

# Young Chronicle



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## Give it a thought...The Editorial

*It was just a simple thought that provoked me to write about this broken nation, so-called democratic nation. I penned down my thoughts and wrote a letter to our Hon' able President, Smt. Pratibha Devsingh Patil on the changing India... The following is my letter to her and the Prime Minister of the Republic Of India...*

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Date: 19th December, 2011

To,  
Smt. Pratibha Devsingh Patil,  
Honourable President of India,  
Rashtrapati Bhavan,  
New Delhi-110 004

### **Subject: The Story of a Broken Nation**

**Respected Madam,**

I am a 14-yr old boy residing in your undemocratic nation. For years together now, my mind revolves around one single question- Is India, really democratic?

Today, we are at the end of another woeful year and I feel that I should highlight some points on your undemocratic nation; the problems which common citizens face everyday and which would be highlighted by your MLA's and MP's only before the Assembly Elections.

I stay in the central suburbs of your financial capital, Mumbai. You call it the financial capital of India but still you hoard the biggest slum area in Asia, the Dharavi, where, heaps of garbage is the soft mattress for the people but, at the same time, people stay at apartments and complexes around it, which cost you a nano per square feet. Your temporary home, the Rashtrapati Bhavan may have Mughal Gardens, a private lake, a limousine and mattresses from the best mattress manufacturers of the world but I think you didn't forget that we are still a developing nation and will remain developing even after 2020 surpasses...

Let us discuss on some of the points:

### 1) The Constitution:

Let us begin with the whole and sole of the nation- The Constitution of India.

The Preamble of our Constitution states the following:

*“JUSTICE, social, economic and political;”*

Now, please go through the following article which appeared in the Times of India (Mumbai Edition) on 16th December, 2011-

***“Rly min murder trial on for 37 yrs, SC bristles  
Accused: Proving Innocence Tough As 31 Witnesses Have Died  
Dhananjay Mahapatra TNN***

*New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday wanted to know why the trial in the murder of then railway minister L N Mishra, — who wielded considerable political clout being close to then PM Indira Gandhi — in a bomb attack in Samastipur on January 2, 1975, was dragging in the lower court even after 37 years.*

*The accused, advocate Ranjan Dwivedi, was 27 when he was arrested and charge sheeted. He is now a frail 64-yearold and has already suffered a heart attack. Of the 39 defence witnesses cited by him to prove his innocence, 31 have died and as many as 22 judges have handled the trial at various stages.*

*“The case is gravely prejudiced against the accused because of the lapse of time and death of witnesses,” senior advocate T R Andhyarujina argued before a bench of Justices H L Dattu and C K Prasad, which issued notice to the CBI on why the case had dragged on for so long.*

*M L Lahoty, another counsel for the accused, gave details of the stage of the trial and sought a stay, but the bench declined and said it would rather ask the prosecuting agency what caused the 37-year delay. “We will find out if the delay was because of the prosecution not being vigilant enough,” it said while seeking the CBI's response in four weeks.*

*Andhyarujina said it was a fit case for quashing the prosecution case as the Supreme Court's direction given 20 years ago for day-to-day trial in the L N Mishra murder case was not honoured. "This is a shocking case of travesty of speedy trial," he said.*

*The role of Ananda Marg was suspected in the case and several people were arrested. The charge sheet was filed against several people, including Dwivedi and Sudevananda Avadhuta. The trial was transferred to Delhi by the SC in 1979 after the attorney general alleged the Bihar government was interfering with the trial. Charges were framed against the accused in 1981. AGONIZING DELAY IN TRIAL*

*Bomb thrown on the rostrum in Samastipur railway platform on January 2, 1975, during inauguration of broad gauge line, seriously injuring then railway minister L N Mishra who died the next day on way to hospital*

*Accused advocate Ranjan Dwivedi was 27 years old when he was booked, now he is 64 and has already endured a heart attack He says efforts to prove his innocence suffered badly as 31 of his 39 defence witnesses have died.*

*The trial so far has been handled by 22 judges.*

*SC issues notice to CBI and wants to find out if the delay was due to prosecution not being vigilant Times View A murder trial going on for close to four decades is absurd. What makes it even more so are the specific details of this case. The man killed was a prominent Union minister. Further, the apex court had directed a full two decades ago that day-to-day trials be held in the case to ensure its speedy disposal. If, despite all this, the case still drags on, it illustrates just how badly our judicial system is clogged. Justice delayed by such a long time is obviously justice denied. When the expectation of delays denying justice becomes the norm, there will be some who take the law into their own hands. The judicial system must find ways of dealing with cases within reasonable timeframes if its credibility as a deliverer of justice is to be maintained."*

Is this justice? How can you expect a man to wait for 37 years? Should I believe that a constitution is just another fat book or a novel written by Tolstoy? Or it is just a piece of paper?

