

Aaj ka Sartaj: Pyaj Maharaj

AKHIL CHOPRA

THE only thing on earth defying gravity is the price of onions. They have skyrocketed.

The result: not only does peeling of onions brings tears to your eyes, but also while buying.

Onions have risen in status. It is now a luxury for few. Or more specifically, it has become a commodity for the rich and out of reach for others.

Everybody seems to complain about the price rise of onions, ignoring its positive and brighter side. The good thing that has happened is that goodwill, harmony and interaction amongst neighbours has increased.

The reason: borrowing of onions.

In my neighbourhood, I overheard two ladies conversing about onions ... (The names are changed protect my skin)

Dunriben: You know, today I saw onions in the market.

Pyajben: Oh really (surprised)!!! How do they look? I haven't seen them for days.

Dunriben: They were so

bright and vibrant, although red with anger.

Pyajben: So, did you buy any of them?

Dunriben: No, I didn't. They were so costly, I 'bye-bye' them.

Pyajben: I know, I know. But what are you going to do without onions?

Dunriben: We have started believing in Jainism.

Pyajben: So, at last you have started believing in Jainism?

Dunriben: Not exactly. But we have started believing that onions are not for us.

It is said that a man (woman also) should change with time, before time changes him. If there is onion crisis, one should make the best out of it, by not eating it.

There are also novel applications of onions especially for lovers.

Instead of gifting a girl with a rose, try onion or onions and chances are that not only the girl would like it, but you will also please the girl's mother. Your best bet to win the girl's hand!

Another recommendation

comes from none other than Jaspal Bhatti. A suggestion to the corporate world that would undoubtedly have many takers. This Diwali, instead of giving sweets in bonus to the employees, onions be given as surprises in mithai boxes. It will strengthen the loyalty of employee.

Again there is a personal appeal to all businessmen that instead of offering goods on exchange schemes or interest(vyaj)-free loans, if they can give 'pyaj free' with their products, it would be boom time for them.

It's now time to mourn a little, to shed some tears and pay homage to all those damaged and destroyed onions, with a song...

*Chal, aise gagan ke taale
Jaha gum bhi na ho,
aasu bhi na ho
Jaha pyaj hi pyaj ooge,
ek aise gagan ke taale*

Tailpiece:

On asking a housewife,

Pyaj kharidte time kaisa lagta hai?

Kuch-kuch hota hai, she replied.



AKHIL CHOPRA

A question of answers

WE Indians make a nation of inquisitive people, so much so, that our curiosity becomes an intrusion of other people's privacy and a source of utter nuisance. *Kyan jao cho?* More so, *kem jao cho?* Still further, *kyare avsho?* And the FAQ: *Shun che?* are a few of the silliest and most uninvited questions that we need to answer willy nilly.

Take a look:

SITUATION 1: You are going for a morning walk and your neighbour sees you and asks: "Going for a morning walk?" when he can very well see that it's morning, you are in shorts and sports shoes. It can best be answered by saying any/all of the following:

No, I'm going to measure the length of the road.

No, I'm going for a walk which I started last night.

No, I'm going out to check whether the sun has risen.

No, I'm a sleep walker (somniaambulist) and now I'm in sleep.

No, I'm going to my office in half pants as it is Saturday i.e. half day.

SITUATION 2: Say someone died and you're among those who're taking the dead body to the crematorium. While on the way, your neighbour asks. "Are they carrying the dead body?"

Don't get angry, just use your wit:

No, he isn't dead yet. We are taking him for a ride.

No, but he would die if he hears your silly questions.

No, they are insurance people checking whether he is really dead or not.

No, they all are going for a mourning walk.

No, they are shooting for a dead scene.

SITUATION 3: Some person

in your relation is getting married. Out of courtesy,

you invite your neighbour, who on seeing the *saat-pheres*, asks you, "Are they getting married?"

Hold your patience.

No, they're playing *daud-pakad*.

No, they're from fire brigade trying to put off the fire.

No, they are playing *chor-sipahi* in slow motion.

SITUATION 4: Enough is enough. Now suppose you are reading this article and your neighbour again intrudes and asks: "Are you reading the newspaper?" You say

No, I'm reading a novel that's a bit bigger in size.

