renowned historians in the country, said to NTMN. "When in trouble, retreat into a bubble – that's always been the country's motto."

Let there be euphemisms, the Indian said

Another historian drew the analogy with how Indians lavish others with adjectives after their death while being plain cruel to them during their life. "It's amazing how 'I hated you with all my heart and am so glad to finally see you dead' actually comes out as 'He was a great friend and deserved to live much longer', isn't it?"

No country for truthful men?

We took to the streets and got the opinions of bystanders on the issue. The first person we ran into, the milkman whose water is often adulterated with milk, denied the notion of Indians running away from the truth. "This is a lie. We are always looking for the truth and well, that's the truth. Why? Because I said so. Now, get the heck out of here."

"There's always an explanation"

Our next ~~victim~~ respondent, the father of two teenage boys who has stumbled onto adult sites in his browser history one too many times also rejected the "obvious" lie, "Oh please, we are always looking for the truth in this country. For example, the other day I opened my browser and somehow lots of pornographic content popped up on it. Naturally, the first thought that came to my mind was that one or both of my boys were surfing these adult websites.

But, I didn't let that thought influence my decision at all. I got to the bottom of the issue and figured out that it was the work of a virus which opens adult content with the intent of creating

tensions in a happy family. Have I made my point already?" The NTMN reporter simply responded, "In more ways than you can think, sir. Thank you very much."

Women are a respectable 'entity' ~ Fanatics

Meanwhile, some moral-police organizations had a very refreshing take on the matter. Mr. Ram Bharosey, leader of one such organization said, "The truth is that in our culture, women are a respectable 'entity'. Women here, stay indoors, get married early, are laden with jewellery, remain under the *ghunghat* all their lives, and never question their male counterparts.

Such high values are embedded in our women unlike the west, where they roam freely according to their whims, indulge in whatever profession they fancy and are allowed to walk head to head with men. We will not tolerate such preposterous behaviour in our country. We are forward thinkers and we don't even need to watch that documentary to understand what it is. We will teach them a lesson in ethics."

Our view: The rapist in his interview didn't say anything we didn't already know about the mindset in the country and it is a view that has often been echoed by men in positions of power. As a country, we need to come out of our make-believe world of rich culture and traditions and need to accept our follies to root this menace out. Women in this country deserve better, much better and its our collective responsibility to ensure that.

BJP declares elections as the real winner in Delhi elections

February 11, 2015, Pratul Bagri

After suffering a staggering loss in the Delhi elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party has declared that the elections are the real winner in Delhi. Claiming it to be the victory of democracy and the rights of people, the BJP not once mentioned its defeat. The party flatly refused to acknowledge AAP's victory saying that "the real winner is the spirit in which the elections were fought."

"Hona hee tha."

Many residents of Delhi who were on sick leave to watch the elections are happy with the verdict.

"We all knew that this tri-series was a formality, AAP's victory was assured as soon as BJP opened its mouth," said Mr. Aggarwal, a Delhite famous for his sweets.

Meanwhile AAP is really happy with its performance. “Our volunteers kept up the pace, there were some misfields on part of Mr. Naresh Balyan, but overall we did splendidly,” said Mr. Kejriwal.

“The second powerplay could have been threatening when they brought in their new player, but Ms. Bedi was unable to hold her ground,” added the AAP convenor. Bedi, who had renamed herself “Wicket Bedi” just before the match, wasn’t able to take a single wicket.

“We deserve something for not tampering the EVMs.”

Amit Shah, BJP’s chief strategist, denied allegations that he failed to read the pitch conditions correctly and demanded the fair play award. “For the first time in Indian elections, there was no mudslinging, no cash-for-votes, etc., and this only shows that the BJP is committed towards upholding the spirit of the game.”

Ajay Maken, who was sure of his party emerging victorious reasoned that Rahul Gandhi had padded up to open their innings, but on learning that leather ball was being used and not plastic ones, he put on his helmet and ran off. He said that Congress couldn’t recover from this major blow.

Kejriwal said, “*Plastic ball se khelna hai to gali me khelo. Yahan hum sirf beamers aur yorkers daalte hain. Desh me kranti aa gayi hai.*”

Damp weather conditions didn’t deter the Delhi public as they came out in large numbers to support their team, with a record-breaking turnout for the game. Some supporters were spotted outside the stadium, and were angry that they weren’t being let in because they didn’t have voter ID cards.

Arvind Kejriwal, captain of the winning team, said in the post match conference, “They were concentrating on negative bowling. Negative tactics work in Test matches. *Yahan* it is called wide. Umpires were fair today, usually such big matches are fixed. There is a lot of money involved. *Yahi toh scam hai.*”

अनुष्का को किया बैन, नहीं मिल सकेंगी विराट से वर्ल्ड कप के बाद तक; सारे खिलाड़ी हताश

January 23, 2015, Rishabh Jain

भारतीय बोर्ड ऑफ़ क्रिकेट कंट्रोल ने ‘राष्ट्रीय हितों’ को मद्देनजर रखते हुए हाल ही में यह निर्णय लिया है कि वर्ल्ड कप के दौरान विराट कोहली की गर्लफ्रेंड अनुष्का शर्मा टीम होटल में नहीं आ सकेंगी। हाथों हाथ, बोर्ड ने बाकी खिलाड़ियों की गर्लफ्रेंडों पर भी रोक लगा दी है।

बी.सी.सी.आई. के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, “हमारा मानना है की खिलाड़ियों को अपनी और दूसरों की गर्लफ्रेंड से ज्यादा गेंद पर नज़र रखने की ज़रूरत है।” एक्सपर्ट्स के अनुसार इस फैसले का टीम के मोराल पर भारी असर पड़ने की संभावना है।

मुनाफ पटेल और रमेश पोवार को भी मिला आज बयान का मौका

भारतीय खेमे से एक खिलाड़ी ने हँसते हुए कहा, “प्यार से हमलोग मानते नहीं, लाठी से क्या ही मानेंगे। कोहली सर पे पूरा भरोसा है, कोई ना कोई रास्ता निकाल ही लेंगे वे, हीहीहोहो।”

वहीं, कुछ दिन तक जानेमाने पूर्व खिलाड़ी श्री रमेश पोवार और श्री मुनाफ पटेल ने इस फैसले को सही बताया है। दोनों का कहना है, “हमारे टाइम पर ये सब नहीं होता था। वो तो बस युवी भाई कभी कभार दादा को चकमा दे होटल से भाग कर किम शर्मा के साथ गुलछर्रे उड़ा लेते थे। नहीं तो हमारे टाइम ‘लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप ऑन टूर’ जैसी कोई प्रथा नहीं थी।”

जडेजा: हाथों को ज़रा भी आराम नहीं

टीम के बॉलिंग और बैटिंग दोनों में गोल, ऑलराउंडर जडेजा का कहना है कि, “तानाशाही बोर्ड को खिलाड़ियों की बिलकुल परवाह नहीं है। दिन भर बैट भांजो, हाथ घुमा घुमा के गेंदबाजी करो उसके बाद भी हाथों को आराम नहीं।” गौर फरमाने की बात है की जडेजा के अनुसार यहाँ कोई डबल मीनिंग पंच नहीं है।

इस घोषणा का तमाम शादीशुदा और सिंगल भारतीय क्रिकेटरों ने भी भारी विरोध किया है। नाम नहीं बताने की शर्त पर एक शादीशुदा क्रिकेटर कहते हैं, “बी.सी.सी.आई. ने गर्लफ्रेंड्स पर रोक लगा कर सरासर अन्याय किया है। रोक लगानी ही थी तो पत्नियों पर लगाते, कम से कम ५० दिन चैन से तो बीतते। वह अनुष्का जी जिनको होटल में देख कर हम थोड़ा सुकून पाते थे, उन्हें ही आपने रोक दिया।”

सिद्धू: अनुष्का बिना टूर, जैसे चन्दन बिना सिन्दूर

सूत्रों से जानकारी मिली है कि टीम के मालदार, हमारा मतलब पैसों से मालदार खिलाड़ियों ने तो बगल की दूसरी पांच सितारा होटल में श्रीलंकन खिलाड़ियों जैसे की ‘महिला जयवर्धने’ के नाम से रूम बुक कर लिए हैं। किन्तु सुनने में आ रहा है की बोर्ड खिलाड़ियों के रवैये से वाकिफ है और उसने धमकी दी है की अगर किसी ने इस नियम को तोड़ने की कोशिश की, तो उस पर नवजोत सिंह सिद्धू को छोड़ दिया जाएगा, वो भी बंद कमरे में। सिद्धू ने खबर सुन कर अपनी शेर-ओ-शायरी पर काम शुरू कर दिया है। हमें व्हाट्स-ऐप पर भेजा उन्होंने, “अनुष्का बिना टूर, जैसे चन्दन बिना सिन्दूर”।

खिलाड़ियों की इस ५० दिन लम्बी तपस्या का असर महा परिक्षा पर पड़ता है कि नहीं यह तो कोहली का स्ट्राइक-रेट ही बताएगा। लेकिन बॉलीवुड के फिल्म निर्माता अभी से अनुष्का की डेट्स कम कीमत पर मिलने की उम्मीद में खुशी मनाते नज़र आ रहे हैं। वहीं कोहली भी नेट में गेंदों पर पूरी भड़ास निकालते नज़र आए।

154 die of hunger as Jayalalithaa skips a meal in prison

October 10, 2014, Tanay Sukumar

In distressing news coming in from Tamil Nadu, 154 people have died of hunger in the last 24 hours after the former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa skipped a meal in prison yesterday.

The most common cause of death is being reported as “love” for the yesteryear film star, though more keen observers suggest it to be a case of “one-sided love”, given the fact that Jayalalithaa herself is unharmed.

This is said to be the highest toll ever since the 1990s, when 166 people complained of diarrhoea across Tamil Nadu after Jayalalithaa ate some bad-quality fast food.

Retaliation for Amma’s wrongful imprisonment

The revered “Amma”, who has been wrongly rewarded a four-year prison sentence, has not gone down well with sane human beings. Many have responded by [hanging and self-immolating](#) themselves in support of the service to the nation that corruption is.

In fact, 123 of the 154 deaths in the last 24 hours occurred even before the news of Jayalalithaa’s fast was revealed to the public. This has resulted in speculations about a wireless network of love and hero-worship.

“We were dreading over for long whether the shocking piece of news should be let out or not,” said a prison spokesperson. The sensitive news was kept under wraps for hours, before it finally got leaked today morning.

“Not hungry as long as Amma eats”

Research into the victims reveals that some of these 154 people have not consumed any food for years, as Jayalalithaa has been eating on their behalf. “My brother used to say that as long as Amma is eating, he knows no hunger,” said the brother of a victim, talking of the love his brother had for the popular icon.

As a safety measure, jail authorities have been instructed to maintain discretion in revealing news about Jayalalithaa.

Kejriwal: Modi a tangent, Advani an asymptote, and Rahul a parallel line to the PM chair

May 15, 2014, Shubham Agarwal

Arvind Kejriwal, on the eve of counting day, put on a brave face and took jibes at the figures widely thought to have been in the running for the Prime Minister's position. Kejriwal said Narendra Modi is like a tangent to the PM's chair, who might be able to meet the chair, but only once and never again.

“AAP will be like a sine curve”

“In comparison,” he said, “if AAP comes to power, it will be like a sinusoidal curve intersecting the PM chair curve again and again till infinity.”

“Advani an asymptote, Rahul a parallel line”

Kejriwal termed Bhartiya Janta Party's 'Patriarch' L.K Advani's Prime Ministerial ambition analogous to an asymptote saying that he will only keep on getting closer to the chair but will never be able to actually sit on it. Kejriwal also attacked the Congress Vice-President, Mr. Rahul Gandhi comparing his ambition of the PM's chair to a parallel line justifying by adding that he can never even get close to the chair. “I was going to say ‘skew lines’ but it might have been too complex for some people”, he quipped, laughing loudly at his own joke.

Advani: Ab ki baar Modi sarkar

While L.K. Advani was critical of Kejriwal's remarks at first, after due 'respect' was bestowed upon him by senior leaders, he welcomed the statement. “Ab ki baar Modi Sarkar (sigh)”. Rahul Gandhi, on the other hand, gave a befitting answer to Kejriwal saying he has always been weak in Sanskrit. It was followed by a roaring applause from the Congress intellectuals.

Mayawati tears into Kejriwal

Behen Kunwari Mayawati feeling left out, launched an attack on Kejriwal, claiming that he is trying to humiliate the downtrodden and 'Pichda Varg' by citing such examples of high intellect and reassured the Dalits that she would complain to the EC to stop such malpractices.

In other news, the world's largest democracy's most entertaining general elections will conclude on 16th May and the News agencies have started scrounging into Salman Khan's marriage debate again and contacting Nirmal Baba as these important issues have been left far behind owing to the elections.

A day out with Arvind Kejriwal: An inside story

January 12, 2014, Aman Garg

Arvind Kejriwal's day starts at 6 A.M. He is a disciplinarian. As soon as he gets up, he opens the drapes, looks into the sun à la Mohabbatein and then turns around to admire his portrait of Ramleela Maidan without fail every single day. He says it gives him the inspiration to battle on.

The Morning: आम नमः शिवाय

Then, he has his tea. He is very specific on that and only drinks a strong flavoured 'Jago Re' tea. It is believed the tea is for "opening his eyes", literally as well as metaphorically. He then sits for half an hour of meditation, using his own "Aam" chanting instead of the usual "Om". And then, as he hurries to get ready for office, he puts on his Nike shoes, since his motto in life is "Just Do It". No analysis, no arguments...Just Do It!

The Office: A man of "insecurity"

Mr. Kejriwal then takes an auto to his office, since he has a non-debatable opposition towards any kind of security. It is said he once missed a flight, because he refused the airline security check. "I am a common man, I don't need any security", he is believed to have reasoned.

This can be explained by the rationale that he always uses human sentiments before practical logic. In his IRS interview, he was asked, "Do you think you are good enough for civil services?" Apparently, he replied, "इस देश के आम आदमी को कमज़ोर मत समझना। वो खेती भी करता है, ड्राइविंग भी करता है, कोडिंग भी करता है और डोपिंग भी। कमज़ोर मत समझना हमें।" (*Unfortunately, this line did not work in this NTMN reporter's Google interview.*)

Once in office, he starts dealing with problems at hand, like demanding MCD to be cooperative, or asking the opposition to support him wholeheartedly. Even as a kid, Mr. Kejriwal didn't play cricket with the people who used to try and get him out. He always wants full support from everybody, even his adversaries.

Dealing with problems, Aam Aadmi Style

After lunch, he switches to killer mode and pulls out a small map of Delhi, transferring Government officials at random from one place to another, right after he puts on a blindfold. He says this gives him perspective, while ensuring parity in the distribution.

Then, he sits in his *Janta Darbar* and listens to people and their problems. Some days, it gets really awkward for him, like just the other day, when an old man began telling him about his recent piles operation, in great detail. But, generally, he deals with whatever is thrown at him, like bouquets, flying kisses, and sometimes even love letters, swatting them away like an accomplished batsman.

After spending hours dealing with the mess left behind by the previous incumbent, Mr. Kejriwal turns his attention to matters of politics and decides the way forward for AAP. He plans shrewd moves of politics, such as ordering Gujarati *dhokla* in snacks, and then making press conferences about how he got only 249.99 gm of it and no chillies whatsoever when he had clearly ordered 250 grams. He generally goes on the offensive via cunning tactics such as reiterating that everybody is a *chor* (thief) and declaring “broom yatras” in Gujarat against Narendra Modi, revealing his secret weapon: the same Nimbus 2000 used by Harry Potter as brooms.

Back home: Managing Public Relations

Finally, when he is back at his home, Arvind Kejriwal turns to more important matters, i.e., asking the public for their opinions on all matters, whether simple or complex. He asks the *janta* on his blog which of the two, Makemytrip.com or Yatra.com, is better for booking his next holiday.

Striving to bridge communication between him and the public even further, he types out WhatsApp messages, claiming that he solved Indo-China conflicts by SMS polls only, and sends them out to as many people as he can. Last time we checked, he was asking the public if it was time he should visit the men’s room, only to receive a flurry of responses, the pick of them being, “Sit down and work. No need for needless breaks. Get WiFi.”

At the stroke of midnight, without fail, he falls asleep in order to be recharged for the next day. When some days, he has difficulty in sleeping, he tries to count the number of times his old mentor Anna Hazare has gone on fast and falls asleep within minutes.

Advani demands Bharat Ratna for himself, says will not let Vajpayee take this thing alone

November 22, 2013, Vishal Dayama

L.K. Advani, former cum current cum former member of BJP, has demanded a Bharat Ratna for himself. Advani, who showed up as the Chief Guest for the All India Dreamy Boys Samellan revealed yet another dream of his while talking to the press. He said, “If Vajpayee deserves it, then I definitely deserve it”.

Why Vajpayee?

On asking why Vajpayee deserves this, he said, “Because Rajeev Gandhi received this honour. And if Rajeev Gandhi deserves this, then everyone deserves it”. Advani, who also holds the world record for being PM-in-waiting for the most number of years, looked quite pissed with the BJP committee.

Vajpayee on the other hand said “Ye acchi...”. His speech has been telecast for two days now. Lets hope that he will complete his sentence by the end of this week. Ravi Shankar Prasad clarified the issue and said each and every BJP member is a Bharat Ratna and they don't need any special trophy to prove it.

Sibal, the chief of UPA's Bharat Ratna committee

If rumors are to be believed, UPA has formed a committee to decide the criteria for Bharat Ratna. Kapil Sibal, the chief of this committee, tweeted that Bharata Ratna is a zero loss policy and we are definitely not using it to increase our vote bank. This joke is trending at number four all over India, revealed the Twitter chief.

Babas for Bharat Ratna?

Earlier in his rally, Modi warmed the election pitch. In a rally in Gorakhpur, he said all the saints and babas deserve Bharat Ratna and he will fight for this until they get it. Asaram Babu remained unavailable for the comment.

All said and done, if that's how they will distribute the Bharat Ratna, we think Sachin would have been happier if he hadn't received this honour at all.

Arnab Goswami loses voice and job; nation mourns

July 5, 2013, Trikaash Karkera

Arnab Goswami permanently damaged his vocal chords after engaging in a 17 hour long verbal battle with a politician. Doctors have reported that although he may be able to talk, he will never be able to engage in any verbal battles ever again. Unfortunately due to these circumstances, the network executives of Arnab's show have been forced to replace him.

Arnab's parents are distraught by this terrible mishap. His mother said, “I remember when Arnab was 12 and he was giving me an hour long discourse on why India is the best country in the world. At the end of it, there were tears in my eyes and a deep searing pain in my ears. That's when I knew, he was destined for great journalistic success. And I was right. If only this success had lasted longer.” His father however remains optimistic. “His vocal chords have been through a lot worse”, he was quoted saying.

Jatin Mehta, a junior college student and aspiring journalist was shattered when he heard the news. “Whenever my father told me that I was too loud and opinionated to be successful as a journalist, I always pointed to Arnab Goswami and his success. My father couldn't retort to that. Now, although he does concede that I can be just like Arnab, he says I too might lose my vocal chords in the process.” His father however, has something different to say, “I like Arnab

Goswami. I told my son that. But the problem is when I switch from another channel to his news show, I always have to turn the volume down or I might risk damaging the sound system of my television.”

Leena D’Souza, a retired teacher says Arnab’s sudden departure from the news has posed a crisis to her. “I am an old woman. And it’s been five years since my husband passed away. During nights, I am plagued by silence and loneliness. But Arnab’s voice used to boom across my apartment and give me company. I never felt alone. Now that he’s gone, I have no idea what I’m going to do. It will be difficult to find another loud disgruntled voice echoing through my apartment.”

Arnab Goswami uncharacteristically remained unavailable for comments.

What comes between a “decade” and a “century”?

April 28, 2013, Saswata De

It all began with a question: “**What comes between a decade and a century?**” A troublesome one, at that. Since times immemorial, amateur litterateurs have tried to fill the gap with phrases like “*a score of years*”, “*a few decades*”, “*three generations*” and so on. Meanwhile, professionals, bound by their strict moral code and their devotion to the art, simply called it “*half-a-century*”. (Then they were forced to add, “give or take a few years”, in case the number wasn’t really half-a-century.)

But it rankled. It rankled the pro and the rookie, it caused unrest among the Pope and the pauper; for at the end of the day, there was this one question above all, “What comes between a decade and a century?” Nobody knew.

It would have been so, for what cannot be cured must be endured, until the advent of Twitter, a micro-blogging platform that promoted efficacy with words (it called for some “character”). 140 of ’em—no more. You cannot, just cannot, make a point on Twitter when 14 characters go off in specifying a fifty-year time period (give or take a few, mind). You can try “48 yrs” but there is no feel to it—no vibe, no real literary genius, no chutzpah, no... well, you get it. And what can you do, if you cannot make a point on Twitter? It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

Desperate times call for desperate measures, and the World Literary Association convened in secret (for a language that has at least a hundred ways of defining every three letter word, this was a veritable embarrassment). The gathering was fairly representative, open to radical ideas; it followed the latest labour laws, and of course, included learned women. **Their mission:** to provide an answer to the question “What comes between a decade and a century?” i.e. to boldly attempt what no one has done before.

Finally, the Solution: After much dissertation and deliberation, and not a little of justified brouhaha, the committee achieved the pinnacle of human thought (transcending the obvious difficulties with which they had been saddled in their very formation). *The outcome was a three letter word of supreme beauty: “goi”.* The Twitterati laughed and cried, hysterical with joy; litterateurs went about with puffed chest and swollen pride; India TV suspended all its programs for a twenty-four hour “breaking news” marathon. Disaster had been met and treated like an imposter.

A closer look found that for the purposes of laymen, “goi” had been defined thus: *“a period of 50 years, give or take a few but definitely not more than 66, where nothing much has happened except an increase in population and inconsequential changes in state lines while following democratic rule; a continued period of nothing-muchness for more than, or about, 50 years; a minimum period of 50 years where the State serves as the prime example of Democracy and/or Idiocracy etc.”* “Goi” was not only an emphatic answer to the perpetual question of “What comes between a decade and a century?”, it also managed to convey, in its simple three letter awesomeness, the time period, the demo-graphical situation, *and* the geo-political situation of any place. This, was so much better. So much smarter.

After the thing was all over, when peril had ceased to loom and happy endings had been distributed in heaping handfuls, this NTMN reporter managed to corner the typist responsible for taking the MoMs at the just-finished conference. But why “goi”? Why not anything else? (a burning question in my mind, which had replaced “What comes between a decade and a century?”) She turns all coy, this typist (who is also a student of neo-classical literature); she does, and tells me, “Well, what is art but a reflection of society? Every time man has faced a seemingly insurmountable challenge, he has looked to his surroundings for inspiration. This time was no different.”

I cannot deny the wisdom in her words, but the question remains un-answered. “And goi is...” “Why it’s an abbreviation! Well, actually when we thought of it, it was. Now it’s a word all by itself, but it stands, or stood—” (she corrects herself) “—for ‘Government of India’. I guess it still stands for it,” she laughs. “But why 66 then?” and pat came the reply: “Who can predict the future, silly!”

Ergo, between a decade and a century, there is just “goi”. Pure genius, I must say.

CBI looks to the future by issuing "Clean Chits" worth next 300 years for the Gandhi family

April 27, 2013, Bijender Sheoran

After facing a lot of heat for always being reactive and taking action only in the aftermath of a certain ill-intentioned, self-motivated and insecurity-driven push by the reigning government, the CBI has outdone itself this time by taking a proactive step of issuing clean chits to the members of Gandhi family beforehand. These chits are supposed to be so huge in number that they will last for next three centuries and can be immediately reissued by the holder, without any other consent from any authority whatsoever.

We talked to the current CBI director Ranjit Sinha to know more, who explained that the resulting action was a culmination of three events: “1. Lower placements in IIMs, which resulted in CBI hiring a few of those guys; 2. The said IIM guys did a regression analysis and discovered a prevalent trend: Every Gandhi family case, ever investigated, had only one outcome—clean chit, the most recent example being that of Robert Vadra getting a clean chit in Haryana land deals. 3. Since the workload is a little less these days, we were watching the Minority Report in office. The idea was brilliant — arresting criminals before they could commit crimes.

“Well we can’t do that, we aren’t so advanced, so we thought why not start by pronouncing verdicts before the crimes can even be committed, at least in the cases where we know what the outcome is going to be!”

Mulayam, Maya eliminate all CBI risks; join Congress party itself

April 19, 2013, Shubhanker Saxena

Recent years have seen significant efforts to eradicate corruption, most notably through saree-clad yoga gurus and fasting fakirs. It is the turn of the UPA government now, which joined the anti-corruption bandwagon with the recent CBI raid at DMK leader Stalin’s house. Highly impressed by the UPA’s alacrity to eradicate black money and corruption, outside supporters BSP and SP have announced a scandalous decision in these circumstances—that of joining the Congress party itself.

Fielding a volley of questions in an exclusive interview with NTMN, Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav said with a shocked expression, “I have been trying to revamp my party’s image that is being tarnished by the usage of terms such as ‘Gunda Raaj’ with it. Realizing the

seriousness of the UPA-II government to punish the corrupt leaders, I intend to get an opportunity to finally be a part of a clean political party. The public will see the rise of new corruption free India that will be governed by the 'sons' of clean leaders.”

Meanwhile at a yet-another statue inauguration in a recently constructed Ambedkar Park, BSP supremo Mayawati said, “*Dekhiye!* My political agenda is not weak and neither have I walked on others' footsteps. I have decided to join Congress, keeping in mind the best intentions of my state and Dalits. SP on the other hand has malicious strategies to join Congress as a 'camouflage' to get away from the impending charges of disproportionate assets”. Soon realising her words, she walked off with an intended smirk.

BJP, on the other end, claimed that this move by Mayawati and Mulayam Singh is a result of their insecurities following the CBI raids. However, its voice was muzzled by the Congress, when it threatened to start a case against Nitin Gadkari and some other prominent BJP leaders.

In the afternoon, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati came out of the PMO in buoyant spirits. The drivers of these leaders when bribed told our secret sources that Mayawati and Mulayam Singh Yadav have been asked to select any of the 17 imported cars recovered from the raid for their personal use.

Sources close to PMO informed us that the UPA is confident of its numbers and is sure of its third term at the Centre again.

(edited by Nitika Lekhi. Shubhanker, Deepanker and Nitika are currently interning in NTMN's Youth Internship-cum-Training Program)

Engineers and Karnataka MLAs protest after SC notice on pornography

April 16, 2013, Vishal Dayama

The mundane environment of the Karnataka State Assembly witnessed a sudden uproar today when the Speaker asked some MLAs in the special session to shut their iPads off. On being asked why, the Speaker said that the Supreme Court had issued a notice against watching porn. But two ministers who had been caught watching pornographic movies during a session last year protested against this vehemently. Resigning from the cabinet, one said, “If you ban it, what will we do in the Assembly, for porn's sake!”

Engineers meanwhile are also against the idea. An IITian says, “We're already suffering from a low sex ratio, like 0 females per 100 males. Won't banning porn make the best breed of this country impotent?”

For engineering students who go to not-so-prestigious colleges, this ban is surely going to affect their placements. “Where are we gonna go now! This industry was our last hope,” says one such student.

World War III starts online between Twitter & Facebook celebs

April 14, 2013, Aashish Aryan

News reports pouring in from all parts of the world have confirmed our fears that World War III will be fought online. This War has not started due to water shortage or nuclear weapons, but due to the massive ego clash between Facebook and Twitter celebrities.

Events leading up to War

It all began on a gloomy Monday afternoon. Gopal, a celebrity blogger and pro-active member of Facebook, came to know about Twitter when he was snooping into the Twitter account of one of his friends. The “Who to Follow” feature made him particularly curious about Twitter, as he claimed it to be a cheap imitation of the “People You May Know” service offered by Facebook.

However, he went ahead and decided to give Twitter a try. He registered on Twitter with a username similar to that of a Twitter celeb, Kamaal Bekaar Khan. This celeb is considered by many as the big daddy of Twitter users in India. The trigger though, was that no one retweeted Gopal’s tweet with a Sai Baba photo that said: “Hit retweet in 2 seconds if you love your mother, else you will lose all your followers.”

