

Think about it

Read not to contradict and confute, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider.

- Sir Francis Bacon



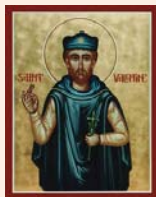
Dhoni



S. Ramadorarai, TCS



Olympic mascots of Torino 2006 Neve and Gliz



St. Valentine

India's Catch 22

Anyone who has watched Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf pad up to deflect Indian anger over cross-border terrorism, or observed him spin a fine delivery on the imperative of Indo-Pak peace, can have no doubt about it. Here is a crafty strategist of cricket diplomacy. And cricket, let's not forget, is about as big as it gets here on the subcontinent.

So watch the General charm offensive. After days of Inzy making a fool of himself, complaining about being wrongly given out at Peshawar and blaming India for the dismissal, there comes Musharraf in Islamabad with his little pat on the back for the Indian team, his praise for Dravid, and in awe of Mahendra Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh, his subtle put-down of the Pakistan captain for his unsportsmanlike winging. A better way to attempt a direct assault on a billion Indian hearts would be hard to device. This is not the first time that the General has displayed panache for riding the wave of public enthusiasm that inevitably accompanies the game. Remember how he practically invited himself over to watch the Delhi ODI last April? There he was in Delhi, before our MEA could even find the required words to respond, pumping hands and explaining the finer points of the game to Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Kotla. He went off in a cloud of glory, after bringing a "message of peace from Pakistan", and speaking soft words about soft borders.

No serious political observer will read too much into the general's words and stances, especially since the reality of terrorist violence invariably comes as a reality check before too long. Besides, it is easier for Musharraf to strike the grand gesture – than for someone like Manmohan Singh. Note how Singh had to politely decline the general's invitation to watch a match in the current cricket series in Pakistan – if it was not in the script, it was a clear no-no. The point, however, is that there is always scope in diplomacy, even in an engagement as fraught as that between India and Pakistan, for some tweaking of the script. A spontaneous gesture of affability or generosity goes a long way in these telegenic times.

SOCIETAL AWARENESS

Smile Skills

- Smile is the main ingredient of a person's high performance in life, according to scientist President A P J Abdul Kalam who formulated a mathematical equation for this.
- Smile generates enthusiasm and enthusiasm generates creativity and creativity leads to high performance - Kalam opines his view to the journalists on board the flight from Manila to Seoul on the last leg of his three-nation visit.
- He had sent out a similar message at a gathering of students at the Philippines Science High School in Manila during his visit.

True Sporting Spirit: India's All-Sports Satellite Radio

- World Space Satellite Radio today joined hands with global content providers including BBC World Service, TWI and Radio Mid-Day to deliver the country's first all-sports satellite radio channel Play.
- Play will feature comprehensive cricket coverage while games like formula one racing, tennis, rugby, football, hockey and golf would also get their share of the publicity.
- Programming would also include news, live call-in shows with sports experts, top-of-the-hour reports and celebrity appearances.
- Aimed at providing a local perspective and hoping for a global reach at the same time, Play debuts on World Space and the content providers were selected based on their collective abilities to deliver the right mix of original and archival programming.

A Mind-Blowing Worm

- A computer virus called 'blackworm' became activated and had the potential to destroy data such as Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point presentations.
- Blackworm, also called 'Kama Sutra' because of its sexual content, was discovered on January 17 this year and spreads through emails and attachments.

- It had a devastating impact because it will attack files that people use most commonly, including word documents, Microsoft excel, Microsoft office and PDF files.

A Good Punch : German Peace Prize for Muhammad Ali

- Boxing legend Muhammad Ali received the prestigious German peace prize for his contribution to the U.S. civil rights movement and his work for the United Nations.
- The 63-year-old former heavyweight champion received the Otto Hahn peace medal from Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit. Ali, who has Parkinson's disease, did not speak, but struck boxing poses for the audience at a gala reception in a downtown hotel.
- He is a man who dedicated himself to Peace.
- Muhammad's life in review has been so wonderful, so magnificent and so inspiring." The German U.N. Society, which awarded the prize, cited Ali's 'lifelong engagement for the American civil rights movement and the global cultural emancipation of blacks, as well as his work as a U.N. ambassador for peace'.
- The award is presented every two years; previous recipients include former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal.

