

Sparks | Satire and Reviews

First Edition, 2015

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Introduction

This book is an alternative representation of my thoughts, which have been presented more comprehensively in another of my books **Writings @ Ankur Mutreja**. I felt the need to publish this book separately to cater to the needs of those readers who don't have much time to read books. The book is indeed a light reading.

The book starts with the chapter entitled **Satire**, which, as the name suggests, comprises pointed attacks on the societal idiosyncrasies and hypocrisies, albeit mockingly. In the following chapter on **Travel Locales**, I have reviewed four disparate locations in India, attractive for their own unique appeals: **Puducherry, Shillong, Auroville** and **Agartala**.

Next is the chapter on **Movie Reviews & More**. In the past few years, Hindi Cinema or Bollywood has seen many huge revenue collectors competing with the creativities. I don't think the creativities need to compete with anybody. Only one huge revenue collector **Ek Tha Tiger** finds place in my list of reviews. I don't like publishing my frustrations; therefore, if I have written a negative review, the movie must be really pathetic: **Love, Sex and Dhoka**. Other movies reviewed: **Satyagraha, Raanjhana, Table No. 21, OMG, Mod, Udaan** and **Welcome to Sajjanpur**. Other than that I have also reviewed a website, **Flattr.com**, and an architectural structure, **Antilla: the Residence of Ambanis**, in this chapter.

Finally, the chapter on **Book Reviews** comprises my reviews of three books: **Bhagwat Gita, Swaraj** by Arvind Kejriwal, and **An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire** by Arundhati Roy.

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Chapter 1: Satire

Chapter 1.1: Make in India May Fail because of the RSS

As per the classified US reports, XMake in India□ has created quite a buzz amongst the US males of Indian origin; the lifetime visas have further boosted the propensity of the males to ... Make in India□ ; however, the same has not caught up well with the US females of Indian origin in spite of the same privileges having been offered to them as well. One of the reasons attributed to this gender bias is the presence of too many bachelors in the RSS, who, in the current paradigm, are expected to appropriate the right to collaborate with the US females in □ Make in India□ . □ Make in India□ may fail because of the RSS.

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Chapter 1.2: Hurry Up! Entries Invited for Obama Latrine Clean Up

In a diplomatic coup, Modi has convinced Obama to clean up Indian latrines as part of his □ Clean India Campaign□ . Entries are invited from ordinary Indian citizens to send their stool sample for mandatory testing at the PMO. Lucky winners will get a chance to shake Obamay s latrine-clean hands in their own latrines. Hurry up! Only limited entries will be entertained! Twenty five percent reservations for the families of the US based NRIs/PIOs. Tentative date for the event has been fixed on 26.01.2015.

Note: Credibility of the above information is subject to the credulity of the readers.

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Chapter 1.3: SC on Activism Spree

SC replaces Srini with Gavaskar, NaMo with Swaraj, SRK with Sallu, Baba with Bips, AK49 with CBI, Butter Chicken with Green Salad, MMS with□ oops, thaty s my right!

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Chapter 1.4: CEC Crisis

All Election Commissioners put in their papers in protest against the SMS poll of the Aam Aadmi Party. The Aam Aadmi Party nominates Prashant Bhushan, Manish Sisodia and Yogendra Yadav as the new CEC team. Parliament proposes to debate whether it's constitutional. The Aam Aadmi Party snubs the proposal terming it anti-people. The Team Anna terms CEC's move as a conspiracy to sabotage Lokpal Bill.

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Chapter 1.5: Result of Opinion Poll for Indian Army: Just Ignore BJP

Ms. Sushma Swaraj, BJP: Get ten Pakistani soldiers' heads for one Indian soldier's head.

Mr. Yashwant Sinha, BJP: Indian Army can retaliate without crossing the LOC.
Ramification: Get ten Pakistani soldiers' heads without crossing the LOC.

I propose the following opinion poll to help Indian Army.

1. Seek divine powers from Shri Ram of Ramayana.
2. Learn black magic from *Baba Bengali*.
3. Just ignore BJP.

Opinion poll result: Just Ignore BJP.

