



## **BEST OF NTMN – VOLUME 2**

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[News That Matters Not](#) was one of the premier satirical websites in India between 2009 and 2015. The website was one of the earliest to make a mark in its field in India, winning its young team two international awards for its impactful content.

NTMN was known for its witty takes on the politics of the day, social issues, the media, youth, everyday life, and popular culture. **Here, we present some of the best stories published by the website in its heydays.**

This e-book 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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*Stories in this volume cover these topics:*

**CIVIC ISSUES**

**EDUCATION**

**POOR & RICH**

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

*This volume has stories written by:*

**Aashish Aryan, Anubhav Parsheera, Apoorva Tapas, Arunima Rath,  
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Shruti Sekhsaria, Sugandha, and Tanay Sukumar.**

*Other volumes:*

[Best of NTMN – Volume 1](#)

[Best of NTMN – Volume 3](#)

**Other Works:** [Staff Picks - 1](#) | [Staff Picks – 2](#) | [Visuals](#)

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## CIVIC ISSUES

### **Accused of drunken driving, man pleads not guilty: "I was just avoiding potholes"**

KARAN TANEJA, March 7, 2013 | *Civic Issues*

Amar has been rotting away in jail for the past 36 months. Even as fast-track courts successfully solve hundreds of cases daily, he has been crying hoarse pleading not guilty to his alleged crime for three years.

His terrible offence: Drunken driving. His unbelievable defence: He was just avoiding potholes on the road. Our reporters met traffic police officers who claim to have caught him.

“We were standing by at our usual spot when we saw this car going zip zap through this road even though it was moving quite slowly,” an officer said. “First of all, no one in their right mind would drive on this road. That’s why we chose this road for our duty. His decision to drive on this road is alone proof that he was drunk, he even agreed to the breathalyzer test himself.”

The officer claimed Amar was the first person he knew who willingly agreed to the breathalyzer test. He even showed initiative by grabbing the device and putting it into his mouth. That was enough for the police: “People had to have no sense at all to agree to this test and it confirmed our suspicion that he was drunk,” the officer said. “We nabbed him on the spot and took him to the station, avoiding potholes to the best of our abilities.”

Amar appealed and appealed and appealed, but at every attempt, his trial was shifted to another date because the judges could not make up their minds. It was later found that the judges lived in the posh areas of Delhi and were

dropped and fetched in chauffeur-driven cars. They laughed at his blatant statements about the condition of the road, Amar told us in jail.

On Amar's suggestion, our reporters took the brave step of travelling that road on foot. It's safe to say we regretted it the instant we saw it. Nevertheless, we interviewed the sparse population that travelled this road. To provide substance to our venture, we met people who actually drive drunk. They gave us weird looks and said they were too scared to drive on that road. By accident, we met an engineering student who was going on that road. He said he used that stretch to test his self-developed moon cart. "It offers better testing surface than the moon," he said.

People deal with it like they have for years. They drive by and around the potholes. And Amar lives in the hope that one day, some big-time hotshot will travel that road and feel his pain. And then, maybe then, the judge and jury might believe his story.

## **Boy falls into dirty river Yamuna, comes out with mutant powers**

**KARAN TANEJA**, April 2, 2012 | *Civic Issues*

Talks of reinstating the "holy" status of River Yamuna gained an impetus when an accidental fall into the river changed the destiny of 11-year-old Magan. Yamuna, which has been lifeless for decades, was then stripped off its holy status disdainfully by the public. People were scared to jump into the river even to commit suicide.

However, the incident has suddenly done much to improve the reputation of the river and move it closer towards regaining its lost glory. Here's the story of what happened.

On March 30, Magan was walking on the “scenic” path along the banks of the Yamuna. On March 31, he had superhuman powers. He had inspired a whole generation to jump into the clean drain called Yamuna for its mutant effects. And now on April 1, scientific research on his body has given pollutants and dirty effluents the status of an “elixir of life”.

Magan was walking on the river banks, when, distracted by the sun's glare reflected from the fluorescent green-tinged water of the river, he slipped over the muck covering the path. Magan fell into the river and got carried away by the strong current. He did not know how to swim, but luckily, he managed to float – thanks to the froth layer covering the surface of the water. Fortune favoured him when he accidentally got caught in the cleansing net of the YAFCA (Yet-Another-Fruitless-Cleansing-Attempt, supposedly part of the Yamuna Action Plan). The net was being operated by a five-year-old, the son of the civic body official in charge. The younger kid spotted the older kid and called his father, who was found smoking a *beedi* and watching a cricket match at a nearby tea shop.

Even though the other big particles (some bigger than Magan) caught in the net were fed back into the river as is the practice, Magan was rescued by the official. He was given a complimentary cup of tea to recuperate. The unimaginable happened and Magan reacted in an unforeseen manner to this. The way he looked scared the pyjamas out of everyone, including the constables at the tea shop. The constables had no other option but to take him to the police station. News travelled fast, and soon many mediapersons were seen questioning random people about Magan. Some of them had no idea at all who he was, but they still took up airtime.

The constable who captured the boy told us, “He scared the shit out of us. He looked like a devil, that boy. He spoke the abusive word I was going to say even before I said it!”

Taking into account the seriousness of the situation, the government has decided to move Magan to a secret research institute on the outskirts of Delhi, where he will be tested for his rumoured “mutant” powers. The tests were forcefully conducted on him and the results confirmed the rumour floating around in Delhi. We had a mutant among us.

Scientists said certain river effluents and/or the tea given to Magan (since it was found to be made from the Yamuna water itself) got mixed with his DNA and changed his whole structure. The effluents were a lot more toxic than the ones produced previously, which had killed all the marine life in the river. However, it was a miracle of epic proportions when the results of the various tests were checked. His bones are now 10 times stronger than an elephant’s and physically, he is up to 6’ 5” and weighs 195 pounds. Add to that his ability to read minds.