### **1.1) Monarchy + Dictatorship = Undemocratic India:**

I am born in India and I have also studied that India is "Democratic and Republic", as said by our constitution and my textbooks but I think the reality is quite different. India seems to be a mixture of Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe (Monarchy + Dictatorship).

Our Constitution begins with a Preamble whose beginning words are- "*WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA,*" But, is it really the same? Are people more important or the dirty tricks of politics that the parties play every day? The common man is tired of all these but for the heads of the executive it may seem unimaginable!

Let me give you a very recent example-

If India would have been democratic, then the Jan Lokpal Bill would have got passed ages ago but it has not... Why? Because your cabinet does not want that and that's the truth. Why they don't want? Because if Jan Lokpal Bill is passed, most of the members would eat the chapattis behind the bars; who will run the nation then?

### 1.2) **Is something called law, there in India?**

1) The article 47 of our Constitution states-

*“The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health”*

If this law was followed by you, then, I don't think Kolkata's 24 Parganas had to see the hooch tragedy.

It even mentions the primary duties of the government, i.e., “Improvement of Public health” but the word Improvement and Endeavour remain the same even after 64 years and would remain the same...

2) Following are the excerpts from the Article 51 A of our Constitution.

*“It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—*

*(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;*

*(b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;*

*(c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;*

*(d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;*

*(e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;*

*(j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;”*

But, you should know that the reality is-

- ✓ We stay in a society where a smuggler is more respected than a professor
- ✓ We stay in a society where a popular Bollywood actor charged with criminal activities and jailed, is flocked by autograph hunters
- ✓ We stay in a society where it's an act of achievement to break the law and get away with it.
- ✓ We stay in a society where politicians felicitate T20 champs but ignore the Kargil martyrs or the commandos who fought the terrorists
- ✓ We stay in a society where even a college vice-principal's children are considered downtrodden and offered the benefits of the reservation policy
- ✓ We stay in a society where it's an offence not to provide a receipt against a purchase but you can confer MBA degrees without recognition
- ✓ We stay in a society which has more religions to create enmity and drive a wedge than to unite all
- ✓ We stay in a society where children murder their parents and then claim to be orphans
- ✓ We stay in a society where we worship Goddesses but kill the girl child
- ✓ We stay in a society where we scold a child for breaking a bottle but the elders never own responsibility for breaking the nation
- ✓ We stay in a society where we garland leaders but never follow their sayings
- ✓ We stay in a society where "Bapus" and "Babas" are more respected than scientists and engineers
- ✓ We stay in a society where a policeman salutes the criminal but harasses a law abiding citizen
- ✓ We stay in a society where people believe "The Art of Living" rather than "The Science of Living"

This is a truth which will take you deep inside into the country's condition...much poorer than the luxury atop Raisina Hill.

If you still not believe, let's take some National level Issues as well as Maharashtra state Issues:

### **Open Violations of the Law:**

#### **1) Noise Pollution:**

A Times of India report dated 29Oct'09 states that the number of violations is rising, be it Diwali fireworks or blowing your trumpets during religious festivals or loud private parties in celebrities homes'. In none of the cases have the police taken stringent action, in spite of the Bombay High Court order directing them to do so in accordance with the law

## **2) Refusal of help in a police station:**

Dr. Kiran Bedi – the first woman IPS officer, Ramon Magsaysay award winner, Asian tennis champion, author, doctorate in the field of drug abuse and domestic violence, voted 5th most admired Indian and one of 15 Indian icons of 2006. Sad, she had to quit the police force prematurely after 38-years of service.

It took a person of her calibre and standing to launch an e-portal [www.saferindia.com](http://www.saferindia.com) where complainants who are refused help in police stations can write in.

Does the common man bestow any trust in the police? 96% of the crimes in the country today are not registered. Do we think about approaching the police as the first thing in case of distress. Police Stations and Courtrooms are the last places the common man would like to visit. They have lost all faith in the law keepers. Whether it is the traffic police on the street or the ones in the police stations, they are mostly corrupt head to toe. You can see blatant violations of the law with full knowledge and support of the police. Ex: gambling, flesh trade, drug trafficking, traffic rules violations, encroachments, etc.

## **3) Touts in Railway Stations:**

My father had once approached a tout standing outside Mumbai Central Railway station in front of passing policemen. He approached him to trap him and report the matter to the railway authorities. This incident happened in October'09. He had clicked his picture and submitted all the details to the Mr. Agarwal – DGM (Western Railway). Mr. Agarwal was also having additional responsibility of Vigilance. We were stunned when Mr. Agarwal called my father and told that he was helpless to act as the matter is known to all. This is Western Railway – DGM (with additional Vigilance responsibility) saying. Though he received an action taken report but the touts are continuing in their act of plunder and loot.