“The Allies”

The exclusive users of Twitter, who now identify themselves as “the Allies”, went on a rampage, labelling Facebook users as pathetic, idiotic morons who know nothing of the happenings around the world, and are busy sending “Will you Fraandship” requests, and commenting on each other’s profiles from fake profiles of girls they themselves make.

Said one such Twitter celeb: “Do you really expect a country to grow, if we start having celebrities even on *Facebook*? Heh! This is ridiculous.” She further continued, with a certain scoff, “Do you even know the intellectual level of posts and comments these people spam? It’s a sham, absolutely preposterous. These people must perish, for the betterment of humanity at large. They think liking and sharing pictures of kids with special medical conditions and diseases will help them. Now, you tell me, should these idiots be spared to run amok the society? No! They must perish!” she added, with a definitive yell stressing on the last word.

With these words, she and her friends set off to hack many Facebook accounts and deface them with spam. Large boxes of pizza, cans of red bull and other war catalysts was reportedly lying all around the room, which they preferred to call the “War Room”.

“The Central Powers”

The Facebook celebs on the other hand—now known to the press and masses as the “Central Powers”—remained nonchalant towards any threat from the Twitter celebrities. Speaking to one of our correspondents, Gopal said, “I wanted to join Twitter as I wanted to troll the celebrities there. But, that place is full of shit, like literally. You can see people laughing over jokes from 1940, desperately retweeting all the girls and hitting the ‘Favourite’ button on things not even remotely connected to the real world. I mean, who the hell tweets stuff about the 2014 Elections!”

“Twitter users need a life,” was all that was written on a large photo going viral on Facebook today.

The minority groups of Quora, LinkedIn and Google+ users have decided not to participate in the War, and have decided to form a Non-Aligned Movement.

NDTV airs footage showing Rahul Gandhi taking oath in

April 8, 2013, Kunal Srivastava

NDTV 24×7 today accidentally aired footage showing Rahul Gandhi taking oath as Prime Minister in May 2014. The footage goes on to show some subsequent communal tension in different parts of BJP-ruled states. However, as soon as the error was discovered, the footage was discontinued and the usual “*Congress ka haath, aam aadmi ke saath*” ad was aired.

The news channel was caught off guard when Barkha Dutt, famous for her role in the Niira Radia tapes, was busy delivering a paean on the first dynasty of India and its decades of glory at the Centre. When she announced a commercial break (and promised that the best of the show is yet to come), the yawning cameramen and crew may have accidentally loaded footage of Pranab Mukherjee standing by Rahul Gandhi and administering his oath.

While the prince-turned-king shivered and looked red eyed, he stuttered his way through the oath. Meanwhile, all of Congress party workers formed a congested beehive to catch a glimpse of the new descendant. Later Rahul was seen seated in Godfather style; Digvijaya Singh, Manish Tewari, Kapil Sibal, P. Chidambaram and others were seen kissing his hand as a gesture of acknowledging his autonomy and full control.

The Congress core committee is livid and has issued a notice to CBI to raid the owners of the channel. NDTV, which prides itself with the tagline “*Khabar wahi jo sach dikhaye*” was trolled by netizens, receiving a huge online bashing. Barkha Dutt tried convincing her Twitter followers that such videos are prepared in advance to pre-empt any unseen delays in case such an event occurs next year. But that only increased the bashing.

With years of their shared hard work done to prepare such a video gone waste, other news channels were sympathetic to NDTV for such a minor mistake. But they have moved a petition seeking pardon for NDTV to Congress first, SC second and Justice Katju third. CNN-IBN has awarded its telecast editors “The Best Indian after Gandhi” award for vigilant service, because they haven’t done such a blunder yet. India TV has invited the NDTV crew in their show *Aap Ki Adaalat*, to first indict and then exonerate, as always. Aaj Tak has relinquished its tag of “*Sabse Tez*” to NDTV and will now exclusively focus on *saas-bahu* recaps.

On the other side of the political spectrum, BJP was reportedly outraged over the issue as well. Its ex-president Nitin Gadkari said, “Back when was in-charge, we too had prepared a similar video in collaboration with Mahua news channel of Bihar. That video showed Rahul Baba waiting in line to congratulate our PM while I could be seen gorging on a pizza slice. ”

Time Magazine's cover page declares Rahul Gandhi as "The Over-Achiever"

March 6, 2013, Ankit Gouraha



Here comes the latest issue of the *Time* magazine. Gracing its cover page is a photograph of Rahul Gandhi, the Prince of Nehru–Gandhi dynasty. Mr. Gandhi, following his recent swearing in as the Vice President of the Congress, has been dubbed “The Over-Achiever” by the magazine.

The magazine describes Rahul as a young, dynamic and a down-to-earth leader who has the potential to make India hit a new rock-bottom, “someone who India needs very badly, since no one is seen capable of holding the post of PM after Dr. Singh”. The feature suggests that Mr. Gandhi will be the best replacement to Dr. Manmohan Singh (the most efficient Prime Minister India has ever had), who is supposed to retire right after 2014 polls. The article assures the public: “If Sonia Gandhi can act as a doting mother to an 80-year-old man, she will definitely shower her own flesh and blood with all her motherly concern, which is in the best interest of the nation.”

Mr. Gandhi, known for his young age, iconic surname and politics (in that order), has been referred to as one of the best Indian politicians. “Mr. Gandhi has shown active participation in public as well as parliamentary debates. With his clear stands on national issues, he stands right next to the veteran Manmohan Singh.” Dr. Singh was also voted as the best orator of the century in a popular poll printed in the same issue.

The writer further adds: “Whether it is the historical victory in UP and Gujarat assembly elections under his charismatic and dynamic leadership, or his *aamaraan anshan* for passing the Lokpal Bill in the Parliament, Rahul has always been an achiever; at such a young age he has made a long list of his achievements, and hence the name ‘The Over-Achiever’.”

After days of digging around, we found out that Rahul was awarded this title months back, but *Time* was waiting for him to outshine himself as a Gandhi and hold a bigger office in his family-owned political party (previously he was holding the post of the Vice President unofficially).

Our secret sources revealed that drawing inspiration from *Time*, the Indian weekly *Outlook* has decided to dub Michelle Obama as “The Over-Achiever” to give pay-back to the popular American weekly for honouring their leader.

Meanwhile, Sonia Gandhi confirmed the news reported by NTMN recently that Rahul is going to [marry Narendra Modi](#) in the near future, and expressed her excitement for the same. This bold statement has given birth to an entertaining war of words between Congress and the BJP. Congress has already put up a six-foot tall portrait of Narendra Modi in its office with a caption that reads: “Mrs. Rahul Gandhi” while BJP feels that “Rahul Modi” sounds much classier.

Surprisingly, Rahul said yesterday that he does not wish to tie the knot and start a family, as doing so will deviate his mind off the politics. He added that he has decided to stay single all his life and to do work for the well-being of Congress and the country. After her son’s denial, Sonia Gandhi, following the latest “withdraw and apologize” trend took her words back.

This report has been written by Ankit Gouraha and edited by Charvi Jain. Ankit and Charvi are interning with NTMN in our [Youth Internship and Training Program 2013](#).

MBAs sue Modi for excessive use of jargon in his speech; claim jargons are their own copyright

February 8, 2013, Bijender Sheoran

Narendra Modi made his hallmark [speech](#) this week at SRCC—a speech which filled many people with extreme emotions running in both directions. However, while most people would convince you that the speech was filled with hope and aspirations, we have reasons to believe otherwise, and with conclusive evidence too. **A group of students from IIM Ahmedabad, ISB, along with some McKinsey consultants, have collectively sued Narendra Modi for excessive use of “jargon”, thus eating into their bread and butter.**

The group has submitted the following list of words/phrases used in the Modi Speech that they consider to be *their* explicit property:

- P2G2: Pro-People Good-Governance
- Integrated Approach
- 5F Formula: Farm -> Fiber -> Fabric -> Fashion -> Foreign
- *Model* of governance
- Major challenges facing India
- Demographic Scope
- Harnessing the Opportunity
- *Channelizing* the resources
- Three Prong Development Model
- Knowledge Transfer
- From Lap to Lane
- My Cotton Grower
- Citizen Aspirations
- Double the Tourism Growth
- Increase in Economic Offences
- Mob Psychology
- Quality Manpower
- Techno-Savvy
- First in the world in XYZ
- Technology Upgradation
- Standing in the Competitive World
- Branding
- Visible Upliftment
- Global Relevanccce
- Institutionalization of things
- Consumer Psyche

- Knowledge Century
- Skill Development
- Scalability
- Minimum Government, Maximum Governance
- Developmental Politics

So, by filing this lawsuit against Modi, are the MBAs tacitly *admitting* that they use complex jargon? One IIM-A student says, “We only bring to fruition the language required for effective and undisputed communication of a probable cause or scenario by stating it explicitly or paraphrasing it in a way which is coherently and concisely yet comprehensively grasped by all the parties party to the communiqué.” We could not understand whether that meant yes or no; nonetheless he continues, “Any use of such a revered tradition of presentation for the perpetuation of political rhetoric for self-inflicting gains whether warranted or not, used consciously or subliminally combined with the prevailing visage can nucleate a horizontal dissemination where a vertical harmonization is intended, and thus....” We had to leave him midway.

Among the many other people who were confused with the use of such language was Rahul Gandhi. He was heard saying, “Why did he use these words? Unless maybe his *mom* told him that Jargon is Power! I would never use these words, as between both our mothers, it would make them poison.”

A McKinsey consultant, visibly disappointed, said, “We have to work harder now as Modi has used 5 years’ worth of our jargon and abbreviations. We are also skipping the release of the next McKinsey Quarterly Magazine. There would be no new content in it now, would there?”

Disclaimer: In view of the full disclosure, the writer is an ardent Modi fan.

Protesters get ready for film release after Shruti Haasan says she'll also leave India with her dad

January 31, 2013, Bijender Sheoran

The judge saw the movie and waited for two days hoping that something in the movie would change by itself. Then, he lifted the ban, but some people threw petrol bombs at theatres. This further convinced the TN government that it was the movie that was causing the riots and not the fringe groups. They banned the movie again. And:

The ban on the movie *Vishwaroopam* has taken a dramatic turn of events. So far, a well-known, tried and tested, and repeated narration of what happens every three days in India, was happening, and people were getting outraged on Facebook and Twitter from their drawing rooms. A twist happened yesterday when Kamal Haasan announced in a press conference that he was contemplating leaving India and taking his daughter Shruti along with him. **Within minutes, people were on the streets demanding the ban to be lifted from the movie.**

This categorically highlights the priorities Indian people have. The government though has not taken a call yet but they have got the signal loud and clear, as protest is the language they understand, and not the voice of reason or conformity with the Constitution.

Kamal Haasan also mentioned having invested all his wealth and life's earnings in the movie and said he might not have a place to live if the ban is not lifted. Since then, 382303242902 people have offered Shruti Haasan a place to live but none to Kamal Haasan. This has convinced him further to definitely leave the country.

The Story So Far: Some people—while they were sleeping—heard the words “Muslims” and “Terrorists” used in the same sentence in the trailer of what is a work of fiction. Even before the trailer was over, both the internet and the streets were abuzz with people. These people were ready to riot if the movie was not banned and Kamal Haasan's lips sealed forever. Through all this melodrama, the Tamil Nadu government got the hint that the movie had a riot-generating potential and could instigate some unreasonable elements, and hence they took the easy route as always: that of banning the movie without even seeing it. They didn't consider that if they needed to ban anything, it should have been those fringe elements.

Kamal Haasan, being a law-abiding citizen, went to court and appealed. The judge, upon coming across a possibility of watching a movie without having to torrent it immediately, ordered a special screening for himself, completely disregarding the fact that Censor Board had given the movie a go-ahead. But even after finishing the movie, he waited for two days hoping that something in the movie would change by itself. Hapless in the end, he lifted the ban, but some people threw petrol bombs at the theatres where the movie was getting screened. This further convinced the TN government that the *movie* was causing the riots and not the fringe groups. And giving a treatment to the court what CBI generally receives from the UPA government, they banned the movie again. Kamal Haasan addressed his press conference after this.

In other news: Given the popularity of the gimmick, Esha Deol has said that she would leave the country if people don't make her new film a hit in the 100-crore bracket. Since then, even those people who had purchased the tickets for unimaginable reasons were seen queuing in front of ticket counters to return those, and all the rioters were seen praying in the temples, gurdwaras, masjids and churches and keeping their fingers crossed in the hope of good news.

Sheila Dikshit stuns critics, currently living on Rs. 20 a day on Delhi roads

January 24, 2013, Vibhav Bisht

Fed up of the constant criticism hurled her way, Sheila Dikshit has decided to live a month in luxury on the streets of Delhi, away from the dust and murk of her dilapidated home on Motilal Nehru Marg. Just a month after she launched the [Rs.600-a-month](#) scheme for the needy and destitute politicians and the like, the three-time and much “loved” Chief Minister of Delhi felt it was time for a well-deserved vacation after the good work she has done in Delhi in the years gone by.

“Sonia Madam urged me to take the month off. She even dispensed a largesse of Rs. 600 on me for this one month. I personally invited Suresh (Kalmadi), A. Raja and Lalit (Bhanot) to accompany me, as they have a reputation of utilizing money judiciously. Montek (Ahluwalia) also came along on the excursion, as he thought it was time the poverty line was reduced and re-defined further. A complete family of five,” exclaimed a beaming Sheila Dikshit. “Our staple diet consists of chappatis and dal for lunch and a dosa and salad for dinner. We even have the odd cup of tea in between.” The mission is in its second week.

This reporter thought, they must have spent all the money by now this way. So, flummoxed by her response, we asked her to name the *dhaba* which offered her such a sumptuous meal at such measly rates. “Why, the Parliament of course!” she replied succinctly.

“I would also like to thank the MCD for arranging our accommodation in a swanky night shelter. Sometimes we’ve been forcibly evicted and thrown out in the dark, and have had to walk several miles till we reached the next local shelter, but apart from that the experience is lovely. Copious potholes in the streets, the next-gen water-harvesting structures quench our thirst. We enjoyed some thrilling performances by the Delhi drivers who hurtled by in their speeding BMWs, so close to us, that their skill and dexterity almost seemed surreal. Even the street lights were switched off on purpose so that we could have a clear view of the night sky! It’s been a trip I shall never forget,” said Dikshit, staring blankly towards the sky, surreptitiously wiping off her tears of divine satisfaction.

Following her eventful journey, Congress workers have decided to rename the street where they live as Shrimati Diskshit Marg. The BJP have cried foul over the Congress decision. They have accused the ruling party of indulging in a conspiracy to oust the BJP in the forthcoming elections. “We shall not let them rename the sacred streets of Delhi on their whims,” said BJP spokesperson Prakash Javadekar.

There are reports that Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi, took offence at the fact that he was not informed of Ms. Dikshit’s naps with the street-people of Delhi—something largely regarded as *his forte*. The Congress has strongly denied this charge.

Meanwhile, tourism industry experts are perplexed by the spurt of visitors planning to visit Delhi. “Our bookings are through the roof,” says Ranjan Kumar, marketing manager of a travel firm. “As a result of the chief minister’s actions, there are a large number of people interested in viewing the dark side of the city behind the glittering façade. Our Poor-India-Hungry-India package is a sellout.” He signed off, busy attending his numerous calls.

Relevant: [Sheila Dikshit spends a day as ordinary Delhi woman, city men leave her dumbfounded](#)

Mohan Bhagwat angry after being slapped by girl; girl says slap taken "out of context"

January 11, 2013, Shagun Sinha

In an incident of “public feedback” to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat’s extraordinary discovery that rapes happen in India but not in “Bharat”, a young girl has slapped him in full public view. The incident occurred at a gathering in a village near Delhi, and reportedly it left Mr. Bhagwat horrified and stunned—quite similar to what his words did to the Indian public.

Immediately after she slapped, the swayamsewaks grabbed the 20-year-old and demanded her apology. But: “I cannot apologize,” replied the proud girl, whose stupidity didn’t allow her to understand her mistake. “My slap has been taken in a different context.”

Frowning, Bhagwat shouted to ask what the context was. The unidentified girl said, “The village where I have slapped you is a very rural area. In villages, people are used to getting hit by each other, and it is not called a slap, don’t you know? Slaps happen only in India, not in Bharat.”

“A slap is a slap. Be it wherever!” replied a Sewak, glaring angrily at the girl. “Exactly!” was the sudden retort from Mr. Bhagwat.

But the girl went on: “What you call a slap, the villagers call it a sincere and social gesture of love.” Some swayamsewaks apparently misunderstood the meaning of “love”, and remarked that women are not supposed to love men at will.

Seeing the situation intensify, the girl refused to apologize but said she would “withdraw” her slap, replicating the common practice these days. The same angry swayamsewak shouted, “You have insulted him already; withdrawal will not work!”

The girl fled. Meanwhile, another woman in a distant remote village saw her husband force himself upon her in a drunken state. We expect she felt less insulted than the wise Mr. Bhagwat did after the slap, since after all, on account of being a villager (“Bharat”), what she suffered was not “rape”, it was [“tradition”](#).

Panicked government declares even thinking of rape will get men castrated and hanged

December 30, 2012, Kumar Pratik



In the first real revolutionary move since the time of the Emergency, India's panicked government has declared rape a "thought-crime", meaning **even the slightest thought of it, whether conscious or sub-conscious, i.e. thinking or even dreaming of raping, will lead to a full fast-track trial.** If found guilty, the accused will "first be castrated, then hanged later on". Also, women volunteers will be paid crores of rupees to go and live in places like Singapore so as to shift the blame to another country if something happens to them. Another proposal by a Union Minister to give state funerals to rape-and-murder victims and close down metro stations

randomly as a deterrent to rape has been kept on hold. This comes after the Government was put under severe pressure by protests all over the country during the past week.

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Deepshit was at hands to elaborate on this new strategy adopted by the Government to fight against rape cases. “As a woman (*chuckles*), you can never know what lies inside a person’s mind, you never know if someone even close by you has his eyes on you. Well, not anymore. This law will take care of everything. Every man in the country will be monitored 24×7, their thoughts, their animalistic desires, everything. And at the slightest sign of him showing the symptoms, he will be charged as a ‘Potential Rapist’, and the court will thereon decide if the society faces a danger from him.”

Though experts see it as a hasty decision by the Government to pacify the angry mob, it has failed to stem the march of the protesters, who either (a) do not have faith in the Government’s promise to implement this change, or (b) are demanding for stricter punishment still, such as “male holocaust”, “male infanticide”, and “mati” (similar to *sati*, with men being forced to commit suicide after losing a wife/girlfriend). Needless to say, there is tension in the air, with men fearing to even come out of their houses. Although this declaration being made a law is presumed to be just a formality, inside reports suggest that the Government is being cautious, after the Beta version of the test red-flagged 73.5% of MPs, MLAs, MLCs around the country and 67% of the Union Ministers. Prime Minister Woman-mohan Singh was reportedly too scared by the barbaric nature of the decision and refused to talk to our reporters, feigning indigestion.

If the law is indeed passed in the coming days, the Government plans to equip its woman citizens with a handheld device that will be able to scan for Potential Rapists around her. The target is to get one device in the hand of every Indian woman by the end of 2013, much like every school student roams around with the Aakash tablet these days.

In related news, this mini-revolution has given rise to some special women vigilantes in the country, calling themselves “The Powerpuff Girls”. These vigilantes have taken the fight to the male community by prowling the streets at night and castrating any man they come across by force.

The author would like to dedicate this article in the memory of Damini, wishing that this news becomes a reality someday. May God be as brutal to them as they were to you.

After Dabangg 2, Indian cops develop inferiority complex

December 29, 2012, Satat Mishra

While new release *Dabangg 2* is creating a stir at the box office, the Indian Police is very unhappy with the movie. The main reason cited by many personnel is their inability to perform stunts similar to those of Salman Khan, who plays the role of a policeman in the film.

In fact, the once-fit-now-plump policemen were already disappointed by *Dabangg*'s release—even before actually watching it—as it had skyrocketed people's expectations from every policeman in the country. One concerned cop had actually tweeted a week before the release: “@SalmanKhan, y u no stop all this Dabangg nonsense? Now therez a sequel 2!” An officer we caught huffing and panting between bouts of exercise complained, “The situation is very bad. The public thinks we are superheroes. Earlier, they would want us to solve a kidnapping case in a matter of just *months*—which in itself was impossible—and now they expect us to solve the same case in a matter of *hours*! How can we even do that?”

It is no surprise that policemen across the country have been hitting the gym, re-learning the basics of combat and practising shooting at their training academy. But the results aren't promising. They are still far behind tearing car rooftops, creating earthquakes with their feet and tackling mobs with their bare hands.

According to another officer, each cop now gets “credits” according to how *dabangg* his style of solving the crime was. “We are monitored on a ten-point scale, from ‘incompetent’ to ‘most *dabangg*’. This has led to our force actually mulling over *how* to strategically solve the case, instead of just going out there and having fun.”

A Senior Inspector, on condition of anonymity, said, “A cop's life is tough. We have been losing respect in the eyes of the public. We are hoping that our attempt to recreate a real-life Chulbul Pandey can help us reclaim at least some of this lost glory.”

Their frustration eventually showed colour when, unable to do anything *dabangg*, the cops sought to lathi-charging, firing water cannons and throwing tear-gas shells at protesters outside Rashtrapati Bhawan who had gathered to raise their voice against violence towards women.

However, many policemen, after this whole rigmarole, said they felt at least a bit successful in achieving this end. An unnamed self-proclaimed “hero” said: “I couldn't do anything *dabangg* when faced with the protestors, so we tried a different approach that achieved the same result. But people are still not happy. I can't understand what we are doing wrong. They keep saying ‘*The police should not have reacted that way. They shouldn't have resorted to such extreme measures.*’ Well then, how else will we be *dabangg*?”

Even a senior cop in Delhi said he is aware of the fact that his force is trying too hard to be branded heroes. He tried to cover up their ineptness by saying, “[Maybe](#) there were some lapses here and there. But by and large the situation warranted this kind of action,” before hurriedly leaving for the gym.

And indeed, the repercussions are apparent. Filmmakers have now been warned against showing the police with supernatural talents in their films as it hurts the sentiments of real cops. Movies like *Wanted*, *Singham*, *Force*, *Dabangg*, and *Dabangg 2* have taken a huge toll on them. With many more movies centred around police departments yet to be released, it is unlikely that our men in khaki are going to get a sigh of relief anytime soon.

Disclaimer: NTMN doesn't expect anything *dabangg* from its readers.

(inputs from [Priyanka Mehta](#))

Nation develops "withdrawal-and-unconditional-apology syndrome"

December 28, 2012, Rishi Ayyer

Sachin Tendulkar has made a statement that he would like to withdraw his retirement. He never had the intention to hurt the sentiments of his fans and is deeply apologetic. Suresh Kalmadi has asked permission from Soniaji to withdraw his name from the Organizing Committee of Commonwealth Games 2010, as he never had the intention of making that much money. Poonam Pandey has also tweeted that she wants to withdraw her clothes from the last few pictures she has posted, as she never wanted to hurt the libido of any of her fans.

In what appears to be an epidemic, the worst to hit India since “Katju Stupidity”, many citizens have been diagnosed by “withdrawal symptoms”. It all started with a silly tweet by News That Matters Not, India’s leading satire website, which called Prime Minister Manmohan Singh a “walrus”. In the chaos that ensued, Twitter and Facebook became forums for heated discussion and protests, including a few thousand [“Display Picture” protests](#) and online petitions. Embarrassed by all the publicity, NTMN quickly and swiftly withdrew its statement. Support and Protection of Endangered Walruses (SPEW) demanded an immediate apology from NTMN, for hurting sentiments of walruses. On being questioned, the editor-in-chief of NTMN said, “Since we have already withdrawn the statement, and given an unconditional apology to all, we find no need to comment on this. *Theek hai?*”

On being asked whether the Prime Minister’s Office had issued any legal notice to NTMN to withdraw the statement, he said, “They have remained silent on the issue. It was very surprising. Since we have already withdrawn the statement, and given an unconditional apology to all, we find no need to comment on this. *Theek hai?*” This has triggered a nationwide disease, with everyone from Poonam Pandey to Sachin Tendulkar currently under diagnoses.

Sachin Tendulkar has made a press statement that he would like to withdraw his retirement. He never had the intention to hurt the sentiments of his fans and is deeply apologetic. Suresh Kalmadi has asked permission from Soniaji to withdraw his name from the Organizing Committee of Commonwealth Games 2010. He never had the intention of making that much money. Poonam Pandey has tweeted that she wants to withdraw her clothes from the last few pictures she has posted, as she never wanted to hurt the libido of any of her fans.

Fears of this turning into a worldwide epidemic surfaced when Justin Bieber, in a recent interview, withdrew his albums and all pending singles from the internet and the music stores all over the world. His manager has said that it was never their intention to hurt anybody. However, Justin has been unique in his ways before.

The withdrawal fever that has gripped the nation has left Mamata Didi in shock. Speaking to scribes, she said, *“How can ebhreebody do this? This withdrawal and roll back, eta amar copyright asche! This is not in the fabhor of common man. We demand a roll back!”* On hearing this, sources tell us Robert Vadra rolled back a few thousand notes and placed them in her outstretched hand. The Prime Minister rolled back his already-rolled-back tongue.

Shockingly, the four accused in the Delhi gang rape have also asked if they can withdraw the rape. They feel deeply apologetic and never had the intentions of hurting the sentiments of the people or the girl. Meanwhile, housewives around the country have started withdrawing their marriage ceremonies. Husbands have tried to “roll back” their kids, unfortunately to little avail. Students all over the country have started protest marches and candle light protests demanding the right to withdraw their answer papers.

In a surprise action move, RBI Governor has issued a press statement that ATMs can no longer be used for withdrawals. This may end some of the belligerent withdrawing that has been going on in the country. The Communist Party of India protested this move in the Parliament Session, calling it undemocratic and proceeded to break all the furniture of the House. They have a parliamentary method of doing this in the future. Even God has been trying to roll back humanity, it appears.

Doctors continue to be stunned at this sudden breakout of the epidemic. In order to be regularly updated with the Breaking News on this Breaking epidemic, news channels have withdrawn all other stories.

(inputs from Garima Sharma and Tanay Sukumar)

Team India decides to lose all cricket matches as a tribute to Sachin Tendulkar

December 26, 2012

The Indian cricket team has decided to lose all cricket matches it plays, as a tribute to Sachin Tendulkar following his ODI retirement. This reason has also been given by the team for its poor batting display against Pakistan in the first T20I. Skipper M. S. Dhoni has confided to us that the team will now never play well as Sachin is not there. “There used to be a time in the 1990s when Sachin Tendulkar used to be a one-man army. Now that he is gone the team will play the way it used to in the 90s, as a fitting tribute to the master.”

The sentiment in the dressing room was one of dismay and disappointment as one of the finest batsmen in world cricket bid adieu to the 50 over format. Talking of the tribute: “This would be a perfect tribute as Newton’s 3rd Law of Motion also states that to every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction,” says Sandy Gordon, one-time psychologist to the Indian team who helped India reach the finals in the World Cup 2003. **To be more precise, he said that the**

Indian cricket team will have to play an exact 234 matches in poor form to be able to “balance” what the Master did for the Indian team.

Gordon added that the Universe always moves towards disorder and increases its entropy. “The fans are in a state of tremendous psychological and emotional disorder after Sachin’s retirement. If the Indian team plays well, their state of disorder might get weakened, which would be against the Universal Entropy Principle.”

“We can never repay what Sachin did for Indian cricket,” said Dhoni before the start of the game. “But this is the least that we can offer to the Little Master.” However, Ajinkya Rahane, a cricketer from Mumbai, had other ideas and tried to be different; he scored some quick runs in the match before his stay at the crease was put to rest by Umar Akmal’s catch at deep extra cover. Interestingly, Akmal said later that he didn’t take the catch. It was taken by an invisible “hand of God”.

Mohammad Hafeez has expressed ignorance of any such move from the Indian camp. When asked why he was not able to remember his playing eleven, he had a terse but simple answer, “In Pakistan, while playing in our gullies, we play anyone who wins at firing more bullets, so we don’t have to remember who is in and who is not.” When he heard the news that India is going to lose matches, Hafeez could not hide a smile, as he said, “I welcome this gesture, and it will work well towards the peace process.”

Shoaib Malik has shown discomfort at the statements made by the Indian cricketers. He said that Indian cricketers cannot take away the credit from the Pakistanis who were better on the day. He added that Irfan Pathan had said something similar when Malik won Sania Mirza’s heart and he (Pathan) could not.