As the mutant fever caught on in the capital city, many people jumped into the river. Some were comic book buffs, some were committing suicide, some were engineers who received no placement offers, and some were ordinary people fed up of troubles in their lives.

A government official spoke to us about this and gave us some inside views: “This is a blessing in disguise. Our voters were getting a little too aware of the situation the Yamuna is in and our next-to-negligible cleansing schemes were being criticised time and again. But that kid has changed it all. People are now appreciating that we kept the river dirty!”

It is unclear what the future holds for the mutant Magan, but rumours are strongly linking Ram Gopal Varma to him. Apparently, he wants to make a movie on him.

## **New cars for 12-year-olds and drunkards can travel on dividers and footpaths**

PRATEEK SINGHAL, May 14, 2015 | *Civic Issues*

**The automobile industry is trying to build cars that can travel on dividers and footpaths. These cars will be designed to meet the needs of 12-year-olds and alcoholics.**

Sources have confirmed that this prototype vehicle is a pilot project under the Narendra Modi government's "*achhe din*" programme.

### **Solution to traffic congestion, finally?**

"Well, of course, Modiji wants his proposed smart cities to be free from trivial problems like traffic congestion," an official in the transport ministry said.

"Since there isn't enough space to build roads anymore, he's trying to build a vehicle that doesn't require roads at all."

These new cars – if such a term can be used – will reportedly be able to travel on dividers, potholes and even laterally on two wheels. "Just imagine all the extra parking space we'll have," said Ram, a starry-eyed upper-middle-class supporter of the Bharatiya Janata Party, who has four cars in a family of three.

### **“A truly two-in-one car”**

Ram further said: “My 12-year-old son has recently started driving, and it’s a relief to know that the government is making a vehicle that is especially beneficial for children like him. Maybe 5–6 years down the line, he will start drinking with his friends too and the car will still come in handy then.”

### **RSS: “The idea is not new”**

The Sangh Parivar says the idea is not new. “In the time of Ayodhya, Lord Rama used to travel by cars that glided on rocks,” a pracharak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh said on Facebook. “Our *rishis* have seen it with their eyes. We came up with this idea first. *Sab kuch ved me likha hai.*”

## **This monsoon season, Delhi’s civic body has plans to Venicify the city**

ARUN MAITHANI, August 2, 2011 | *Civic Issues*

**Always wanted to visit the romantic Venice? Your dream may soon be a reality, thanks to an ambitious project being planned by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Officials have confirmed discussions on a brilliant draft on the plans to “Venicify” Delhi this monsoon season.**

“There were talks of making a Shanghai out of Mumbai, so why should we be far behind?” an official with knowledge of the matter said. “We will make a Venice out of Delhi this rainy season.”

“The people of Delhi always keep complaining,” another official said. “They complain about the dirty roads, poor hygiene conditions, horrid traffic and whatnot! This constant complaining has put us in introspection mode. Yes, we admit there are a few minor problems, but instead of complaining or passing the buck, we at the MCD have decided to exploit these problems to our advantage... You see, if the brook can’t pass over the mountain, it has to pass *under* it!”

A copy of the draft, which is in our possession, shows that the MCD’s plan for the city is quite simple. Since the potholes are covered with irreparable roads (and not the other way round), the sewers are choked and the drainage system is older than Bollywood superstar Dev Anand, it is of no use to try and mend things. With the arrival of the monsoon, life for Delhiites is only going to be a lot more miserable. **Taking cognizance of the existing and resulting problems, the MCD has planned to let rain water fill up the roads and lanes.**

With this, the municipal corporation plans a literal channelising of resources. The first official quoted earlier said: “We are fully prepared for this monsoon. We have already warned our zonal officers against the use of pumps for clearing water from roads, streets and lanes. There will no longer be traffic disruptions due to cave-ins, waterlogging and fallen trees. No accidents, no road rage, no jams! Travelling by boat will also reduce pollution levels and the city’s carbon footprint.”

## **Frustrated by traffic jams, Bengalureans start going to office on gliders**

KUMAR PRATIK, February 11, 2013 | *Civic Issues*

**After being regularly stuck in traffic for hours, days and even months, some bright techies of Bengaluru have come up with a solution. They have decided to use gliders to travel to work.**

The idea first came to 25-year-old Chatur Murgadoss after he reached his workplace on time one day last month, but only on the next day: “I left my house at 6 am for my office, merely 15 km away. I reached at 9 am, the exact time my office starts, but it was the next day! I was stuck in traffic for twenty-seven hours.”

Murgadoss first tried to fly with a kite, but fell down flat on his face, which gave him an idea. An idea to fly *over* the traffic, directly to his office. “The next day I flew to and fro with the help of a glider that I bought online,” he said. “And I have been doing so for the last three weeks. It’s great for your health, you get fresh air, you can do a lot of sightseeing, and you can do all sorts of stunts in the air. On the downside, you can run into an eagle or an aircraft.”

The idea struck a chord with his office colleagues and later more workplaces in the locality where Murgadoss goes to work. It backfired severely in a few cases when some gliders indeed crashed into low-flying aeroplanes and helicopters, though there have been no casualties.

In solidarity with Bengalureans, some citizen groups in Mumbai and Delhi have started a campaign titled “We understand. We too have tried.” The Delhi government has responded with a plan to fix the traffic by mandating every citizen to ride only bicycles. The traffic police is drawing up a list of bicycle-related traffic violations – sources confirmed the plan to levy Rs 1,000 for

dismantled chain or deflated tyre and Rs 5,000 for not wearing helmets and pads.