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Chapter 1.6: Being Gender Sensitive

I feel ashamed of myself today. It's abhorrent that I am out rightly callous to the sensitivities of the fairer gender. For how long I have been living in this make believe world of mine thinking they like me the way I am: dirty and wild, almost beastly. I make the New Year resolution today that I will shave every day in the New Year - shaved just yesterday, no mood to shave tomorrow. Kudos to Gillette's **Shave or Crave** movement for making me gender sensitive. I really enjoy this new status of Being Gender Sensitive.

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Chapter 1.7: Let's Make This World a Better Place

I am fed up of this inequality; therefore, I have decided to take a plunge in the democratic

process. I intend to stand for the next general election as an independent candidate. However, I don't have the funds to manage my election expenses. Therefore, I plan to launch a public issue of my prospective candidature. I intend to become an MP by 2014 and a minister by 2020. The public issue of my candidature comprises 10,000,000 shares of Rs. 10 face value each □ Rs. 100 MN is the minimum start up capital I need. Once I become minister in 2020, I intend to do a big scam of the scale of Rs. 1,000 MN, of which I shall garner at least 50% of the amount, i.e. Rs. 500 MN, which will then be the new value of my capital. Thus, the share of Rs. 10 face value today should carry a market value of at least Rs. 50 in 2022, which would give a return of 500% in ten years. There can be no better opportunity to earn big money. Come invest in your future; let's together make this world a better place by distributing the fruits of democratic process to all.

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Chapter 1.8: A Golden RTI Opportunity to Earn US Dollars

To,

The PIO,

Ministry of Home Affairs,

India

Subject: Request for information under the RTI Act

Sir,

Please provide the following information under the RTI Act:

- Residential address of Hafeez Saeed.

The above information is solicited for obtaining US Dollars 10 MN from the USA. The Rs. 10 RTI fees may be demanded from the US Government adjustable against the bounty to be received by me.

Sincerely,

Note: 10 year old kids are especially encouraged to file the above RTI application.

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Chapter 1.9: Breaking News

Breaking News: Majnu Bengali of Lal Kothi, accused of theft, moves the Trial Court to make the Finance Minister a co-accused for following anti-poor economic policies.

Breaking News: Pappu Firangi of Bihari Jhuggi, accused of criminal trespass, moves the

Trial Court to make the Urban Affairs Minister and the Lt. Governor of Delhi co-accused for not building enough houses for the poor.

Breaking News: Roomi Gloomy of Kailash Manjil, accused of obscene display on public street, moves the Trial Court to make the Minister for Women Empowerment a co-accused for not empowering the women enough to not to take up prostitution.

No more Breaking News: Samy Supari of Saffron Towers, for no good reason, moves the Supreme Court to make the Home Minister a co-accused in the 2G Case for choosing □First Come First Serve□ over □Auction□ .

Note: For those who are extremely naive, all the news mentioned above is FAKE.

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Chapter 1.10: India Is Now Less Corrupt than Singapore

The 40-year-old clerk dumped his 27-year-old wife merely two months later because she refused to wear a skirt and have sex with him but the wife returned to his side in May, agreeing to do all he wanted.

a I promised to give her S\$100 (RM247) on the first night, and S\$300 (RM740) every month after that,□ he said.

Sadly, she still failed to meet his □ skirt sex□ demand and was again chased out of the house two weeks later.

Singapore is the most corrupt country of the world. Girls marry with the promise of wearing skirts during sex, and then breach their promises! Thanks goodness, every man in India has now become Anna (*Main bhi Anna Tu bhi Anna, Ab to Sara Desh hai Anna!*). We can never have this kind of corruption in India.

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Chapter 1.11: Don't Rape Girls; Either Pay Them or Marry Them

Hearing a plea seeking a pre-arrest bail to a man, who had sex with a woman and later refused to marry her, the Delhi High Court established that getting a girl into bed on the promise of marriage and later refusing to tie the knot amounted to rape.

□If a girl surrenders herself to a boy who comes in contact with her for the first time only in connection with a proposal for her marriage and then enters into a formal ceremony of engagement□ she does it not because she loves him or wants to have pleasure with him, but because she doesn□ t want to disappoint her future husband, the High Court stated.