What the Indian team is doing by losing matches is essentially “a balancing act” in the words of Rameez Raza. However, Sunil Gavaskar has advised Rameez to first balance his fingers on the Touch Screen. “It is a sign of gross incompetence on part of Rameez to not be able to use a touchscreen to good effect,” feels Sunny. Rameez Raza objected strongly to the use of the word “incompetent” saying that he is not incompetent as he is a father of two sons in Pakistan.

True to their habit, Sachin's critics slam his decision to retire, call it "a selfish decision"

December 24, 2012, Kumar Pratik

Sachin Tendulkar, India’s legendary batsman, retired from ODIs yesterday, and his critics all over the country have again taken to the media to criticize his long illustrious career that spanned 23 years. So what if these are the same critics who asked for his retirement two days ago. These are the same people who have repeatedly been calling for Sachin’s head ever since he even began playing cricket as a teenager long ago. And, nothing that Sachin does ever seems to deter

these critics, many of whom have not even scored in total the number of singles that the Little Master has taken!

If Sachin Tendulkar is God in India, and cricket is religion, his critics are the Atheists, always claiming that there must be some Science to explain the miraculous feats this “mere mortal” has achieved. It has been proposed by some that these critics comprise the “90%” Justice Katju was talking about the other day. Lending weight to this proposition, the critics have slammed Sachin’s decision to retire and said, “Tendulkar must be after political aspirations in the Rajya Sabha, after giving up on his lifelong dream of a career in advertisement industry.”

They have done so in the past too. So what if he continued to bat in a blood-soaked shirt after being hit on the mouth by a Waqar Younis delivery on his debut! “He hasn’t bled for the Indian shirt enough,” if these critics are to be believed. It does not matter that in the late ’90s, Tendulkar accounted for 90 percent of India’s batting line-up; he would still be ridiculed “for getting out and leaving the other 10 percent exposed!” Did he score a double century in the ODIs? Well, “he should have scored more of those,” nonchalantly said the non-believers.

At Sharjah, he fought valiantly like a warrior and scored back to back centuries against Australia, yet it was not enough to win over these so-called cricket experts, who claimed “there was far too much space between his bat and pad”. He plays the IPL for Mumbai Indians? “It must have nothing to do with his passion for playing the smaller version of the game, it must be the money; hell, it must be the cheerleaders,” they said. As if he was running short of cash! Sachin’s upper-cut six off Shoaib Akhtar must be etched in the memory of cricket fans all over, yet the same old critics sprung to the conclusion that “it was a thick outside edge”!

Shane Warne had once claimed that Sachin haunts him even in his dreams; is that possible for a normal man? But Sanjay Manjrekar, a vociferous Sachin critic in the past, seems to think so. He says, “Even I have haunted many bowlers in their dreams in the past... in my dreams. So what if they were from the Ranji teams; they count too!” Navjot Singh Sidhu also had something to say on the matter, but it was too much beyond our comprehension to be published here. Among others, Daddaji, a die-hard cricket fan from a joint family of Varanasi has said, “*Ye Sachin nervous ho jata hai. Zarur nervous ho kar hi retire hua hai!*”

Meanwhile, Tendulkar himself has thanked his critics with elegance and grace reminiscent of his straight drives, “It would not have been possible for me to reach this place without the support of my critics, who’ve been nothing short of exemplary in their performance. It is their job to criticize, to shut them up is mine! They have pushed me to the limits with their whims and demands, I just feel honoured that they’ve had to eat their words more times than I’ve played the paddle-sweep in my career. Besides, I have always had the support of those who matter.”

World ends as everyone on earth dies simply out of "fear of dying"; MAYANS WERE CORRECT!

December 21, 2012, Tanay Sukumar

Not tsunamis, not earthquakes, not cyclones. Instead, it was FEAR that killed everyone on earth today as scheduled, ending years of speculations on the Mayan calendar. The people who were expecting tsunamis and falling meteors and cyclonic storms (courtesy TV channels and the movie *2012*), today realized that apparently, the Mayans had predicted only the *when* of the apocalypse, not the *how*.

1. In one part of the country, throngs of people made their way to the polluted Ganga to be "cleansed" before the End of the World. "This trip was long overdue," said 40-year-old Ramesh Singh, "Now finally we have a chance to purify our souls before we die." Before his troop of 200 devotees could die of bathing in the polluted river water, they bumped into an India TV reporter, whose interview about the apocalypse happened to be enough to kill them. The post-mortem report says most of them died out of fear of death.

2. As everyone waited for the impending wipeout-of-the-world curled on their beds, they each had their own "preparation-for-death mechanisms" in place. Just hours before midnight, Alok Naik from Mumbai revealed on Facebook that he would sleep (or rather, stay shivering awake) with his favourite yellow sweater at night since it was his "lucky charm". "Also, my family did a puja today and invited all our relatives too, in the hope that God will excuse us of all our sins and we shall not end up in Hell," he added. He was later found dead, and his Facebook news feed may have a role in abetting his suicide.

3. Most people across the country flipped from one news channel to another, before getting too taken over by fear and switching to a movie or a sitcom. "Rather thoughtlessly, a popular Hollywood movie channel was airing *2012*. The haunting imagery got the better of us and we are going to spend the rest of the evening playing Angry Birds and Monopoly and praying a lot," this is what Raghav Nayar had said about his family, before their evil neighbour killed them by playing the most horrifying scenes of the movie *2012* at full volume. The death, again was due to fear of death.

4. Early morning on the 21st, people living in a village near Sirsa killed themselves as they thought "they were going to die anyway". A kid who didn't know how to tie the rope to hang himself was found alive. Before dying out of fear in front of us, he told our reporters that since his parents did not want to see the end of this world, they thought that it was a better idea to kill themselves. We asked how did they know that the world would end on the 21st, his response included names of Hindi news channels.

5. A slightly different case was seen in a village near Nagaur, Maharashtra. Farmers under heavy debts in the village spent the whole day rejoicing, as the end of the world approached. But when

they saw that the world wasn't ending, they got so worried that they committed suicide, as they have been doing for long. Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar was later seen asking the farmers' families to play cricket with him, as part of his cricket promotion activities. He seemed happy, and said, "I have amassed enough in my lifetime to help me stay alive in my deathtime."

Opposition slams government for not doing anything to save country from Doomsday

December 19, 2012, Tanay Sukumar

In a fresh blow for the government, the Opposition has alleged that the UPA lacks the "will power" to save the country from Doomsday, and that India's intelligence has been doing little to counter it. Speaking to a news channel, a BJP spokesperson slammed the government for not having enough dinners with Maya to convince her to roll back her calendar. Meanwhile, the government has responded back, calling Doomsday a BJP conspiracy to terrorize people before polls. The Doomsday is expected to strike on 21st December in the whole of India except 10 Janpath.

The matter saw a huge uproar in both Houses of the Parliament today, and sessions were adjourned early. Sachin Tendulkar, Rajya Sabha MP (known as God), said he is helpless in this situation. He said his trusted weapon has lost its divine abilities as Doomsday has come closer. He also said, "I have requested Maya to be merciful; I assured her I'll personally finance and oversee the construction of another 100 statues paying homage to her." Calling Sachin a Congress agent, BJP's Sushma Swaraj alleged that Sachin's helplessness shows the Congress doesn't care. She has requested the formation of an SIT to get to the bottom of this mess.

The Opposition also demanded that the Prime Minister should resign. "He should apologize for his government's inefficiency in taking measures to prevent the destruction. Who knows, that resignation might itself save the country from Doomsday!" said Arun Jaitley. "It is time that the PM addresses the nation and explains why he is working towards saving the government, but not the citizens, from Maya's wrath." Manmohan Singh is reportedly more scared of Sonia than Doomsday. He still won't talk. In response, the PMO said, "Manmohan Singh speeches don't grow on trees." Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, however, said, that the Prime Minister and Sonia Gandhi have not even been told about the danger of the Doomsday.

Sources say that the government has requested Pakistan to request China on their behalf to give the Congress leaders a cave to stay in after the Apocalypse, as in the movie *2012*. Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi has offered to visit nineteen different cities all over Africa "in the only day that remains", promising all Mota Bhais of a safe haven. Sources reported sighting Rahul Gandhi in Kenya already.

"Maybe Mr. Advani is still hoping that our government will fall, mid-term elections will be held, with BJP victorious — all in the next two days, so that he gets to be the Prime Minister at least

for some time before the apocalypse!” Kapil Sibal said using his usual clever oratory. However, Rahul Gandhi messed up the government’s defence while delivering a speech in a rally. He uttered, “Who invented Doomsday? Congress did!” when his speech writer shushed him pointing out that he was invoking the standard line in the wrong context.

Sachin scores 187th ODI ton, against Australia; refuses to retire just yet

December 4, 2012

23 March 2061:

Living legend, Master Blaster, Little Genius a.k.a. Sachin Tendulkar completed his 187th ODI ton yesterday, on a wheelchair. It was a special ton. Yet again. After ICC made some provisional changes in the game’s laws to allow Tendulkar to play on a wheelchair owing to his age a couple of months ago, the Indian opener looked in ominous form against a hapless Australian attack. Even to the uninitiated, it was obvious that Tendulkar was enjoying his favourite meal, Kangaroos. Again!

Mickey Ponting, son of former Australian legend, Ricky Ponting, led the team on to the pitch against a struggling Indian side, but inspired by the sensational Tendulkar, India posted a fighting total of 210/1 in 50 overs. Ponting was later heard whimpering, “This is madness!” ESPN commentator Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who had said in his pitch report that the wicket would turn viciously, and Sachin would face difficulty in negotiating it owing to his ageing legs, was left to rue his words.

This century will give Tendulkar’s career a boost, as he had been struggling for form and fitness of late, amidst continued criticism from media. He went to London a year ago for his knee operation, heart surgery, tennis elbows, and badminton forearms, following which he was declared fit a month ago. Yesterday, 23rd March 2061, has now been etched in the history of cricket when he sprinted like a Cheetah with his automatic wheelchair for that single and completed his century. In the post-match ceremony, he dedicated his hundred to his father. This is now the hundredth hundred that he has dedicated to his father, a record in itself. Anyone close to it is his son, with 51 tons. Seems like it is one dedicated family.

Sachin quashed all rumours about his retirement by saying that no one other than he knows better on when to retire. On being asked how he felt after scoring that century, he said, “It’s only because of my determination, concentration and wheel-power that I made my dream come true. I feel very satisfied now by contributing a little for my country.” India may have come a long way since the days the entire line-up would crumble once Sachin went back to the pavilion, but it has been reaffirmed time and again, that they still need him to pull the team up when it matters the most.

After yesterday's performance some experts have said that there is still some cricket left in him. Meanwhile, Ravi Shastri, who is still around by the way, congratulated him for this achievement. On being asked why he always says that it's a "Do or die situation for him" whenever Sachin comes to bat, he left the scene abruptly. In related news, sources report that the "Bowlers' Association of the World", led by the cricketer-turned-wrestler Shoaib Akhtar, is planning to sue Tendulkar for ruining the careers of hundreds of bowlers in his career spanning more than 70 years!

(edited by [Kumar Pratik](#))

Back from USA after 2 yrs, NRI goes on public rampage ridiculing India & Indian practices

December 3, 2012, Kumar Pratik

In an unfortunate turn of events, Deshbandhu Nagrik, an IIT graduate, went on a public rampage immediately after he returned from USA to India as his visa had expired. He ridiculed India and Indian practices and was subsequently beaten up by local residents in New Delhi. "America is the real paradise on Earth," he declared in an American accent. "And India and Indians are shit." The inflammatory speech by Mr. Nagrik, 32, was first aired by "India" TV.

The police have refused to register a case, since being too modern, they recognize only "online" statements as "offensive". So, Mr. Nagrik would have been arrested had he posted the speech on Facebook. In his tirade against his homeland, he had spoken at length about how India is an obsolete country. "How, you ask?" he barked at us. "They have world-class facilities there. Tall buildings, long highways, short skirts, what isn't there to like?"

He continued, "In India, you only get creaky *jhopdis*, unpaved roads and annoying full-length sarees. In the US, one can have intimate relationships without marriage, and the society will still not look down upon you." When asked if he had any intimate relationships in his two-year-long stay, he replied with a slow shake of his head and changed the topic: "The security is top-notch too; not even a fly can breach it, unlike India where everyday someone or the other is getting murdered. India sucks. US rocks. Period."

The most popular of Mr. Nagrik's rants was on mobile phones. He proudly proclaimed that Apple launches the latest iPhone models instantly in the US. "But they launch their mobile in India only when a newer model is ready. For example India was still happy with iPhone iota when Apple announced iPhone 63 for US. Anyway, the problem is not Apple but the mentality of the Indian populace; they know no class, Micromax and Karbonn is what they deserve and that is what they get."

He also lamented, “We in the United States have politicians such as the great Sir Obama, while the Indians are just happy watching his speeches and presidential debates. India’s journalists are happy pronouncing that Mayawati is the one who comes closest to being [India’s Obama](#).” He also explained to us the difference between the Statue of Liberty and the Statue of Behenji. He picked up the topic of sports next, and ridiculed India’s monomaniacal obsession with cricket, while Americans had football, basketball, baseball, beach volleyball and whatnotball. He was about to liken Sachin to some of their players but cunningly diverted after observing raised eyebrows and flaying nostrils of his audience.

The events culminated into a feisty rebellion by his neighbours, who hurled shoes at him as a testament to George W. Bush’s escapades a couple of years ago. The mob used “Yes we can” as a motivational phrase every time they managed to break another bone in his body. Onlookers report that after he was left reeling by the mob in his apartment, he dialed 911 repeatedly from his cell-phone, but was greeted by the famous line, “*Is route ki sabhi lainein vyast hain. Kripya kuch der baad dial karein.*” When he was finally admitted to a nearby hospital, Nagrik was heard chanting the Gayatri Mantra restlessly.

The incident has created waves all around the country. His wife said that “her husband is innocent, because although he talks of *New Yorker*, *The Economist*, *HBR*, *Huffington Post*, etc, he never really reads them, and being a typical desi, most of his online time is spent browsing *The Times of India* website, commenting on its porn articles under various aliases. He still cherishes a Digvijay Singh gaffe more than the latest economic policy debate by Obama, he still gets more outraged at the arrest of the Palghar girls than he ever did on the issue of SOPA and PIPA and he still likes reading NTMN more than the Onion.”

Meanwhile, Digvijay Singh was heard saying, “Serves him right. You cannot lick the West’s behinds, while living in India.” When the press reporters murmured the name of a certain Mrs. G at this, he retaliated by threatening to deport each of them to a “*videshi mulk*”. The event has had some global political ramifications as well, with Barack Obama threatening New Delhi to pull the plug on the N-Deal with immediate effect. Soon enough, PM Manmohan Singh was spotted visiting Mr. Deshbandhu in his hospital ward with a bouquet of white roses. He was quoted as saying, “*Bahut papad bele hain maine is N-Deal ke liye. Ise jaane nahi de sakta.*”

At the time of this report, Mr. Deshbandhu was in stable condition. He started giving us a statement about how India’s health system is no match for USA either, before realizing the error of his ways and simply commenting, “No comments”. Apparently, he has come to terms with the fact that “there is no such thing as freedom of speech in India!”

Health activists fume after Minister for Religious Beliefs finds temples more important than toilets

October 9, 2012, Tanay Sukumar

Sanitation is the world's largest burning, yet solvable problem.

When Ramrahim Ramesh, the Union Minister for Propagation of Religious Beliefs, said on Monday that “temples should be more important than toilets in this country”, little did he know that his well-meaning remark would draw so much protest. The poor minister was in the shock of his life when stupid social health activists and environmentalists made an issue out of it. “The Minister must apologize. 665 million people in India defecate in the fields every morning, and this is unacceptable from a Minister!” said an apparently uneducated health activist.

The Minister was speaking at a religious gathering (night-time *jaagran*) in New Delhi. The remark drew wide applause at the ceremony. The *jaagran* had wise and sensible devotees playing loud *bhajans* and *pravachans* from midnight till dawn in a locality where we later met several students who could not study for the exam next day due to the disturbance. But of course, the Minister and the devotees are honourable men, and indeed there should be more importance given to religion than toilets in India.

Meanwhile, to the idiots who protested and ridiculously claimed that toilets are more important in this developing country, Ramesh later retorted, “So will those people go to a toilet to pray? Hell, God is *sort of* everywhere, but in toilets?! Will toilets take this country out of trouble?” The Minister denied to apologize with the usual “comments-blown-out-of-proportion” remark, because he said religion is a good cover for everything (in)sensible in this country, and there is no need to bow down to pressure.

A Brahmin pandit from Varanasi, who has an expertise in the very Godly art of caste discrimination, went a step further and said that there should be more temples for higher castes than for Dalits. He allegedly beat up some peaceful pro-sanitation protesters near the banks of the Ganges. This reporter now plans to write to the government to suggest adding these ideas to the next Five Year Plan for fast economic growth in India, the rising superpower. The Brahmin apparently earns his bread by stealing women's clothes while they take bath in the Ganges. When the poor woman comes embarrassed, the Pandit Charming comes to the damsel in distress and sells her a previously-stolen set of clothes in exchange of hard-earned cash. We suggest that the pandit be awarded the Bravery Award (or Award for Best Business Practices?) for successfully using his religious attire to help women in times of need.

Another Ramesh supporter, who is a strict vegetarian looking for buffaloes to kill on Dusshera, told us, “The people who are advocating more clean toilets should be hanged, as they are the true enemies of this country. Toilet cleans the digestive system, but to cleanse your heart, you have to go to the temple.” This supporter claims he goes to a temple every Tuesday to pray for a male

child, ever since he killed his child at birth for being a girl. He has never felt the need of a toilet and pees on the roads of the city to keep them clean and green. And, his wife has to wait for dark to defecate even in serious situations. They still feel temples are more important than toilets.

The NTMN View: Faith aside, we shouldn't deviate from the issue, when a Minister wants to make proper sanitation a reality in India. [Jairam Ramesh](#) may be insensible, but all practices that occur in the name of religion aren't clean either. The Brahmin's example of stealing clothes is a true story from Varanasi. So, let's look at the issue at hand, and that is sanitation.

All 33 crore Hindu Gods descend on earth to help India out of trouble; will fight elections

October 5, 2012, Aashish Aryan

In an unprecedented but expected move, God and his troops landed around 7 Race Course Road today and tried to take charge of the Prime Minister's Office and its work. This happened after the Supreme Court [scolded](#) the Government and said, "God help you and this country!" The Indian Gods, in all their mighty strength of 33 crore, have come down to the Earth and attempted to take over their respective departments in a bid to ouster the UPA government.

Although the coup was averted after Congress members thronged temples with prayers and donations, it has not gone down well with the government. The Congress has urged Gods to fight elections instead in 2014. "I'd like to tell the common man that there is nothing such as God," the Prime Minister told people as he came out of a temple after his prayers. He has previously been known to deny existence of magic wands and magical money-minting trees.

The apparent Leader of Gods, Brahma, told the media that they had their political party ready for elections. "We'd soon be found roaming around the streets. Our partygods will touch the feet of the common man to ask for votes," he was quoted as saying.

Chitragupta praises the CAG: The accountant of Gods, Chitragupta has teamed up with the CAG Vinod Rai to find out the discrepancies and scams of the incumbent government. He told NTMN, "The CAG is my avatar. Vinod Rai is doing a commendable job, and I, with my team, have teamed up to show to the real Gods, the common man, the misdoings of this government."

Other Gods, who handle sensitive departments such as the Rain, the Sun and the Moon, have also teamed up with their respective on-earth representatives to ouster the UPA from rule. The Destroyer, Shiva, has opted out, and will form his own party which will give "outside support" to the other Gods if they win elections.

Goddess Saraswati's gaffe: Saraswati, the most favoured Goddess for the coveted post of the Minister of Human Resource Development, is already in trouble after she said that she would

remove reservations if she got the chance. When Saraswati said that everyone is “equal” and the concept of castes and minority vote bank is “meaningless” to the Gods, “devout” Hindus accused her of blasphemy. India, the only country where types of castes outnumber the total population, erupted in fury, and people from reserved categories demanded an immediate apology from Saraswati.

The spokesperson of the Gods, Narayan Narayan later said that Saraswati’s comments had been blown out of proportion by the media. Saraswati herself took back her comments, and assured people that the reservation policy won’t be changed, after which it was the turn of thousands of Brahmins to burn effigies of the Goddess. This has confused the Gods, as even they can’t figure out what works in this country. All in all, it doesn’t appear that even the God Government will be able to do anything good to India.

Heavenly Life on Earth: Needless to say, some of the Gods have become enchanted with life here on Earth, being worshipped by men and paparazzi in every corner, every alley. Lord Indra commented, “I realize now why Shah Rukh Khan has such a huge ego. Hell, all this fanfare is giving me goosebumps.”

Bribing in God government? An inside pandit (clerk) in the PMO has revealed that the old custom of bribing may be continued if Gods come to rule, as the Gods need an incentive to discuss things with other Gods whom they don’t see eye to eye. Or to Shiva, for the records. He also revealed that during the lunch hour gossip, it was decided that the bribes will be accepted only in the form of sweets from the ‘aam’ aadmi and gold in multiples of 20 kg from the non-‘aam’-aadmi.

Anna fumes: Activist Anna Hazare, who had previously welcomed the move saying people need a political alternative and who better than Gods to provide it, is singing a different tune now, reasons unknown to everyone. “Politics is dirty and Gods should not indulge into something so ghastly,” he wrote on his blog, but he keeps stressing the need for a “political alternative” and a firm resolve of providing the same. After some apparent mulling over on his part, he came out inquiring for the methods that Indra would employ to select the 549 candidates out of 33 crore Gods, and then to allocate constituencies to these candidates. He also put a question jointly to Kuber and Lakshmi asking for the ways in which they would amass the huge amount of money required for the elections. In conclusion, he stressed, all said and done, he would campaign for Vishnu and Vishnu alone—provided he contests against Kansa in Mathura. His disciple, Arvind Kejriwal is now in a fix now, as he doesn’t know what to burn when he starts a protest.

Chaos in Atheist world: Atheists have gone on a rampage that this is some sort of trickery and coup by foreign undercover agents to convince them of the existence of Gods. Most scientists around the country too have abandoned their research and begun the path to divinity.

The Art of Election Campaigning — From the Leaked Diary Entry of a Successful Neta

October 3, 2012, Karan Taneja

We came across the diary entry of an Indian politician, who took election campaigning to another level. Here it goes:

I was a troubled man those days. I knew I had no chance at winning the electorate seat in the constituency. But I *had* to win it, to give people a “political alternative”. I was the only clean politician, after all.

But, the way my competitors were going over the top in proclaiming their agendas (less) and demeaning other candidates (more) ... giving speeches at random yet strategic places where the audience had no option but to listen (the middle of the road) ... climbing on top of tempos and trucks with gargantuan garlands and loudspeakers and microphones with their sycophants singing their praises ... and of course, those beautiful (hideous) billboards with their (photoshopped) pictures showing their teeth to the public ... seeing all this, I knew the odds in my favour would fizzle out soon. Soon, *if* I did not do something special to capture the minds of the “intelligent” voters.

There were plenty of options for me to choose from. A langar? No. *Mata ki chowki*? Naah, that would've been too common... Organizing a pooja? Renovating the temple? No, that would lose the Muslim vote bank. Calling that B-grade movie star to dance? — whose relative's relative's relative lives in the next street? That could be my last resort, I thought. I was the only clean politician after all, and I needed the publicity, desperately.

And then I found the solution. That night, I saw Katy Perry performing at the opening ceremony of the IPL.

A woman. Giving a pointless performance in a pathetic excuse for a dress. A woman whose only relation to cricket was that of her ex-husband being British. And here she was, capturing the minds of the viewers. What if she sang and gyrated suggestively to my name, I thought? What if I found others like her to sing and dance and swoon around me? Surely that would imprint my name on the voter's mind! And then the idea struck me: A MUSIC VIDEO WITH KATY PERRY AND OTHER JOBLESS “STARS” IN IT!!!! Win-win for both them and me. A clean politician like me had to understand the psychology of the voters, after all.

This was a masterstroke, these Indians are obsessed with *phoren* people and Bollywood people. I contacted those people; Bollywood paid heed to the call first. Top musicians, choreographers, dancers, music directors, video directors lined up for this massive project which was of course, for the benefit of the people (and their own. And mine.). My promotional video was the next *Bigg Boss*. And then, recognizing the potential swell in their bank accounts, an expansive array of international “stars” (ones who were out of business for long or had faded into oblivion and were also getting a chance to see the Taj Mahal without bothering why they were in India) descended upon our country, sponsored by me. Katy Perry, Akon, Snoop Dogg, Ludacris, to name a few.

Hence, the promotional video was made under a tight security cover, so tight that there wasn't even one leaked insider video to be seen on YouTube, uploaded by some random guy.

The speculated amount of the entire production was estimated to be around 14 crore rupees. How this came to be with my “publicly declared assets” of around 40 lakhs, no one will ever know. Clean, I am.

The video was released at a glitzy “star” studded press conference and has since then gone viral on the internet with more than 3 million views on YouTube (as is the norm for every “nonsensical” video; even Justin Bieber got as much). The “stars” just flash victory signs and speak slogans in their heavily-accented Hindi (another masterstroke, the *phoren* “namasteee”). This was bound to create hoopla in the public. Gets votes.). The media went bonkers over it and recent reports suggested that it has overtaken *Why This Kolaveri Di* as the most viewed imbecile video on the planet.

I am currently the most talked-about politician in the country (replacing Rahul Gandhi). News channels have their vans parked right outside my house 24×7. Aaj Tak and India TV have my video on the loop and are critically analyzing it with a panel consisting of elite intellectuals like Rakhi Sawant and Digvijay Singh. Even Arnab Goswami has invited me now to his “Talk (I speak you listen, you speak I cut you out) Show”.

I am so popular, I can win any voter based reality TV show if I want to. Unless of course, some other politician “stoops” to new heights and “utilizes” public money in a more “face-palming” way. I won the election, and how.

UPA considers FDI in coalition after Indian parties dump alliance

September 19, 2012, Satat Mishra

With Mamata Banerjee withdrawing support from the ruling coalition in New Delhi, the under-fire UPA government has put up a brave face, and has said that they will introduce Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the coalition itself. “51% of the government alliance is now available for FDI,” Congress leader Digvijay Singh told the media today afternoon. And, by evening, major political parties, apparently backed by huge multinational companies, were lining up to get a share of the Indian government, a business that has proved its potential for huge money in recent times.

Though governments have been bought and sold before as well, political pundits say that the new policy will ensure that it is all out in the open. Hence the move has been appreciated for its “candid honesty”. An added advantage is that there will be a strong Centre, for money is might; and the party that commands the moolah commands the country. Opposition parties with weaker investments may either be bought outright, or the principal investors face hostile takeover bids from the supporting foreign investors. As an indirect result, it will also reduce the burden on the public exchequer by preempting elections after every two-bit policy change.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the nation's favourite opposition, is upto another nationwide bandh asking for immediate roll back of the FDI. As BJP leaders called for the bandh scheduled for tomorrow, sources also say that meanwhile their charismatic leaders are also trying to woo foreign investors with the promise of an undivided NDA.

Sources inside UPA revealed that bids have already been received from Walmart, who, with this acquisition, plan to have a complete retail portfolio—from selling potatoes to politicians. Not surprisingly, other interested corporate include Facebook and Google, who believe that owning a part of the government might prevent them from getting threats of censorship every fortnight. Such companies stand to gain a lot, thanks to the Prime Minister's passion for coalition dharma.

(concept: [Tanay Sukumar](#))

To honour Queen Elizabeth II, India decides not to celebrate Independence Day this year

August 5, 2012, Kunal Anand

Section 144 to be imposed on August 15; Opposition smells dynastic politics

Digvijay Singh, the Minister of Hurtful Sentiments, announced yesterday that the Government of India will forego the official Independence Day celebrations this year. Rather nobly, this will be done to mark the diamond jubilee of the rule of the British Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. This was decided by Queen Nehru–Gandhi IV (aka Sonia), to “honour and strengthen the bond between the two monarchies”.

“We are a tolerant and secular country,” Mr. Singh told the media. “Hurting other people's sentiments for the sake of our celebrations has never been our nature. Keeping in line with our Ministry's efforts to honour the sentiments of various sections of the society, we have decided to not indulge in unnecessary revelry on August 15. This will be our way of honouring Her Highness Shrimati Queen Elizabeth.”