In other related news, Lalu Prasad Yadav has proposed the use of cows and bulls for commuting. He said one need not spend extra energy on honking – all that needs to be done is poking the animals on their heads.

## **Purchase parking spots before you buy cars: Delhi government**

ANUBHAV PARSHEERA, October 9, 2015 | *Civic Issues*

**The Delhi government has said it will commercialize parking spaces in the capital. One will now have to purchase a parking space before buying a vehicle.**

### **Most people happy**

Shivam, who lives in Delhi at his girlfriend's place in Mayur Vihar, has already purchased a spot. "We never imagined that we would be the proud owners of a parking spot," he said. "I can now come home safe in the knowledge that I have a spot that will always be there. So what if I still don't have a car? I can rent out my spot and from that money, buy another parking spot, and then eventually buy a car."

Deepak, another Delhiite, expressed excitement: "I will no longer have to sleep outside my house to ensure that no one parks there. In fact, I won't even have

to park my scooter diagonally to reserve the spot. I can finally use my scooter, and sleep inside my house after thirty-two years.”

### **What happens when the city runs out of space?**

The chief minister told reporters that this was just the beginning. “We have greater plans ahead,” he said. “For instance, we intend to convert all main roads and highways in and around New Delhi into parking spots. It will be a great source of revenue.

“We will be a city of cars that are parked all day and all night. But if you look at it from a more optimistic perspective, running on the roofs of cars is the coolest thing one can do.”

The chief minister confirmed that owners of existing vehicles would also have to buy their own parking spots. This came as a rude shock to many people who liked to paint “reserved” on stationary objects outside their houses.

### **Haters gonna hate**

There was a section of the population that expressed deep displeasure. “This is absurd. I have painted ‘reserved’ on the trees in front of at least five houses in the neighbourhood with my own hands,” said Rahul.

“In an ideal and honest world, this means that those spots belong to me and that those trees are also now mine. Does the law of ‘first come first served’ not stand for anything anymore?”

## Passenger with both legs in air defies gravity, manages to hold on to crowded DTC bus

PARAG GOEL (illustration: Nipun Chawla), November 1, 2011 | *Civic Issues*



A Delhi man has shown people a solution to the problem of overcrowded buses in the city. Instead of trying to squeeze his way inside one such bus, Montek Singh climbed at the back of the bus to travel and performed jaw-dropping and gravity-defying stunts to maintain his position and body parts – and succeeded in reaching his destination 20 km away.

Videos of Singh's stunts captured by people in different parts of the city went viral on every popular social networking website. The Delhi Transport

Corporation also took notice when even Orkut reported minor activity related to this video.

DTC said in a press release: “This piece of news has provided us with a novel opportunity to save the taxpayers’ money that we were planning to use on ordering new buses. We have decided to announce a new class of tickets for passengers boarding the bus at its rear.”

The Delhi government said the 27-year-old is an inspiration. “He sets a precedent and shows faith that population is not a problem as long as people can innovate wisely,” a transport official said. “Montek, although a man, gives great motivation to women who avoid using the bus in summers because of smelly and ill-mannered gents. No one will misbehave with them if they cling on to the bus from behind.”

## **Sheila Dikshit spends a day as ordinary Delhi woman, city men leave her dumbfounded**

SUGANDHA (illustration: **Rajat Goel**), December 8, 2011 | *Civic Issues*

**After a number of failed attempts to reach Delhi’s chief minister, NTMN was finally given the opportunity to meet Sheila Dikshit last week.** After a heated interview about the state of women in the city, for which she blamed girls and women for wearing provocative clothes and going out alone at night, here is how this reporter challenged the chief minister:

“Here’s the plan. For one day, you’ll not be the CM. You’ll be an ordinary woman. A veiled woman. With me, you will travel like an ordinary working woman has to. In the Metro, in public buses, on the roads and so on. Whatever happens next, will come on its own.”

She agreed.

### **Sheila Dikshit spends a day as an ordinary woman: our reporter’s account**

True to her words, Mrs Dikshit had come veiled that morning. Wise enough, she could still see through her veil. Just what the plot needed. I admit, it was exciting to get the chief minister of Delhi live my life, even if for a day.



*Sheila Dikshit on the road at night. She is not wearing skimpy clothes.*

We planned to start out from the Janakpuri metro station towards Rajiv Chowk. For that, we first had to board a bus for Janakpuri. Half an hour passed by, but there was no bus coming. The first that came was already over-

brimming with men hanging here and there. Not having the courage to travel in it, we chose to wait. I informed her this is how I usually miss my first class at college – wait for half an hour for the bus to come, and when it does, there's no chance of getting in.

Finally, a bus came. It was decently crowded, so we boarded it. With great difficulty, we managed to get our ticket. Actually there were so many people pestering the conductor from all directions with ticket-requests that it was a challenge to get ours and not be stared at *real bad*. Finally, we went and stood near the ladies' seats. Two young boys sat on one. I tried staring at them, and then at the label that marked the seat as a ladies' seat, to indicate to them that they need to freaking get up. But they continued discussing movies with their earphones plugged in, pretending that they haven't seen us. Mrs Dikshit then asked them to get up as it was a ladies' seat. She had to shout twice before they started to get up, that too when their own bus-stop was close enough.

We sat. Sheilaji was on the window-side. A few minutes later she sprang up from her seat, bewildered. I asked what had happened. She didn't say a word, just gave the man sitting in the seat behind us really deadly looks. When we got down from the bus, she told me, the man had been trying to touch her from the side of the seat. I asked her, why she didn't retort. She didn't reply. I assume, it is difficult to be all daring and stuff when you're not the CM.