The Delhi High Court has hit it bang on this time. These kinds of losers should be dealt with like this only. Neither can they make enough efforts to find a loose character girlfriend nor can they earn enough to employ a prostitute. I agree there are many thinkers who have considered marriage as institutionalized prostitution, but that doesn't mean you will start having free lunches. If the guy has sex before marriage, he should either pay the girl or marry her. If the sex with a prostitute with a renege promise of payment can be termed as rape, then why not the sex with a potential bride with a renege promise of marriage be termed as rape too! It's high time we started respecting girls. Don't rape girls. Either pay them or marry them.

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Chapter 1.12: Muthalik Kahin WOH to Nahin?

Pramod Muthalik was participating in a television discussion on Valentine's Day, when a man ran towards him with an ink bottle and threw it in his face. I will find him, whichever corner he is in. I will reply in the same way, said Muthalik.

This is completely unfair towards girls. When they sent him their pink *chaddis*, he didn't offer them his saffron *langot*. Now, when some guy has played Holi with him, he wants to return the favor in kind. **Muthalik kahin WOH to nahin?**

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Chapter 1.13: In Re: Cop v. Dog

It was two men in khaki versus a woman and her dog at district's Bhagwanpura village. Head Constable Gulab Thakur and Constable Karan were in the village searching for an absconder. They got into a dispute with Buddhu Korku and his wife Rukmini. Rukmini first bit the head constable and then made her dog bite him. She then tore their uniforms. A case was registered against the couple.

What about the Dog? No case against it! I'm sure it must have also acted in territorial self-interest!

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Chapter 1.14: Thackerays Should only Warn Each Other for Humanity Sake

Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray today warned all the industries not to retrench the people

in the name of economic recession worldwide or else they will have to face severe repercussions. He lashed out at his estranged nephew, Raj, for staking claim over the reinstatement issue and questioned his childish ways, describing him as the newly born bird on the political horizon.

Bal Thackeray goes a step further and warns not only the Aviation but all industries. Now, what is Raj Thackeray gonna do? Best warn your uncle: Given he is so powerful, you will become even more powerful by warning him. This way so many less powerful people of the corporate world like Tatas, Ambanis, Birlas, etc, who are so scared of the Thackerays, will also feel safe and secured -- and the kids of the political horizon will also carry on.

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Chapter 1.15: Side Effects of US Subprime Crisis: Bail-Out Package for IT Professionals

The global recessionary trends have affected the young employees of the Indian software industry in Hyderabad in more than one-way. While on one hand it has spelt job loss fear, on the other hand, the parents of brides-to-be are no longer in search of IT grooms for their daughters.

A mother of a would-be bride said she would prefer non-IT professionals for her daughter seeing the latest trend.

□It fluctuates. Day-to-day it can change. What is happening now could be a short phase,□ said Sharda Singh, mother of a would- be bride.

A father of a would-be bride expressed his concern too saying these ups and downs are bound to take place in any economy.

□There will be some ups and downs in anybody's life like that any sector in a country or the world can also have its ups and downs,□ said Rama Rao, father of a would be bride.

Some parents said they did not want to take interest in the marriage proposals of IT professionals any more as they were too scared of recessionary trends. □ I am very afraid of its effects,□ said S Krishna, father of a would- be bride.

After bailout packages for banks, airlines, industries, etc, we need a bailout package for IT professionals. The US Sub-Prime Crisis is affecting India more than it is affecting the US.

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Chapter 1.16: Hooda Is Innovative

Maharashtra offers Tatas red carpet for Nano plant

Andhra Pradesh offers free land for Nano project

Gujarat joins race to get Nano project

Punjab to approach Tata for Nano project

Khanduri offers Tatas to bring Nano to Uttarakhand

Yeddyurappa woos Tata for housing Nano project in Kataka

Rajasthan joins bid to woo Tatas Nano project

Naveen Patnaik invites Tata to set up Nano project in Orissa

Jharkhand government criticised for not enticing Tatas enough

Madhya Pradesh invites Tata to set up Nano plant

Hooda invites Swami Ramdev to set up Yoga University

HOODA IS INNOVATIVE

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Chapter 1.17: Definition of Patriot

VHP General Secretary Prof Venkatesh Abdeo ridiculed the demand of a ban on the VHP and Bajarang Dal. Talking to mediapersons, Mr Abdeo said "the people who are demanding this ban are going and meeting the terrorists and even demanding that the ban on SIMI should be lifted." He said these people will never understand the difference between traitors and patriots.

