**EDITOR’S SPEAK**

**Democracy First!**

The last fifteen days have been a tumultuous journey for the average Indian. He has seen two deaths take place before him... First is the death of confidence of the people in the government that they had elected, and second is the death of humanity.

Much ado has been made about Prime Minister Manmohan Singh winning the vote of confidence in Parliament and enjoying his last six months in power. Though Mr. Singh’s win has helped overcome the crisis like situation in the country, the win surely has not been clean. It was indeed tragic to watch three BJP MPs waving wads of Rs. 1000 notes in the well of the House, alleging horse trading. I am not sure what impression it has left on millions of people in India and overseas. Going by the media and public uproar, it seems that the government has won the vote of confidence but has lost its credibility. It’s uncertain whether or not the common man might rue about the tainted victory, but it definitely has its implications on Indian politics.

As always, the vote of confidence motion in the parliament was immediately followed by a blame game. The government tried to argue that BJP had lowered the prestige of the House, and that the event was stage managed to tarnish the image of the government. In the midst of all this, the one thing that died was the trust that the common man had placed in the ‘democratic’ form of government.

While all this drama was happening in the parliament, the terrorist groups in the country seem to have made the most of the political uncertainty. The struck once again with renewed vigour in Ahmedabad and Bangalore, unleashing a wave of terror in the country. Fortunately, the security forces managed to foil similar attacks in Surat, Tamil Nadu and Kozhikode. It is obvious that members in the family engage into a bitter fight, it is the outsider who benefits the most? Elementary! Mr. Singh.

In such a precarious situation, it is high time the government and the opposition parties work in unison to find a plausible solution to combat the menace of terrorism. It is the country, and the life of countrymen that is at stake. It is necessary that political parties get their act together before terrorism wipes out the very base of democracy. If ever the terrorists manage to do so, then what game of power politics will our leaders play? So leaders, please save you jobs!

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**Tale of Bandra**

One often walks past the old temples, mosques and churches sprinkled generously across Bandra. But have you ever wondered how all these magnificent edifices came into being? How did the word Bandra come into being? Or that Bandra was the site of violent skirmishes between the valiant Marathas and the Portuguese as well as the British.

**‘Bandra’—What does the word mean?**

- The origin of Bandra is highly dubious. It is a belief that this word is the modified form of the word Bandar. Bandar in Persian means port.
- Another side says that it was actually Bandar-gah: meaning port in Persian.
- Apart from this Bandra is historically referred to as Bandora as seen in Maratha documents, gravestone writings at St. Andrew’s Church and in the writings of Sir Montstuart Elphinstone.

**During the 19th century**

- Bandra remained a village with plantations of rice and vegetables in the low-lying areas of the island until getting connected to Mahim by a causeway in 1845.
- Although many bungalows were built in the boom years of the 1860s and 70s, the high end Pali Hill area, now inhabited by members of the film community, saw the first constructions only in the 1880s.
- The west-side, called ‘Bandra (West)’, had evolved into one of the more fashionable suburbs by the middle of the 20th century. However, the East soon followed its more popular sibling, & in the mid-to-late 90s emerged as a predominately commercial zone, consisting of the Bandra-Kurla Commercial Complex.

**Do you know??**

- One of the largest Catholic population in Mumbai lives in Bandra. It is famous for its churches, especially Mount Mary’s basilica.
- Bandra is also known as the ‘Queen of the suburbs in Mumbai’.

Over the years, Bandra has been labeled as “Restaurant Suburb of Mumbai”. When it comes to restaurants Bandra stands taller than any other place i.e. because maximum number of restaurants open and close here.

Bandra (East) is crowned as the capital of Bombay suburban district. What more? The most prominent office is the suburban collector’s office situated here.

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