

12TH FAIL

SHOOTING SCRIPT

Property of
Vinod Chopra Films

7oct22 1:11am

1. EXT. CHAMBAL/VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY.

TITLE CARD - 1997

Chambal River.

VOICEOVER

Yeh hai Chambal... wahi, dakuon wala.

Camera pans to reveal a village -

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Aur yeh hai wahan ka ek chhota sa
gaon... Bilgaon.*

Camera floats down to reveal a boy of 19 sitting on the roof
of his house.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Aur yeh jo chhat pe baitha hai, yeh
hai Manoj. Jald hi yeh decide karne
wale hai ki "Main India ka sabse
mushkil exam pass karke IPS banunga.
Desh ko sudharunga!"*

(a beat)

Aur lakshan dekhiye!

MANOJ is bent over a book, writing and folding cheat-sheets.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Bhaisaab parchiyaan bana rahe hain.
Taaki baarvi mein pass ho jayein...
cheating karke.*

In the courtyard below, DADI is sitting on a cot, smoking a
bidi. KAMLESH, elder brother, and PUSHPA, mother, are bathing
their 3 cows.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Aur iss true story ki kahaani shuru
hoti hai uss din se... jiss din
Manoj ke pitaji suspend hue the.*

RAMVEER is teaching a poem to RAJNI, his daughter.

RAMVEER

*हार नहीं मानूँगा,
रार नयी ठानूँगा...*

RAJNI

हार नहीं मानूँगा,
रार नयी -

A cycle bell sound distracts Ramveer. SUNDAR is seen getting off a cycle -

SUNDAR

KYA LAGA THA... ITNA BADA KAAND KAROGE
TOH CHAUHAN SAHAB CHHOD DENGE?

PUSHPA

Ab kya kaand kiya?

SUNDAR

Aapko bataye nahi, bhabhi? Suspend
ho gaye hai, inka suspension letter
den aaye hai.

PUSHPA

Hey bhagwaan!

RAMVEER

Main na leta letter.

SUNDAR

Sarkari kaagaz hai bhaiya, lena hi
padego.

RAMVEER

Jabardasti hai?

DADI

Ae Ramveer, aise na bolte. Mehmaan
hai...

(to Sundar, lovingly)

Laa beta, moye dede.

Sundar holds out the notice. Dadi reaches for it... and GRABS
his wrist.

DADI (CONT'D)

AE KAMLESH! NIKAL APNE DADA KI
DUNALI! HARAMKHOR TERE BAAP KO
SUSPEND KAREGO!

Kamlesh darts inside the house.

SUNDAR

Du- du- dunali!? Amma main toh sirf
sarkari duty kar raha hoon!

DADI

Kal se bhagwan ki duty kariyo tu.
Mere lalla ko faltu mein suspend
karego!

SUNDAR

Faltu mein nahi amma! Sun toh lo!

Kamlesh runs out with a rifle and points it at Sundar.

DADI

Chal suna.

Sundar panics - the rifle is in his face.

DADI (CONT'D)

SUNA NA!

2. INT. AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT: FLASHBACK - DAY

SUNDAR (O.S.)

*Subeh inko Chauhan saab ne daftar
mein bulaya, aur poochha...*

Ramveer walks into BHARAT CHAUHAN's office. The walls are plastered with posters of smiling farmers mentioning 50% subsidy on seeds.

CHAUHAN

(shows him a bill)

Bijli ka itna bada bill aaya hai. Kaun
bharega isse?

RAMVEER

Sarkar bharegi, aur kaun bharego?

CHAUHAN

Saale, raat ke 10-10 baje tak gappe
ladaye tu, aur bill bhare sarkar?
Chutiya hai kya sarkar!?

RAMVEER

Gappe na ladato, shikayetein sunto!
Kisaano ki chinta kou toh karego!

CHAUHAN

Tameez se baat kar! Beej vitran ki
file kyun sign nahi kari? Ek mahina
ho gaya.

RAMVEER

Beej kisaano mein bato hi nahin,
saara ka saara gaya Vidhayak ko,
toh main kaise tere ghotale wali
file pe sign kar dun?

CHAUHAN

Vidhayak ji pe ungli utthata hai!?
Bahut ho gayo tera.
(points at Sundar)
Bana iska suspension letter.

RAMVEER

Ghooskhor... beejon ki kaala-bajaari
kare tu, kisaano ko loote tera
Vidhayak, aur suspend karego mujhe!?

CHAUHAN

Jabaan na chala!

RAMVEER

(taking out his chappal)
Jabaan na chala sakto... chappal toh
chala sakto!

Ramveer flings the chappal at Chauhan. It hits him in the face.

CHAUHAN

Pehli baar kisine Chauhan pe chappal
maari hai...

Another chappal hits him.

RAMVEER

Le, doosri baar bhi maar diyo.

SUNDAR (O.S.)

Ab tum hi batao dadi...

3. EXT. VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

SUNDAR

...itne bade afsar pe chappal chala
di, woh bhi do baar!