VHP is to be blamed. They never defined a patriot in clear terms. Anyways, **I will try to define a patriot** without prejudice to the definition of a terrorist:

- 1) Those who take state machinery like police, administration, ministers, etc, into confidence before launching terror attacks are patriots.
- 2) Those who can buy media into presenting a better picture for themselves are patriots.
- 3) Those who kill openly and brutally with swords & daggers without caring about planting bombs are patriots.
- 4) Those who justify killing as mass upheaval or as any other fancy term are patriots.
- 5) Those who are democratically elected killers oops politicians are patriots.
- 6) Those who help intelligence agencies in identifying terrorists and are never identified as terrorists themselves are patriots.

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Chapter 1.18: Advice for India: Atleast Don't Get the Virus

India on Wednesday sought to downplay the controversial provisions of a bill cleared by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the India-United States nuclear agreement with a rider that will prevent the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials or technology from the Nuclear Suppliers Group countries or any other source in the event of New Delhi conducting a test.

I would not like to comment on their internal process, Foreign Secretary Shiv Shanker Menon told reporters when asked for the Indian government's reaction to the Senate Committee's clearance of a bill with a rider. We are not going to comment on what they (Congress) do internally, he said.

I must appreciate the US. They are brashly truthful about their intentions to f___ India. And, India is also brashly shameless about its pathetic status in the relationship. Pleasure, for some, can come from complete domination; but, for others, from complete submission to sadism. But, an advice for India: **At least don't get the virus.**

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Chapter 1.19: Balapur Ganesh Laddu Shouldn't Be Auctioned

The famous Balapur Ganesh Laddu fetched Rs 5.07 lakh in an auction held in the final stages of the Vinayaka Chaturdhi and Ganesh idols immersion today. The devotees believe that their families would prosper and possess abundant wealth, if they spray the laddu in their agricultural field.

I strongly condemn this practice of auctioning national treasure like Balapur Ganesh Laddu. This is the filthiest form of Capitalism. Such precious articles should be declared public property, and no one person should be allowed to garner extraordinary profits out of it. The Government should immediately confiscate this Laddu and make a billion exact replica of it with the sincere services of the modern Godmen like Ravishankar, Ramdev, Shankaracharya, Sathya Saibaba, etc. Each Indian has a right to spray this Laddu where ever he wants, whenever he wants, and become rich and prosperous.

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Chapter 1.20: Rules of Survival in Bombay oops Mumbai

Continuing their protests against the Bachchan family even after Jaya Bachchan apologised for speaking in Hindi at a function on September 6, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) activists pelted stones at the PVR theatre in Juhu in north-west Mumbai, where the premiere of Amitabh Bachchan's latest movie The Last Lear

was scheduled.

I am surprised that after living for so many years in Bombay oops Mumbai, Jaya Bachchan could make such a mistake! For the benefit of the Bachchans, there are certain other rules which they need to follow at all times for survival in Bombay oops Mumbai:

- 1) Give seat to a Marathi lady in preference to any other lady (if ever Bachchans travel in any public transport) and apply this rule intelligently in other similar situations.
- 2) Never ever in your wildest dream make fun of Shivaji.
- 3) Thackerays are the self acclaimed representatives of Bombayites oops Mumbaikars, and give them respect for this very reason, out of fear, of course.
- 4) Learn to accept that a non-Marathi is always wrong in Bombay oops Mumbai, whatever may be the dispute.
- 5) It is Mumbai, not Bombay
- 6) And, most importantly, always remember that the color of soil in Maharashtra is RED.

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Chapter 1.21: Increase Police Budget for Better Results

Arun Kumar (22) was arrested by T Nagar Police on charges of stealing 40 sovereigns of gold from his friend's house. He lost nine fingers allegedly due to torture by police. He moved Madras High Court seeking a compensation of Rs ten lakh.