## **4) Educational Institutions:**

Please refer attached letter dated 1st August, 2007. I had written to the Principal of Fatima High School, Ambernath (Thane District) after reading a Mumbai Mirror report dated 16th June'07 on the stampede which occurred in the school. Among others, A copy was also couriered to Mrs. Sheila Tiwari – Dy. Director (Education). I had personally spoken to Mrs. Tiwari and she promised me that action will be taken. Nothing has changed since then.

Every Board has certain mandatory requirements for schools, like maximum number of students per class, size of classroom, bench dimensions, etc. You don't need to be a Sherlock Holmes to understand that the incident that happened at Fatima School was because students are being packed in classrooms like sardines in a tin. Fatima School has around 75 to 80 students per class and this is a gross violation. Such violations are happening in most of the schools. Robbing admission seekers under the guise of donation/capitation fee is a violation of the Supreme Court order and is happening in broad daylight.

There are school inspectors deployed but they are so corrupt that they turn a blind eye to such open violations

#### **5) Veerappan Case :**

The President's Police medal for Gallantry was awarded to Tamil Nadu IPS officer K Vijay Kumar for slaying Veerappan. But why Veerappan couldn't be captured alive. Journalists had access to him, getting interviews but our security forces couldn't locate him. The reason why Veerappan wasn't nabbed alive as it would spill the beans and make the lives of many politicians difficult.

#### **6) Stamp Paper Scam – Telgi Case :**

A special court in Bangalore in Bangalore on 18.09.10, sentenced Abdul Karim Telgi to 7-years RI in a 2001 case relating to the Rs. 35,000 crore stamp paper scam. The fake stamp papers were being printed right behind a minister's Nashik home. Is it possible to indulge in a scam of such scale without political patronage. By putting all the blame on Telgi, the politicians saved their skin.

Are we so naïve to believe that no politician was involved

#### **7) CWG Games Delhi, 2010 :**

It is now an open fact that rampant corruption was the order of the day under the patronage of Suresh Kalmadi. We have seen some resignations but no punitive measures were taken on the offenders. Corruption is nothing but robbery. Does it mean that you steal from your employer and if caught, just resign and keep the booty.

Why weren't the offenders arrested and put behind bars

#### **8) Babas and Bapus :**

A sting operation carried out by Headlines Today (India Today group) exposed Asaramji Bapu and other such Bapus and Babas of their criminal activities. Why no action is being taken on these people.

#### 9) **Shiney Ahuja Case :**

The Shiney Ahuja rape case took a huge U turn when the domestic help told a fast track court that she was never raped. According to a TV channel, the 20-year-old maid told the court that her charges were all false and that she did so at the instance of the woman who got her the job with the Ahujas instructed her to do so.

The forensic experts found that semen stains on the victim matched with the actor's DNA sample. There is a clear medical evidence, but I am sure the corrupt police and judiciary ensured that Shiney Ahuja walks free - much sooner than later.

#### 10) **News and the Private Radio Stations:**

India's private radio stations are only allowed to broadcast entertainment and not news and information programmes. The only reason for this restriction is that the politicians do not want the poor people to know what's happening in the country.

Radio is a low-cost medium with the highest penetration in India – it reaches 27 of every 100 households in the country. It is easily accessible to low-income, illiterate people and can be an important source of knowledge, news and information.

There is a strong incentive to our politicians to keep the people ignorant and illiterate

I have quoted above only 10 instances but there are scores of others where the law has been openly violated on account of corrupt officials and politicians who have their own vested interests.

**Is the CVC blind to what's happening around or it doesn't care or the worst fear – how honest is the CVC itself ???**

Maybe this opens your eyes a little bit...

You are staying in the capital city of our nation...But, the least secured place too...Delhi is not safe as compared to other metropolitan cities of India... Won't you accept this fact? If the government can't secure the place where it is located then how can we expect it to protect us?



## 2) **Terrorism: Served to us on a palate :**

In 1972 Munich Olympics, 11 Israeli Athletes were killed by the terrorists. The whole world knows about it. Let us get into it.

The terrorists demanded the release and safe passage to Egypt of 234 Palestinians and non-Arabs jailed in Israel, along with two German radicals held by the German penitentiary system, Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof, who were founders of the German Red Army Faction. The hostage-takers threw the body of Weinberg out the front door of the residence to demonstrate their resolve but, Israel's response was immediate and absolute: there would be no negotiation. So, the terrorists killed the 11 athletes.