When a reporter asked if there was a formal request from Buckingham Palace regarding this issue, Mr. Singh began to shake his head in one direction, then did a volte face and went in the other, and finally just gave up and decided to speak. “Prince William, who happens to be a close buddy of Prince Rahul's, was on a friendly visit to India recently. He mentioned to Prince Rahul how emotionally attached his grandmother is to India. She still keeps the Kohinoor on her study table as a paper weight! Just imagine, she could have any big diamond from the mines of Africa, but she chose the Kohinoor!

“Considering that the Indians are more miserable now than they were under the British, it's illogical to call 15th August as Independence Day. It was just a mere transfer of power, like what happens every 5 years in ‘democratic’ India. Rahulji shared this story in the Congress Working

Committee meeting which was presided, chaired, managed and attended by Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji. A unanimous decision in this regard was taken to honour and strengthen the bond between the two monarchies.”

He added: “The Queen has been a great ruler. In fact, the entire British rule was a blessing in disguise as propounded by our Prime Minister during his [visit](#) to Oxford University. Not celebrating the Independence Day will be our small token of love towards the great monarch whose family has stood for strong democratic values for centuries.”

“Does that mean the PM will not address the country from the ramparts of Red Fort this year?” asked a reporter.

Mr. Singh shook his head this time and said, “No, he will not. I request everyone to not indulge in any kind of revelry as Section 144 will be imposed throughout the country, except Kashmir, to prevent any unwanted incidents. We have also asked Salman Khan to promote his upcoming film *Ek Tha Tiger*—which is releasing on 15th August—as an ‘Eid’ release instead of an ‘Independence Day’ release.”

There’s more in the pipeline. “Although the official *Satyamev Jayate* season is over, we have requested a special episode on 11th August to expose how pesticides and colours are used in the jalebis sold on Independence Day, and how the money that can be used for upliftment of poor is wasted on this day. Aamir has agreed to promote ‘Sharbat Swatantrata Divas’ as an alternative to unnecessary display of wealth and might. After making India a [cartoon- and painting-free nation](#), we hope that this latest initiative will also be a resounding success,” finished Mr. Singh with a flourish.

Political reactions: The opposition NDA was up in arms against this “draconian” measure. “This is another example of dynastic politics. Only a Queen can understand the feelings of another Queen,” said one of their leaders. Narendra Modi, conversely, made a startling revelation: “This is another sorry attempt to save Manmohan Singh. Last year, it was discovered that he was lip-syncing at Red Fort while Sonia Gandhi delivered the speech in Hindi, albeit with help from a voice modulation software. I request everyone to tune in to ETV Gujarat on 15th August and hear their future PM who actually SPEAKS.”

Nitish Kumar appeared all confused when asked about this development. While he didn’t support UPA’s decision, he said he didn’t want to appear “communal” by opposing it and standing on the same side as Narendra Modi. With much coaxing, he added, “Whatever they do, secularism must be upheld.”

Outside India: Internationally, like in most cases, this decision of the Indian Government has garnered little response. While 52% of Americans believe India is still a colony of Britain, 31% think the reference was to Red Indians, who surely shouldn’t celebrate Independence Day. The remainder wants Obama to bomb India and protect their jobs from being Bangalored.

Pakistan, which was nowhere in the picture, has welcomed this decision. Rehman Malik, the Inferior Minister of Pakistan, said, “This is a great step towards normalization of bilateral relations between the two superpowers of Asia. The ice was thawed when India officially decided to not celebrate the 1971 and Kargil War victories. This initiative will bring us even

closer. The Reserve Bank of Pakistan has decided to honour the long standing ties between the two countries by printing Rs 100, 500 and 1000 notes in Pakistani currency with pictures of Manmohan Singh hugging Zardari.”

Along with this, Pakistan has unilaterally decided to “take back” Veena Malik, even though they still maintain that she isn’t a state sponsored terrorist sent to terrorize India with her acting skills and “drop-dead” looks.

The UK’s reaction: The office of Queen Elizabeth II welcomed this long overdue decision. As a token of appreciation, the Queen has agreed to let Manmohan Singh touch the Kohinoor with gloved hands when he visits Britain next.

Team Anna: Arvind Kejriwal has assured that Anna Hazare will go on a fast against this decision. Baba Ramdev has declared that he will hoist the tricolour at his ashram no matter what. Shahi Imam Bukhari is still wondering if this decision is in any way against the minorities. The common man? He is still discussing if petrol prices will fall by another 7 paise after being raised 7 rupees.

Exclusive interview with “modern” couple who refuses to send daughter to all-girls school

July 18, 2012, Aparna Singh

A middle-aged couple has refused to send their four-year-old daughter to an all-girls school, which happens to be the best in the town. They have their own reasons to cite for it. The NTMN team decided to show up at their household to investigate the matter.

NTMN: We assume that you want to keep your daughter illiterate. Is that so, sir?

Father: It’s not what you think. We are certainly not denying the right to education to our own daughter. We just want her to go to a co-ed school.

NTMN (*jaw dropping*): Co-ed? Really? And why?

F: Bah! Everything is a problem for you people. If we would have decided to send her to an all-girls school, even then we’d have got two-hour TV coverage.

NTMN (*taking a glass of water to mellow the awkwardness*): We’re sorry, but why do you think this is a better option?

F: Marriage. What else?

NTMN (*almost spit water on the flowers in a vase*): Marriage?

F (*snatching vase away*): Look, you know very well how expensive it is to raise kids these days. The neighbours kept telling me to start saving dowry money since she was two, and—

NTMN: Since she was two?

F: Yes, and she's four now and I still haven't begun saving. The price of organizing a marriage is getting steeper day by day. How are we going to afford it for our daughter?

NTMN: Is that how you thought of this idea?

F (*twirling moustache importantly*): Of course. We decided it's better if she goes to a co-ed school, finds a suitor early on and then gets love-married all by herself. That'll save us the worry of organizing a big fat Indian wedding and arranging dowry for her.

NTMN: We appreciate your foresightedness, sir. But all this for the marriage of a girl who hasn't even grown up yet?

F (*nostrils flaring*): You reporters don't have brains? Can't you find out the logic? (*pauses*)

(*We just stare blankly.*)

F: Don't you see? We want to save our girl from the distraught of getting rejected in future.

NTMN (*brightening up*): Oh yes! (*pause*) How?

F: See, pre-marriage state is a currish affair these days. It's just like picking an object of universal liking and then haggling over its price. Lesser the price offered, more the chances of the deal getting snapped. We don't want our poor child facing the gash of rejection.

(*takes a deep breath*)

And if Kapil Sibal can do away with 10th boards to save the students from the fear of failure, can't we do something like that for our own daughter? She'll definitely get hooked with a guy in co-ed. That does our job.

(*long pause*)

NTMN: We-ell, that does sound... promising...

(*We sit there puzzled and motionless, looking like zombies. The girl's mother arrives with a tray of snacks.*)

Mother: Please have something.

(*We politely refuse a biscuit.*)

M: I know you people might be having a lot of questions in your mind, but it's in the best interest of our daughter. Arranged marriages are no good these days. Heavy dowry is no guarantee for satisfaction of in-laws.

(At this point, we are taken aback by the pithy usage of that particular word. We instinctively grab a glass of water.)

We don't want our doll getting flogged for petty things every other day. And now that love-marriages are in fashion, we too want to earn the credit of being broad minded parents who allow their children to marry whomever they want.

NTMN *(tentatively furrowing eyebrows):* But how are you so sure that your girl will fall in love with some guy?

F: Oh come on, these happenstances are common in co-ed schools. And not sending her to an all-girls school will ensure her 'straightness' too.

NTMN: Well... There's no way you can fault that logic.

(We thank them and get up to leave. Making our way out of the house, we see the girl sitting with her colour box and drawing a rough sketch of her parents. She seems oblivious of the scurrying movement around her. Beside her sketch book, we find a dietary sheet.)

NTMN *(pointing at sheet):* And what is that for?

F: Oh, that? We've made a diet plan for her. She must be fit and healthy. Boys don't lay their eyes on fat girls, you see. Much like the '*ladki dikhana*' in arranged marriages, where girls are paraded before unknown prospective grooms. The difference here is that our girl would be flaunting her beauty around some *known* people.

NTMN: So you're just parents *trying* to think modernly in a very weird manner?

F: What's weird about it? Now come. I'll drop you at the station. I have to go the gym anyway to fill up a membership form.

NTMN: That's impressive. You gym?

F *(laughing):* No, it's not for me. Although it would be useful, now that my daughter's going to a co-ed school! No, it's for her. By the time she's sixteen, the membership rate will be far far higher. We're just sort of reserving it for when she turns sixteen.

(The reporter finds it unnecessary to say anything and just nods along. We quickly make the excuse that our respective great-grandmothers are in hospital beds and just run to the station alone.)

(ed. Satat Mishra, Priyanka Mehta)

Kapil Sibal clears all confusion over new JEE pattern; tells students to “go out there and enjoy”

June 5, 2012, Meera Vigraham

“This one single three-exam,” he explained, “shall be conducted multiple times a year to relieve the students of the pressures of multiple exams.”

Finally to the relief and joy of thousands of students all over India, we have the much awaited changes in the engineering entrance examination pattern. At a glittering ceremony in the ballroom of The Leela Palace, New Delhi, Mr. Kapil Sibal made some “intelligent” announcements to thunderous applause. The drama was attended by a large crowd of twenty carefully selected reporters and some IIT directors (with their tongues tied to the minister’s eyebrows).

The ceremony itself was held amidst tight security; no one was allowed in or out of the hotel for the entire day. “We took security measures as we expected crowds of students to turn up, who could turn emotional and deliriously happy on hearing the news. They might perhaps turn violent in their effort to touch Mr. Sibal’s feet, or perhaps shake his hands in gratitude,” Delhi’s police commissioner explained.

Sibal announced that he had decided to relieve the students of the pressure of multiple exams which was causing suicides and other kinds of mental breakdowns. To this effect he said he had decided to replace multiple exams with one single entrance exam which was actually three exams consisting of mains, advanced and the Board exam.

“This one single three-exam,” he explained, “shall be conducted multiple times a year to relieve the students of the pressures of multiple exams.”

On weightage to the Board exam marks: When a reporter wanted to know if giving weightage to the Board marks would not increase pressure, he glared at his assistant for allowing such rogue reporters in, but kindly proceeded to answer the question. “You see, earlier they had to get 60% in the Board exams to qualify, now the weightage is only 50%... so what stress? 50 is less than 60, isn’t it? You think because I studied history I don’t know maths?” he stated looking very pleased indeed.

“Go out there and enjoy the last year of school!”: Mr. Sibal was very gracious in answering all the uncomfortable questions posed by the press. On being questioned about malpractices in Board exams, he explained that students should not worry about such trivial things. “They should instead go out and enjoy their twelfth standard. It is the last year of schooling and they should collect happy memories of discos, pubs, movies with friends, etc. I find this practice of studying all the time detrimental to students’ all-round development.”

Further, he asked students to take his own life as an inspiration—he had never made studies the be-all and end-all of life, and yet one could see how he had prospered and got “all-round” development.

On interfering with the autonomy of IITs: Mr. Sibal earnestly clarified that as he had said in an interview the previous year, he would not dream of disturbing the autonomy of such a prestigious institution as the IITs. But someone had told him that that all the directors and faculty members as well as the wardens and sweepers of the IITs had become thoroughly alarmed when they had noticed (and it had also been pointed out by the taxpaying public), that not a single IITian had won a Nobel prize, a lottery prize or any other prize. In fact, they had said that not one had ever won an Oscar, Grammy or even a Filmfare award! Therefore, Sibal said, he was forced to step in to rectify this sad situation.

On coaching institutes: On the questions about getting rid of coaching classes he became preoccupied muttering to himself that the coaching class fellas were an ungrateful lot. “Even though we have tripled their income by having the mains, advanced and Board exams, they are still haggling about the division of profits,” our camera recorded. However he quickly pulled himself together and explained he had actually got rid of coaching institutes by changing the exam pattern, but it was not his fault they had come back like cockroaches do after the pest treatment. He said he would change things again to tackle them once he came in power after the 2014 elections.

Exam in regional languages: Mr. Sibal became a little irritated when during the proceedings his cell phone rang. Apparently Mr. Narendra Modi was online insisting that he conduct the exam in Gujarati too. Sibal genially agreed to the proposal and handed over the cell phone to his new assistant instructing her not to disturb him further. But he said that if anyone called with similar demands of conducting the exam in Pali, Sanskrit, Bodo, etc, she could agree to it all and in fact agree to any other demands anyone made.

On possible paper leaks: Mr. Sibal was in a jovial mood throughout the evening. While answering another query over possible paper leaks since there would be thousands of exam centres hosting the biggest exam in the country, he joked that it was just a minor issue. “This is only paper leak, not an oil leak or gas leak or something!” He wanted to know if the reporter expected him to deliver the question paper personally to all the thousand centres on a bicycle. This had his audience rolling with laughter, and Mr. Sibal looked pleased with himself.

On online protests: Someone brought up the issue of protests against the new pattern, especially on the internet. The minister made it clear that people inside monitors and computers were not real people only notional people, and their protests did not count.

The evening ended with a riotous party to celebrate the good news, but unfortunately Mr Sibal had to leave midway because he had an urgent meeting with delegates from New Zealand and Canada universities. These delegates from recession-hit countries were keen to enter the education markets of India as they had heard that Indians will do anything for their children’s education including selling a house or kidney.

Summary: Finally things have become clear for the students: “One single exam called *New JEE* is going to replace multiple exams to relieve stress; this single three-exam will consist of Main exam, Advanced exam and Board exam. The exam will be so easy, that students will no longer need coaching classes. Also the exam will be so tough that it will be on the same level as the JEE so that the standards are maintained.”

There are also big advertisements in the newspapers from coaching classes for the benefit of students. One such advertisement says, “We are the only institute experienced in teaching for the new exam pattern. Our study material is already ready. Special rates: Choose between 2 Board exams + 2 mains + 2 advanced OR Economy package with only 1 board, 1 main and 1 advanced OR 10 year package for multiple JEEs until you get into IIT or money-back guarantee.”

India to become a “cartoon-free” zone by 2020, as govt vows to root out cartoonism

May 20, 2012, Kunal Anand

When the bill “Ban All Kinds of Cartoons Having Offensive and Derogatory Intentions” (BAKCHODI) becomes a law, India will move a step closer to a cartoon-free India. Cartoonism is the single biggest challenge to our democracy at present, as our MPs spend day in and day out discussing the issue.

In yet another step towards making India a serious superpower by 2020 AD, the government has announced steps to make India a “cartoon-free” country. Home Minister P. Chidambaram and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ambika Soni addressed a press conference in Delhi where they explained the grave threat of growing cartoonism in India. They assured citizens that the government was ready with concrete plans to deal with the same.

Chidambaram said, “The Bill to Ban All Kinds of Cartoons Having Offensive and Derogatory Intentions (BAKCHODI) is just a baby step towards the India of our dreams. The Bill will be presented in the monsoon session to bring a law for dealing strictly with miscreants.

“Gone are the days when cartoons were funny. We no more live in the innocent era of Tom and Jerry and Tenaliraman. The situation is such that in tomorrow’s paper, you might even see *my* cartoon!! This form of amusement has now become a tool to terrorize and maim the State. Our PM Manmohan Singh recently rated ‘cartoonism’ as the single biggest threat to Indian democracy,” Chidambaram said with his usual ‘intello-smile’. He assured, “There will be zero tolerance towards cartoonism and all perpetrators will be brought to justice.”

“Recently, there was this highly derogatory cartoon of a great Dalit leader in a textbook. It was a wake-up call for all of us to realize how grave a [danger](#) such cartons have become. They can hurt the feelings of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and {(Hindu-, Muslim- and Christian-) (Dalits)}. Have you seen those regular abominable cartoons in newspapers? God! They can lead to mini-wars!” Ambika Soni said, widening her eyes and mouth-cavity.

In wake of regular protests by masses against such defamatory and inflammatory content, the government has asked Facebook and Google to filter such material. Also, the 1,10,000 books with the derogatory cartoons of our Constitution-maker have been recalled from village schools across the country.

When pointed out that the BAKCHODI Bill is against the freedom of expression, Chidambaram smiled again like a saint under the influence of marijuana and said, “This isn’t a total ban. We have exempted Orkut and Cartoon Network from this ban. Also, to assure that our kids get a feel of the glorious past of Indian cartoons, Doordarshan will telecast *Jungle Book* from the coming Sunday at 11am. You can also read the hand-outs given to you. It lists the various types of content exempted from the forthcoming BAKCHODI law.”

The fate of the BAKCHODI Bill still hangs in balance as people are expecting Anna Hazare to start a hunger strike in opposition. Meanwhile, here’s a list of the things to be exempted from BAKCHODI, according to the hand-outs:

1. Statues of Mayawati.
2. Un-photoshopped photos of Mamata Banerjee.
3. Talking videos of Lalu Yadav.
4. Silent videos of Manmohan Singh.
5. Election speeches of Rahul Gandhi and his brother-in-law Robert Vadera.
6. Any cartoon depicting Hindu Gods who were not Dalit.
7. Any cartoon depicting Muslims and Christians that have been approved by the Shahi Imam and Pope Benedict XVI respectively.
8. Edited versions of R. K Laxman’s ‘Common Man’ series after removing any politicians’ caricature or politically motivated text from them (illustrated below).

The Chestnut Tree Café—Stop For a Snack to Stab Your Friend in the Back

April 13, 2012, Brototi Roy

A 24-year-old, who says that the act of stabbing people at their back is an in-built trait, has come up with a café which deals with something interesting: betrayal. The Café aims to provide the customers with a rich experience of deceit and depression. Set in a backdrop of Judas kissing Jesus, and an *Aashiq Banaya Aapne* poster, and with Mark Zuckerberg at the inauguration, it will reaffirm that we all need to cheat someone to reach to the top, and that it's nothing to be guilty about.

Literally taking a leaf out of George Orwell's famous book *1984*, a young entrepreneur is all set to open up a unique venture named 'Chestnut Tree Café' in upscale Bandra, next Friday. He calls himself Big Brother.

"Those who aren't familiar with the Orwellian classic *1984* would not understand the significance of the name, but I am confident my café is going to be a big hit." Justifying this statement in an exclusive interview, BB said, "Chestnut Tree is a café with a cause; while all other establishments are concerned with trivial services like food, entertainment and a good time, we cater to the deepest and most important qualities of a human being—betrayal and deceit."

The twenty-four-year-old explained that humans are basically selfish creatures and the act of stabbing people at their back is an in-built trait. "Orwell wrote about it half a century ago, and we continue to see it every day in the news; the act of selling people out is something that each individual commits over and over again. Be it a regular teenager dumping his latest flame for a prettier version, or a businessman sabotaging his partner, everyone betrays someone. Unfortunately, the society we live in today is in denial of its true nature—of a backstabbing, two-faced snitch. So I decided to provide people with a place where they can be true to themselves and discover their inner Brutus. This is my life's mission. Well, at least until I steal another one."

Features of the "Betrayal Café": The Chestnut Tree is a 70-seater café, overlooking the sea. It has dingy yellow walls with symbolic cracks in them, chess boards to motivate strategic scheming and an assortment of clove-flavoured bites and gin. To set up perfect dates for friends-that-were, each table is illuminated with a single yellow bulb, creating a fitting ambience of uncomfortable interrogation. Since no act of treachery is complete without background music, a Tele-screen has been installed that always plays a selection of songs with betrayal as their theme. The greatest attraction however, is a giant poster that hangs in the middle of the largest wall—depicting the face of a man, about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome features. His eyes seem to follow you wherever you go; *BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU*. Captioned underneath, is the motto of the Café:

*"In Chestnut Tree, that overlooks the sea,
I sold you and you sold me."*

Enquired about the kind of crowd he is expecting, BB revealed that his café was open to anyone—from a schoolboy who decided to ditch his best friend to work on a project with the class topper at the last minute, to a colleague who snitched about you at work, to a girl fooling around with a friend's boyfriend. "My services are offered to every Indian without a bias, ranging from Sonia Gandhi—who can finally break it to Manmohan Singh that he's just a poster boy—to Ranbir Kapoor to ditch his latest fling. We are quite versatile that way!" exclaims BB.

The Café aims to provide the customer with a rich experience of deceit and depression. The artwork in the Café is carefully chosen—Judas kissing Jesus, a family portrait of Adam and Eve with the Serpent and Apple, and an original poster of *Aashiq Banaya Aapne* depicting romantic betrayal.

“It is our aim, to not only provide the perfect setting for treachery, but also to inspire and bring out the worst in our customers. The Café has some exciting activities lined up—debates, guest lectures on how to intoxicate the mind from a guilty conscience, book clubs to study the history of treason etc. I am very excited to announce that on the grand opening, Mark Zuckerberg has agreed to put in a special appearance via the Tele-screen. He will address the crowd on the intricacies of betrayal and share expert tips on theft of intellectual property.”

BB’s confidence in the Café made me wonder out loud, if this had always been his plan. BB revealed that he had initially wanted to be a social entrepreneur, but after reading *1984*, he just knew for sure that this was the venture he wanted to work with. “I mean, so many people are into mind-games and guilt-free deception but what about the rest of us; the ones who need the reassurance that it’s okay to sell someone out for the greater good? I mean, do you have any idea about the kind of health hazards and trauma people go through in life, over-analyzing their inherent trait for survival? This café will reaffirm that they are not alone, that we all need to step on someone to reach to the top, that it’s nothing to be guilty about.

“Take the Café for example; do you think it was my idea? Hell no! My best friend came up with it. I convinced him that it was no good and made him accept the offer from Yale so that he was out of the way. I went behind his back and set it up. He will be the first person I’ll bring here. I think we will move past this and remain good friends. His friendship means a lot to me. So you see, I have cheated, you have cheated. We don’t need to make a big deal out of it, but just focus on the bigger picture. That is what the Chestnut Tree is all about—the bigger picture; because ends always justify the means now, don’t they?”

BB confides with a smile, “I intend to bring a revolution. Just as ‘we need to talk’ is synonymous with breakup, people saying ‘let’s meet up at the Chestnut’ would mean betrayal in the near future. I have high hopes for my Café!”

The Chestnut Tree promises to be the perfect setting for that ultimate showdown you’ve been putting off. BB and his venture inspire great confidence in your ability to finally push that dagger in. The Chestnut Tree Café opens coming Friday in Bandra.

This article is by Brototi Roy, and has been edited by Apoorva Tapas. Both Brototi and Apoorva are interning with NTMN in our 2012 Internship-cum-Training Program.

शोक-सन्देश: IIT की संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (JEE) का 52 वर्ष की उम्र में निधन

April 11, 2012, Rishabh Jain

संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा

(9 अप्रैल 1960 – 8 अप्रैल 2012)

लंबे समय से कपिल चप्पल की मार झेल रही 'संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा' ने अंततः 8 अप्रैल, सायं काल 5 बजे दम तोड़ दिया | वे 52 वर्ष के थे |

मृत्युलेख एवं शोक सन्देश

आप प्रारम्भ से ही बड़े सख्त मिजाज थे | बच्चों को देखकर ही आपका पारा चढ़ जाता और आप उन्हें डराने-धमकाने लगते | फलस्वरूप छोटे बालकों में आपका आतंक व्याप्त हो गया | लेकिन बढ़ती उम्र के साथ आपके मिजाज़ में कुछ नरमी आई |

'मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय' के साथ लगभग तीस वर्षों तक आपके मधुर वैवाहिक सम्बन्ध रहे | जिसके फलस्वरूप अपनी युवावस्था में आपके सात पुत्र हुए | सभी ने बड़े होकर अलग-अलग शहरों में अपने पिता का नाम रोशन किया | लेकिन इतने से आपकी सांसारिक इच्छाएँ खत्म नहीं हुई | अपनी ढलती उम्र में भी आपने 'फाईट मार कर' आठ कमजोर-कुपोषित बच्चों को जन्म दिया | ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ, मानो वे 'क्वालिटी' की बजाए 'क्वांटिटी' पर ज्यादा ध्यान दे रहें हैं |

बाद में आपका रुझान कोटा नामक 'कोठे वाली' की तरफ बढ़ने लगा | आपकी पत्नी (मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय) ने कोटा से आपका पीछा छुड़ाने के लिए 2006 में आपका पूरा हुलिया ही परिवर्तित कर दिया | लेकिन कोटा ने उन्हें फिर भी पहचान लिया, और तब से उनके सम्बन्ध और भी प्रगाढ़ हो गए | अंततः कोई चारा ना देख आपकी पत्नी ने अपने 'सीरिअल किलर – खूंखार दरिंदे – राजनेता भाई' कपिल चप्पल के साथ मिलकर आपके क़त्ल की साजिश रची | अपनी राजनीतिक शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए श्री चप्पल ने 2010 में आप पर घातक हमला किया | तब से आप जिंदगी और मौत के बीच झूल रहे थे |

लेकिन आपके आई.सी.यू. में भर्ती रहने के दौरान ही आपकी पत्नी 'मंत्रालय' ने ISEET नामक अज्ञात शख्स के साथ अपने संबंधों का खुलासा कर दिया | उन्होंने ये भी घोषणा कर दी की 2013 में वे परिणय सूत्र में बंध जाएंगे | मृतक जेईई के १५ बच्चों के साथ अब सौतेला व्यवहार होने की आशंका है |

लेकिन लगता है 'मंत्रालय' की खुशी अधिक दिनों तक नहीं टिकने वाली क्योंकि 'कोटा' नामक उसी 'कोठे-वाली' ने अभी से उसके मंगेतर ISEET पर भी डोरे डालने शुरू कर दिए हैं |

शोकाकुल आई.आई.टी बॉम्बे, आई.आई.टी दिल्ली, आई.आई.टी कानपुर एवं समस्त आई.आई.टी परिवार |

(NTMN पर प्रकाशित करने से पहले ऋषभ ने यह लेख फेसबुक पर [नोट](#) के रूप में 8 अप्रैल को प्रकाशित किया था | ऋषभ कहते हैं कि इस आलेख का उद्देश्य किसी को ठेस पहुंचाना नहीं है, और अगर आपको

ठेस पहुचती है तो इसे मात्र एक संयोग कहा जाएगा।)

This obituary was originally published by Rishabh as a Facebook note ([link](#)).

Just After IIT-JEE, Pune Students Rush to Get Ringside View of Cheerleaders At IPL Match

April 8, 2012, Priyanka Mehta

It was a sight to behold as the evening IPL match on April 8 experienced a very unexpected flavour. This match—between Pune Warriors and Kings XI Punjab—was packed to capacity, with an estimated 44,380 seats filled. The beauty of it is that the elaborately-named Subrata Roy Sahara stadium was filled mainly with Pune’s aspiring IITians. The bizarre truth is that they were all in it for the cheerleaders.

“Our JEE is finally done with—four years of sweat and agony and no TV and Counter Strike have finally come to an end,” said an exuberant Aditya Naik, who hopes to secure an AIR within 2000. “I immediately trooped down here with my friends to catch the cheerle—I mean, the match.”

It was indeed strange how events unfolded. IIT’s Joint Entrance Examination got over at 5 pm, and hordes of students hurriedly got out of their centres and made a beeline for the nearest public transport they could catch hold of. Many claimed to have booked their tickets days in advance.

Says Aman Shaikh, “As soon as the paper was handed in, I turned to the guy sitting next to me to discuss. But he quickly told me, “Not now. I have to rush for the match.” As soon as we realized we were both going to watch the IPL match, we made the tough journey here together. Then we looked for the cheerleaders; since they hadn’t arrived yet, we looked for our friends who were coming in from other exam centres.”

It was a challenge, many say, to find their friends in the crowd. But the challenge was taken only by those who arrived at the stadium *before* the cheerleaders. Gary D’Souza exclaimed, “This is my first IPL match. I’ve been studying like crazy during all the previous seasons. Here I come, girls!”

Sitting next to him and manically happy, Karan Patil explained between sips of Pepsi, “I’m loving the match! This *samosa* is just heavenly!” However, the match had not yet started. When asked how his exam went, Karan lamented his poor performance quite happily, “I knew I would screw it. My target always was AIEEEE, but since my parents lived in the delusion that I was a *JEE* aspirant, they allowed me to come for the match. My mom called and said she was proud that I had toiled so hard for two years and now the exam was done.” And didn’t you tell her

about your performance? “I told her I will get some rank between 1000 and 2000. She won’t remember this when the result comes out.”