This just doesn't make sense. For 40 sovereigns, nine fingers! And compensation of ten Lakhs for nine fingers! It is again the mistake of the police. They didn't do their job well. If, instead of nine, they had cut ten fingers, all the figures would have matched: 1 finger for 4 sovereigns each, and 1 Lakh for every finger. I think the TN police work on a tight budget; the TN Government should increase the budget of the police so that they can perform their duty of torturing people fully and satisfactorily, without worrying about the prospective costs. And, also the court, while awarding compensation, should take into account the annual budget for torture duty related expenses minus the hard-earned private money received by the police for inflicting torture and should accordingly award compensation.

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Chapter 1.22: Marathi Soil is RED

Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena is vying with the Raj Thackeray led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) to get political space on the issue of Marathi signboards.

While the MNS deadline for Mumbai shop owners to change their signboards from

English to Marathi has ended, the Shiv Sena has asked Brihanmumbai Municipal Committee (BMC) to enforce Marathi signboards on traders and shopkeepers.

The Thackerays are the sons of the Marathi soil, and, therefore, they want to color the English soil (Bombay) into the color of the Marathi soil (Mumbai); however, it is just unfortunate that the color of soil in Maharashtra is RED.

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Chapter 1.23: Territory Expansion by Men Is Easy, Courtesy Police

A new study has revealed that a Jamaican lizard called the Anolis engages in impressive displays of reptilian strength □ push ups, head bobs, and threatening extension of a colourful neck flap called a dewlap □ to defend its territory at dawn and dusk. While female anoles establish small territories allowing access to food and other resources, while males stake out larger territories allowing them access to several females. The dawn chorus may be a way of communicating having survived the night. If in the morning a bird doesn't hear its neighbour, or an anole doesn't see its neighbour, it may be an opportunity for the animal to expand its territory.

For men, it is so easy: They just need to earn lots of money and give a part of it to Police, to defend and to expand territory (including access to several women).

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Chapter 1.24: Mia Bibi Razi to Kya Karega (Strictly Male) Quazi

Muslim clerics have questioned the sanctity of a marriage of a Sunni couple under the Shariat law which was solomonised by a Shia women Quazi

I used to think that at least in Muslims it doesn't matter what the Quazi thinks, and that's what the law also states (Muslim marriage is an agreement, not a sacrament). But, no, it seems I was wrong: Muslim couples can marry sans a male Quazi but not in the presence of a female Quazi. Come on, at least make an exception for a **Burqa-Clad Female Quazi**.

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Chapter 1.25: Mukesh Ambani does it Again

The tree-lined Altamount Road is a favourite of India's very rich, Wealth-Bulletin said, and added that it was "catapulted into the ranks of the world's most expensive when India's wealthiest individual Mukesh Ambani unveiled plans last year to build a residential apartment block on the street at a cost of around \$1 billion".

Proud-to-be-an-Indian Mukesh Ambani has added another feather to his cap by getting Altamount Road included in the Wealth-Bulletin's world's most expensive streets in the world, courtesy the extraordinary 27-floor building, called "Antilia", to be built by Mukesh Ambani on Altamount Road, Mumbai. His patriotism has no bounds!

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Chapter 1.26: Xbox 360 | the Modi's Gujarat

The game is "Xbox 360 | the Modi's Gujarat". Modi is the champion, and Gujarat is the battle field. The first round went to the Mujahideens: Damage 50 and counting. Modi stages a come back in the second round: 21 bombs recovered and defused in Surat with one of them 20 meters away from the site where Modi was 1 hr ago; damage zero! Modi's spirits are high, and he is all set to triumph in the other rounds in Rajkot, Vadodra, Gandhi Nagar, etc. Modi is already a champion in the Xbox 2008 championship and all set for the next; **but, are the people of Gujarat ready for it because it is just not a game for them after all.**

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Chapter 1.27: The Shiv Sena's Taj Mahal

The Shiv Sena claims **Taj Mahal** as an ancient Shiva temple. Now this is some disillusionment. I have been thinking that Taj Mahal was built by Shahjahan in the fond memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. I feel pity for the sorry state of our educational system: What all nonsense is put into the innocent minds in the name of historical proofs and evidence! Is there no credibility of the divine knowledge which the Shiv Sena possesses!