Let us now take the IC 814 hijack case.

The Hijackers demanded the following people or rather the terrorists:

- ✓ **Maulana Masood Azhar**
- ✓ **Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh**
- ✓ **Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar**

What did we do? We gave the terrorists to them as per their demands and got 192 people saved. Israel didn't do that though the lives of 11 athletes who were the nation's pride was at stake. Those 11 athletes meant 11 Abhinav Bindras or 11 Tendulkars for our nation. What happened next? He founded Jaish-E-Mohammed and the Parliament bombing and 26/11 took place. 154 lives during the 26/11 attacks and 7 lives during the Parliament attacks were lost. The injury metre crossed 308 during 26/11 and 18 during the Parliament attacks. He is sure to come back in India. If 192 people had been killed then, I hope we didn't have to see the burning cremation grounds.

In short, we bent our knees in front of those terrorists... Sad... but, true...

## 3) **The People of India:**

We have a crab-mentality. No letting the achievers achieve and keep pulling them down. Not only that, we are self-centred, selfish and egoistic too. You have to accept it.

Let us take today's youth-

The fees of our school is quite high as compared to the other schools in our locality. So, the sons and daughters of upper class families attend our school. There are few who would be from the Middle class families. What happens when Ambani meets Ambani? The same happens here. Students flaunt their iPhones, Blackberrys and even Samsung Galaxy S II along with Nokia N8. None of the mobiles were launched below 25,000 Rs., which, is quite expensive to spend on a mobile phone. But, flaunting is not the case here. Parents are spending so much on their children knowing that they would hardly pass in the examinations and India is expecting them to make it developed in the forthcoming years? That becomes quite a head-scratching topic. We have become textaholic. The world of IT is now shaping our future with bends and curves. Not only that, today's parents want that their children should be an Einstein, a Michael Jackson, a Muhammad Ali, a Tendulkar, a Lata Mangeshkar and even a Warren Buffet! But the parents will not work for it. How is it possible?

Let us take an another example from our school-

There is a boy studying in Std. V in our school. When I was a boy about 6 or 7, I had read the stories of Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Hansel and Gretel, Rumpelstiltskin, and many more. My mother even used to read some of the interesting stories from the life of Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Parmahansa and Dinosaurs from the Encyclopedias but sadly, that boy only saw Cinderella in television and others he never read. How can you expect him to be a pride of the nation who does not want to read?

People in our country send their children to tuitions in Jr.kg! and some send their children to the playschool even when they are 1½ yr old! Are the people insane?

#### 4) **Formula 1 Event:**

We are a poor country and hosting events like Formula 1 where money matters is quite unacceptable. Spending over 21 billion Rupees on a racing event is meaningless. Hundreds of Schools and Hospitals could have been opened up or the roads could have been made because we drive in potholes and not on roads! Glamour can arrive later. Yes, it gives India a chance to host a world event but it also gives chance to burn its pockets. So, in my opinion, let the country develop more and then let these events come up.

#### 5) **We are moving Westwards:**

I was selected in Bournvita Tayyari Jeet Ki programme from all over the country among many other students. So, on 19th October, 2011, I was called for a felicitation ceremony at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Mumbai. We all know that Hyatt is a five-star hotel.

Among many parents and relatives who had visited there, there was also an old lady, wearing a typical villager's dress in vibrant colours who visited there. Bournvita had even organised a lunch and a breakfast over there. In every hotel, you get a fork and a spoon when you dine. Even she got fork, spoon and knife to eat idlis with chutney and sambar. Her daughter-in-law (I hope she was her daughter-in-law) told that old lady to use those spoon and forks to eat the idlis and not use her hands. Why? It was a five-star hotel. Celebrities like Rajeev Khandelwal and Leander Paes visited the place. Poor old lady! She could not even hold the fork properly because she never saw them. It was an uncomfortable environment there for her and it was quite clear from her facial expressions, how her wrinkles squeezed in helplessness. Is it necessary to use the forks and spoon to dine or is it necessary for the food to go into your stomach? Again a head-scratching topic for you and the 1.21 billion Indians...

Let us take an example of the youth moving westwards:

In our youth world, the youth believes classical music is something to be heard by the older generations. In today's world at an average, 3 generations of human beings survive together but for today's generation, the other 2 are out-dated! Or in simple Hindi words 'kachra' which cannot survive...has to go in the dustbin... The youth believes listening to English songs and wearing jeans as a sign of modernity. Today the sizes of the skirts of the girls are reducing in such a manner that in few years we would go back to the era of Adam and Eve.

I believe that modernity does not come through your outfits or through the selection of your songs but it comes through your thinking. If you believe in female infanticide and still apply foundation and eye-liner or wear shoes manufactured by Puma, you are still an illiterate, a liability for the nation...