**Ability is what
you're capable of doing.
Motivation determines
what you do.
Attitude determines
how well you do it.**

- Lou Holtz

INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Truly Empowered

- TATA Consultancy Services Ltd has been involved in automating the pilot phase of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- The pilot project of the scheme, which was launched recently, will run for two months in 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- The scheme is to be implemented in 200 districts across the country to ensure a minimum number of working days for the rural unemployed.
- The next step, said S. Ramadorai, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, TCS, should be to link the job seekers to a training and education system by providing them vocational education so that they can get employment on a regular basis.
- In such a scheme, make it more visible, ensure that job seekers get employment within 15 days of enrolling themselves and within 5 km from where they live, and the beneficiaries get the exact amount under the scheme.
- In an interaction here, Ramadorai said a project of such magnitude had scope for leakages. These could be in drawing up fraudulent schemes, fraudulent muster, inflated schemes, ghost workers and distribution of money to the beneficiaries through any number of manual processes.
- These would be eliminated through automation. Automation, he said, ensured greater transparency of schemes approved as well as progress achieved, complete reconciliation of work and wages, reduced data capture efforts and consequently, lower expenditure on administration costs, and a data warehouse of all those beneficiaries under the scheme.
- TCS had studied the rural employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra, which has been in vogue for a little over three decades, and came up with a model on how the present scheme could be automated.
- There were a lot of manual processes, which resulted in leakages, especially of the kind where the beneficiaries did not get the exact amount that was due to them.
- Automation also ensures better monitoring of the schemes on the ground. TCS had interacted with field level Government officials, ministers in the Andhra Pradesh Government and those at the Union Rural Development Ministry before coming out with an automation package.
- TCS' engineers would be involved in implementing the scheme at the field level, for which the company had developed software.
- It is up to the Centre to decide on what it wants to do when the scheme is extended to cover 200 districts throughout the country.

India's First Banking Archive: SBI

- A unique first of its kind archive showcasing the 200-year-old history and contribution of State Bank of India (SBI) is coming up in Kolkata, its birthplace, by April opening a new chapter.
- Being set up in a 7,000 sqft area within SBI's regional headquarters in Downtown eastern metropolis, the Archive following its formal inauguration.
- Within the next three months would display a number of invaluable documents of the Bank.
- The original loan documents of Prince Dwarakanath Tagore and Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar of Rs 6200 in 1873 besides some original legal Banking Tenders, old currency notes and very old cheque books used by eminent personalities like Rabindranath Tagore, JRD Tata will be on display.
- A number of unpublished letters would also find important place in the archive.

Glow Flow : Roboglo

- A US company has introduced a new generation flashlight that never needs new batteries or new bulbs but provides up to one hour of light if you rotate its handle for one minute.
- RotoPower Products has developed RotoGlo, which runs one hour for each minute that the user turns its retractable crank, reported the online edition of the Christian Science Monitor.
- It's multitasking sibling RotoRadio delivers clear audio even without antenna extension, though the signal fades with motion.
- Its user gets a half hour of both light and sound per minute of cranking.
- In each model, a cluster of three small LED lights - rated for more than 10,000 hours of use - put out a reasonably strong beam. The radio version, with a larger conical mirror, is the brighter of the two.
- The company says RotoCharger - a crank-powered power source for charging digital cameras, cellphones, and MP3 players - is coming soon. South African firm Freeplay has long sold a radio powered by a carbon-steel spring. Hand-powered cellphone chargers have been emerging.

India's Governing Glory - MCA - 21

- THE Ministry of Company Affairs is rolling out its pilot e-governance initiative MCA-21 on February 18 at Coimbatore and in Jaipur on 27.
- It is the first flagship project of the Government to provide a comprehensive set of services to the stakeholders through an e-governance mode.
- Through this initiative, a businessman would be able to register a company online within a few days, as against months taken now.
- It provided for an implementation period of 60 weeks and, thereafter, an operation period of six years.
- The e-filing facility includes incorporation of new companies, filing annual and other statutory returns, registration and verification of charges and applying for various approvals/clearances.
- 'Besides, inspection of company documents, request for certified copies and reporting investor grievances can be carried out through the new MCA portal'.
- The Ministry has launched a new portal www.mca.gov.in and all details have been placed on this Web site to assist the stakeholders.
- To ensure smooth implementation of the project and protect gullible investors, the Ministry has asked all the existing and future directors on boards of companies to immediately apply for allotment of Director Identification Number (DIN).
- The professionals and company directors, who are required to sign the documents to be filled under the Companies Act, have been asked to procure Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs).
- These two requirements (DIN and DSC) are essential pre-requisites for e-filing. It would also help investors to easily get information on companies and find out which directors were on board of how many companies.