Meanwhile, the more conservative attire of the Pune Warriors ‘Cheer Queens’—who have been making entries in saris and traditional outfits and performing Indian dances—refused to dampen the spirits of the youngsters. No, our youngsters made the best of the situation by choosing instead to fix their eyes on the flamboyant Kings XI Punjab cheerleaders. This meant many boys were waving Pune flags and banners, but were ogling the cheerleaders of the opponents. If you can’t beat them, join them?

A thrilled Rajeev Bhide said, “A bit of the cheerleader magic has gone. But fortunately, only a couple teams have made this conversion. So if your team’s cheerleaders are not motivating you, the other team will almost always make up for this disparity! I’m obviously expecting to get into one of the better IITs—I hope I can make it to Bombay—but either way, it will mean very less girls. And the few that will be there won’t be, well, enough, and may be geeky, so…” he faltered, unable to express in words what his nether regions felt.

The students, most of them first-timers, enjoyed every nuance of the live-match scenario—every but one: the match itself.

Fifteen minutes into the match, one of the boys yelled out, “What the hell is the score?” It took some time to understand that he was being serious and not intending to mock any of the teams—nobody had been keeping track of the match or indeed, watching it at all. This chant converged into a crescendo, as almost the entire audience repeated it for a full minute. Then they fell silent all of a sudden as the Kings XI Punjab cheerleaders started to warm up to an interesting routine.

Not surprisingly, this issue was quickly pounced upon by the Shiv Sena. Bringing back warm [memories](#) of 2008, Uddhav Thackeray restated that *bhangra* would act as a better medium—as compared to cheerleaders—to encourage the players. For the uninitiated, Bal Thackeray had himself announced that he did not know whether people come to watch the match or the cheerleaders. He had also said that ‘good sports and music’ were the ‘[secret](#)’ to his ‘cheerfulness’. (Pun, anyone?)

It remains to be seen how the Shiv Sena will proceed. Until then, all future IITians can probably view this IPL season as their last ‘opportunity’ in a long, long time.

Kapil Sibal: Bonus marks for girls in IIMs can cause rise in male infanticide in future

March 23, 2012, Chandan Kuar

After a recently-concluded meeting with NGOs and social stakeholders, it appears that Kapil Sibal’s HRD Ministry is afraid that the changed selection criteria in IIMs can give rise to male

infanticides. In the press conference after the closed-doors affair, Kapil Sibal told us, “We have come to the conclusion that the recent decline in the female infanticide in middle-class families has much to do with the change in the selection criteria of IIMs. The criteria fetches girls a bonus of 20–25 marks in the selection process. We believe that in the years to come, male children will be seen as a hindrance to higher societal status, as their chances of being admitted to MBA programs will go down. The trend will be strongest in what we define as the ‘general category’. In the years to come, male children will be seen to be as evil as not doing an MBA like everyone.”

Elaborating on it further, the Human Resource Degradation Minister continued, “In dire need of diversity in classrooms, the IIMs are going to provide even incompetent girls with extra marks. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi have justified it, saying females do have a better sense of management. But this has led to an increase in cases of sex change among families that can afford it. And middle-class families which heavily depend on the More Bright and Advanced (MBA) prospects of their children are going to resort to abortion of the male child.” Although the meeting was scheduled for last Friday, there was a ‘slight’ delay as Mr. Sibal had prior commitments—screening images of Sunny Leone before they could be posted on social networking sites.

When Digvijay Singh was asked about his views, he came out with a different take on the matter. Like always, he leered and said, “I think it’s an indirect initiative by our world class B-schools to change the scenario of our skewed sex ratio. An unbalanced sex ratio like ours is a great deterrent to progress, and I welcome this move from the educational institutions. I myself had put in a lot of thought into this matter, but frankly, even I could not have devised a more efficient solution.”

The IIM-K director, acting as a spokesperson for the other IIMs, remarked, “We have resolved to continue with our ongoing selection criteria irrespective of the consequences. Lalu Yadav’s Railways profits were proved wrong, MS Dhoni is now losing matches at will: so the men we taught students about, have failed. Women are needed now. We reserve the right to select students via gender biasing, or via any sort of criteria we deem necessary. We have to have excellent placement statistics, and right now women are being preferred by both national and international recruiters. There has never been a question of who is more ‘worthy’. I’m sure the male candidates can understand that concept after so many years of enjoying the greener side of things.”

But, since NTMN is known for brave journalism, we hereby reveal an astonishing view with regard to change in selection criteria as told to the reporters. The director made it clear that in the days to come, “we are planning to bring in more diversity by providing bonus marks to the divorced and the people from the LGBT community and people in live-in relationships, since they bring in new thinking ideologies.”

Quite obviously, these issues are a long shot from the primary problem at hand: infanticide. The government has promised to start a variety of welfare schemes to tone down the immense odds currently being stacked against male children in India, but nobody expects it to work. Meanwhile, parents who had been trying for a male child even after their third issue have been the most happy by the recent turn of events.

(ed. Saswata De)

What do our celebs desperately want from Santa this Christmas?

December 25, 2011, Sugandha

Here is a list of celebrities and what they are desperately praying to Santa for, this Christmas. Merry Christmas to them and to our readers! ☺

Kapil Sibal A dangerous internet virus that will eat up the whole web ⇒ Madam Sonia's happiness. ☺

Digvijay Singh Sense.

Arindam Chaudhuri The ability to think... before he can "think beyond the IIMs".

Rakhi Sawant More Silicon ... chips, for advancement in the world of technology.

Kiran Bedi CBI/More Twitter Followers.

Mayawati A book titled *10000 New Ideas For Building Statues*.

Veena Malik Santa. Says she finds his beard hot.

Rahul Gandhi Food. (Cuisine: Strictly Dalit).

Katrina Kaif One role not of a London-returned girl.

Nargis Fakhri One role!!

Anna ??

Manmohan Singh Talking aid. (Says he is tired of being one)

Baba Ramdev Ladies' suits, saris, make-up kits, etc.

Kasab Lead role in RGV's movie on 26/11; another 26/11.

Tusshar Kapoor Dialogues.

Anil Kapoor An actual "role" in a Hollywood movie that will last for more than 5 minutes, at least. Something like the *Slumdog Millionaire*: where he would be playing the dog.

Bigg Boss Sunny Leone.

Mahesh Bhatt Sunny Leone.

Sunny Leone More fame among Indian guys (*with* clothes, that is).

Himesh Reshammiya Expressions. Emotions. Acting skills. Singing ability. Dancing ability... actually everything.

Akshay Kumar ONE movie that will justify his “superstar” label.

Congress HELP!!

Anna ????

BJP The official status of being The National Thekedar for Hinduism and Communal Activities.

IITians Kapil Sibal’s life.

Engineers A life! And guarantee for a wife!!

NITs More respect, other than the close rhyming of their name with the IITs.

L. K. Advani The PM’s post. At least after death.

Madhur Bhandarkar Revenge from The “Heroine”.

Indian Football Team A new ball. At least now, after having won a Cup!

Dhanush Answer to his question, “Why this Kolaveri!!”

Wikipedia Donations.

Sachin A CENTURY for God’s sake!

Shiney Ahuja A maid. For household chores, duh!

Baby B To grow up to look like mommy, not daddy!

RGV Immortality! (quite right; given the angst people have for his movies now, anything can happen to him any day. Uh-huh.)

Emran Hashmi His status of being a “serial kisser”, been missing for so long now.

NTMN More FB likes! (Honesty :P)

Anna ????

(with inputs from [Shubham Choudhary](#))

Some Honourable Men and Women, Ripped Apart

December 11, 2011, Kumar Pratik

In honour of some honorary men and women that our country boasts of, NTMN took it upon itself to have them fill our scrapbook, or should we say 'crapbook'. Read on and be enlightened, this is as real as it gets.

Name: Sasuri Mayawati Behen Ji

Current Job: To erect worthless statues all over the state for no apparent reason.

Always dreamt of: Being selected for Miss India finals. Part of the reason, I am still not married.

If I were not a politician, I would have been: A hairdresser at some beauty parlor in a distant village of UP.

Name: Kapil Sibal

Current Job: To censor anything with the keywords "Manmohan", "Sonia", "love" etc. (The three words may or may not be used simultaneously.)

Always dreamt of: Being recognized as a tech-savvy superhero, who revolutionized the country. (By abolishing JEE, by banning social networking, by proving the quality of jerks India can produce.)

If I were not a politician, I would have been: A limousine chauffeur of some wealthy businessman.

Name: Manmohan Singh

Current Job: To stay on Silent mode, until specified otherwise by user (Guess who?)

Always dreamt of: Being on top! (Long pause) Of matters at hand, you sick fellas.

If I were not a politician, I would have been: A *panwala* nearby a general *kirana* store in town.

Name: Digvijay Singh (Coz I like to Dig! Yo! Yo!)

Current Job: To ramble all kinds of shit in front of the media.

Always dreamt of: Visiting foreign even for once. That's why I rant all the time –“Isme bhi videshi takaton ka hi haath hoga!”

If I were not a politician, I would have been: A Hindi teacher at a *sarkari* school.

Name: Lalu ‘Parsad’ Yadav

Current Job: Jobless. Thinking about restarting the family cow-milking business.

Always dreamt of: Bhery long long time, bhanted to speak in Inglis. But, knowing wonly Bhojpuri as maa-ki-jubaan.

If I were not a politician, I would have been: A *doodhwala*. Is there even a doubt?

Name: Rahul Gandhi

Current Job: Getting needless pictures clicked with actors posing as *Dalits*.

Always dreamt of: Being a ballerina. Or a stripper.

If I were not a politician, I would have been: A waiter at a not-so-fancy restaurant in the suburbs.

Name: Sharad Pawar

Current Job: Holds numerous offices for milking the great Indian food business as well as the cricketing fraternity.

Always dreamt of: Being able to rig a poker game, so that I win every single time.

If I were not a politician, I would have been: A stingy *jauhri* or *makan-malik* in the traditional Indian mould.

Name: Rakhi Sawant

Current Job: To appear uninvited at places, TV shows, advertisements, and go on a tirade about my looks.

Always dreamt of: A time when people stopped taking advantage of me. And, I started giving it to them on my own.

If I were not a ‘whatever’, I would have been: A B-grade actress! Or, I still am (looks confused). Shut up, I have to go to a Goa bitch now!

Kapil Sibal Shares His Pain: All That Has Not Been Said Yet

December 6, 2011, Aashish Aryan

Huh. Now what would one say to insult someone who is hellbent on insulting themselves, given their foot-in-mouth disease. So we'll steer away from doing anything like this, and let the man-of-the-moment Your Highness Mr. Kapil Sibal himself do the talking. Presenting below some excerpts from the personal diary of Union Telecommunications Minister Kapil Sibal.....Amid a rant where he talks about his miserable life, he tells us why he did what he did. Poor fellow.

Dear Diary

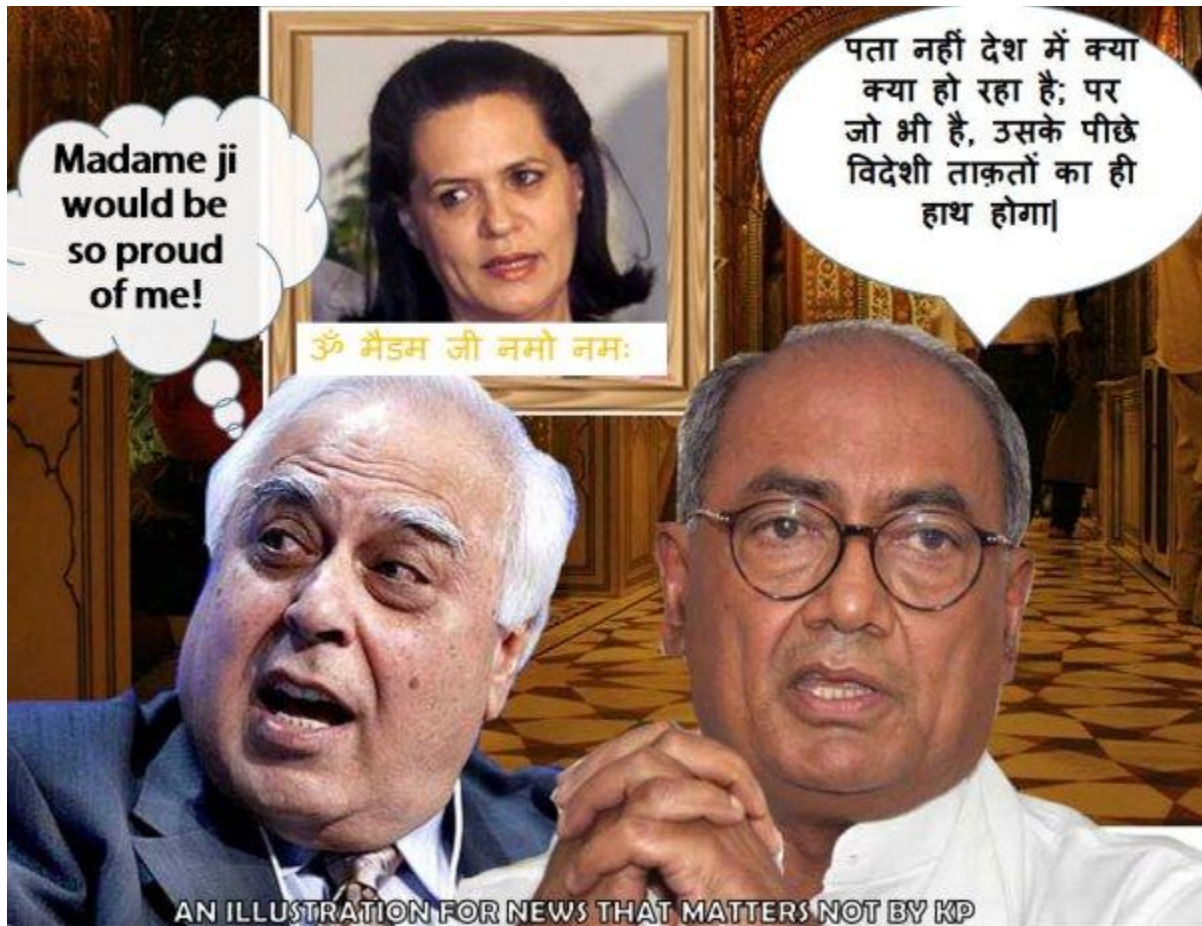
The last two days have been long and tiring. Everybody has been making fun of me and the white hair in my ears. Nobody understands my pain. I can only turn to you. You know what, it all began when they wanted me to talk to the guys at Facebook, Google and Twitter and convince them to screen the content before it gets uploaded on the web. Now please don't ask me "they" who? And the entire country is blaming me. What did I do? #IdiotKapilSibal is trending. Great!

And now as I speak to you, I wonder why they made *me* do this and not Diggy as usual. This is all a game. Given Rahul Baba's intelligence, we are deliberately being made to make a fool out of ourselves. Diggy has been doing it since times immemorial; Manish Tewari ji joined the list, Ghulam Nabi Azad ji and now me. But this is just not done. You tell me, is it right of Madamji to always threaten me with my job, and make things done by me? Okay, sorry for the "ji". You know I do not mean it in real terms.

It's clear that they are trying to make a fool out of me. Err, let me rephrase—they are trying to make a bigger fool out of me than I already am. First, the whole JEE scrapping idea which has already brought me as many hate mails as love mails for Sunny Leone! (I sent her one as well.) I just wish the people could see me for what I am: an innocent lamb, made out to be a pig. And, there have been so many jokes on me in the past couple of days, that I can't help but 'like' them all, albeit via a fake account!

And to be frank, how can they expect censorship on internet. Is it not like saying you can speak what you wish to, but only after I hear and approve it!(And to confess, I myself have a few Twitter handles where I go and rant anonymously. Sometimes I also Google [Rahul Baba](#) and [Madam](#) and you already know the search suggestions Google gives. Hehe.)

Photoshopped pictures have been doing the rounds of internet for ages. And I have even forgotten the count of how many times I have asked Soniaji to send Rahul to some good college and get him a proper formal education, but she just won't listen. And then this silly quote-play, and of course his overnight stay drama at villages and Dalit homes. How can he be made to look intelligent, something which he just does not have at all? (I hope they find and publish you, dear diary.)



But you have to applaud Sonia for one thing, she is a visionary, at least when it comes to Rahul's future. But I guess all moms are like that, I wouldn't know mine disowned me right after I, ahem spoke my first words.

Coming back, so you know the real reason behind this internet monitoring? We want to attribute to Rahul the rising economy and millions of job creation. Let me explain, did you notice how I have categorically asked for all the monitoring to be done by *humans*? Oh yes, the reason for that isn't that machines won't understand the sarcasm, that's not an abnormality at all, even I don't understand that, would you call me mentally retarded, would you? Okay, don't answer that.

So the real reason is, when all the internet and social networking giants say that they don't have such manpower to handle the manual monitoring, I am going to offer all the unemployed youths of India for the jobs. In fact I even have a deal with this IIPM fellow to recruit his entire batch in one go, of course with assured kick-backs in my Swiss account, he has already sent me laptops for my entire family as a sign of goodwill. Brilliant fellow, I say, like me only. Now the government will pay them partial salary if the need be, enough money in our reserves for such things, enough. So jobs for youths—Rahul Gandhi youth icon...did you see the connection already?! Ah, I so can see him sitting on the throne in 2014. That lucky Gandhi bastard!

Now just to demonstrate our far-sightedness further, I am going to tell you how we plan to kill two birds with one stone. But before that, did you read about all those people talking about corruption, Lokpal, FDI and Parliament halts in the last two days—me neither! BAZINGA!! (Wicked smile..... no! not that permanent already-evil one..... this is a new smile I have been practicing). Classic case of diversion, you see! And then some of those people call us stupid.... Gullible Bastards, haha! Yes yes, you are right in pointing out that winter session has not ended yet, but why did you presume this is the only trick we had up our sleeves. No! I won't tell you more.... wait and watch baby!

Okay, let me tell you something very confidential, no one in the government has any idea what internet is or how it works, of course except me. No, Tharoor was not in the meeting, why do you ask? How do I know? So we are all sitting for this meeting at 10 Janpath, all top Cabinet ministers and suddenly someone connects the laptop that this administrative staff guy has been using for the projector, without him knowing, and bam! comes up a Facebook page titled 'I Hate Sonia Gandhi'. He had liked the page and had been posting something there. Poor Sonia ji.

So all of a sudden the course of the meeting changed from discussing '*Who will go with whom to watch The Dirty Picture*' and '*We need to change the Samosa Vendor... for national security that is*' to '*What to do about this Facebook thingy*', because this was just unacceptable as the samosa guy being stingy and not putting in Aaloo properly. So everyone looked at me because people use Facebook to communicate and I was the telecommunications minister you see.

After a discussion which lasted for 4 hours, all of them decided that I should personally read each and every comment that people post on Facebook. Haha.... so dear diary, you see they have no idea how internet works. Of course I corrected them immediately and said, "How was I to read all the comments that people post, which might very well be in hundreds, even thousands sometimes with I already have two ministries where I think a lot. You see, thinking helps us sabotage the nation more and more." But the leader in me sparked, I took responsibility and said, I would get some humans to read the same. So that is how it was decided.

Ohho, the phone! This Swami Agnivesh keeps buzzing me since I installed Rediff Bol on my Aakash tablet, irritating guy. And, what do you mean what happened to the iPad I got? Oh you mean that Apple-Electric Plate? It's in the kitchen.... wifey makes great omelette in it.

It's 10:30 and who is this voluptuous lady doing things to with pole and hunter on the Colors channel... need to find some ways to ban it. Okay maybe later, wifey is sleeping, so I'll take care of myself then. Oh yes, give me this disgusting look, goes well with my current public image.

Okay bye, need to prepare tomorrow's statement regarding setting up police checking-points throughout India. No, not terrorist threats, we have already stopped 99% of those. Some people carry derogatory images of Congress leaders and they text about us. Can you believe that, it is simply unacceptable. Not anymore bastards, I'm setting up Human Monitory Points. Hah.... what all things they make me do despite that Harvard degree, should have stuck to practicing law in the Lower courts of Chawri Bazaar.

(Illustration by [Kumar Pratik](#))

Out of news for long, frustrated Rakhi Sawant jumps into borewell

November 24, 2011, Shubham Choudhary

Why this kolaveri kolaveri di! Everyone has been busy singing the song, while some ignorant poor souls have been searching for Sunny Leone videos on Google; a few are still busy celebrating India's renewed winning ways in Tests while the rest are yet to decide what to talk about.

To give you all something new to discuss about, Rakhi Sawant has now jumped into a borewell. The news came today afternoon when this correspondent was downloading the Kolaveri song from YouTube.

It later transpired that the reason for this incident was made clear already by Rakhi in a letter she left before jumping in. A paragraph in the letter says, *“And now someone slapped Sharad Pawar! Why can't someone slap me? Among all these things in news, no one noticed that the usual Indian headlines are lost somewhere. No one is talking about Manmohan Singh's silence or the increasing petrol prices, and what about RAKHI SAWANT!! I am the star item girl of the country, even a kiss I gave used to be breaking news.”*

The police and the fire brigade were immediately rushed to the spot and a video camera was thrown inside to keep a live watch on what is happening inside the borewell. According to the sources, the government is not allowing the public to see the video feed; it will be distributed on a chargeable basis instead. As there was very little room for throwing anything inside, Sawant was asked if she wanted to eat, in reply to which, she asked for a loudspeaker and a microphone so that she could speak to the people and the press. She also said she could live without eating for a day or two but having press on the spot was a necessity.

Reactions are mixed. The media thinks it is a smart move to gain publicity. “Children falling into borewells used to be a news sensation, but these days, both Rakhi and such incidents were out of news,” observes a news anchor. While the government is thankful to Rakhi for deviating the

people's attention from their work, there are people like Vijay Mallya who have criticized this saying that this was the only time they were getting to be in news "with their own face".

Non-stripping stripper Poonam Pandey on Twitter termed this as a "deep" publicity stunt and has also threatened that she will strip if Rakhi Sawant is left in the borewell for 3 days more.

Incidentally, the long-time out-of-news filmmaker Ram Gopal Verma has also tried to cash out the moment for his publicity and has declared to take Rakhi Sawant in his next movie as a lead heroine if she comes out within 2 days.

The 2050 Newspaper: Petrol, Terror Threats, Reservations, Sachin, Harry Potter, Chhayavati's Private Jet, Rajnikanth, and more

September 25, 2011, Bhargav Prasanna

My father always tells me, "Think about your future: it will instill a sense of purpose in your actions today." The selfless person that I am, I decided to think about the future of India as a whole. As I sleep in the night, the gears and levers in my subconscious mind start turning, gain speed and transport me in my dreams, to the year 2050. I open the e-newspaper in the morning, only to be shocked by the news. Excerpts from the same can be found below:

PAGE ONE

"Petrol to Cost Rs. 999 per litre"

The Union Minister for Price Hike in Fossil Fuels, renowned for his efficiency in work, Mr. I. O. C. L. Reddy announced at a press conference yesterday that the price of petrol shall be hiked from Rs. 950/l to Rs. 999/l in sync with the price rise in the international market. The price of diesel, he said, would not be hiked and would stay at Rs. 650 to a litre for some time. People with valid Community ID Cards would continue to enjoy fuels at Rs. 500 and Rs. 400 respectively, he added...

"Other Forward Castes Living in Poverty just 2% of Population, Denied Reservations"

The Vandal Commission has submitted a report to the Supreme Court, with its findings that there are as many as 15000 forward castes (OFCs) constitute about 2% of the Indian population and are living in extreme poverty, hunger and unemployment. However, the OFCs will not be given any reservations in government jobs, since the maximum reservation quota of 50% was already exceeded last year with the new reservation for Other Very Backward Castes...

“Sensex Tanks 10541 Points to End at Decade’s Lowest”

The Sensex fell for the twenty-first day yesterday to a ten-year low of 1034 amid rising concerns over inflation. Finance Minister R. Chidambaram however assured investors that the situation would become better soon and that there was no need to worry. The reporter gets a déjà vu of having heard the same lines 40 years ago from RC’s grandfather...

PAGE TWO

“City Traffic Congestion Creates World Record”

Chennai City Traffic Police were informed by a Guinness World Records spokesperson that their “efficient” handling of the city’s traffic on the arterial Mount Road had created a new world record for Traffic Congestion where commuters were stranded in the same place for almost 4 days. Unbelievable but true!...

NATIONAL NEWS PAGE

“Calcutta renamed Didipur”

Paschimbanga Chief Minister Namta “Didi” Spannerjee yesterday renamed Calcutta to Didipur. The Left rule had, earlier this year, renamed the city Calcutta, citing some bullshit. This marks the fifth name change and is the third unique name for the city. Didi sternly issued a warning prohibiting everyone from using the names Calcutta or Kolkata...

“Hypersonic Private Jet Travelled to Paris and Back for CM’s Lipstick”

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Chhayavati is in the midst of another controversy. This time, she is alleged to have sent her hypersonic private jet to France to fetch her lipstick. What is more amusing than the action itself, is the need for her to wear lipstick at all...

“Home Ministry Reacts to Terrorist Threat”

The Home Ministry yesterday reacted to the terror threat sent to them, which warned of a possible attack on a Delhi-bound Air India aircraft. The reactions from various quarters ranged from anger to silence.

Delhi CM Deela Shikshit said, “We condemn the threat. We will not tolerate any of this anymore. Delhi Police are now tracing the source of the threat. We will capture the perpetrators.” Home Minister Chi-chi-dambaram had this to say: “There is no need to worry. Our intelligence won’t fail this time.” Aviation Minister Rayalar Vavi said, “No. There was no scandal involved. We spent only \$15 billion on the order.” (He probably still thought that the journalist was asking him about the current aircraft purchase order scam). AI Boss Mr. Mijay Vallya said, “I will spend my personal money to buy a new aircraft if this happens.” Meanwhile Prime Minister Sanmohan Mingh said: ...

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

“Soon, Time Travel”

Researchers at CERN asserted in one of their new publications that Time Travel would be possible soon. This is the (wait, we’ve lost count) time that such an assertion has been made by researchers...

WORLD NEWS

“Ailing Rowling says Harry Potter’s mother was heterosexual”

Legendary British author J. K. Rowling, best known for the Harry Potter series, has said in a hospital interview that Harry Potter’s mother Lily was heterosexual. This has raised a renewed excitement among most fans, most of whom are now sexagenarian. A Canadian fan, 68, intelligently observed, “Just like her eyes, Harry also inherited his mother’s heterosexuality...”

SPORTS PAGE

“I will get my 100th ton soon! Says a Rejuvenated Sachin Tendulkar”

Legendary Indian Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, who underwent age-reduction gene therapy recently has suggested that he will continue to play cricket till he loves the game and that he will hopefully score his 100th international ton soon. The journalist writing this report has grown 40 years older waiting for it...

PAGE 3 NEWS

“K-Town Gossip: Akshaya Rai in Rajnikanth’s Next”

Akshaya Rai, the young and sultry granddaughter of a yesteryear actress A. Rai has been chosen for the female lead role in Rajnikanth’s yet-to-be-titled 750th movie, sources close to director Bunker confirmed yesterday. The Page 3 team regrets to inform you that this is the 499th heroine Rajni Sir will be romancing on-screen in five different roles—as a college student, as a professor, as a robot, as a police officer and as an underworld don.

EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

“MIT Sets Up Campus in India”

Massachusetts Institute of Technology yesterday threw open its India Campus located near Timbuktu. Admissions for the academic year will open soon, its India Dean Dr. Ghotaalam Chaudhari told reporters yesterday...

End of Dream* Everything is back to **normal. Or is it?*

Disclaimer: All characters depicted in the article are for real, in the year 2050 that is. So if you wish to sue me for defamation or something else, you’re welcome to do so in 2050. See you in court, 39 years from now!

(with inputs from [Tanay Sukumar](#))

Cabinet ministers declared below poverty line, benefit schemes rolled out for upliftment

September 4, 2011, Aashish Aryan

In a quick reaction to their status of the [pathetic assets and dying riches](#), the President of India announced today various schemes for the cabinet ministers of the present central government. Pratibha Patil has taken a serious view of the matter and said, “It pains to see such poverty-ridden condition of our ministers. They have been serving the common man for the past so many years with such responsibility, passion and grit. And what do they have? A bicycle? Not even a car?”