#### 6) **Human Development Index (HDI)** :

Japan invested in Education and Health as a part of Human Resource Development. The HDI rank of India is 134. Countries like Iraq, Tajikistan, Egypt, Libya and Saudi Arabia stand at much better positions as compared to us inspite of the Jasmine Revolution this year and also inspite of their despotic dictators...

India has 644.958 million poor people as of today based on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). I think you should also know that, countries like Iraq and Pakistan are much ahead of us in this 193-step ladder. Isn't it an important topic for all of us who are day-dreaming that India would become developed by 2020?

## **7) Violation of Human Rights:**

I had been selected as a correspondent for two of the reputed newspapers of the nation among hundreds of children across the city of Mumbai.

Let us not get confused and name the newspapers as-‘A’ and ‘B’.

I was selected by A first but we never shared a clause that I won’t be able to participate in the correspondent programmes of other newspapers. Neither the Terms and Conditions mentioned this nor there was any signing of bond and even I was not on the payroll of either.

As a child, I also participated in the Correspondent programme of ‘B’ and fortunately I also got selected there. What happens next?

‘A’ sends my dad a mail stating that since there was a ‘Conflict of Interest’, Trishit has to submit the press card. They came to know about this from a third person, who in fact could not bear my achievements and whose son too was selected by ‘A’ (but not ‘B’). Isn’t it a violation of Human Rights or Child Rights? Don’t I have the right to live with dignity as stated by our Constitution? That is the reason why I call Indians as ‘crab-minded’ people!

My father had sent ‘A’ a 5-pg letter asking for Justice. They called me back but I still think they called me back helplessly. They had no other choice. Why? Because the law didn’t state that!

**If this is the case in my very own life and in my childhood then what about the other 1.21 billions of Indians?**

If this is the case then what the future holds for me in India?

## **8) Patriotism:**

To an average Indian patriotism means being a part of the armed forces or cheering for India during a cricket match. A Japanese considers patriotism as picking up a piece of paper on the road and putting it into the roadside dustbin. Being a law abiding citizen, performing your duties diligently towards your family and society, lending a helping hand to the needy – aren’t all these patriotic activities.

There’s a classic example which comes to my mind which I read in the newspapers. It was when Julio Ribeiro was the Police Commissioner of Thane. A political party trying to capitalize on religious sentiments was planning for a Ganesh immersion and the procession was to pass through a minority area. Keeping the sensitivity of the subject in mind, Mr. Ribeiro requested the leader of the party to be withy him and watch the procession pass by. Mr. Ribeiro reasoned out that the leaders should handle the situation and issue orders. Why be a part of the procession? It was Mr. Ribeiro’s tact to take proactive action against any possible provocations. Later, when the leader of the political

party was blowing his trumpets about patriotism, Mr. Ribeiro made a fictitious call to an army Major who was his friend. As a matter of fact there was nobody on the other end of the phone. After appearing to have convinced the army man to recruit a few brave souls who are willing to give their life for the nation, Ribeiro turned back to the politician, and asked him if any of his brave souls were really willing to join the army. There was a stone like silence in the room. All the talks about patriotism vanished in thin air.

The point that I am trying to make here is that patriotism is a subject which politicians cleverly use to fool us.

We only garland our freedom fighters and remember them on a few select days and that too if those are public holidays. We never follow there sayings.

Sometimes I feel what Winston Churchill said long back that Indians are not capable of self rule is very correct. Our politicians are worse than Britishers. Atleast Britishers were men of character. Our politicians rape, rob, cheat and exploit us to fatten there Swiss accounts. They do all these under the patronage of our Parliament and Constitution.

I am yet to come across an election manifesto where any political party has a vision to make atleast his/her constituency disease free. When politicians choose symbols like whistle, drum, cock, arrow, comb, hand pump, hurricane lamp, bus, cycle and elephants as their election symbols, then what vision can we expect from these politicians. Given an opportunity I think all would like to have the “chair” as its symbol.

Exceptions apart, this country has no patriots.

#### 9) **Religion:**

The easiest thing to do is to pray as prayer, pooja or whatever has no accountability. There is nothing wrong in saying your prayers , but considering prayers as a substitute for hard work will lead nowhere. Goddess Saraswati is considered the God of Knowledge. Students pray offer their prayers to Goddess Saraswati to do well in Exams. This is fine as this offers you the required motivation and confidence. But this is no substitute for burning the midnight oil. A student offers prayers to Goddess Saraswati and employs unfair means to do well in exams – what do you call such a student. Isn't studying hard the best prayer you can offer to Goddess Saraswati. Our own neighbour told us that his son didn't do well in his Std. 10 exams because he didn't offer his prayers well at Church. It's the same across all religion.