SEBI - An All Time High

- Three Indians are among 40 recipients of Securities and Investment Institute awards, organised by the London Stock Exchange members for those in the investment industry.
- Aamod Gokhale, a Systems and Business Development Manager for Cognizant Technology Solutions, Pune, beat over 400 candidates worldwide to receive the best score in his certificate in Investment Management paper.
- Mandeep Rai, Trainee Private Banker, Coutts Group, London, excelled in her Investment Advice Certificate 3 competition, outshining 300 others.

- Nilay Singh won the accolade for topping the contestants in Tower Hamlets College London in Introduction to Investment course.
- The Securities and Investment Institute was formed in 1992 by members of the London Stock Exchange and it is now the pre-eminent professional body for those who work in the securities and investment industry in the UK.

India's First 'Green' IT park

- Phoenix Software Limited is setting up India's first LEED-certified Green IT infrastructure project in Kolkata. The IT park, 'Technopolis', would be the first Leadership, Energy, Environment and Design (LEED) certified project in the country, developed as per the guidelines of the US green building council.
- PSL Director Rahul Saraf said the project, which would have a 4,25,000 sq ft of workspace, would come up at salt lake by June 2006. Technopolis.
- It would also be the first IT park project in the country to earn carbon credit under the Kyoto protocol as a clean development mechanism project.
- The project is designed to reduce the energy bills by over 30 per cent compared to conventional IT parks, thus, will enable energy savings amounting to 87.50 lakh units of power per annum.
- Consequently, total carbon emission would be reduced by 7,500 tonnes per annum and the total potential savings through energy bills, water management as also carbon trading could be around Rs 50 crore over the next 10 years.

**To acquire knowledge,
one must study;
but to acquire wisdom,
one must observe.**

- Marilynvos Savant

SPORTS AND GAMES

Checkmat Corus : Knight Anand

- Viswanathan Anand won the Corus International Chess tournament here for a record fifth time ahead of his closest rival world champion Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria. Anand emerged the winner by virtue of his superior tie-break score following a splendid victory over Boris Gelfand of Israel in the 13th and final round. After Topalov was held to a draw by defending champion Peter Leko of Hungary, Anand was under pressure to score a victory over Gelfand and the Indian ace did it in style for his record fifth triumph here on Sunday.
- Anand has now surpassed three other four-time champions, Maxeuwe of Holland, who won it in 1940, 1942, 1952 and 1958; Hungary's Lajos Portisch, who was a winner here in 1965, 1972, 1975 and 1978 and Switzerland's Victor Korchnoi, who annexed the crown in 1968, 1971, 1984 and 1987.
- Apart from the highly satisfying victory, Anand had another reason to cheer as he will now cross the magical 2800 ELO barrier for the first time in his career.
- The Indian ace stands to gain more than 10 ELO rating points from this tournament which will add to his present rating of 2792. After Garry Kasparov, Vladimir Kramnik and Topalov, Anand will be the fourth player in the history of the game to achieve this peak.
- The Chennai player did everything right in the event apart from an utterly forgettable loss against old rival Gata Kamsky of United States, earlier in the tournament. Overall, Anand won six games, lost one, and drew the remaining six.

The Queen of Tennis: Kim Clijsters

- Clijsters of Belgium is the new WTA no.1 replacing Lindsay Davenport after reaching the semi-finals of the Australian Open in Melbourne.
- Australian open winner Amelie Mauresmo of France is close behind Clijsters in second place with Davenport on third.
- Serena Williams' early exit in Melbourne saw her crash down the rankings to the 39th place while on the way back up them
- Former No.1 Martina Hingis is at 117th after her successful return to action in Australia.

Love All : The Top Ten

- 1. Kim Clijsters (Belgium) 3478 points 2. Amilie Mauresmo (France) 3377 3. Lindsay davenport (USA) 3013 4. Maria Sharapova (Russia) 2780 5. Justine Henin-Hardenne (Belgium) 2578 6. Mary Pierce (France) 2430 7. Nadia Petrova (Russia) 2014 8. Patty Schnyder (Switzerland) 1900 9. Elen Dementieva (Russia) 1683 10. Venus Williams (USA) 1630

The 2006 Winter Olympics: Turin, Italy

- The XX Olympic Winter Games are currently being held in Turin, Italy.
- The Games began on February 10, 2006 and will last until February 26, 2006. The official logo displays the name "Torino", the Italian name of the city called "Turin" in English (and in the local Piedmontese).
- The futuristic font used in the logo is Neuropol. The Olympic mascots of Torino 2006 are Neve ("snow" in Italian), a female snowball, and Gliz, a male ice cube.
- The motto of the XX Olympic Winter Games is 'Passion lives here'.
- The opening ceremony for these Winter Olympic Games is the last one to be held outdoors until the 2014 Winter Olympics, because the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2010 Winter Olympics will be held indoors.