According to the new benefit schemes, cabinet ministers have been declared “Below Poverty Line” (BPL). They will be provided free ration cards and all will be entitled to various accompanying perks. They will get rice, wheat and other food grains at subsidized rates of Rs. 2–5 per kilo upto a maximum of 100 kg, 15 kg of onions, 15 kg potatoes and 5 kg sugar free twice a month. They will be given a brand new house each, built under “Sonia Awaas Yojna”, an auto-rickshaw each, to travel to the Parliament under the “Garibi Bhagao Yojna”. About why a limit was placed on the quantity of essential items, the President said, “Keeping in mind the sacrificial spirit the ministers have in abundance, we feared they might sell these food grains instead of consuming them.”

Under the new schemes, special plans have been listed for some of the ministers who are very poor. The Agriculture Minister Mr. Sharad Pawar has been given out two houses and two auto-rickshaws as a token of his hard work which he has done over these years. The President has been quoted as saying, “12 crores? Is that even anything for a minister of the ranks of Mr. Pawar? If anyone, it’s *he* who is in need of monetary help.” A brand new Tata Nano shall be given to the Prime Minister, since he owns that old model Maruti 800. Defence minister Mr. A.K. Antony, M. Veerappa Moily, former Law Minister and present Corporate Affairs Minister and a few others who are the poorest of the poor have been placed under the *Malnourished Ministers Scheme*, which will ensure that the bank accounts and other assets of these ministers swell considerably before the next elections.

The President also announced that new taxes would be levied on the common man if he is above poverty line. Mr. Kamal Nath, Urban Development Minister, has been appointed the in-charge of the committee which shall over look the execution of the new rules. All citizens who have a bank balance more than Rs. 15,000, will have to pay a new Cabinet Ministry Enhancement Tax. Those having any car or vehicle which comes at a price higher than Maruti 800 will have to contribute at least 10 litres of petrol every 15 days to ensure that the PM gets to his office without fail everyday, in view of the high petrol prices.

Other ministers who have bank balance in just *lakhs*, and not crores, will be given special care and might be trained under the PMRY (Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojna) to come up higher in life.

Afzal Guru, Kasab may be hanged after their deaths, assures President Patil

August 27, 2011, Tanay Sukumar

President Pratibha Patil, in a remarkably successful effort to say something, has assured the citizens that terrorists Afzal Guru and Ajmal Kasab may be hanged to death some time after their natural deaths. The two are accused of attacking the Parliament House and for being involved in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, respectively. “There is no reason to worry. I don’t understand why I am accused of not taking any action. I assure you that there will soon be a decision, and you may be seeing Afzal Guru getting hanged as soon as he dies, if you are yourself alive by then.” Mrs. Patil also said she didn’t have a “magic wand” to use as a rope to hang people with.

Amid criticism that there has been no concrete action by the President on Afzal Guru’s hanging yet, who was sentenced to death centuries ago, she actually *said* (our reporters saw her talk, and we have evidence she talked), “I really want to do something for the nation. They ask me about why Afzal Guru has not been hanged yet, when it is in my hands. Well, the [20 years’ time](#) taken to hang the assassins of Rajiv Gandhi should not be taken so seriously. It must not be interpreted as even a remote hint that we will hang convicts so quickly in future.”

Afzal Guru has yet to live about 40 years, she told the nation, and it is “really impossible” to hang him before he actually dies. Patil, whose Wikipedia article has just one paragraph about her [presidency](#), but a dozen paragraphs about her controversies, explained her attitude, “Rajiv Gandhi’s killers are going to be hanged on September 9, but if they come to plead mercy from me, I’ll not give any mercy at all. I may just postpone their hanging after their death.”

The address to the nation consisted of a long pause when everyone fell silent after the President said she had not heard about Anna Hazare, so didn’t have any opinion or way to guide the nation in the current situation, as the First Citizen.

Here is Congress's gift for you this Independence Day: A Monarchy called India

August 14, 2011, Bijender Sheoran

Let me tell you: all these scams had an ulterior motive—much more than amassing money. They were all social experiments conducted with the help of a group of scientists and psychologists, to study and see if the people of India were actually capable of any protest or cognitive thinking of their own. And I’m very happy to tell you that they have generated favourable results—favourable to us of course. You see, the Prime Minister is the representative of the society. And so he is, we discovered: people are as powerless as the Prime Minister.

We have had it from trustworthy sources in the Congress, that tomorrow at the Red Fort, the Prime Minister plans to announce that the government will renounce democracy, and accept monarchy as the way forward for India. We had a chance to speak with the Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari regarding the same. He seemed to be in a highly pleasant and in a

“lemme-reveal-it-all-you-can’t-do-anything-to-me” mood. Here are the excerpts of the candid interview.



This Independence Day, the Prime Minister will unknowingly read out some new measures finalised by his government: one being the renunciation of India the democracy.

NTMN: So is it true then that we will no longer be a democracy, 15th August 2011 onwards?

Tewari: You make it sound like it’s a drastic and significant change. Let’s not make a big deal out of it, it’s nothing but a mere change of the label—re-branding of the already existing system.

I mean, how long do you want the country to live in the denial? We already are in a monarchy. People have already [accepted](#) Rahul Gandhi as their next Prime Minister, without him ever having done or achieved anything at all for the country, or even showing as much as a mere inclination towards it! Isn’t it proof enough that monarchy is what the Common Man wants?

Q: Well, what about Anna’s fast starting on the 16th?

A: That is another reason for switching; we want to kill two birds with one stone. Firstly the switch to monarchy will put an end to debates of these kinds: Are Gandhis the best people to rule? Why only Gandhi in a country of 1.2 billions? When will Congress get out of the Gandhis’ shadow? etc. Let’s be honest with ourselves, these are all futile discussions, which waste a lot of time for everyone, when in the end we all know it’s a Gandhi who is going to rule.

Secondly, the biggest argument that Anna Hazare’s brigade has been perpetuating in support of the fast is that in a democracy it’s their birthright to assemble peacefully and protest. We agree, but in the democracy,.... *(winks)* ‘*Na rahega baans, na bajegi bansuri*’.

Q: But what about people of India, you cannot force anything down on them?

A: *(laughs uncontrollably)* What about the people of India, huh? For ourselves, people are bloody fools. Did and could they do anything when we committed corruption after corruption? Madhu Kodas, Sharad Pawars, Spectrum Scams, CWGs, Adarsh Housing scams and many more before that and many more to come. Did they do anything when the previous Kings and Queens executed Emergencies and Sikh killings, etc.?

Let me tell you one thing in confidence: all these scams had an ulterior motive—much deeper than amassing money. They were all social experiments conducted with the help of a group of scientists and psychologists, to study and see if the people of India were actually capable of any protest or cognitive thinking of their own, to see if they can actually garner any will power to

change the system when they are pushed to their limits. And I'm very happy to tell you that they have generated favourable results—favourable to us of course. You see, the Prime Minister is the representative of the society. And so he is, we discovered: people are as powerless as the Prime Minister. All this was in the preparation of the day when we announce the shift from the democracy to the monarchy.

Q: Umm... err... you have me speechless, what about the Opposition then?

A: Which Opposition are you talking about? That Opposition?—the number of years of whose reign, out of the 64 years since Independence, amounts to a single digit? The BJP?—which cannot even settle their internal issues, who can't decide between Jaitley-Shushma-Modi-Gadkari and where Advani still seems to be waiting in a corner. Or are you talking about the BSPs-RJDs-Mulayams-Amars, who we can buy off any time we wish... didn't we show it to you back in 2008?

Forget about Common Man, it pains my heart when I see even intellectuals like you living in the denial. No it doesn't. I'm just kidding, we couldn't care less about you or the Common Man or the Opposition.

Q: Seems like you have it all worked out, but it takes some time for people to acclimatise to any new system, suppose they still go ahead with the fast and the protest, what is your action plan for that?

A: No no, you are thinking too much into it. Let me tell you why this fast won't catch up as the one in April did. The April one was a new thing, people especially those with Facebook and Twitter accounts were highly enthusiastic about it, so were the news channels. But now with [so many fasts](#) having happened in the last few months, the enthusiasm has dropped, the Facebook/Twitter people have exhausted all their jokes and witty remarks and the news channels have gone banal. It's the same as the scams, people initially made a big deal out of the CWG scam, but when we increased the number of it, they didn't even notice the last few.

So come 16th, all of them will be sitting comfortably in front of the TV glued to news channels, wanting to see what Anna is doing for them and hoping someone else is supporting him.

Q: But what if your theory goes wrong and people still come to streets nonetheless, would you arrest them and put them in the jails as Anna has suggested being the last option?

A: That won't be necessary; we have a contingency plan for that. If everything goes out of the hands, we'll rig and ensure that India wins the 4th Test match against England, which starts August the 18th. That is all it takes for your "Common Man" to be satisfied with his life, they'll forget everything else.

Our biggest worry right now is not Anna but to get Rahul married to a "girl" otherwise we will face the vacuum of the King/Queen 40 years down the line.

The Anti-Corruption Movement, Ripped Apart

August 7, 2011, Rishi Ayyer

*Telling your children not to be corrupt, while filing false Income Tax Returns yourself, is corruption. That you are doing it for someone else's benefit does not make it right. Even the politicians do that. You see, the politicians are mere mirrors (magnified maybe, but mirrors all the same) of the society. **They are corrupt, because being corrupt is acceptable in their society. In fact, it is a way of life.***

They fight; they say they are right.

When someone raises a question, they support them with their might.

They are up in arms against corrupt politicians, bureaucrats, judges. No one in power should be corrupt. We all should have clean, white slates.

Yes, we're talking about the Indian Public. The common man. Surely whatever the common man stands up for is right? I must warn you now that you may not enjoy reading this. Because this is the bitter truth. I may not be politically correct, but I am dead straight. Mr. Anna Hazare and company should stop trying to uproot corruption from the Government, Bureaucracy, etc. etc.

Will. Not. Work. You read it right. Things don't work that way.

Anna: *"I want corruption to stop! I command corruption to stop! By the Force that is in me, STOP!"*

Dead silence.

"Wow, corruption has disappeared from the face of this earth."

Captain Anna saves the day again.

Can you picture that on a newspaper headline? Sounds ridiculous, right? 'Cause that's what it is. Period. Anna Hazare cannot eradicate corruption from India. Heck, no force in this world can. It is easier to eradicate polio. (My friends Bill, and Melinda, how's that going for you?)

Why, you ask? Because it is in our blood. We breed corruption. Indian to Indian, child to child, adult to adult. How? Every single day! Every single way! What is corruption? Corruption is hoping/trying/praying for a short-cut to the difficult ways of our lives.

How do you, as an individual, contribute to corruption?

You sign that sick-note for your kid so that he doesn't get a telling off from his teacher. That is corruption. You pay the traffic policeman so that he doesn't book you for not wearing a seat

belt/helmet/talking on the phone. That is corruption. Then you walk away from the incident saying, “These policemen are so crooked that they can be easily bought. They are so corrupt.” It is not they, but you, my friends, who are corrupt.

When you buy tickets for a World Cup cricket match through a friend of a friend, you are corrupt. When you try to pay the director of an institute for the admission of a relative, or use your influence, you are indulging in corruption. When you travel ticket-less on the train, and when you lie to the shop keeper, “*Khulle nahi hai*”, you are being corrupt. When you give that beggar kid a rupee out of pity, and self-magnanimity, it is corruption. You are corrupting the kid’s soul, telling him that it is easier to beg than to get an education. Telling your mom that the rickshaw cost Rs 16 instead of Rs 11, to buy that one cigarette, is corruption.

Even our kids are corrupt. Lying to teachers, the concept of a “*kachcha limbu*”, are small manifestations of corruption. Buying cheap “China” electronics off the newspaper adverts, bargaining for a “fair” price, using pirated songs and movies downloaded off the internet, are all corruption that we indulge in.

Yes, all of the above.

I could go on and on. And you say that you are fighting corruption? Nodding your head in agreement, while half-thinking about your dinner and half-listening to some activist say something about anti-corruption is not fighting corruption. Logging on to Facebook and hitting “Like” on the Jan Lokpal Bill Page is not fighting corruption. Marching or fasting for civil rights is not fighting corruption. When you do that, you are just forcing things to happen your way. Again, yes, I’m sure you understand by now.

Telling your children not to be corrupt, while filing false Income Tax Returns yourself, is corruption. That you are doing it for someone else’s benefit does not make it right. Even the politicians do that. You see, the politicians are mere mirrors (magnified maybe, but mirrors all the same) of the society. ***They are corrupt, because being corrupt is acceptable in their society. In fact, it is a way of life.***

Do not raise hell and cause a ruckus because you have just realized that your politician is corrupt. You have known it all along. You’re just doing it now because you have something to gain. Again, you are indulging in corruption. You should have done this a long time back.

How do you fight corruption then? Corruption will always remain. We just have to make it less rampant, such that it does not affect progress (whose?) negatively.

Accept it. Our lives will be difficult without corruption. If we were to follow rules all the time, wouldn’t it just be the perfect world? But what fun is it to live in a perfect world? So, corruption will remain. Because everyone wants the easy way out. Because no one wants all the rules to be followed, How boring and tough would that be? We will not, and cannot, destroy temptation itself. If we could, all the vices would have been destroyed by the righteous.

There. Is. Corruption.

Now what? If corruption exists, the occurrence of a corrupt event will benefit one side, and create a problem for another. So, someone is going to suffer. Let's strive to make that suffering small. That is the best that I can think of. To make this country corruption free is an idealistic thought. The Anti-Corruption Movement is a farce. A hope that one day we Indians will give up our blood right, corruption.

Just as some hope that one day this world will attain salvation from its sins.

It is a way for certain other people to get undue advertisement. I don't see corruption being eradicated from our society. I may be a pessimist, a cynic, but I call a spade a spade. Our country runs on capitalism. Capitalism may bring a lot of positives to the table, but it also begets corruption. I beg your pardon, but we are destined to a corrupt life. To not be corrupt in 2011 India, is to be not only a saint, but a failure, and will mostly culminate in suicide. If you are alive, rest assured, you have committed some corrupt act in your life.

So stop acting. And start acting.

Doctor renames small clinic as "private charitable hospital", becomes very rich

August 1, 2011, Aashish Aryan

The assets of an MBBS graduate have recently made a remarkable rise in terms of wealth, after he renamed his two-room clinic as a "private charitable hospital". He did this in order to earn more money from the patients than what they deserved to pay. He says it is easier to [demand anything](#) that you want, if you are running a private hospital. This was noticed after the doctor, still in his twenties, bought a fleet of customised Nano cars to serve as ambulances for his "hospital". The clinic-turned-hospital boasts of two full-time doctors and a special emergency ward (which is presently, and shall forever be, under make-shift tents).

Dr Amar Singh's Get Lost Charitable Hospital (formerly Get Well Family Clinic) seems very pepped-up about launching its name in the medical industry big time. We asked Dr Singh the reason behind renaming his clinic as a "hospital", and he seemed visibly miffed. He said that the re-nomenclature of his clinic was done to extract more money from the patients who came with simple ailments and to gain maximum profit out of them.

"Today's is a world where most doctors and hospitals can demand any amount of money they like. I have done nothing to flout the norms, as these are the new standards," Dr Singh said candidly. He then raised doubts over the ethics and working ways of the so-called big hospitals, who he said, charge heavenly prices for anything to everything. While big private hospitals aim to make medical facilities available to everyone, he pointed out, "What does it mean to charge 70,000 bucks for a simple dengue fever? And Rs 55,000 for three doses of insulin jabs?"

There is another plan in place. “I watched the recent Harry Potter movie, and saw how there is a spell to multiply anything one touches. We are secretly going to put such a magical system in place. When a patient touches a bed, another bed will come out from nowhere, and the patient will have to pay for that also.”

Thus, with a clear aim to earn money, Dr Singh has started this business, wherein *least* attention shall be paid to the medicine being given to the patients and the food they are having. “The medicines can be bought from outside on the advice of any doctor (or chemist), and the food should be self-arranged by the patient or his family. If this is not done, the hospital will obviously charge exorbitant rates. We should not be held responsible for the same.”

Singh further said, “Get Lost Charitable Hospital is soon launching an ‘Open Hospital’ concept. Patients will be charged only for the bed they occupy, in case they do not want to get medicines and food from the hospital,” he said. He further added that his hospital was planning short summer internships for medical students who would be taught the fine strokes of making money as quickly as possible, even from patients suffering from mild tiredness and petty diseases like cold and cough, slight fever, etc.

The Health Minister of India expressed support, “Such hospitals help bring money to India. Not for nothing we are famous as a medical tourism country. I have already invited the doctor to join our party and produce such awesome ideas which can help the government and its policies gain fresh health.”

The Pledge You Take, Ripped Apart

July 26, 2011, Rishi Ayyer

Maybe a disclaimer is necessary for this post. I don't have anything against the Pledge. I love my country, I do. This is not about the National Pledge, it's about the pledge YOU take, the pledge WE take. I am not committing treason by commenting exactly how I observe things. The worst of it. Do NOT generalize. But it's not specific either. No, I'm not scared of your wrath. Yes, your retorts will disgust me.

Wikipedia says: “The **Indian National Pledge** is an oath of allegiance to the Republic of India. It is commonly recited by Indians in unison at public events, especially in schools, and during the Independence Day and Republic Day Celebrations.”

We all learn the INP in school. We used to recite it every single day. We break it every single second. The following, is what I see happening to our sacred words, promises, that we, as kids, made in school. The blatant disobedience to our own promises, to our own stamp-papers within our hearts, if they still exist, deepens my pain. A good friend told me, “This world is coming to an end. Nothing can be done about it. We are beyond repair.” I was scared to accept that he was right. But I can't prove him wrong. Unfortunate, but true.

India is my country.

I own it. I own the public parks. I own the public property. I can steal bulbs from the train, destroy bus-stops and statues as I please. I can mutilate monuments, scribble on caves, trash anywhere I want. I can spit, litter and drive on the roads like my dad owns them. Yes, India is MY country.

All Indians are my brothers and sisters.

That's why I'm rude to every one of them. I lecherously look at girls like I want to undress and rape them in my thoughts. I memorise their every aspect. I have no respect for women. If I'm drunk, I beat the hell out of my wife and kids. I disgustingly pass comments on girls young enough to be my daughters. I care no more. If I have to destroy someone's life to improve mine, why should I hesitate?

I love my country and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage.

I love my country. It gives me enough education to go abroad and earn dollars. My varied heritage teaches me secularism. I love to promote my own religion. To glorify the varied heritage of my country, I require various states. It is necessary for me to fight for causes I don't understand.

I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

I won't want to vote. What difference does it make? Corrupt politicians, anyway. SO, what's the point of voting? My government doesn't even deserve my taxes, much less my service.

I shall give my parents, teachers and all elders respect and treat everyone with courtesy.

I leave my parents stranded when they are old, while they slaved away their life to fund my education. I don't wait for elders to cross the road, I just elbow them aside while I rush for my all-important meeting. I swear at people while they block me on roads. I steal in small ways, not criminally, but just wrongly.

To my country and my people, I pledge my devotion. In their well-being and prosperity alone, lies my happiness.

My happiness depends on the neighbour's agony. My happiness depends on how hot my lover is, what status I have in society, and whether or not I made love last weekend. My happiness depends on whether it was I who topped my exam or that other guy. My happiness depends upon how many people the bomb planted by me, killed. Nothing else.

Bitter pill? I'll tell you what you will do. You'll either:

1. Close the window, wondering how sad I am as a person.
2. Close the window, not giving a second thought to the words screaming at you to wake up.
3. Write distasteful comments and destroy my writing career, gaining happiness that you managed to sabotage my dreams.
4. Wake up.

For India's sake, and yours, I hope you choose the fourth one.

A 10-year-old girl's letter to Sheila Dikshit

July 22, 2011, Neha Gupta

Respected Mrs Chief Minister,

We came to Delhi earlier this year. Mumma says we shifted because my father expanded his business. Bhaiya and Didi were happy. They are closer to their college now. Dadi does not like living here, says that things are too different.

Two weeks back, Didi came back crying from college. Bhaiya was shouting at her. I heard him say, "You are a girl! You travel in the metro and insist on wearing that! Whatever else did you expect to happen?" I asked Mumma why being a girl was a problem and she told me to go out of the room. Minutes later, Bhaiya slammed the door and left the house. Later, at night, when Papa was tucking me in, I asked him what had happened. I told him I liked wearing my green shorts. They were comfortable when the air was sticky. He smiled and said, "Grow up first, my princess. You will soon know how this city is full of dogs." Why did Papa say that? Dogs are sweet. There is a black dog that roams in our street. I feed him *roti* everyday.

Last Monday, I was coming back home in the school bus. There was a traffic jam. My bus buddy was at home with a fever. I had nothing to do and my tiffin was already empty. I was looking out of the window when I noticed that a man in the car alongside the bus was smiling at me. He was trying to tell me something with his hands. I thought he was having car trouble, so I pointed at the policeman who was standing nearby and looking at us. The man in the car laughed and made the gesture again. I asked the teacher in the front seat to help the man. She looked out at him, drew the curtain across the window and made me sit next to her. Since then, I go to school in Papa's car. Why did the policeman not help the man? Why am I not allowed to go to school in the bus, with my friends, anymore?

On Sunday, we were having dinner, when Papa switched on the news. They were talking about a girl who had gone to a chemist shop late at night. The news lady kept using a word I did not understand. When I asked father what rape was, he ignored my question. Didi has taught me how to use Google so that I can search for meanings. I Googled 'rape' too, but I cannot understand what it is. I could also not understand why Dadi made that noise she makes with her tongue and said, "Why would she go out at night alone?" I asked her what she meant, but she just ran her hand over my head and said that I would be a good girl when I grow up. I love my grandmother. She is very generous. She gives money to my brother when he goes out at night.

Yesterday, Sinha Aunty, our neighbour, came to the house to see Mumma. They were sitting in the drawing room having tea. I was in the kitchen, eating cookies, when I heard Aunty talk about Didi. She was telling Mumma about how Didi talks on the phone in the balcony at night. After that, Mumma got very upset. I do not understand why. Bhaiya also talks in the balcony. He says the signal reception is better there. That night, Didi did not go to the play she wanted to see. I was disappointed, as I had hoped I would get to use the music player in her absence. I asked her why she did not go. Didi was angry. She told me to leave the room. I heard her muttering, "Ask Sheila Dikshit. Ask the Delhi Police Commissioner. Ask the men of this city."

I do not know who the Police Commissioner is. I do not know which ‘men’ Didi was referring to. But I do know you. I have seen you in the news. You look very nice, like my Dadi. So I am writing this letter to you. Why did Didi say I should ask you? Can you answer my questions?

Very confused,
A little girl.

(Neha is interning in NTMN's [Summer Internship Program](#).)

On all those who shall do everything (?) to protect us from terrorists

July 15, 2011, Kumar Pratik

India witnessed horrific scenes in the form of serial blasts in Mumbai earlier this week. Whilst this is a matter of serious concern, we attempt to mock at some of the people responsible for it, in order to bring the readers' attention to the matter. Yes, these are the people responsible. Not the underworld, not the terrorists.

The First Man in India, the honourable (LOL) Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh went on record to say in a press conference a day after the attack, “The government will do *everything* to prevent attacks in the future.” (*Why not the present? Why not the past?*) When a reporter quipped that this was similar to what he had said after 26/11, the PM agreed, “Yes, I know, but that’s the protocol. I am not designed to use my brain, especially on matters as sensitive as this.” The reporter became curious at the PM’s response and asked him another question, which got the firm response, “No, I am not bound by the three laws of robotics!” When reports last came in, the government and its ministers were doing [\(link\)](#) and saying [\(link\)](#) just about *everything*, as promised by their head, the nation’s headache.

When asked how the government would respond to this atrocious act of terrorism, Singh took a deep breath and responded calmly. “We will issue all Pakistanis visas to our country, so they shall not have any trouble visiting here and continuing this incessant assault as they please.” At a visibly confused audience after the statement, the PM elaborated. “We are non-violent people. If someone invades our country, causes massive destruction and still asks us to bend over, we will do that, for we are Gandhi’s—“ (*Mahatma’s or Sonia’s?*) “—descendants. In fact, this time we won’t even give them the chance to ask; we will bend over ourselves. Ultimately, they will realize the power of our non-violence. We shall not retaliate, as we were born without balls. Oops, did I say that out loud?”

Rahul Gandhi, who recently changed his “Youth Icon” status to “Kids’ Icon” [\(news story\)](#), also expressed his views (as opening his mouth might any day lead him to become the next Prime

Minister of India). “99% terror strikes have been prevented. How can you believe, you ask? You have *my* word and it counts for something. All that bullshit I shout about on the mike at the time of elections, you folks believe that, don’t you. Then why not this as well?”

A mediaperson reminded Mr. Gandhi that there had been no terror attack in the United States after the 9/11 strike whereas India often faced the menace. the reply came with a straight face: “You think we are just sitting up here, doing nothing, other than coming up with outlandish claims? As a matter of fact, you are right, but that does not change the fact that we are not neglecting the country. I, myself, keep multitasking and am online 24×7 through my phone. So, even when I’m busy posing for some cameras, with my fake smile and the sensitive make-up on my skin, at some arbitrary Dalit’s house, the PM can always strike up a chat on my GTalk account, although I understand he would much rather chat with my mother [*\(here’s how\)*](#).”

Meanwhile, ~~accompanying~~ accompanied by Manmohan Singh, ~~the First Lady of the country~~, Congress party leader Sonia Gandhi visited some of the victims of the blasts in the Mumbai hospitals, and offered her deepest condolences, since they count for a lot and since the government has Zero Tolerance to terrorism.

Union Home Minister, P. Chidambaram explained why India couldn’t anticipate the attack, “Yes, we do have a couple of intelligence agencies. Yes, they are in a perfectly working condition. And yes, they could not gather any intelligence whatsoever about the blasts. It is obvious that we lack the intelligence to gather intelligence.

“But, there is no reason for panic, *there never is*. We will set up a dozen new agencies, pass hundreds of bills, use this opportunity to reshuffle our Cabinet and accommodate worse ministers (*there is scope for worse, has to be*) and well, bide our time in the office until the next election. Peace to all!”

Folks, yes, these are the ones responsible for the Mumbai attacks. Make no mistake. They deserve all our disrespect, they deserve to be made a mockery out of. Because, sometimes it pains to call myself an Indian.

Shaktimaan Ripped-Apart | Sorry (for you), Shaktimaan

July 3, 2011, Siddhartha Mukherjee

Indian superheroes, although as rare as a sensible Facebook app, have a charm that attracts children in irreversible multitudes. These Pied Pipers with powers beyond the Sun (in the most humble cases, that is) also have an unnerving lack of grace, blatant disregard for logical continuity and showmanship to humble the most dramatic family–torn-apart soaps that flank the superhero show on either side of the timeline.

And well, the single name (single in superhero form, that is, the village-boy-alter-ego name is a rant, if anything) that stands out, with a sun(?) blazing on his chest and his vermilion uniform of crime fighting, is the very own avatar of Bhishma Pitamaha, the (al?)mighty Shaktimaan (Yes its “*maan*” and not “*man*“). Indian television is all for *maan-maryada*). The thunder cracking intro music rings in your ears long after it has faded away.

His full alter ego name stands at Pandit Gangadhar Vidyadhar Mayadhar Omkaar Naath Shastri. It’s worthwhile to note that the initials of his name, with G, V, O, N—”*gvon*“, stand at a highly non-super-heroic PMS.

Coming to what makes him a superhero, the super-powers, Shaktimaan is pretty much the unholy union between Captain Planet, Superman and a Centrifuge. As the story goes, he performs “the ritual of death” to become more “alive”—now whatever that is supposed to mean. He is, unlike the other superheroes, put through a lot of ordeal for his share of powers. So he can spontaneously spin counterclockwise, use the “Screw rule” to screw logic, and lift up vertically. He has a commendable degree of freedom whilst spinning, and his flight is geometrically precise, always following the ‘shortest distance between two points’ path (possibly honed for swift crime fighting). But hey, give him some credit for not being too showy, spinning that fast would need an average superhero to include a sick bag in the costume. And yes, he is the unexplained red blur you might have seen in the skies sometime. He has control over the elements of nature—fire, earth, air, water (the usual) and “space” (the highly unusual). How do they consider vacuum as an element in the first place? Armed with these tricks of the trade, emerges the red marauder of evil, a perfect family entertainer of his times.