Our understanding and belief in God is out of our own selfish interests. Isn't it the easy way out. Crimes against women are happening in a country where we worship Goddesses – Isn't all this hypocrisy?

The Babas and Bapus have suddenly mushroomed from nowhere to make our lives better. Politicians garland them at the airports to extract political mileage, but if that is not going to happen a midnight raid is conducted and the so called spiritual guru flees in a woman's robe. We all know what happens behind the curtain. Many of them have been exposed committing the worst societal crimes. Discussing about such crimes would be below the dignity of your office. Yet, they are worshipped. By turning a blind eye, the government is also a party to their negative activities.

**10) Donate in Public, Rob in Private :**

I am not just referring to the Reddy brothers' implication in the mining scam. I have lost count of the numbers of scams that have been reported. In today's Times of India, Mumbai edition, page no. 13 a report in bold reads "Tax sops for rich.4.6L cr, subsidy for poor 1.5L cr' The headlines says it all as why in our country you have a house for 4 people manned by 600 staff, where more than 50% of the population in the same city lives in slums. Have the people living in palaces ever looked out of their window? Have they ever thought of making a difference to the lives of other people? The huge gap between the rich and the poor is because the rich continue to exploit the poor and our government looks the other way.

**11) If I were to meet you after you have completed your term :**

You are the most respected person in our country. You are the head of our Armed Forces. If I were to meet you after you have completed your term, and ask you "Respected Madam, by virtue of your position as the President of this country, what positive changes / contributions you have made to make a difference to the lives of ordinary people of this country ?"

**What would be your reply?**

**There is Hope:**

Please refer below the statistics obtained from [www.nationmaster.com](http://www.nationmaster.com)

**Total crimes (per capita):**

- ✓ India : 1.63352 per 1,000 people
- ✓ New Zealand: 105.881 per 1,000 people
- ✓ USA : 80.0645 per 1,000 people
- ✓ UK : 85.5517 per 1,000 people
- ✓ Germany : 75.9996 per 1,000 people
- ✓ France : 62.1843 per 1,000 people

Usually crime rate is a factor of economic conditions. Poor people will resort to crimes, may be just for survival. But if you see the figures above, crime per capita is far greater in developed countries than India. This is a great symbol of hope. We Indians are basically not criminal minded. Leaving aside the exceptions, overall the people are honest, especially the rural folks. They do not resort to crime as the first step. May be circumstances, extreme financial pressures, injustice, frustration and loss of hope push a few of them towards crime. But crime was an option adopted not to get rich but to survive. **Farmers committed suicide, but did not resort to crime.**

It's going to be a slow ride. We are all going to make it and take this country forward. Believe it!

Thanking you,  
I remain,  
A concerned child of India  
Warm Regards,

**Trishit Banerjee**

# THE MISSILE MAN WHO LOVES CHILDREN

*I got an opportunity to meet Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at his New Delhi residence on 23-Dec'11. Owing to limitation in time, I could ask him only 3 questions, which are given below. I did have a discussion with him on other subject related to career, science, literature, etc. I have given below the questions which I asked him for this short interview.*



- 1) For a scientist is it more lucrative to research in developing high-tech arms and ammunition than in other fields, for example, Quality of life, Medical, etc..**

Technology is common in both. You can transform a rocket either to a missile or a satellite which can help people. In the same way you can use an aircraft to carry passengers from one place to the other but at the same time you can transform the same aircraft into a fighter plane. So, the technology is common but, the applications are different...

- 2) IIT Engineers are the best in the country but the engineers then aim to become managers after starting their professional careers. How does it then benefit the nation?**

They help in system design and system integration. If IIT engineers opt for the Civil Services, then they are a valuable asset for the nation. One gets a very good environment when one studies at the IITs.



**3) Stephen Hawkins says “The laws of Physics created the Universe”. I have been forced to believe that God created the Universe. I am confused**

Sun will survive for 10 billion years. 5 billion years have passed since the Sun was born. We have exactly 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Everything is in perfect harmony when it comes to nature. For the last 5 billion years everything has been working on clockwork precision. It is impossible for man to do something at this scale for this period of time. Can we run a brain for 5 billion years in perfection ? Since this has been happening there must be a supernatural power which makes it happen