We reached the metro platform. When the first train came, it was all so badly crowded, as the route normally is at that time of the day. We had just reached the platform when the train came, so couldn't reach the ladies' compartment. Sheilaji said, let's get into the general coach. I was dubious, but obliged.

It was nightmarish. With stinking staring men all around, and no one seemed to have any courtesy for the fact that we were two ladies stuck in a crowd of men. I secretly hoped that the ladies' seat in the coach might come to our avail, but with the ladies' compartment in operation, it was a sin to even imagine

something like that. I jokingly said to Sheilaji, the ladies' coach in metros has set up new definitions for men in the city. Many of them are under the impression that except for the first compartment, the whole train is reserved for them.

For the entire journey upto Rajiv Chowk, we had to stand. I winced somewhere about it, considering Sheilaji's age. But then, there was hardly anything I could do about. There is hardly anything I am able to do in such situations anyway.

At Rajiv Chowk, it was a challenge to get out of the train. To top it, we were in the "general" coach, so those waiting outside were mostly (wild, impatient) men. As soon as the gate opened, the entire crowd bustling with impatience tried to force their way in – thus kicking and pushing and knocking the ones inside. Amid all the chaos, when we were about to find our way, somebody pushed Sheilaji real hard from the front, she was about to fall. It was bad.

We went to a few places from there. Travelling in autos, buses, rickshaws, I made it a point that our honourable CM gets to face all that an ordinary Delhi woman normally has to. Be it the cunning autorickshaw-driver who demands a lot more money than that charged by the meter (knowing that she wouldn't have the grit to get into a dirty fight) or the rickshaw-puller who will be singing weird songs all along or worse still, the street-men who would try to follow you/touch you and if someone's day is bad, then maybe even misbehave with you. These are things that not every woman suffers in the city, but the painful fact is, there are things that women do suffer in the city.

The most crucial time was here. It was 7 pm and we were stuck somewhere. No auto, no bus and the road was pretty deserted. Wintry deserted roads are the scariest thing about Delhi. We stood there at the bus-stop. Several cars passed by. Just then, a Honda City, with a gang of guys – possibly drunk – and music playing in full swagger, came. It almost stopped in front of us.

Somebody passed a lewd remark, somebody else invited us to join in. Sheilaji suggested teaching them a lesson, scolding them. I warned her to behave wisely, we were alone and nobody was going to come out and help anyway. “But how can we just withstand all this?” she asked. Try your helpline numbers, I said.

Thankfully, that passed by. We saw an auto somewhere and started walking towards it. Just then, god knows from where, a super speeding bike came, stopped near us and within a fraction of a second, did something. It took us some moments to realise what had happened. The guys just snatched the gold chain our CM was wearing. She looked at me bewildered. I said, let’s just be happy that they spared us. We saw a PCR somewhere, but honestly, the policemen were no less scary. Clearly in a drunk state and ogling at women like an ordinary sick-minded man, they offered the least respite from the fear we went through, then.

The day was over. I didn’t have to do a single thing to let our CM know of the fear, the wrath we have to go through, living in this city.

## EDUCATION

### **Lord Ganesha fails to clear SRCC and other DU cut-off lists, DU apathetic**

AASHISH ARYAN, June 1, 2013 | *Education*

**Delhi University, quite (in)famous for its inhumane cut-off lists every year, has gone one step further and done the unthinkable by denying admission to Ganesha, son of Shiva himself.**

Bholenath, as he is known in social circles, was in for a shocker, when Shri Ram College of Commerce rejected his son Ganesha, citing that he had failed to clear the cut-off and hence, could not be admitted under any circumstances.

A year ago, after Shiva and Parvati had decided to put Ganesha in a school to restrain his leisurely activities. They filled out the forms, and thanks to some jugaad from a tout, Ganesha was able to secure direct admission to the Class 12. For college, the family had zeroed in on the famous Shri Ram College of Commerce, named after a family friend from Ayodhya.

The entire kingdom of Gods waited anxiously for the board exam results. They were all on cloud nine, literally, when they learnt that the kid had scored a sublime 92%, especially taking into consideration the fact that he had not touched his books and notes for over a thousand years. But this joy was short-lived, as he could not clear the cut-off lists of SRCC.

The college principal told us: “This funny looking guy, with six-pack abs and a snake slung over his neck walked in with his son, seeking admission for him. I do not know how they got past the security. I freaked out, but politely requested him to check for his son’s name in the cut-off lists.”

At this, the father allegedly let out a thunderous roar, and claimed that his son had scored very good marks, and that he was very proud of the boy's efforts.

Lord Shiva said to us: "This is preposterous, I smell some foul-play here. How can human beings achieve such extraordinary marks that not even a God could scale them? How can the cut-off begin at 98% and end at just 95% over the course of three lists? I will destroy this world. Tell that to your SRCC!"

Later, a fax to the college, which said it came from the God's office, said: "General Secretary, Mr. Bhole Nath has decided that now, admissions to heaven too will be conducted on the basis of cut-off lists. Exams will be conducted for the same and men and women will be tested on their general awareness about the 33 crore Hindu gods. Mr. Bhole Nath has also indicated that the cut-offs may be as low as 105%."

The fax has sent waves of panic among the more religious of professors and teaching assistants, but the Delhi University vice chancellor has dismissed it as "a silly prank by some upset parent".

## **IIT+IIM graduate depressed after topping Civil Services, says "nothing left to achieve"**

**BIJENDER SHEORAN, AASHISH ARYAN and RAVI ASWANI, May 3, 2013 |**

*Education*

**The results for the prestigious civil services exams were declared today. NTMN caught up with the topper Mohan Topkar. Here are excerpts from the interview.**

**NTMN:** Many congratulations, Mohan. You have topped the civil services exam. How does it feel?

**Mohan:** Kya congrats? I am dumbfounded. Okay, I topped and all, but do you know how lonely it is at the top?

**NTMN:** But are you not thrilled at your results? We hear that you are an IIT and IIM alumnus and have been a topper there too.