We need more political parties like the Shiv Sena so that we can rightfully claim **Jama Masjid** as an ancient preaching centre of Lord Krishna; **Qutab Minar** as an ancient helipad of Shri Hanuman; **Charminar** as an ancient secret hiding place of the *pandavas* during their *banwas*; **Red Fort** as Prithvi Raj Chauhan's ancient holiday resort; and each and every neighborhood mosque as an ancient Vedic library or an ancient old-age home or an ancient Shri Hanuman *akhara* or an ancient *guli-danda* club or

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Chapter 2: Travel Locale Reviews

Chapter 2.1: Puducherry, the Mission Idli

I don't know why but I had this urge to eat the Tamil *idli* as soon as I entered Pondicherry. But, to my surprise, the small kiosks to the big restaurants, nobody was willing to serve *idlis* in lunch. But, as adamant as I am, I immediately embarked upon "Mission Idli" on the lesser known streets of Puducherry (meaning the new city), ignoring the French Boulevards, the Beach Road, the Aurbindo Ashram, and the pretty girl near the Ashram. My search took me to almost each and every nook and corner of the suburbs shown in the Puducherry tourism map, but to no avail: the *idli* remained ever elusive. However, in the process, I have become the real estate guru of Puducherry and am already advising a well-known *idli* chain pro-bono with an assurance that they will serve *idlis* in lunch across Puducherry.

Now, since I have seen so much of Puducherry, let me share some *gyan*. First and foremost, the places ending in *pet* don't have anything tummy about them; they are just names; some of them are excellent residences, yet others are not so good; my personal favorite is Lawspet, but the best value for money might be Mudaliarpet or Orleanpet; however, my first stop was Duryapet, which, in spite of being a semi-slum, was pretty clean. While discovering *pet*s, I also discovered some *uppam*s - again nothing tummy about them. Kotakuppam, a predominantly Muslim neighborhood, is affordable and clean, and, but for its Muslim tag, would have been attracting lots of real estate interest - I think there is a clear real estate opportunity lying there for the secularists. Aryinakuppam is another neighborhood I visited and found it chic and posh. But, one neighborhood which I just couldn't visit in spite of trying too hard was Nellithoppu - every time I headed there I landed up in the city bus stand with numerous Modi posters in the skyline, and each time I duped Modi by jumping onto the East Coast Road and taking a u-turn from Kotakuppam.

So, after lots of hide and seek games in the hot sun, my moped gave up and got punctured and got running only after the sun glasses became almost redundant; I scooted to the French Boulevards lest the dashing sun glasses should turn into a liability; but it was already too late: the sun had eclipsed, and the pretty girl had moved into the Aurbindo Ashram for devotion, where I was denied entry for I wasn't devoted enough (towards Aurbindo of course).

So, finally, I sauntered to the corner kiosk at Bharti Park via the Beach Road; this time the *idli* was available, but my devotion was clearly misplaced, or, may be not: the Tamil *idli* was certainly delicious.

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Chapter 2.2: Shillong, the Beauty

I visited Shillong, which is the capital of Meghalaya, in August 2014. In fact, it was a side-visit to kill time, but it was indeed time well-spent. It was a Sunday afternoon when I reached the main city centre; the striking feature of the place was exuberance of well-dressed young guys and gals; it looked some kind of a dating feast, but, all I can remember, the day was that of *Rakshabandhan*; however, in Meghalaya, unlike in Gujarat, people don't suffix names with *Bhai* and *Behan*; so, it must have been a dating feast only. At least I thought so and immediately bought a deo without realizing I have grown passed that age. Nevertheless, the beauty of Shillong is not limited to its pretty girls; the place itself is pretty-pretty.

The day being Sunday, all tourist attractions were closed, and I didn't have time and energy to visit the off-city places; so, I just started wandering in the city on-foot and soon realized it was a decision well made. On the way, I also ended up meeting some tech-savvy, young *Bengali* students, who had been wandering with the help of GPS for more than a week then; so, they became my natural companions. In any case, I have a liking for the Tech-Savvy Youth. Our mutual goal was to reach the Golf Course from the Raj Bhavan, which was some 4-5 KMs distance. To be very frank, after some time, I felt out of place with them: first, they were taller than me; secondly, they were not sharing their GPS with me; thirdly, they were speaking an alien language; and fourthly, I think, they were also making fun of me in their alien language. Nevertheless, I persisted and tried ignoring them for the beauty of the place; and, *voila*, it worked.