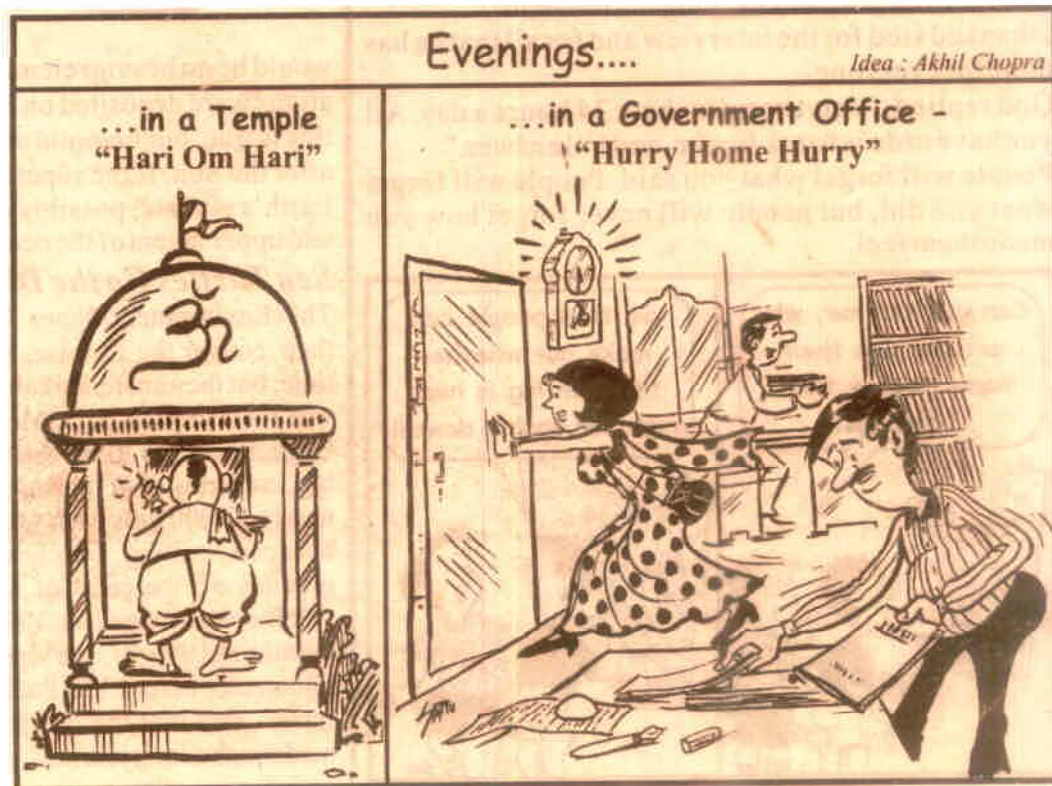
No, I'm just looking at the photographs as I'm illiterate.

No, I'm wondering why today's newspaper didn't carry my name and photo.

No, I was not reading the newspaper, only hiding myself from you.



THE SCHOOL POST



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Walk on the Y-side of life

Channel Y



The Indian EXPRESS

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Making **the** most
of **it**



Either
HE is going to school
Or
HE is leaving from
school
The clue to the answer
lies in the speed with
which HE is running

—by Akhil Chopra



The Indian EXPRESS

Channel Y

Q & A

ON CHILDREN

Q. Who is an ideal child?

A. One who has obeying parents.

Q. When is a child not a child?

A. When he starts feeling naked in half-pants.

Q. Why are children naughtier these days?

A. Heredity Problem.

Q. Why do children these days, play so much?

A. So that parents can do their children's homework with complete piece of mind.

Q. How does a modern day kid spend his vacations?

A. In the following manner:

1. Observing the marvel of nature, animals, and stars — on Discovery Channel
2. Playing games that help him exercise his muscles — with a video game
3. Helping his mother in doing day to day work — by keeping out of home, all the time.
4. Learning new things — like learning how to drive a bike at the age of 16.

ON COMPUTERS

Q. Why did the Y2K problem occur?

A. BOTP WWTSS ATAT (Because Of Those People Who Wanted To Save Space And Therefore Abbreviated Things).

Q. What is this new net called Internet?

A. A very B I G net, even bigger than the fishermen's net, in which once trapped(read addicted), their lies little scope for escape.

Q. Why are Politicians like Computers?

A. B'coz of following reasons:

1. Computers are very costly
Politicians too are very costly. Their maintenance expenses difficult to maintain. Moreover they cost us an election.
2. Computers don't have intelligence of their own. Because it is the man who made the computer and the computer that made man! Excepting a few, politicians work on artificial intelligence!
3. Life is possible without a computer.
Need I say more!!!

— Akhil Chopra