**Mohan:** Well, there was nothing to do at IIT, except for studying of course. I was nicknamed “Sheldon” by my batchmates. So I thought, “might as well prove them right”. Then I got into an IIM. I topped the CAT that year and got in. And the same story followed.

**NTMN:** So, this seems to be a habit for you. You have been a topper throughout?

**Mohan:** No. I wanted to become a singer, a trained musician. But my father scolded me and asked me if I wanted to become a singer begging alms in the train. I got angry and in a fit of rage, went to my study room. I came out only after topping.

**NTMN:** That is sad.

**Mohan:** No, it is not. You know what is sadder than this? I do not know what to do now. It is like vacuum. I feel lonely. I do not know what to do with my life now. All I have ever done is study. I never thought I would have to implement what I studied so far. No one taught me how to do that. I am

heartbroken. Do you know of any exams that are tougher than UPSC? I want to take them too, and top them as well.

**NTMN:** You are set to become an officer with the Government of India. Why would you want to leave such a lucrative offer to study?

**MT:** Not study, just top. I want to top everything, all exams of this world. By hook or by crook. Just tell me if you know of some tough exams. I have been in pursuit of an aim all my life. All this while, my aim had been to crack the toughest examinations. This obsession helped me get into IITs and IIMs and now the IAS. I have decided to apply for a few other examinations too.

**NTMN:** So IIT, IIM and IAS, that's like all the three major "I-exams". They say one who cracks one "I-exam" is Intelligent. Someone with two of them is an Iconoclast and the one making a dent at all the three is an Idiot. What do you say to that?

**Mohan:** Is there a fourth "I" that I can top?

**NTMN:** So what's your secret, how did you manage to top at all these exams, all these years?

**Mohan:** Arrey chill hai yaar.

**NTMN:** So what next?

**Mohan:** I have no frigging idea. I have an offer from some coaching institutes to join them. But no, I wish I had stood second, so that I could take the exam next year to improve it. I don't know how to cure this Obsessive Compulsive Disorder of answering every question correctly!

**NTMN:** So did you see or plan to see any doctor about this OCD?

**Mohan:** That reminds me, I can still take the medical exams, right? I think I should top it too, agree?

**NTMN:** We are sure you will do well.

**Mohan:** Do well? I want to top. Doing well is not okay.

**NTMN:** Any advice that you would like to pass on to our readers and other “top-every-exam” aspirants?

**Mohan:** Yeah. Just one. Such stunts are performed by professionals under expert guidance. Please don't try to replicate in your own life, you may end up getting severe irreversible head injury with multiple injuries to the emotional side of your brain. Also, there is thing called “life” which will be extinct from your life.

## **A Coaching Institute for Pregnant Women to Help Their Kids Grow Up to be IITians**

**ARUNIMA RATH**, June 12, 2012 | *Education*

**The leading coaching institute Cheat-JEE has announced a competitive foundation course to train pregnant women to help their would-be babies have strong chances to enter the IITs right from the foetus stage.**

“It is believed that the way the mother treats her baby and herself during the time of pregnancy plays a very important role in shaping the brain of the baby,” says a newspaper advertisement published by the institute today.

Only selected mothers who exhibit potential will be given a chance to avail this opportunity, a spokesperson for Cheat-JEE told us. They will be judged on the basis of their eagerness to see their children in IITs. As for now, this is the only criterion that shall help in deciding the deserving candidates, the institute said.

The institute has hired a few researchers led by Dr. Chatterjee to develop a method to carry out an IQ test of the baby before birth. Once they come up with a way, the IQ of the foetus will also count along with the mother's passion to get an entry into this program.

“During this program, the expectant mothers of future IITians will be looked after with intense care,” a brochure of the course reads. “Special care will be taken till the baby is delivered. It includes setting up of special maternity care units for the mothers. Every waking (and sleeping) moment of the mothers, including the posture in which they sleep, will be supervised and corrected where necessary.”

It says further: “They will be subjected to specially formulated dietary regimes and exclusive physical training by trained staff.”

### **A sure-shot method of getting your child into IIT**

According to the brochure contents: “To make the program more effective, mothers of successful IITians will be hired, so that they can educate the new mothers about all the special etiquette required from a successful mother.”

An insider source said the institute is looking into research that has shown that the baby's mind responds well if the mother is allowed to sleep with an IIT preparatory book under her pillow or on her belly. Once this is confirmed, the institute will consider doing this before letting mothers handle huge and heavy books.

During the course, mothers and foetuses will be trained to accept physics or math formulae and valencies of elements as an alternative to ‘unnecessary’ and ‘pointless’ singing of lullabies. Special electromagnetic sensors shall be used to help increase the IQ of the baby. Subjecting the mother to such waves for at least 15 minutes daily is believed to bring good results.

“Once the babies are born, no time shall be wasted on telling toddlers about Mary and her little lamb,” the brochure explains. “Their learning process will start with ‘How to fill up OMR sheets’. They will also be taught to estimate the right kind of pattern to draw in the OMR sheet in case they do not know the correct answers to the questions. As the students grow up, they will be subsequently promoted to the regular coaching classes. These trained students will have a separate batch to prioritize and distinguish them from the regular ones.”

## **CBSE finds a way to allow students to score over 100% in board exams**

**PRIYANKA MEHTA** (ed. **Apoorva Tapas**), June 16, 2012 | *Education*

***Extra marks for time spent in coaching classes; parents to be awarded marks for completing students’ homework***

The Central Board of Secondary Education has found a way for you to score 700 marks out of 600 in Class 10 and 12 exams. It has made some changes to the marking pattern after it found students scoring just 100% marks in their board exams.