Shillong is an extremely beautiful place. The distances are small and scenic; therefore, most people traverse them walking. I didn't intrude into the neighborhoods, but, from a distance, the houses looked cozy and cute, well-knit into the whole with an identity; and, the big houses, like those of the Chief Justice and the Chief Secretary, were alluring. The pathways were decorated with plantation, and the litter was conspicuous by its absence. The Golf Course is at a depression to the Raj Bhavan, so most of the distance traversed was downhill, and therefore, the view was clear and penetrative, giving an impression of dominance over the landscape; and thus the feeling was king-size. Many a times I just felt like jumping and roaring into the slopes like a tiger, but the GPS brought back sanity. However, as soon as I reached the Golf Course, I did run a lap but more elegantly like a stud. By then I had obviously forgotten about the deo, but, I think, the elegant run did impress some virgin mares.

Finally, after some running and sauntering on the Golf Course and some chit-chat on Aurobindo, we returned to the city centre. This time in a Taxi. I exchanged pleasantries and moved on. Movement is the key; the pretty halts are sexy, but the eagerness to run together brings people/things/places close, with or without Deos.

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Chapter 2.3: Auroville

(As I wrote in June-July 2014)

I am here in Auroville for vacation when the Aurovillians are vacationing elsewhere, so I am trying to make friends with dogs, cats and cows. No luck with the dogs till now though the cats seem to have got attracted with my looks, but the cow milk is for kids and, anyways, I don't like milk. And this is actually the real challenge in Auroville, for the man here has ingrained politeness. However, the most intriguing thing is the diffusion of politeness even among the local Tamilians. But, that doesn't satisfy my cynical self. I know I am doing injustice to this place by writing below what I am first because I have been here only for two days, so it's premature, and secondly it is also lopsided and speculative.

I have some serious doubts about the feasibility of this experiment. The stated purpose of Auroville is to establish statuses on the basis of knowledge and self-worth of a person, not his material possessions, acquired and inherited. But, I already have inklings that an average Aurovillian is money minded. As far as I have understood, an average Aurovillian here is engaged in a small business or in an executive/administrative/knowledge job. Though it is a premature observation, but, I think, in general, the foreigners are the managers/entrepreneurs, and the Tamilians are the workers. There definitely exists an elite class, which is controlling the decision making: I think there are big entrepreneurs, community leaders and governors, who work in tandem and make decisions. The role of the big entrepreneurs seems to be to fund subsidies, which must be giving them power, but let me clarify that the big entrepreneur here is no bigger than a small five star restaurant owner or a small factory/workshop owner, so the local community which is sometimes ludicrously small comprising just two-three people must be having a substantial say in the matters concerning them. However, I have felt that, in spite of a maintenance allowance, an average Aurovillian wants to earn more, which could be either to enter the elite club (which means the people are not satisfied with their statuses and the work *per se* and, still worse, they think that money can buy them status) or to fund their finances (which means those who can't fund their finances are looked down upon by themselves or by the fellow Aurovillians; in either case, it reflects a failure); though it is Utopian but one possibility is also that the Aurovillians take pride in contributing to the community, and the best an average Aurovillian understands contribution is through financial contribution; however, my cynical self is failing to accept this possibility. Whatever, one thing is for sure that there are existing statuses which are not purely knowledge based, which manifests best in the houses occupied by the Aurovillians: some people have amazingly magnificent houses, yet others have none. They are trying to address this issue, I would say, insensitively: they are building apartments with shared toilets. I don't know who came up with this brilliant idea, but one thing is for sure that Auroville needs to reserve some space for construction of a mental asylum very soon; come on, community living is about sharing ideas not underwear. Any society believing in non-elitism and non-materialism would first and foremost remove the first sign of elitism, which is irrational and obscene occupancy of scarce resources especially land, which in the case of Auroville should mean the complete redistribution of land.

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