# Remembering the Year

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## Memoirs of 2011

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*Everything happened...from winning the World Cup to the Adarsh scam, India unfolded a new chapter in its timeline of history. At one hand we saw India hosting its First ever Formula 1 Grand Prix at its newly inaugurated Buddh International Circuit, on the other hand we even saw the inauguration of the Anna Revolution across the streets of this broken nation. We saw the uprising of the Arabs when they became desperate to overthrow their despotic leaders and bring in democracy and even the United States' mission of killing Osama Bin Laden. The death of a movie lover-cum-leader Kim Jong-Il and even one of the greatest painters of 20<sup>th</sup> Century and 21<sup>st</sup> Century, MF Hussain. Starting from this month, we will take you on a journey that reminds you of every passing month of 2011 in the year 2012...*

### THE LAST DAYS 2011



OSAMA BIN LADEN (2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011)

The decade-long hunt for the man who changed the modern world with the 9/11 attacks came to an end in the quaint military town of Abbottabad, Pakistan, where he was hiding in plain sight. The son of a Saudi billionaire, as a kid, Osama enjoyed poetry, horse-racing, and was rumoured to be a supporter of the Arsenal football club. In college, he read economics and business administration, and at university, devoted his time to studying the Quran and Jihad, eventually arriving at the belief that U.S. foreign policy had oppressed Muslims in the Middle East. He joined the Soviet war in Afghanistan in 1979, and by 1988, had formed the Al-Qaeda, which would go on to orchestrate some of the most devastating terror attacks across the world. Though Osama was only a figure-head towards the end, with his killing, evil lost its face...



STEVE JOBS (5<sup>th</sup> October, 2011)

Not too many people can be credited for affecting the lives of as many people as emphatically as Steve Jobs did. The head of technology giant, Apple Inc, Jobs revolutionised computing, telephony, music and cinema by successfully bringing niche products to the masses. After being sacked and re-hired by the company he had created, in a decade (since the introduction of the iPod in 2001) he ensured that cutting-edge gadgets envisioned by him became accessible to a large percentage of the world's population. He was described as an inventor, entrepreneur, entertainer, and businessman. When he died of pancreatic cancer in October this year, the once-in-the-red Apple was rated as both the biggest and the most loved brand in the world. By extension, he was regarded as both the most influential and most admired CEO.



MUAMMAR GADDAFI (20<sup>th</sup> October, 2011)

Known as Colonel, Gaddafi ruled his country with an iron fist for 42 years, amassing wealth and picking up the strangest eccentricities along the way to earn the sobriquet 'Mad Dog of the Middle-East'. Protected usually by an all-female Amazonian guard, Gaddafi was overthrown in the Arab Spring of 2011, and captured and killed by rebel fighters in Autumn.

(To be contd...)

# Stories with holes in it

## Stories with holes in it

### TALES FROM XANADU

- Julie O' Yang

#### The Kite

*How many kites did we make in total?* I think that's how my brother and I learned to count.

I remember our first kite was white and light and sheer as wings. It floated like a summer dress. Such a kite is bound to fly. Fly far, farther and farthest. It's made for a future.

But the kite didn't even take off.

My brother and I leaned out the narrow window of our kitchen, next to the labyrinthine water pipes. We held onto the chord that connected us with the kite as if we feared it would abandon us, leaving us behind without a future at all. The kite lay among summer grass, motionless and pale, like a dove taken down by the hunter's eyeless gunshot. We imagined its pain – we didn't know it's the same pain we will learn to feel in life many years later. Pain and those eyeless *bullets*. We had no idea that our mother saw our pain. She saw our life passing by in a flash of a second. The smile on her face made me weep.

Mamma didn't see our second kite. It trembled a few times before it soared, higher and higher, a white dove, sprightlier than the mountain gales. It saw our city with hundreds of thousand windows, just like the window of our small kitchen, polluted by cooking fumes, muted, silent eyes. My brother and I thought: "What is glass? What are the facts and certainty?"

Behind our kite, the skyline was shiny like glass on that day, so bright that we could hear it speaking to us in an articulate voice, an expression too alone. That's why it wanted to tell us stories about this place we lived. And so Xanadu took shape. And suddenly our life had a meaning and consequences.

Julie O'Yang is a novelist and visual artist based in The Netherlands. Born and brought up in China, she came to Europe in 1990s to study at the University of London. Then she read Japanese Language and Culture at the University of Leiden, Holland, and Tokyo, Japan. Her short stories, poetry and articles have appeared in magazines and newspapers worldwide. Download her latest novel on Amazon Kindle today <http://www.amazon.com/Butterfly-A-novel-ebook/dp/B006P2OBMK>.

## THE INNOVATOR'S CHOICE

-AMIT KUMAR MODI

### Build Your own Steam Engine this Weekend



Fig. A Model of Hero's Steam Engine called Aelopile.