Wikipedia, which is now pretty much a brain expansion, names the powers of the red, raging, rotating and roof hopping superhero as:

1. Flight at a speed faster than light (though you can pretty much *see* him flying)
2. Invisibility (When he becomes the unrecognizable Gangadhar)
3. Powerful vision (What is that now anyway? 6/6?)
4. Ability to manipulate the 5 elements known to man (The 5 elements he DOES manipulate are logic, gold foil for the costume cutouts, a non suspecting lady reporter, DD National authorities to air the show on Sunday mornings and Moment of Inertia)
5. Immortality (much to our dismay, yes).

Let us also review the anti-protagonist. Quoting Wiki, “Tamraj Kilvish is Shaktimaan’s arch-enemy. Kilvish is covered with his clothes so that he is not naked, his face is dark and his fingernails are long. Tamraj means King of Darkness. He has lived 6000 years, and is the source of evil in the world. He intends to rule the world by spreading darkness, hatred, sins, and evil.” The Dark Lord wears clothes so he’s not naked. *Don’t you get it?* (Causality 101, if you must). And there has been evil only for the last 6000 years. The world was a crayon factory before that. The wish killing Kilvish, dark overlord smites the world against a confessedly *immortal* adversary. Reminds you of an unstoppable force (*MR multiplied by omega squared?*) meeting an immovable object.

Now what fun would it be, were he to wreck havoc on the evil Dark Lord's even darker schemes? So they give the arch enemy (TK) possession of this very potent "Crystal" (Reminiscent of Kryptonite, anyone?). This makes Shaktimaan go weak in the knees because it is filled with the evil of the world (Isn't the whole issue *crystal clear*? Just get rid of the damn 'crystal'!) and is the source of the black powers and evil must be feared and he must also not venture out in the dark. Wait, that looks more like what mothers use to keep their children from doing things they should rather not. And of course, I am talking about the logic here, not the crystal.

Let's also review what "Tamraj Kilvish" has in store for the man of the moment, in the form of his intricately conceptualized minions.

1. Electric man: Who can shoot lightning bolts from his body (Quite like Pikachu, only minus the cute "Pika Pi" shouts)

2. Stone man: Who can shoot stones from his body. (Did they mean "throw stones using his body". Definitely not the most sinister supervillain. *Stoned* man would be a nice adversary now, with his radical honesty and staggering moves.)

3. Plastica: Who can stretch any part of his body (Yes, that does sound wrong at various levels. Although Plastica was replaced by Paperica after the government banned plastic, though Paperica didn't pose much of a threat as Shaktimaan called "Scissors".)

4. Dr. Jackal: Who is a mad scientist, having allegedly helped Kilvish in his various schemes by cloning Shaktimaan and also by turning aliens against him. (Cloning Shaktimaan was a huge success. Miniature models available on pre-order. And I wonder how he could turn aliens against Shaktimaan. "*HE!* I saw him with your alien sister the other day! Go give him a taste of the business end of that spiky tentacle thing coming out of where it *really* shouldn't be coming out of!") It's only fair that Mr Hyde now doesn't have anything against our crimson cyclone.

5. Crab Man: Who is, well, a crab man. (Extremely blue shifted though because his colour range is a handsome distance from the usual crab like hues of red and orange. Goes best with Oyster sauce.)

There have been numerous duels and fights between Shaktimaan and the nether world demons. He, for someone who is indestructible, wears gloves too with the costume. *Extreme agoraphobia?*

And what is a superhero story without a lady. So taking a leaf off Superman and another off Spiderman, Shaktimaan works for a TV news channel with 'Gita Biswas' and is a photographer. She does have this nagging feeling that something is up, for Gangadhar never gets her photographs of Shaktimaan (she *could* have just googled it. The internet is flooded with his better than Captain Morgan pose photographs) and she has never seen them together (platonically, that is). But Shaktimaan "erases" these thoughts from her mind, which do border on an ethical gray area of sorts. He cannot although "be" with her as he is a Bal Brahmachari. This is not to recall again that he is immortal and will have to see countless girlfriends live their lives away. That would be quite an emotional ordeal even for the spinning spectacle.

So we can sum it up by accepting: Shaktimaan—The most eligible *Spin-ster* in town, since 1997.

Inconsistencies apart, Shaktimaan did drill his way into millions of hearts and was waited for in breathless anticipation. Not exceptional graphics, or storylines, or characters, but a stone cold resolve of an almost endless series, it was what made the Sundays for most Doordarshan watchers of that time. Would have done him good to be made in another age, with better script and visualization.

Well, what can I say?

Sorry (for you) Shaktimaan.

Chetan Bhagat: A Ripped-Apart Author Review

June 21, 2011, Siddhartha Mukherjee

There is something about equilibrium that the universe tends to be quite carnal about. It is reflective in every facet of creation itself, with an intimate entanglement of opposites. So, to make up for the classy hardback editions of coffee table books, are Chetan Bhagat's paperback atrocities.

Being, for a while, an honest critic—the most disliked of all of creation itself—I shall point out some subtle hints given off by CB to warn us of the swirling vortex of insignificance in his pages...

Like 5 years back, I bought this book called *Five Point Someone* (FPS, for brevity and the horror the full name still instills). It would be interesting to find out “what not to do at IIT”, considering it's unlikely for me to find out what “to do”—disregarding any hints given off by a tasteless book cover and font (size, typeface and colour, in their triadic disharmony), inside and outside. That is not to say that I did not give the book a chance to change the impression it made initially.

This is only an introspective account of my regret at having crossed paths with FPS. Why does it bother me? Because reading a bad book is something you can never undo. It takes a part of you away, not to mention a handsome amount of time spent reading it (which, thanks to Bhagat's impeccable grammar, redundant sentence formation, recurring thoughts and artless language, was not that significant a factor here). That is not to mention how sadistic I am. And if I could spare myself the leisure of quoting from real literature, “I'm here to bury Chetan, not to praise him.”

It definitely was, and is, and judging by his choice of themes to depict, and complexity of thoughts (rather, the lack of it), all his future works too will be, **printed business models**, incontestably mercenary. And that always comes at the cost of quality. The one and *only* good

facet to it is that it makes those people take up books who would never have, otherwise. It's disheartening though, that most of them don't go beyond the horizons of Bhagatititude. And it becomes the cul-de-sac of their reading experience.

I started off with the book, without any hopes, and mindsets, for it was almost just out at that time without a lot of reviews. For which I am glad, else hope would have done this really terrible thing it does—lead me to a greater disappointment, which would go on to do its own little terrible thing—leading to a more acrid response on my side.

I did not finish reading the book. Nor did I read anything else by him. I could not convince myself to. Predictability is flirtatious, but my encounters with books had armed me to extrapolate the storyline of the only disappointment I happened to lay my hands on. The language and style(?) of writing made sure I contented myself with the calculated guesses. Eighty odd pages into it, I took the nearest exit, silencing the impressive narration of a teenager beginning to pen his inner voice, often running out of ink, and upon finding it, often running out of thoughts.

Some things worthy of noting down, albeit mentally, about CB-books are:

His books are *not* works of literature by any means. Period. Don't call it that. (I say that because I have heard people say that as if they don't realise what they are getting at.)

They are *not* novels either, by any norms of novel-writing. (It's the same trick we use in college assignments. Increase the font size and gap between lines. Voila, 20 pages!)

His works are close to comic books, just short of that, due to a visible lack of speech bubbles, also devoid of any form of imagery (which comic books are best known for, quite literally so), also the most basic virtue of a novel. Not to mention the meek namesake of a storyline.

4 books down, the quality of work is still the same, which in his case, is not something one should pride in. (Read: Consistently moronic.)

The character names do not go beyond the most unimaginative, common Indian names. (And there are pretty flashy Indian names too, with a lot of consonants tossed in.)

The humour is not even borderline seasoned, or remotely satiric. It is at its best, anecdotal. (And of course, the best of it comes only once or if you lower your standards, twice.)

I personally did not want to be *any* character from his book (which again is the least an author's imagination should incite), and I don't really think anyone would. (This although disregards those hinting Bipolar tendencies.)

The sneak peek to the story behind the book is a peep show I would choose to avoid. It shows the wrong kind of flesh to my liking. (And that being "paid"?)

The detailing is pretty much anti-LOTR, and the scenes bask in a negative space of non-existence. Dialogues smeared across a deserted play, is pretty much it.

I don't fully gather to what effect do people associate his name to their experience in reading. "I love to read" they tend to touch up with "my favourite author is CB". It leads me to think what class of "Moron" they are carved out of. And that takes away any regard I might have had. Because for him to be your favourite, he also has to be your *only*. Along with him now come a myriad of other authors shelved under "Indian writing" (which I feel should be replaced by "Indian writing crap"), producing story books that flood the now-unfriended neighbourhood bookstores, and bring down a handsome number of trees, which would do mankind some good were they still upright. Some of them might be better than the others, no denying that (not the trees, I mean). But when I enter the store with my wish list in mind, and hopes mounting like the notes in a mental whistle, and have to realise that CB is the "in thing", ergo they did not risk/bother getting copies of the well-writ brethren of books, should vengeance still not be served cold?

Ranting apart, few things CB *is* quite capable of, which we shall now applaud to.

He can consistently write orthogonal to humour, language, imagination and love simultaneously.

He can make your coffee taste bad if you read it with your drink.

You can never steal his masterpiece creation of rambling crap, because it is ALWAYS at the safest place. The future.

He wields the *most potent* weapon to take care of his sales. The law of large numbers, with India taking the "large" part of it through new horizons.

He is now called the "Underage (as if the moustache, receding hairline and veteran level lack of taste weren't subtle enough clues) Optimist (oh come on!)"

It instills, like I mentioned in the beginning, horror at the realisation that the youth is holding CB as their standard for reading. Being generous, I would not deny it as maybe an occasional accompaniment to an otherwise thorough and tasteful bookshelf, but it cannot be the definitive identity of anyone's reading habit. One man's riches should not come at the cost of a million people's acceptance of mediocrity. To the extent that *New York Times* called him "the biggest selling English language novelist in India's history". Kudos. So 'A Suitable Boy' and 'The Great Indian novel'ist can go take a plunge in a 'Sea of Poppies' as the 'God of Small Things' heaves 'The Moor's Last Sigh' on His 'Train to Pakistan'.

I'm sure although that the next trip anywhere, will have yet another traveller looking intently into a CB book. For his benefit, I hope he moves on. And so does everyone else with anything CB.

Because CB here does not quite translate to *C'est bien*.

And life is too short for a bad coffee and worse books.

This is a slightly rewritten version of what the author first posted on [his blog](#).

Fasting—the Modern-Day *Brahmastra*

June 10, 2011, Bijender Sheoran

Tinku Malhotra (refer yesterday's news report: [Not on JEE merit list, student goes on fast to force IITs to take him](#)), a not-so-diligent student from Bangalore was much depressed after the JEE results, as he could not make it even in the 137th IIT, that was opened recently—IIT Timbuktu—and why wouldn't he? After all, he had slogged for years, from Class 9th to 12th, in FIIT-JEE's classroom coaching. Then one fine day, while surfing through news channels, it all occurred to him, the perfect plan, the way to his goal—the fasting way. He'll just go on a fast and coerce the government into taking him in IIT, simple!

Relatives who had come to mock at *his* failure and hide that of their own wards', had to join him; media came in because they had to cover anything and everything; seeing the media get involved, many more people came in, who had no idea what the original thing was all about, but just wanted to be seen on TV. So hence it began, the whole fasting endeavour of Tinku.

As reported yesterday, Pigvijay Singh and P Chidambaram have come out openly to announce that it's all an RSS conspiracy like every other problem that India has had till now. Pigvijay Singh also said that to him, even the Mumbai terror attacks of 26/11 seem an RSS conspiracy and **Kasab-Ji** has nothing to do with it. He added that last night he had a heated telephonic conversation with the RSS Guruji M. S. Golwalker (born 1906, died 1973) about this, and he has asked the Home Ministry to issue an arrest warrant against Golwalker. Chidambaram has promised to do so, as soon as he can spare the police from all the night action over the fasts. Chidambaram also said, "What's the need of all this protest through fasts, when citizens in India are already empowered with the voting power! Just vote, and wait for five (or less or more... remember emergency?) years, when you can exercise your power again."

During their press conference, both were seen wearing weird headgears, and the journalists were politely asked (politely, by police, yes!) to take off their [shoes](#) outside the venue. Doggy-Vijay Singh was also seen sporting the nailed [Sholay shoes](#) which Thakur had worn towards the end of the movie to thrash Gabbar with. He was seen murmuring to a colleague that he was prepared for any Sunil Kumar and this time it wouldn't be just normal kicks that the assailant would be receiving from him.

Kapil Sibal, on the other hand, came out with a theory of 'Zero Black Money' along with the lines of his earlier prevalent theory of the ['Zero Loss'](#) during the 2G incident (he wouldn't call it a scam with "zero loss"). He also mentioned Sonia's much hyped and religiously followed theory of ['Zero Tolerance'](#) over corruption. He added that just like a 'happy woman' and a 'satisfied manager', Black Money is a myth.

BJP on the other hand, to steal its share of TRPs for media, has dispatched a [dance party](#) comprising Sushma Swaraj with the addition of the dramatics veteran Uma Bharati to Tinku's house to express their support. When asked by a journalist how this helped Tinku, Arun Jaitley articulated, "Well, at least by looking at the dance performance of our very own Munki and Sheila and their *Kamar ke Lachke*, Tinku will learn a thing or two about the Rotational

Movement, which supposedly is the toughest topic in JEE Physics syllabus, so if the government doesn't award him an IIT seat this time over, he can crack it by himself the next year.”

Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari was seen going from channel to channel giving his pre-planned age-old impromptu arguments defending the government's doing. He was last seen providing the same arguments on Vividh Bharti when television was not a household entity.

A group of feminists, all from Toronto and Amsterdam, who have come for the first time in India and have no idea about its socio-economic conditions and its problems approached Tinku to provide him more suited, easy-to-implement, attention-grabbing and pragmatic solutions upon the condition that he first help them organize their [Slut Walk](#) in New Delhi on June 25.

At the site of Tinku's agitation, a reporter, who had woken up at midnight to answer the nature's call passed by the sleeping Tinku, and he was surprised to see Tinku sleeping in a [pink tube top and a pencil mini-skirt](#). Tinku woke up by the sound of the journalist's footsteps, all dishevelled and shouting, “I surrender, please don't beat me and no tear gases, I surrender!” However, P Chidambaram denied that there were any plans for the police to ‘swoop in’ during the midnight. He, in fact, insisted that they have deployed 20 policemen to safeguard Tinku's (peaceful and non-violent) protest, which was ironic as the only safety he needed was from the police.

Sachin Tendulkar, sympathized with Tinku, wished him all the best while simultaneously suggesting him that he should really not follow all these “IIT thingy” blindly and instead become an [actor](#) like him—that is where the real money as well as additional tax benefits are. On being pointed out by someone that being an engineer was even better, if then by mistake he went into core job, he'll never have to pay any taxes as he will always stay below the taxable income bar. Sachin immediately called up his CA and asked if his profession can be changed to being Mechanical Engineer, say, in Philips.

Indian stand-in skipper Suresh Raina has said that the reason the fire seems to be missing in Indian bowling and batting for the tour of West Indies, making the T20s look like one-dayers, the one-dayers look like Tests and God-forbid, Tests will look like death, is that the entire team is on a fast, protesting against the BCCI to make them scrap off all these international tours and instead have two seasons of IPL in a year.

Steve Jobs has seen this as an opportune moment to clear out his last stock of iPhone in India before he launches iPhone 5 and organized an ad-hoc web-based conference and announced the new Apple app to calculate your ‘Fast Quotient’, which shall be available for download in the app store for just \$11.99. With this, he said the iPhone 4's ad in India will be changed to accommodate and highlight this app and the tagline changed to “If you don't have an iPhone, you can't fast” from existing “If you don't have an iPhone, you don't have an iPhone,” which he nonchalantly admitted is stupid really.

A concerned mom has sent her 9-year-old, who had just come after watching *Kung Fu Panda 2* and was all ga-ga over ‘inner peace’ that he wanted to achieve, to Rajghat so that he could witness and learn the heightened, all-powerful and modern skills of fasting to achieve anything in today's world. She retorted that fasting was the second most effective way after the Rudraksh

Suraksha Kawach sold by the telemarketing companies and all the ‘inner peace’ was nothing but movie bullshit.

An excited TV reporter confided in secrecy that, “Man, this fasting thing is just awesome; we don’t have to dig for news anymore or even Google for it. We just run the same frame of the protesting crowd from five different angles all day long. Moreover the viewership has increased, seems like people really believe this is going to change things... hah. Now don’t tell anyone but if Anna, Baba and Tinku call it quits at some point of time, we have plans to organize sponsored and scripted ‘real’ fasts the ‘Truman Show’ style, just to create the news and to sustain the ever increasing news industry.”

He further continued, “And it’s not like that the Indian people, so accustomed with the soaps and the reality shows, can actually tell the difference. Also all it takes to organize a scripted fast is willing and needy people with a high tolerance for hunger and police remand, a burning or not so burning issue, a deaf, smug and incompetent government and a Head of State who’s never ever seen. India has no dearth of the any of the above ingredients. I’m telling you, we are in business for good!” He went away while instructing his cameramen to change to angle of shooting.

PS: I am not mentioning anything about Manmohan Singh, because I don’t write about fictional characters.

UPA to catch people having dreams of revolution, plans to lathicharge them in their sleep itself

June 5, 2011, Aashish Aryan

After the [midnight lathicharge](#) done on peacefully sleeping supporters of Swami Ramdev, the silly government of our nation has realised its mistake. Our brave old rulers have got even more panicked about their future. Sans sanity, the government, not content with the midnight action, called a special emergency meeting with the national security adviser and top scientists and asked them to **build a machine that can record all the revolutionary dreams of Indian citizens**. This will help the government keep a control on all revolutions, fasts, and agitations even before they begin. The task has been put on a priority list by the government. The so-called Prime Minister headed the meeting. This was after the police used brute force and teargas to end the day-long fast by Ramdev against black money stashed in foreign banks and the prevailing corruption in the country.

In a press brief after the meeting, held at 3am, UPA spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi asserted that all such protests start with someone dreaming of uprooting the government and trying to ~~stabilize~~ destabilize the country. “And then, it takes the form of a cannon ball with all you people and media supporting that one man! **It’s very necessary to nip them in the budding**

stage itself, so that they never gather momentum.” On being asked how this would work, he was initially hesitant to reveal all secrets, but then let the *lathi* out of the bag— “Scientists have been directed to build a machine which can keep a track of all the revolutionary dream waves that flow from different parts of the country with the help of a dedicated satellite. This data would alert the nearest police station and **such people will be lathicharged immediately, while they are still in their dreams.”**

He was visibly miffed with the ongoing trend in the country where some people decide to sit on indefinite hunger strikes to demand something ~~reasonable~~ unreasonable. “It’s like 2-year-old kids refusing to eat just because they want what they think is right for them. The government can not obviously fulfill everybody’s demands. All these tantrums are not going to affect the government.”

“Do you even know how much hard work it takes to earn black money and be corrupt? It’s not easy to [have only trained scamsters in the government](#). Where do you get such ministers who show the world that we are not a poor country? And then, someone has a silly dream of rooting out corruption from the country. Oh! Please get a life!”

About why the dreaming people were the new target, he linked the importance of dreams to real events. “Gandhiji dreamt of a free India and he achieved it. Napoleon, Hitler and General Dyer dreamt of being tyrants and they achieved it. So better be safe than sorry. Kill them while they’re dreaming!” he said.

He also hinted that the government would bring a bill against dreaming people and would try to make such acts punishable under the Prevention of Internal Peace Disturbance act in the Monsoon session.

Indian media gives away awards to people who made news and enhanced TRPs

May 27, 2011, Aashish Aryan

New Delhi:

It was our politicians who stole the show at the India Shining Awards that were given away by the Journalist Association of India yesterday. The awards were given for excellence in “news-creation and TRP-maintenance”, to eminent personalities and events that contributed towards uplifting the Indian media. Leading magazines and news channels sponsored the awards, to honour and say thanks to those who created in the average Indian mind “an interest in the media”, increased the demand for news, and hence enhanced circulations and TRPs. There were several categories of awards, but the otherwise dazzling night had most winners missing, as they were in jail.

The ceremony began with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest, under-trial ex-MP Chhota Lathait, accused of several abductions and attempts to murder. In his welcome address, the Chairman of the Association expressed his gratitude to Lathait and congratulated him for managing a bail to be able to attend the ceremony.

The **Best Debutant award (male)** was given to the ex-telecom minister A Raja, for his extraordinary performance in the Rs-1.76-lakh-crore 2G-spectrum scam, while the **Best Debutant award (female)** was given to a stellar performer in the same scam, K. Kanimozhi.

The chief guest, in his speech, said that he was very happy with the potential shown by these two newbies. He asserted that such politicians are needed to show the world that India isn't a poor country; nor are Indians poor. "The future of India is in safe hands. We still have regular scams to keep the CBI and you journalists busy," he told the gathering.

Ratan Tata won the recognition for the **Best Actor in a Supporting Role**, whilst Sunanda Pushkar was declared the **Style Icon**. Anna Hazare gleefully accepted the **Best Actor in a Negative Role** for his fast-unto-death in April, which had the government in a fix and crippled for a week.

The Adarsh Housing Society Scam bagged the **Spiciest Scam** award, while the award for the **Best Screenplay** went to the 2010 Commonwealth Games. The award for the **Best Sound Recording** was given to the Niira Radia tapes. Amar Singh got the **Best Drama** and the **Most Dependable Newsmaker** awards.

The **Lifetime Achievement** award went to the legendary evergreen Ayodhya dispute, which has kept the judiciary on its toes for years now, and will continue to do so after this encouragement. Several finalists, who had either said or done something controversial in the past year, were given mementos.

Big man Prime Minister Manmohan Singh got the two biggest awards of the night—**Best Acting** and **Best Non-Acting**. The award for **Best Direction** had a single nominee, Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

In his conclusive speech, the chief guest called for youngsters to join politics and learn more about India and newsmaking. "In our days, we didn't have silly news channels and it was difficult. Today, things are easier; capitalise upon them, and make news. It's up to our youth." For once, the myriad magazines and channels were unanimous and did not fight for exclusive coverage rights. The highlights can, therefore, be viewed on all channels tomorrow at 8pm.

Lord Voldemort Ripped-Apart (An Interview)

May 17, 2011, Kumar Pratik

During the promotion of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows—Part 2*, we caught up with the Dark Lord h(H?)imself. Here, we present our interview with Tom Marvolo Riddle, aka Lord Voldemort, about his seventeen-year-long duel with the Boy Who Lived, Harry Potter.

Q: So Mr. Voldemort, how does it feel to have gone through the course of seven books and seven movies getting your ass kicked by a skinny little boy?

The Dark Lord: (*hisses*) Only I shall live forever. Neither can live while—

Yeah, whatever! Get over it, dude!

Hmm, alright, Harry Potter is nothing compared to the Dark Lord—he is a pest, that’s what he is. When I get the opportunity, I shall kill him once and for all.

It seems you haven’t read the ending of the story yet, but never mind, let’s just say you will be pleasantly surprised when the movie comes out. By the way, can I call you Voldy, as in Lordy Voldy, you know?

NO!

That was subtle. Anyway, Severus Snape has recently referred to you as “a crazy bitch” in a newspaper column. What do you have to say to that?

“Crazy bitch”, eh? (*takes his wand out and starts making wild and obscene gestures with it*) Yeah! You tell him Lord Voldemort gave him the finger on live television.

Mr Voldemort, I understand the emotions are running high. But, our viewers would like to know more about you. Tell me, why this obsession with Harry Potter? Couldn’t you just sit back, relax, maybe have a drink on a beach and let the boy complete his goddamn school?

I have never revealed this answer before, but perhaps I wouldn’t get a better chance to express my point of view to the world. It all began with one Facebook status update by Lily James Potter seventeen years ago, “What’s up with that prick named Voldemort? I mean who keeps a name ‘Voldemort’ (*chuckle*) and doesn’t he have better things to do in life than show up uninvited at houses, killing people for absolutely no reason? In my opinion, the douche can suck it!”

Ah, the social network, there has been some pretty bad miscommunication lately due to these sites! There is one more question that I have been meaning to ask you. You and Albus Dumbledore have always had something of a spark on screen. Is there any truth to allegations that you and Dumbledore were actually in a committed relationship not so long ago?

Please do not print or translate this in Parseltongue, or my beloved snake Nagini will be able to understand what I'm going to say. Yes, Dumbledore was my idol, my hero, and we had great chemistry about us. But, one day he came up to me and said, "Tom, all this snake obsession is getting out of hand now. You better start learning some other languages like French or German." My precious Nagini slithered there in the background, oblivious to the intentions of the malicious old man. That's when Dumbledore and I decided to part ways.

Just one last question sir. How do you manage to remember all those difficult spells and fight so efficiently with your wand?

(with a sly smile) That's easy. This wand that you see is just a piece of wood with some fancy lightning system. I merely switch it on during fights and start shouting whatever gibberish comes to my mind!

Thank you Mr.Voldemort for such an enlightening interview. I am sure the Death Eaters will have a great time reading this. Is there any last thing you want to say to the audience?

Oh yes, only I shall live forever—damn it, I have to pee! See you guys.

An institute to help you throw shoes at politicians without missing the aim

May 13, 2011, Aashish Aryan

Inspired by all the common men who have been caught throwing shoes at celebrities politicians, a social activist has decided to set up an "Institute for Skills in Shoe-Shoving", that will give diplomas to people in the art of throwing shoes at politicians. Announcing the institute as a new branch of his existing NGO, Anna Karore said that politicians all around the world are becoming victims of shoe-hurling incidents and so setting up such an institute will help in developing perfection in the job. "The government has been unable to stop these shoe-bombing incidents. When shoes come flying from all over to hit the ministers, they just escape by a fraction. Passers-by are at a high risk in such cases. We hope that training people in this sport will ensure that the shoes reach the target."

Taking the instance of the latest daredevil Kapil Thakur, Karore said in his press conference, "Shoe-hurling is justified in his case since it was aimed at Mr Kalmadi, the wrecker-in-chief of Commonwealth Games held in Delhi. But his aim was deplorable. What if it had hit someone else?! It's a great shame for the land which produced Arjuna and Eklavya." *(Ironically, this correspondent notes, Mr Kalmadi started his political career in the late 1970s by throwing slippers at Prime Minister Morarji Desai's car in Pune—testifying what goes around comes around.)* Karore being a crorepati himself, the institute will be a marvellous display of his wealth combined with his hatred for the political setup.

An information brochure released to the media tells that the institute will be set up in New Delhi, near the Parliament itself. The candidate intake would be based on various parameters like hatred against politicians, aim-o-scale, corrupt-*neta*-dummy-hitting, etc. They will be taught by the best archers, and shoes will be sponsored by bigwigs like Reebok, Nike, Adidas, and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, etc. Muntadhar al-Zaidi, who threw a shoe at George W Bush few years ago, will be a visiting faculty.

This institute is planned to house a museum with statues of corrupt politicians. These statues will be used as targets for the students to practise shoe-throwing or to vent out their frustration. The public would also be able to avail these museum facilities at a minimum price. The brochure says that in case a politician's statue breaks in the process, it will either be re-built using money from Swiss Bank account of that particular politician, or be replaced by one of his statues which litter public roads. Students will be given rigorous target practice and their degrees would be awarded only when they hit bull's eye from a distance of 10 feet.

Karore revealed that he has written a letter to the Ministry of Sports, to request the Olympics authorities to include Shoe-Throw as a discipline in the upcoming London 2012 Olympics or further editions. "This could end the drought of medals that India faces in Olympics every year," Karore said, "With such an institute being set up for the first time in history, the first batch is sure to have excellent placements since demands for such accurate shoe throwers is very high in the market and they are very rare to get."

In related news, Reebok and Adidas have decided to felicitate Kapil Thakur for his dare-devil attempt on Kalmadi, when he almost pulled it off with such courage, and the Opposition have offered him a party ticket in the next elections, along with cash prizes.