## **Students to be awarded marks for the time they spend in coaching classes**

A committee asked to find ways for higher scoring has proposed that students be awarded marks for the time they spend in coaching classes.

“There will be some method to quantify the time spent in coaching classes,” said an official at the CBSE. “A formula will convert the hours into marks. A maximum of 50 marks can be earned, and will be added to the total.”

Coaching institutes can use biometric systems to log in the hours students spent in classes, the committee has suggested. The system, it said, can also check blood pressure and resting heart rate once a fortnight.

“Time is crucial here, not pace,” said a spokesperson of coaching institute Tyme smugly, obviously pleased with his quaint marketing pun. “If this happens, students will think twice before bunking. The tests will show if the student has been adequately fatigued or stressed. In the unfortunate situation that a student is found fit, healthy and attentive, we’ll increase ‘dosage’ of classes.”

## **Parents to be awarded marks for completing students’ homework well**

There will be an additional 50 marks up for grabs based on the parents’ ability to complete homework and projects, if the committee’s recommendations are accepted. A separate section will be added in the examination mark sheets reserved especially for the parents.

“Parents do the assignments and projects while the children take credit for it,” said a committee member. “This is a widely accepted practice that has gone unrewarded for far too long. Now parents will be awarded marks for their efforts too. This will reduce the workload on the students, who can use this free time wisely and spend it in coaching classes. This will provide a much needed break from school work.”

Ms. Anne George, teacher at a Chennai school, told us: “In PTA meetings, we will be assessing the parents’ work, not the students’, who will be at their coaching classes anyway. Receiving marks will give parents validation for their skills and hard work. Moreover, this will create bad blood between parents and make them competitive too, hence bridging the generation gap.”

## **India to give every child the Right to Private Tuition Classes as “school is simply not enough”**

SHRUTI SEKHSARIA (ed. Shubham Khandelwal), June 10, 2012 | *Education*

**Three years after India passed the Right to Education Act, the Cabinet has now approved a bill to give every child the right to private tuition. The bill will be tabled in the Parliament in the next session.**

“The Right to Education Act alone doesn’t ensure the formation of an intellectual society,” the education minister said at a press meet. “The Right to Tuition Classes Act is designed to encourage a parallel education system.”

The proposed law makes it mandatory for parents and guardians of children above six years of age to send them to at least one private tuition class, failing which will lead to imprisonment. Corporate and commercial banks will be legally required to sanction tuition loans to support the children’s right to private tuition.

Some features of the bill:

- For the convenience of students who attend schools during the day, night tuition classes will also be made available.
- Each child must invest not more than six hours on non-academic activities such as playing, bathing, eating and sleeping. Parents will be required to restrict children's reading and writing habits outside course curriculum.
- A child will not be able to skip tuition classes without prior approval from the tutor. Tutors will be liable to be fined if students skip classes. Schools, however, will be allowed to remain lenient in this regard.
- Schools will be required to have a separate time slot in the daily timetable for students to complete their tuition homework. If needed, school teachers should be in a position to help them out with this.
- Each classroom can accommodate a maximum of 100 students per batch. This is done so as to maintain a proper teacher-student ratio, the minister said.

Students welcomed the bill on social media. Many believe this will make schools a place meant for socialising and catching up with friends.

Rahul Burman, a class 10 student, says such a law was long due. "Even now, whenever I manage to take time out from my busy tuition schedule I prefer going to school instead of hitting the treadmill or playing outdoors," he wrote on Facebook. "I particularly enjoy my physical education classes. Currently we all are working on building our muscles using our school bags. That's so unconventional and cool."

"Being a single-income family, I couldn't afford to send my eight-year-old son to tuition classes along with a so-called reputed school," Mr. Iyer told us. "And so, last year, we had to withdraw him from his expensive, private school and

then enrolled him in the city's premier tuition centre. But many parents can't afford it and have to compromise with their children's education. Now because of the loan facility no parent would have to worry about it."

## **By 2020, parents will be sending little kids for five tuition classes a day**

TANAY SUKUMAR, January 31, 2011 | *Education*

**A research on Indian education practices shows that by 2020, an average Indian school-going kid will attend four different tuition classes, apart from school.**

The child will get to sleep four hours a day, and will be able to play and enjoy only during vacations. He will spend over 12 hours away from home, and will be bent by an average angle of 4 degrees at the spine due to the constant weight of the schoolbag, the research showed.

In a few years, the tuition system may become a multiple-tier system — a student will attend a tuition master to help with school studies, another to help with the lessons given by the first tuition master, and so on, the research has forecast.

The tuition industry will rise more as parents increasingly believe spending money is the sole way to show they love their child, said the research.

An expert says, "Parents will forget that schools are meant for getting kids taught. They will treat school as a taken-for-granted place like the bathroom,

where a kid just has to go everyday. Actual education will take place at private tuition.”

The research results were based on a study done on 1,000 students in New Delhi. “Just as a child must be admitted to a school, he also must be sent to a tuition centre, otherwise neighbours might say the parents don’t want to educate the child,” observed the report.

According to the predictions, the average 13-year-old schoolchild will not be able to understand anything taught by teachers at school, because during classes, he will be busy doing the homework given by his tuition teachers. Twenty minutes during every class are also expected to be spent using the mobile phone, and bullying the teacher.