**Introduction:** Engines have always fascinated us. We all know that James Watt invented the Steam Engine. But do you know "the first ever built Steam Engine is Hero's Engine built by Heros 1000 years before James Watt steam Engine. Hero is the same guy who invented hero's formula in maths that we learn in High school.

Let's build a Hero's Engine(Aelopile) using Cold drink Can.

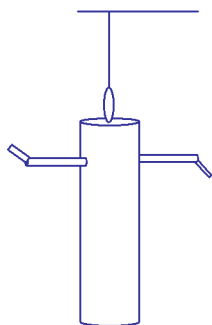
**Materials required:** 12 cm long cylindrical metallic container with airtight cap, nails, Brass or any metal tubes (smallest in Diameter that you can get), tripod stand, Glue Gun, Soldering Iron



**Step 1:** Punch two holes 2cm from the top on opposite sides of the cylinder.

**Step 2:** Take the two 4 cm brass tubes, fold them at 1cm length from an end using pliers to get L shape.

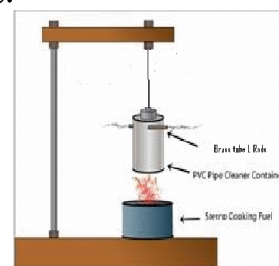
**Step 3:** Fit the two brass tubes at the two holes of cylinder with L end facing outwards. Solder it or use glue gun or M seal to fix and seal it properly. The L shape of the tubes should face opposite to each other.



**Step 4:** Fill 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the container with water.

**Step 5:** Fix a ring, or a hook or an attachment to the lid of the container using Soldering Iron or Glue Gun. Tie a strong thread and hang the whole system on a Tripod stand.

**Step 6:** Burn candles or a lamp below the cylinder and see your engine start pumping steam from the tubes and rotate.



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# BOYZE WORLD

## STAY HUNGRY STAY FOOLISH

**As the legend of technology, Steve Jobs, Founder of Apple, passes away, the words he spoke at Stanford University in 2005, creates a sense of nostalgia in humble lives of the people. Presenting the three stories over the next issue, Steve Jobs in his own words, narrating a legend untold...A tribute to the master of the half-eaten Apple...**

**This is the last part of the speech...**

My third story is about death.

When I was 17, I read a quote that went something like: “If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you’ll most certainly be right.” It made an impression on me, and since then, for the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: “If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?” And whenever the answer has been “No” for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something. Remembering that I’ll be dead soon is the most important tool I’ve ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything — all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure — these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart.

About a year ago I was diagnosed with cancer. I had a scan at 7:30 in the morning, and it clearly showed a tumor on my pancreas. I didn’t even know what a pancreas was. The doctors told me this was almost certainly a type of cancer that is incurable, and that I should expect to live no longer than three to six months. My doctor advised me to go home and get my affairs in order, which is doctor’s code for prepare to die. It means to try to tell your kids everything you thought you’d have the next 10 years to tell them in just a few months. It means to make sure everything is buttoned up so that it will be as easy as possible for your family. It means to say your goodbyes.

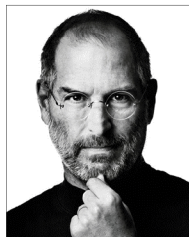


I lived with that diagnosis all day. Later that evening I had a biopsy, where they stuck an endoscope down my throat, through my stomach and into my intestines, put a needle into my pancreas and got a few cells from the tumor. I was sedated, but my wife, who was there, told me that when they viewed the cells under a microscope the doctors started crying because it turned out to be a very rare form of pancreatic cancer that is curable with surgery. I had the surgery and I'm fine now. This was the closest I've been to facing death, and I hope it's the closest I get for a few more decades. Having lived through it, I can now say this to you with a bit more certainty than when death was a useful but purely intellectual concept:

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new. Right now the new is you, but someday not too long from now, you will gradually become the old and be cleared away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it is quite true. Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

When I was young, there was an amazing publication called The Whole Earth Catalog, which was one of the bibles of my generation. It was created by a fellow named Stewart Brand not far from here in Menlo Park, and he brought it to life with his poetic touch. This was in the late 1960's, before personal computers and desktop publishing, so it was all made with typewriters, scissors, and polaroid cameras. It was sort of like Google in paperback form, 35 years before Google came along: it was idealistic, and overflowing with neat tools and great notions. Stewart and his team put out several issues of The Whole Earth Catalog, and then when it had run its course, they put out a final issue. It was the mid-1970s, and I was your age. On the back cover of their final issue was a photograph of an early morning country road, the kind you might find yourself hitchhiking on if you were so adventurous. Beneath it were the words: "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish." It was their farewell message as they signed off. Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish. And I have always wished that for myself. And now, as you graduate to begin anew, I wish that for you.

Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish. Thank you all very much.



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