Govt to sit on fast unto death, if Anna Hazare doesn't drop the idea of Lokpal Bill

May 7, 2011, Pratul Bagri

New Delhi:

The Indian government has declared that it will sit on a fast unto death, in order to force social activist Anna Hazare to stop asking the system to pass the Jan Lokpal Bill. According to the government, they had agreed to Anna Hazare's conditions last month only because Hazare forced them to agree, and it was not a voluntary decision.

"By taking this fast-till-death step, we want to present a counter-force to the force of Anna, so that he can drop the idea of Jan Lokpal Bill, out of pity towards the government's habits," said a UPA spokesperson. "It is important that people realise the hazards of the Lokpal Bill—it will lead to the surfacing of new scams, and nothing else. Finally, a month after unwillingly agreeing to Hazare's demands, we have decided that we won't take the way he shows us, and we will sit

on a fast for this purpose. The fast will be symbolically led by the Prime Minister—however, he will not stop eating during the period of his fast, as he has no role in the government.”

Apparently, ministers from the UPA regime believe that if more scams surface, it will lead to more unhappiness among common citizens, thus making the CBI more preoccupied, and hindering the progress of more important cases of crimes such as murders, kidnappings and others which do not involve politicians.

Much to the government’s warm surprise, there are positive vibes among most citizens over the matter. People all over are supporting this idea, calling it a “sane decision after a very long time”. Kochan Mishra, a daily office-goer said, “I am personally very happy. I hope Annaji doesn’t agree to the demands, and that more and more officials join in the fast. This way, finally we can get rid of some corrupt officials. Anna will not listen to anything, I know! Haha, it can’t get any better! They’ll all die!”

The government has also planned to form an “**uncivil society**” to fulfill this Herculean task. The members of the society would be directly elected by Prime Minister ~~Sonia Gandhi~~ Manmohan Singh. UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi suggested Rahul Gandhi (Amul Baby)’s name to head the society. But political commentators have suggested that Rahul would not be apt for the task, as during the fast, he’d be unable to survive even two days without having food at his favourite Dalit slums.

When we contacted Anna regarding this matter, he dismissed the media with a seemingly-‘WTF’ expression. As usual, the opposition hasn’t missed this opportunity to take a dig at the current regime. Newly-turned digital jockey Amar Singh has called this idea stupid. “The only way to stop corruption is to legalize it,” he said in the tone of a visionary, and went back to promote Abhishek Bachchan-starrer *Dum Maro Dum*.

Sachin's much-awaited 100th century may bring natural calamities, say astrologers

April 17, 2011, Harsh Bhardwaj

[News in Brief] **Mumbai:**

Despite the Little Master getting a hundred in an IPL match here against Kochi, the Mumbai Indians failed to win the encounter, thus once again fuelling the idea that Sachin’s centuries bring a bad omen to his team. This effect was seen in ODIs till now, but this T20 match further strengthened the belief many fans have in their mind about the negative effects of a Tendulkar century. The idea of this happening in a T20 match is more alarming, and an astrologer, for a TV channel, predicted that the “much-awaited 100th international hundred would bring more social catastrophes”.

This was followed by many other fortune-tellers saying similar things. The famous evil-looking astrologer for India TV said, "... there could be a natural calamity like tsunamis, earthquakes on Sachin's 100th moment, so people should be wary and well-prepared for it."

Even eminent astrologer Bejan Daruwalla didn't avoid giving an opinion, "He is God, as we all know, and there are chances that he has planned the End of the World of 2012 earlier, and will be bringing up his 100th hundred next year only." Numerous astrology-believers in India suddenly called for Sachin's retirement before 2012 comes. Baba Ramdev has announced that he will begin a nationwide *yajna* campaign to nullify the ill-effects of a Sachin century.

New strategy set to have only trained scamsters in the government

April 5, 2011, Aashish Aryan

New Delhi:

Shaken by all the recent scams and *ghotalas*, the UPA high-command held a closed door meeting today, to work out some clever guidelines to be followed by ministers. While several ministers were rebuked for being unable to hide the fact that they are corrupt, Manmohan Singh was handed the job of the Prime Minister for an hour, as a punishment for innocently leaking wrongdoings to the media. In the press briefing after the meet, Congress spokesman Manish Tewari said, "Only those who follow these new guidelines will be given cabinet berths. The existing ministers are also expected to abide by these."

The meet was highly secretive, just like the government, but NTMN managed to get a handout of the guidelines, from a highly placed UPA worker, on the condition of anonymity. The new rules are said to be the brainchild of an ingenuous mother-son duo.

The guidelines are as follows:

- 1) "All party members **must have a Swiss Bank Account**," says the list of guidelines. "Proof of this will have to be submitted to the secretary of the high-command, along with relevant experiences of handling scams. Preference will be given to members involved in scams worth more than Rs 10 crore. The candidate should be able to spot opportunities/create opportunities – projects from which large amount of money can be siphoned out."
- 2) "Members must have expertise in **fooling a lie-detector**. They must be highly skilled in controlling their blood pressure and perspiration. The answers they give to a lie-detector machine will be telecast live, in order to assure the *janata* that they are getting excellent ministers."
- 3) "All candidates need to be **diploma-holders from a reputed acting school**—preferably Film and Television Institute of India (which has produced great actors like Mithun Chakraborty, Naseeruddin Shah, Jaya Bhaduri, etc). There will be no reservations for products of the same acting schools as Uday Chopra, Dino Morea and Harman Baweja. Party members must know

how to enact a heart attack, how to give an innocent puppy-faced look, and how to give an *All izzz well* smile, even when nailed guilty.”

4) “First-time cabinet aspirants must have a recommendation letter from a minister who has a proven record of scam evasion/escape. The letter must highlight that candidate will not buckle under pressure during an investigation.”

5) “Cabinet-aspirants must have Facebook accounts with at least 10,000 friends. This would help increase the popularity of the party. Also, since the revenue of Facebook is increasing, a scam will be planned to relieve Mark Zuckerberg of his money.”

6) “Candidates must have excellent story-telling and excuse-giving abilities. Their prowess in this field will be evaluated through personal interviews and many rounds of group discussions.”

The party has also proposed to hire a **full-time psychiatrist** who would examine these bluffing qualities. He would discuss shortcomings with the Party President alone. The final decision would be in “her” hands. A **talking replica of Arnab Goswami** is also planned for practice, to ensure that every criminal member can tackle the worst of media-persons with ease.

A note below the guidelines mentions that the decision of the Party President, and in some cases, her son’s, would be final and binding.

Rail Budget: Railway food to have cigarette-like statutory warning, among other announcements

February 25, 2011, Tanay Sukumar

Union Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee put forward a very “sisterly” Railway Budget for the year 2010-11, today in the Parliament. We present to you the most important highlights of the please-all Budget.

1. The next time you get any sort of **food or beverage in an Indian train**, you may find a message with words like “Consuming the contents may be injurious to health”, or “Statutory Warning: Eat at your own risk” written with it. In the Budget, Banerjee assured the nation that Indian Railways could compromise with the [quality of the food](#), but not with the trust of the passengers. “It’s our duty to warn people beforehand, else they’ll lose the trust they have in us. Giving a statutory warning, like on cigarettes, puts the ball in their court,” said Banerjee.

The minister said that having a warning makes a lot of things easy. It will cut down expenditure on gloves for cooks. The pantry windows can remain open all the time so as to expose cooked food to outside fresh and clean air. “With growing milk prices, tea becomes cheaper to prepare if people are already warned,” Banerjee added.

2. The Budget assigned a sum of Rs 24 crore to the task of **finding new people to blame** for any train accidents in future. The money will be spent on finding and convincing people to accept the blame, that they caused a certain train accident. Some part of this money will also be used to condemn such incidents verbally, over as many media channels as possible, and to make telephone calls to relatives of victims, in order to offer tape-recorded condolences.

3. A “**Discover India**” campaign for foreign tourists has been announced. Under this campaign, tourists will get to travel in dirty coaches, with nothing but the coach walls to spit and pee. They will get the enriching experience of the practice of paying bribes, without which the train drivers would not be allowed to move.

4. “**Railway platforms will be cleaned** by the end of this year. All the garbage and waste collected will be duly placed inside the compartments of the general coaches,” announced the Minister.

5. Beggars and eunuchs have got the **Right to Displace** sleeping people from their berths, in the sleeper class coaches. The permissions may be extended to the AC coaches in the next year’s budget, said Banerjee pleasing the beggar and eunuch community.

6. New station clocks will be installed at major junctions, which will work according to the arrival and departure of trains, and won’t show the Indian Standard Time. This will help in ensuring that trains are always on time.

7. In the seventh major highlight of the Budget, Mamata Banerjee announced a sum of Rs 19000 crore to be spent on the **removal of all trains and railway lines** from the whole country, except West Bengal. The trains and railway lines will be used to develop the state’s railways beyond recognition.

An Open Letter to Kapil Sibal — Union Minister for Human Resource Degradation

September 14, 2010, Bijender Sheoran

Dear Mr. Kapil “*I-shall-destroy-IITs*” Sibal,

I have many questions going through my mind. But let’s start with this one, what exactly are the functions that fall under the regime of HRD (Human Resource Department — is it, still??). Is it just education? And in that too, just *IITs*? Or do you presume that in India, education means just the IITs? If not, please explain this obsession of your ministry with the IITs, tenure after tenure. First it was, what’s-his-name... Arjun Singh... and now you. Just because our PM is a man of “*integrity and honesty*” (which, *somehow* implies he shouldn’t speak, **come what may!**), doesn’t mean you should take advantage.

Now, what’s with this mentality of “not trying to improve things that don’t work, rather solving all your problems using the *only* things that work.” The *one* working thing in your case are **the IITs** — and you tamper with only *them* to do each and everything, be it inclusive social *upliftment* (**reservations**), lack of good doctors in India (**medicine at IITs**), education to the politicians’ children with double-digit IQ levels (Show as much maturity as your white hair suggests, Mr Sibal — and you’ll find how easy it is for such people to get a *fake* board certificate with whatever-marks-on-demand, despite the fact that they would never in their wildest dreams, even in the *fourth* level of Nolan’s *Inception*, be able to ace JEE exam), reducing the stress level in 12th (Stress levels? If you can’t take the *board exam* stress, don’t get into IITs in the first place — simple! Now, if you think the nation can function without someone taking the stress, aha! — we sure are looking at a superpower nation soon).

I am sure soon you must be having plans to solve **pollution, poverty, population and corruption problems** and **your IQ problems as well** through IITs.

Now coming back to the point, you talk about [including the 12th class scores](#) for IIT entrance. In case you don’t know, here is a news flash for you, India has around 25 state boards, plus the CBSE and ICSE. For a Tamil Nadu student, the highest marks can be 99.8%, while in Uttar Pradesh, it hardly touches 90%. Also, CBSE is a high-scoring board. I wish you all the best in your attempt to *normalise* these — to bring them at par. I suggest you give the task to the folks who conducted the online CAT last year. They are well-equipped and experienced in dealing with the guilt of messing with lakhs of aspirants anyway.

Also you have suggested introducing [medical education](#) into the IITs. I wonder if it is your way of bringing all colleges at par. Good one though, it’s always easier and cheaper to degrade the level of a couple of IITs (*jugaad*, we call it), than to raise that of a gazillion things with

crumbling buildings, barely graduate faculties and with lavatories with a single microscope functioning as laboratories. Or, maybe out of pity on the IIT students, to give them some action by the on-campus presence of female medical students. In that case, a big THANK YOU on behalf of all my juniors. They eagerly await the arrival of medical batch. Some worried souls in the final year who might be passing out in 2011 are seriously considering getting a degree extension in case you postpone the implementation to 2012. Please don't postpone it to *after* 2012 — Daruwalla tells me the world is gonna end in 2012 anyway — your education ministry hasn't taught us not to believe him.

Whatever the reason, if we needed someone just to tell us superficial ideas read off from American university brochures, we could have made any Tom, Dick and Harry or Shivraj Patil our HRD Minister. Why did we pick a Harvard graduate? And how credible does your degree sound if you can't understand that whatever works in US might not work in India in that *exact* same format.

I haven't seen you in any corruption charges either. I wonder why you're still stuck around in politics?! With that Harvard Law degree, you could be making good money out there. At the worst, you would be letting some criminals escape; at the least you would *not* be screwing an *entire* upcoming generation of India. I read somewhere that you cleared the IAS exam and didn't join later, I admired your guts back then — but now I *so* wish you had joined, you could have been an ambassador to some country like Nepal (is it a state of India already or still independent country?) or Afghanistan or some babu looking after the CWG games etc, at least sparing India's future from your wrath.

They say Youth Power is India's greatest power. I say — let Kapil Sibal be done and we'll talk. If publicity is the only reason you are doing all this, I would be ashamed of your dumbness and say Rakhi Sawant and Shiney Ahuja's [maid](#) have better publicity strategies. Go into *Bigg Boss* for God's sake! They are casting mentally imbalanced people anyway and I am sure that if Vindu Dara Singh and Rahul Mahajan can get in, you sure will. People will vote for anything, didn't we elect you already?

As much as I would hate to burst your bubble and be responsible for another psychiatrist losing a potential client, let me tell you, that a brand name (IITs or something else) is not the entire story. Good students and the faculty make an institution what it is. Now with your weird policy for IIT entrance, weirder for [faculty recruitment](#), add to the reservation, the standard is bound to get low. Are you aware that more than 80% of the students who get terminated from or get academic backlogs in IITs are from the reserved lot? Oh, you have an innovative solution for that as well, relax the passing criterion for them and give them degrees somehow; after all we have been oppressing them for ages. Let me again introduce you to the reality, companies coming for the recruitment are NOT dumb either. They will start asking for category in recruitment, even if you pump up their GPAs by relaxation criterion and bam!! You have jobless IITians! Now in the market and your beloved foreign countries where you and Anu Malik get most of your innovative, original ideas from, will not see this as the 'reserved' lot, and all this will only degrade the brand name my senior IIT alumni have worked so hard to build.

Ever heard of primary education, and children in rural areas not even having access to it? Passing a Right to Education (RTE) bill and giving a press conference about it can keep you in the media for a week but to actually make some change you have to implement it. Mid-day meals website is selling [Viagra](#) under your noses. I am not sure if mid-day meal fall under your domain. No, maybe not; after all, mid-day meals are not an IIT activity. You are just busy [looking into](#) which coaching the JEE topper was enrolled with.

By the way, are you also suffering from a short term memory loss? Weren't you this guy who said in an [interview](#) to Karan Thapar, "IITs are precious; I will not interfere with them"? Or are we both using different dictionaries to look up the meaning of 'interfere' and 'precious'?

If you ask me, A. Raja, Madhu Koda and Suresh Kalmadi are much better than you. They are just taking away India's *money*, not its *future*. You should be ashamed of yourself after reading the next line, but IIPM students have better sense of right or wrong than you do. And yes, I am saying this despite being fully aware that they are the ones who take admission in IIPM even after reading all the false claims.

I have many more things to say to you, but am keeping it short, considering you might be very busy going through the list of students who qualified JEE to take admission in the 15 (or 16, 17, or 20, or whatever number you increased it to since I started writing this article till I publish it) IITs. Checking which rank holder got which IIT and what department, thinking about launching a CBI enquiry into it. Do that! Because the (self-proclaimed) emerging superpower India needs its best crime investigation agency (CBI) and HRD ministry to do nothing better today. While we are at it, I got a B in a course in my 3rd semester, could you ask CBI to look into it, please... pretty please!!

—A voice straight from the heart of an IIT Alumnus

Experts insist PCB should pick a new team that can fix matches without getting caught

August 31, 2010, Tanay Sukumar

Meanwhile, ICC offers money to bookies if they can "fix" brains of Pak cricketers

Karachi:

Several Pakistani ex-cricketers, match-fixers and commentators have insisted that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) should select a fresh new team of cricketers who have the ability and shamelessness to do match- and spot-fixing *without* getting caught. In view of the approaching World Cup in March, the wide belief is that a new, more "undetectable" team — a team of "smarter bluffmasters" — is the need of the hour. Particularly so, if Pakistan are to successfully

lose the World Cup in the first round itself. Even the Pakistan PM has expressed worry and [wanted the team to be punished](#) for getting caught.

The current team has been slammed by critics the world over for not being able to bowl no-balls and spill easy catches without suspicion. “When you bowl so *big* no-balls for money, you don’t deserve a Pakistan team berth,” said NDTV’s proud cricket expert Ajay Jadeja, who was once banned for match-fixing.

The whole Pakistan is cursing match-fixer Mazhar Majeed for [having shared](#) the details with an under-cover *News of the World* reporter. “Flood relief team sent to England caught!” screamed a newspaper headline, while another said, “The Diminishing Art of Match-Fixing — Caught Yet Again!” Pakistani media is of the belief that this time the fixing was done to generate money for the flood victims. “Till a month ago, all our fixing revenue went to terrorism camps and the ISI, but it’s unfortunate that they were caught only when their cause was more honest — that of flood relief,” said a news column.

In another news report, ICC President Sharad Pawar has offered bookmakers a huge amount of money if they can fix the brains of Pakistani cricketers.

The world of critics, meanwhile, is divided into two groups — 1) The people who are looking at *fixing* per se and not Pakistan’s part in it, and are demanding “life bans” for having done something illegal, and 2) The people who are used to Pakistan’s involvement in fixing, and want “retirements” for team members whose mind no longer allows them to escape being caught.

Five reasons why the Great Indian MP does indeed deserve a salary hike

August 26, 2010, Sidharth Mehta

The following are few of the reasons why the increase of salaries of our beloved MPs is justified:

1. **Remuneration for Free Entertainment:** They provide free entertainment to the citizens of India and the world through the state-owned TV channel – Doordarshan (DD). They are directly responsible for increasing the TRP ratings of the otherwise boring Doordarshan. Since other news channels relay pictures from DD, it adds to the low revenue of DD.

2. **The next best alternative:** Our MPs are the next best alternative for the citizens of India to watch at prime time on their TV screens. The Indian Public have got bored of the usual *Saas, Bahu & Saazish* stuff, and therefore, the entertainment which the MPs provide while sitting in the Parliament has been a welcome change to the audience. Such great service by the MPs to the public – to not just their constituencies, but the whole nation – obviously makes them deserving for a salary hike.

3. **Increase in sales of few products:** Our MPs have been directly responsible for increasing the sales of few particular products such as “Microphones, Pens, and even Shoes”. With every heated debate in Parliament, a large quantity of mics, pens and shoes are thrown, therefore giving opportunities of growth for these industries as more and more money shall be spent from Government funds on buying new mics and stationery. Obviously, our MPs shall not do such favours until and unless they get something back in return, so the salary hike once again is justified.

4. **Brand Ambassadors:** They are on the TV screens of each individual providing wholesome entertainment and drama. In the truest form, they are brand ambassadors of Incredible India!

5. **Financing of other businesses:** Our MPs are kings of multi-tasking. They do so many things other than making important policies for the country. They need the salary hikes so that they can fund their other businesses, specially in these trying times of recession.

It is a shame that our government denied a 500% increase in the salary of our MPs, and agreed upon just 300%. The Indian Public should realize that the MPs are very important people, and they do indeed deserve a 100 times more salary than what the average Indian earns.

With 315 out of 543 MPs being millionaires, they are a true representation of the ‘India Growth’ story. This needs to be given more mileage, and salary hikes should be more often. Also, with 150 MPs facing serious criminal cases, the salaries could be of *great* help to them for fighting these cases, and for hiring top notch lawyers. Such social service to the GREAT INDIAN MP should continue.

Indian virus of reservation reaches FIFA, allows India to play 2014 WC as a "scheduled country"

July 2, 2010, Nazneen Alam

(with inputs from [Tanay Sukumar](#))

New Delhi:

The [election](#) of Indian Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar as the President of International Cricket Council (ICC) seems to have paved way for India’s entry to Football World Cup 2014. Yes, it appears that India will make an appearance in 2014 in Brazil. In fact, the Indian-origin virus of reservation is now on the loose in world sports. Sharad Pawar was the first victim of this virus. His ICC position is meant to get a worldwide recognition and platform for poor-at-sports-and-related-things Indians. Reservation is a national formula to maintain, or rather degrade a

developing nation.

Our unreliable and erratic sources have reported that the Indian government has found a solid foolproof way to get India to play in 2014, and possibly every World Cup after that. As the country is bubbling with excitement and enthusiasm over the R-word (Reservation, obviously not *Raavan*), football officials in the country have decided to take it to the next level by honouring India with the status of a Scheduled Country (SC). The title “Scheduled” is considered prestigious in the nation; strong people can go to the level of stripping themselves in public to get that certificate of being weak.

With the ICC already making such a move by appointing Sharad Pawar for the top job, FIFA doesn't want to stay behind and has agreed to the idea, lest desi reservation enthusiasts come and blow them up by [stopping water supply](#) in France. India will be welcomed with open arms (even [open feet](#) allowed this time) to compete.

Official U. N. Known, who first proposed the idea to the Indian football body AIFF, said, “I am thankful to commercial breaks! During one such break, I tuned in to a soccer match, and immediately realised that Indians would be superb at tackling, kicking and headbutting the opposition. As a weaker section in the global football community, we deserve a reserved seat in the tournament.”

Football fans all over India, who are dominating cricket fans nowadays, are more than happy. “How sw-e-e-t our boys will look in colourful jerseys!” says Mrs Ganguly from Kolkata, a self-proclaimed football expert. “If only 30% of the players were women, I could wear one too!” she added wistfully, probably imagining 11 baby-pink jersey-clad people standing in a circle around a big ball, wondering how they were supposed to hit it without a bat. U. N. Known, meanwhile, has warned general-category teams, “Watch out. Our SC team will kick your butts, if not balls, pun intended.”

Most roadside fast food sellers wouldn't consume their own food, if hungry: Survey

April 19, 2010, Tanay Sukumar

New Delhi:

A survey conducted on *feriwallahs* (roadside vendors) in the national capital has suggested that 9 out of 10 of them would willingly swear on the dangerous quality of their fast food. The survey, held by World Toilet Federation (WTF) in association with NTMN, was designed by WTF to study loose motion and related health problems among Delhiites. “Our researchers traced the

problem down to the roadside vendors, and so we decided to have this survey,” said the President of WTF.

Over 700 roadside fast food-sellers were asked a set of around a dozen questions. Some of the questions got responses like these:

1. “Would you consume your own food, if hungry?”

(No 89%,

Maybe, but I would prefer eating my shit more 8%,

Yes, I would 1%

Can't say 1%)

2. “Have you ever picked your nose in front of customers?”

(Just picked? I use the nostril waste in the food 45%,

I suffer from a permanent cold and cough 35%,

No, I don't 20%)

3. “Do you intend to take your stall indoors or is the roadside OK?”

(Roadside generates more income 99%,

Yeah I fart a lot and I want the world to know it, so the gas would be noticeable indoors 1%)

4. “Do you use a soap?”

(No 37%,

I rub my hands on the soil and then wash them 12%,

I use a Tide or a Rin to wash hands 8%,

I use soap 43%)

5. “How much drain water do you use daily to cook your *chhole*?”

(That's the only convenient option as I have my stall over a drain 93%,

Sometimes 4%,

Seldom 3%)

6. “If your bladders are full, do you go far from your stall or do you relieve yourself at the stall itself?”

(I piss there since its convenient and saves time 75%,

*I have to use the urine in the *chhole*, so there itself 12%,*

I move to the nearby tree to urinate 13%)

"The show finally SHOWED me to the world," says Vindu Dara Singh in exclusive interview to NTMN

January 5, 2010, Sugandha

The NTMN office recently got a phone call from Vindu Dara Singh, the winner of reality show Bigg Boss season 3. Vindu expressed his desire to be interviewed by Pyaare Laal "Batangad", my subordinate at NTMN, and a world-acclaimed reporter. Vindu tried to flatter us by praising Batangad's skills in reporting news in which "truth, precision, certainty and authenticity are nowhere to be found". Batangad being a busy man first declined the request. Vindu got disappointed and reached Batangad's office in the evening and fell upon his knees pleading him to take an interview. He said it was needed to give him the much needed hype in the media. After this, when Vindu's father Dara Singh on phone threatened to break all the twenty teeth Batangad has, finally the interview began with the little Dara Singh.

Here is the most exclusive interview, "exclusive" meaning it can't be found anywhere else in the world.

VINDU: First of all Batangadji, many many thanks to you for accepting this common man's request.

BATANGAD: Oh, it's ok ... NTMN strives to encourage people like you, who are the real source of all our news stuff.

VDS: Oh, sir, that is so kind of you ... *(bursts into tears, starts crying loudly)* ... please give me your blessings sir *(bends down to touch Batangad's feet)*

PLB: It's fine, let us now quickly begin as I have an important meeting with the dog that barks outside Rakhi Sawant's house, he has to give me some confidential information about the latest cosmetic surgeries that she has had so I need to be quick.

VDS: My pleasure sir, please proceed.

PLB: Ok, so Mr.....Mr....what was your name? And who are you, by the way?

VDS: Vindu, sir.....Vindu Dara Singh, son of world famous former wrestler and dignified actor Dara Singh. Won Bigg Boss recently. Feels like yesterday when I...

PLB: Oh yes yes, so tell me how do you and your dad feel on this triumph (of sorts)?

VDS: Oh sir it feels great to see that all the dedication and effort that I put into plotting inside the house has finally yielded its result. And then of course the prize money and the car, my first major earning in the last hundred years. My family is ecstatic and especially my dad, he is so sure that this win will get me the much needed fame; he even said to me that he would change his name to Dara Vindu Singh!

PLB: Oh really??? Is it indeed so? So has he changed his name?

VDS: Of course not sir ... he was just joking!

PLB: And we have heard him [saying](#) that he is shocked at your behaviour in the house. You must be aware...

VDS: Oh yes, he was joking there too!

PLB: Right. Well I remember one of our readers sent us a letter for you last week. Would you like me to read it for you?

VDS : Please please Batangadji.....

PLB: “What qualities do you think I should possess in order to be successful in the game?” asks a struggling model and a confirmed participant in *Bigg Boss* Season 4.

VDS: Well ... honesty, humility, mannerisms, tolerance — these are the qualities that you must not possess if you want to be triumphant in your stint in *Bigg Boss*. In fact, let me tell you, leave all your positive traits at home before entering the house if you want to survive there. In my case it was a tad easier since I already didn’t have any such traits.

PLB: Now that’s some worthy advice!

(Vindu again stoops down to touch Batangad’s feet and takes his blessings)

VDS: *Bas sir, isi tarah apna ashirwad banaye rakhiyega...* (thanks sir, I am blessed)

PLB: Vindu, as you might have read in our famous paper, Colors has come out with a new [show called *Small Boss*](#) now featuring kids and dwarfs ... would you like the kids in your family to feature in it?

VDS: Definitely Batangadji, such shows are the only thing that can do any good to our family. Otherwise we would be as good as the slum dwellers in Dharavi. In fact my father and I have already started training the kids in our family for *Small Boss*. We want to make them *pakke pehelwaans* by the time they enter the house. So they now have 5 dozen bananas, 10 glasses of lassi, 25 paranthe for breakfast, followed by a nutritious lunch comprising of 15 rotis, 5 litres of dal makhni, 2 kilos salad, 7 kilos of mashed potatoes and then 3 kilos of *gajar* or *suji ka halwa* as the dessert. Dinner is comparatively ‘lighter’, as it should be, for having a good digestive system, like mine.

PLB: Kids in your family eat THAT much?

VDS: Yeah only that much.. kids should not be overfed you know, that's why.

PLB: But Vindu, why do you want the kids to be *pehelwans* when they enter the *Small Boss* playschool?

VDS: I heard Bakhtiyar Irani is also sending his son to the playschool. I want the kids of my family to teach a lesson to the son of that son of a b***h.

PLB: Vindu, apart from the prize money and fame, how else do you think the show helped you?

VDS: How else? Isn't that enough? *Ek toh* the show SHOWED me to the world, something that I have been trying to do since the past 25 years.

PLB: Okay and anything else?

VDS: Yes, secondly, the few people who had seen me earlier now got to know how I really am. So they will finally let go of all the good impression that they had formed about me after seeing me play the role of Lord Hanuman. They will now get to know how big an ass***e I am!

PLB: Thanks Vindu for this interview. Wish you all the best for future. Now I need to get going or the dog will reach our office, and I know how scared you are of dogs.

VDS: Ah thanks sir, for giving your valuable time to me.