## **POOR AND RICH**

### **Missing billionaire finally rescued from remote corner of his mansion**

TANAY SUKUMAR, RAVI ASWANI and AMAN, June 5, 2013 | *Poor and Rich*

**Billionaire and industrialist Mukesh Bambani, who was reported missing recently, has been rescued by a search team from a 42’x42’ bathroom on the sixth floor of his own mansion.**

“Although he owns this place, it is essential to investigate how on earth Mr. Bambani reached that bathroom,” a police official said. “Knowing this will help prevent such incidents in the future.”

Bambani was rescued after a search operation that ran for a week. Security has been beefed up at the mansion.

“The 27-floor mansion houses as many as four people, and thus security is a key issue,” said an official, confirming that the bathroom where Bambani was found is the smallest of all bathrooms in the mansion – a possible reason why it was difficult to find him.

After his rescue, Bambani said that he was happy because the incident had led to the discovery of yet another hitherto unknown bathroom in the mansion.

Mrs. Bambani, however, seemed indifferent about the whole issue. Emerging from an IPL match, she hurriedly remarked: “He must have been playing hide and seek in that small place with Junior Bambani and ultimately lost his way. Media people are unnecessarily hyping it.”

Security sources in the building told us that in the past, many servants have gone missing or have lost their way in the house. Some claim they have even been to the ‘Chamber of Secrets’ inside the mansion.

A worried Mr. Bambani has now asked all his family members, as well as servants, to carry GPS-enabled devices with them while moving around. He is also in touch with architects to set up direction boards and help-centres connecting various remote places within the mansion.

(Concept: Mayank Goyal)

## **Farmers deserve suicide for their poor career choice:**

### **Elite Class**

**MOO'S KHAYALS** (pseudonym), May 4, 2014 | *Poor and Rich*

So the farmers are killing themselves. Who cares! They asked for it, didn't they, when they chose to grow grapes over getting a degree, getting jobs and getting rich?

### **Food is just a luxury, iPhone is the basic necessity of life**

These farmers, such morons, chose grapes. Who does that? Instead, they should've chosen to be like us. We sit in little, cold cubicles and make calls to people halfway across the globe. We burn the midnight/midday oil, trying to build devices tiny enough to fit in our nostrils or writing lines of code long enough to reach the bottom of the deepest ocean. Without our ultra smart devices, man would face extinction. God forbid, the next iPhone fails to detect your body smell and inform you that it's time for your bath, disaster would be upon humankind.

### **They have a size zero without going to the gym. How unfair to us!**

These silly farmers chose to sacrifice their God-gifted brains, and toil endlessly in the hot hot sun trying to plough their land, sow grape seeds, water it, tend to the farm's every need all year round. They don't even wear sunscreen in these ozone-deprived times. They eat dried bhakri with salt and their menu is the same everyday. Thrice a day. Oh wait, once a day. One needs money to eat thrice, and thanks to their pea-brained career choice, they of course deserve to eat just once, or just starve. On the plus side, they all are a size zero! What an effortless achievement! And here we are, we need to hit the gym, hire a dietician, pay a bomb for health foods and yet, this size zero eludes us. That's how unfair destiny is.

These foolish farmers. They need to beg the banks for a loan of a few thousand rupees. No, not to buy the latest phone, or their fourth car or third house. Instead, to grow grapes. To buy the seeds and equipment. *Fizool ka kharcha*. Look at us, we made the right choice. I can afford to buy three kurtis in a single visit to the shiny mall, each the price of their loans probably, without looking at the price tag. See what one bad choice does to these farmers? They need to kill themselves so that these few thousand rupees don't haunt them forever.

These stubborn farmers. Could have easily sold their farms to builders, made a quick buck and disappeared into oblivion. *Lekin nahi*, they chose to fight the land sharks. Kept their farms and grew grapes. Now, they are dead. That is what happens when they deny us, the smarter ones, a beautiful 3 BHK apartment on the 15th floor, nestled in mother nature's cozy lap, overlooking lush green hills, with a swimming pool, gym, clubhouse and generator backed-up elevators.

### **We'll take ACs over rain, any day of the year**

These uneducated farmers. They pray to the rain gods for seasonal rains to make a living. We, the smarter ones, are busy screwing our ecosystem to make our lives a tad bit more convenient. Even the rain gods have surrendered to our menace. Alas, nobody has bothered to convey this to the farmers.

These selfish farmers. They kill themselves, leaving behind a suffering, starving, traumatised family. Oh well, maybe they should kill them too and be done with it. The rest of humankind is busy taking test drives, holidaying in Thailand or just hitting the snooze button. Why would we, the other, smarter humans bother to maybe, just maybe, help these farmers out? We made the right choice, and are thus reaping its benefits. As you sow, so shall you reap, the old saying goes. Rings a little too true here, *nahi?*

## **A chip to curb hunger in the making?**

Just one little thing bothers me. Yes, we are smart. We fly, we predict the weather, we have satellites, send space shuttles to the twinkling stars, we have little chips with the memory of three elephants, we can combat deadly viruses, we can change the colour of skin in five days and five rupees, we can even annihilate a country in seconds. Waah, we are almost as good as God. The only thing we have failed at, is to be able to switch off hunger pangs. Our stomach still rumbles every three hours. We cannot eat fancy LED TVs or skyscrapers or the latest software. And, with all the grape farmers dead, where do we go for wine which is so essential for romantic dinners? What about fruit custard without grapes? Should we also be archiving the '*khatte angoor*' *muhavara*?

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

### **E-retail websites banned as rape victim was wearing provocative clothes bought from one of them**

**KUMAR PRATIK**, December 9, 2014 | *Sexual Violence*

The police have swiftly decoded the latest Delhi rape incident and have found that the girl was wearing provocative clothes bought from an e-retail website.

Government officials believe that banning e-commerce websites will prevent future rapes.