Ice Slides

- 84 medals will be given over a period of 17 days.
- 2,600 athletes and 2,500 officials from 82 National Olympic Committees will be housed in 3 Olympic Villages: Torino, Bardonecchia and Sestriere.
- Seven sports will be presented: Biathlon, Bobsleigh, Curling, Ice Hockey, Luge, Skating, Skiing.
- Eight competition sites: Bardonecchia, Pinerolo, Pragelato, Cesana-Pariol, Cesana-San Sicario, Sauze d'Oulx, Sestriere, Torino, joined by 2 training centres at: Claviere and Torre Pellice
- 650 judges and referees will participate in the Games.
- 10,000 journalists and media operators are expected to cover the Games

NEWS IN NUTSHELL

- Steve Fossett has broken the world record for the longest uninterrupted flight in aviation history.
- The \$3bn Fab City project, being promoted by SemIndia, near Hyderabad will manufacture semiconductors used in computers, mobile handsets and several other digital devices, is the first of its kind in India.
- On the occasion of the 2550th anniversary of 'Mahaparinirvana' of Lord Buddha, Dalai Lama inaugurated a three-day International Conference on heritage of India at Nalanda in Bihar.
- President APJ Abdul Kalam has created history by becoming India's first President of a country to undertake an undersea sortie.
- India's Shiva Keshvan finished 25th in the men's singles Luge event at the XX Winter Olympics in Turin.
- Stephen King's latest book release is 'Cell'.
- MICROSOFT India has rolled out 'Navision 4.0,' a business solution for small and medium enterprises, which aims to leverage business information across a company.
- Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy activist has been named winner of the Olof Palme prize.
- Prof Roddam Narasimha, Member- Space Commission has been selected for the 2004 Aryabhata Award recently.
- 'Times Now', a 24 hours news channel from Times group and Reuters service, was launched by R World.
- Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw received has received the 'technology change agent award' at the 'Wharton-Infosys business transformation awards (WIBTA) 2006, Asia Pacific.
- Bhutanese queen Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk, was on a two-week private visit to India; doing what gives her maximum happiness - caring for poor children.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is soon issuing Rs. 50 denomination notes with the picture of Mahatma Gandhi and inset letter 'R' in both numbering panels, bearing the signature of Dr Y V Reddy, Governor.
- TEAMLEASE Services Ltd., plans to supply blue-collar employees such as factory workers in India.
- Amelie Mauresmo won the 2006 Gaz de France title.
- A Leadership book '21 leadership lessons, through ancient wisdom.' was compiled by Murali K. Reddy, Managing Director of Green Park Group of Hotels, and Dr K. Seshaiyah, Professor of Management.
- The new Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) is Prof Sukhdeo Thorat.
- Japan's Toshiba Corp. made a deal for Westinghouse, the U.S. power plant arm of British Nuclear Fuels.

SPECIAL NEWS

Cartoon Network : The Muhammad Row

- Cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad published in several European newspapers have caused outrage among some Muslims. Here is an extract of The BBC News website which looks at the key questions behind the row.
- **How did the row develop?**
- The cartoons were first published in September 2005 by Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten. They were later republished in Austria in January, and then at the beginning of February in a number of European newspapers in France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Diplomatic protests by governments of Islamic countries started in October 2005, escalating to the closure of embassies. Boycotts of Danish products and protests across the Islamic world built up in late January and early February. In the Palestinian territories, armed groups have made direct threats against citizens of the countries in which the cartoons were published. There have also been death threats against the artists. On 2 February, Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen appeared on Arabic TV to apologize for offence caused by the cartoons, but he also defended freedom of expression. There have since been angry and sometimes violent protests across the Islamic world, and in Britain and France.
- **What do Muslims say about the cartoons?**
- Many Muslims say that the cartoons - one of which shows Muhammad wearing a bomb-shaped turban - are extremely and deliberately offensive, expressing a growing European hostility towards and fear of Muslims. The portrayal of the Prophet Muhammad and Muslims in general as terrorists is seen as particularly offensive. Some Muslims see the cartoons as an attack on their faith and culture designed to sow hatred. Islamic tradition explicitly prohibits images of Allah, Muhammad and all the major figures of the Christian and Jewish traditions.
- **Has Muslim reaction to the cartoons been uniform?**
- Not at all - some Muslims have accused protesters of overreacting. A weekly newspaper in Jordan reprinted some of the cartoons and urged Muslims to "be reasonable". Websites produced by and for Muslims

have shown the cartoons or linked to them. One liberal website said Muslims were making a mountain out of a molehill. Some Muslims, mainly in Europe, have supported the re-publication of the images so that individual Muslims can make their own minds up and welcomed the debate on the issues that that cartoons have raised. It has also been pointed out that cartoons in the Arab and Islamic press "demonising" Jews and Israelis are common.

- **Why did the Danish newspaper publish the cartoons?**
- The Danish newspaper that originally published the cartoons commissioned them after the author of a book about Islam said he was unable to find a single person willing to provide images of the Prophet. The newspaper's culture editor, Fleming Rose, says he did not ask the illustrators to draw satirical caricatures of Muhammad. He asked them to draw the Prophet as they saw him. Rose has insisted that there is a long Danish tradition of biting satire with no taboos, and that Muhammad and Islam are being treated no differently to other religions. He also argues that the images have raised the profile in Denmark of a debate on integration of religious minorities. The newspaper editors who have republished the cartoons say they are defending the right to free speech and acting in solidarity with the Danish newspaper, Jyllands-Posten.
- **What are the issues raised by the cartoons?**
- In many European countries there is a strong sense of secular values being under fire from conservative Islamic traditions among immigrant communities. Many commentators see the cartoons as a response to this. There are also issues of integration - how much should the host society compromise to accommodate immigrant populations, and how much should immigrants integrate into the society they are making home. Some commentators have defended the cartoons, saying they address fault lines in changing European societies that need to be discussed more openly.
- **Has anything like this happened before?**
- Culture clashes of this kind are not new. In 1989 Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy in his book *The Satanic Verses*. This may be closest comparison to the current situation. It raised many of the same issues - sensitivity of host cultures to religious sensibilities, integration of immigrants, religious intolerance and freedom of speech. It took many years for the controversy over Rushdie's novel to fade away, and for the author to emerge from hiding.

ENTERTAINMENT

The 2006 Oscarians

- Nominations for the 78th Annual Academy Awards were announced on Tuesday, January 31 by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences President Sid Ganis and Oscar-winner Mira Sorvino.
- **Performance by an actor in a leading role** Philip Seymour Hoffman in Capote (UA/Sony Pictures Classics) Terrence Howard in Hustle & Flow (Paramount Classics, MTV Films and New Deal Entertainment) Heath Ledger in Brokeback Mountain (Focus Features) Joaquin Phoenix in Walk the Line (20th Century Fox) David Strathairn in Good Night and Good Luck (Warner Independent Pictures)
- **Performance by an actor in a supporting role:** George Clooney in “Syriana” (Warner Bros.) Matt Dillon in “Crash” (Lions Gate) Paul Giamatti in “Cinderella Man” (Universal and Miramax) Jake Gyllenhaal in “Brokeback Mountain” (Focus Features) William Hurt in “A History of Violence” (New Line)
- **Performance by an actress in a leading role:** Judi Dench in Henderson Presents (The Weinstein Company) Felicity Huffman in Transamerica (The Weinstein Company and IFC Films) Keira Knightley in Pride and Prejudice (Focus Features) Charlize Theron in North Country (Warner Bros.) Reese Witherspoon in Walk the Line (20th Century Fox)
- **Performance by an actress in a supporting role:** Amy Adams in Junebug (Sony Pictures Classics) Catherine Keener in Capote (UA/Sony Pictures Classics) Frances McDormand in North Country (Warner Bros.) Rachel Weisz in The Constant Gardner (Focus Features) Michelle Williams in Brokeback Mountain (Focus Features)
- **Best Animated Feature Film of the Year:** Howl’s Moving Castle (Buena Vista) Hayao Miyazaki Tim Burton’s Corpse Bride (Warner Bros.)
Tim Burton and Mike Johnson Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit (DreamWorks Animation SKG) Nick Park and Steve Box Achievement in Art direction Good Night, and Good Luck (Warner Independent Pictures) Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Warner Bros.) King Kong (Universal) Memoirs of a Geisha (Sony Picture Release) Pride & Prejudice (Focus Features)
- **Achievement in Cinematography:** Batman Begins — Wally Pfister Brokeback Mountain —Rodrigo Prieto Good Night, and Good Luck — Robert Elswit Memoirs of a Geisha (Sony Pictures Releasing)Dion Beebe The New World (New Line)Emmanuel Lubezki.
- **Achievement in Directing:** Brokeback Mountain – Ang Lee Capote – Bennett Miller Crash – Paul Haggis Good Night, and Good Luck – George Clooney Munich – Steven Spielberg.

STUDENT'S VOICE

Topics for Debate

- Should IIM's go Global?
- Don't' Rock the boat: Clemenceau issue - Are protests justified?
- Remix of Music: Is it Melodious?

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