It is believed that just like other measures such as banning online taxi services, banning porn, banning gay marriages and banning alcohol, this move will immediately bring a halt to rape incidents.

### **“Provocative clothing the cause of rape”**

An official brushed aside claims from journalists that the rape was motivated simply by the rapists’ malicious intentions. He reiterated that “the root cause of all rapes is provocative clothing”. He said latest police statistics show “provocative clothing” is different from “dressing provocatively” as any cloth on a victim’s skin is provocative.

However, the issue is where the victim got her provocative clothes from, the police chief told mediapersons. “We have traced it to an online e-commerce website,” he said. “Clearly, these websites are responsible for the instances of rape happening in Delhi. We have asked the Centre to block all these websites with immediate effect.”

(Concept: Milind Singla)

## **Girl who committed the crime of provoking men to rape her brought to justice**

SAMEER HUSSAINI, July 16, 2013 | Sexual Violence

In a dramatic incident, a hero and saviour of the Indian culture was provoked to rape by a shameless girl who tried to malign the tradition by wearing western clothing – shockingly a half-sleeve T-shirt and tight skinny jeans.

In his police complaint, the man said it was so heart-rending to see Bharatiya Sabhyata getting murdered that his inner self couldn't help but commit that heroic act.

He also said this wasn't the first time that he resorted to such heroism and had been active in this noble profession for quite a while.

The local MP said the country is highly indebted to the great man and said he should get a bravery award. Encouraging the youth to continue the legacy, he said all those who dare to westernize our pavitra society should be dealt with in the same manner and rapists should be compensated for putting in such efforts.

## **Man gang-bitten by wild dogs in Gurgaon; police blame him for wearing short clothes**

SUGANDHA, April 20, 2012 | *Sexual Violence*

**Five dogs have been arrested for allegedly gang-biting a 23-year-old man who was returning home after a full day's work in a Gurgaon pub.**

The man, Raju, is the sole earning member of his family. He had taken up the job of a waiter at a pub in the Besahara Mall in spite of much resistance from his mother who was really concerned about his safety. "But I was not getting

work anywhere else in the city. With no other option at hand, I decided to go for this,” Raju tells us writhing in pain.

On the unfortunate night of April 15, his mother’s fears came true and Raju was spotted by five wild dogs who had been roaming around on the roads freely. Raju came out of the mall at 1 am and started walking towards a spot just 1 km away, where his friend was going to pick him up.

Raju described his ordeal: “I didn’t even realize that they had been quietly following me, and when I did, I really got scared and started walking faster. The dogs’ paw-steps became faster too. They passed lewd barks at me, which were getting louder with each step. I felt helpless. There was not a speck of life in sight, only the dogs, their ugly barks and I alone on the deserted road. Before I could think of what to do, they were eating into my legs and tearing apart every morsel of flesh on them with such vigour that I went numb.”

Raju’s medical examination has revealed that his body was mercilessly assaulted by the dogs one-by-one for over two hours. “They took turns on me,” he said. While I was experiencing the worst pain of my life, bleeding profusely and moaning painfully, they seemed to be enjoying it. They called me names, laughed aloud, dug their teeth everywhere on my body so hard that I died a million times in those two hours.”

Doctors say that Raju will not be able to walk properly again and that “more than the body pain, it is the mental and moral hurt that will not go”. He has already attempted suicide thrice. He says: “I will never be able to step out of the house again. And these nightmares just wouldn’t stop. I can still see, right in front of my eyes, those dogs sitting on me and happily chewing every little lump of flesh they could get their dirty paws on. I can’t get rid of these pictures, please help me die.”

The Gurgaon police have said that they or the dogs are not the only ones to be blamed. “If a guy exposes his body by wearing revealing clothes, and is out of home on such roads so late in the night, due to whatever reasons, what will the poor dogs do?” the police said. “Any flesh-eating animal can get aroused in such a situation. We are looking into the matter, but please don’t blame us.”

The police chief said: “In most such cases, there is some sort of consent from the so-called ‘victim’ too. If Raju was wearing such provocative clothes, he obviously knew what the consequences could be. How do we know his intentions weren’t wrong? What if he had himself invited the dogs to bite him? What if he belongs to a characterless family background? Decent people don’t do such things. These are some of the crucial details we are looking into.”

## **Delhi Police to send friend requests to all girls on Facebook, in order to be women-friendly**

**GARIMA SHARMA**, January 5, 2013 | *Sexual Violence*

Special etiquette classes for Delhi Police to deal with crimes against women will teach them to brush their teeth, bathe and shave daily and use deodorants heavily. They need to exercise daily, and be on diet to reduce their overtly fluffy tummies. To target the ailing mentality, they are to watch *Mother India*, *Jhansi ki Rani* and few other prescribed “women-oriented and meaningful” movies.

Strict instructions by course teachers prohibit them from watching new movies and listening to item songs, especially by a certain singer. As part of

the curriculum, they will be sending friend requests on Facebook to all the girls residing in Delhi, and liking their pictures, display photos and statuses daily.

“We have been forced to start this course as there has been a lot of criticism,” an insider said. “We have always received stepmotherly treatment from women. While women have always swooned over men from Air Force and the Army, we have never been ‘eyed’ by any girl. In fact, when they see us, they run as if they have seen a ghost.”

He added: “Women are more scared of us than they are of goons. They also completely avoid areas with police stations at all times during day and night. We hope to put an end to this.”

In other measures as part of the initiative, new colourful police uniforms have been ordered with pink caps and red shoes to attract ladies.

While the Delhi Police hopes to counter rape through these measures, the buzz suggests Delhi girls have decided to block all policemen who send them friend requests, as “*policewaalon ki to dushmani bhi buri hai, aur dosti bhi*”.