DADI

Ae Ramveer, inn ghooskhoron ko
chappal nahi beta, goli maarni
chaahiye! Kamlesh, CHALA DUNALI!

Kamlesh aims the rifle at Sundar. Pushpa reacts - she pushes it
upwards just as Kamlesh fires - BAM!

PUSHPA
PAGAL HO GAYO TU?

DADI
Tu chup reh! Taang na ada beech mein.
(to Kamlesh)
Khopdi mein maar isko!

Just then, Manoj sees a police jeep approaching.

MANOJ
DADI, POLICE!

Dadi lets go of Sundar. He runs towards the jeep. Pushpa snatches the rifle from Kamlesh and hides it in a pile of Hay.

The jeep arrives. Chauhan is seen sitting inside. SUB-INSPECTOR ALBEL SINGH steps out.

Manoj runs down the terrace. As he arrives at the courtyard, Albel points a pistol at Ramveer.

Manoj is frozen.

ALBEL SINGH
(to Sundar)
Tu notice laga!

SILENCE. Sundar walks to the wall...

DADI
(to Ramveer)
Tu chhodna mat inn gaddaron ko.
Tere baap ne jaan di thi iss desh
ke liye!

Sundar sticks the notice on the wall and scurries into the jeep. Dadi gets up and starts walking towards the notice.

As the jeep revs to life, Dadi looks at the notice and says -

DADI (CONT'D)
Lo bhaiya, ho gayo suspend...

She stubs the bidi on the notice.

4. INT. VILLAGE HOUSE: KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ramveer, Kamlesh, Manoj and Rajni are seated on the floor having dinner. Pushpa is making rotis. Dadi is on the khatiya.

PUSHPA

Yeh dukariya poore khaandaan ko jail
bhijwati aaj!

DADI

Jail mein koi daal ke toh dekhe mere
lalla ko!

PUSHPA

Teri inn baaton ne hi barbaad kiya hai
sab ko!

RAMVEER

Soch liya. High Court jaungo,
chhodunga nahin.

PUSHPA

Tum chale jaoge to ghar kaise
chalego?

DADI

Mere bharose na rahiyo. Main na deungi
pension ke paise.

PUSHPA

Sirf teri pension na hai woh -
(points at Ramveer)
Inke baap ki bhi hai.

Ramveer gets up and walks out. Pushpa is helpless.

Manoj comes next to his mother and speaks softly -

MANOJ

Tu chinta na kar mummy. Baarvi pass ho
jaan de, chaprasi ki naukri pakki hai.

Dadi remarks, disgruntled -

DADI

Chaprasi!

5. INT. VILLAGE SCHOOL: CLASSROOM - DAY

A blackboard reads 'Varshik Pareeksha - 1997, Class 12, Maths'.

Noisy, chattering students. The teacher, MISRILAL, is
distributing question papers and answer sheets. There is a
flurry of sounds as all the students take out chits...

Manoj's friend, BALLE, watches as Manoj take out several chits.

BALLE
Kitne farre layo hai, bey?

MANOJ
Pass hono hai har haal mein...

BALLE
Itne mein toh Chambal ka topper ho
jayego tu.

They receive the question papers.

BALLE (CONT'D)
Je kaiso paper hai master ji? Ek
bhi question na dikh raho jaan
pehchaan ka!

MISRILAL
Abey ghoduchand, saal bhar padhoge
nahin toh aur kya hovego paper
mein?

Balle takes out his chits. Panics.

BALLE
Arre yaar, main toh farre bhi
physics paper ke le aaya!
(snatches chits from Manoj)
Thode farre de de, yaar Manoj!

MISRILAL
Dhyaan se sun lo saare! Farre-varre
sab isme phuk do!

The students are confused as Misrilal passes a dustbin around.

MISRILAL (CONT'D)
Tum saale nakal ke layak bhi na ho.
Khulli chhoot dei thi pichhle saal,
lekin hua kya? 200 mein se 175 mode
fail ho gaye. Nayo system hai iss saal
se. Main board pe likhunga saare
answer. Tum bas teepo jhatpat.

There is a surge of energy in the students as Misrilal writes
'Answer 1' on the board.

BALLE
Yeh toh bahut badhiya system hai!
Teep, Manoj, teep!

They begin to copy.

Suddenly, some police jeeps arrive.

A police officer steps outside the jeep, followed by constables.
A photographer accompanies them.

BALLE (CONT'D)

Arre mar gaye! Nayo DSP aa gayo!

MANOJ

Ab nakal na hogi kaa?

MISRILAL

Jeb garam karne aaya hai. Tum bas
teepo jhatpat...

The DSP keeps coming closer and stops next to Misrilal.

DSP DUSHYANT SINGH

Kya chal raha hai yeh?

Before Misrilal can answer, the PRINCIPAL walks in.

BALLE

(whispers to Manoj)

Aa gayo principal. Bahut bado
khiladi hai. Sambhal lego.

NARENDRA

Dushyant Singh sahab! Aaiye aaiye!
Bahut charche sune hai aapke!

DSP DUSHYANT SINGH

Kya chal raha hai yeh?

NARENDRA

Jami-jamai vyavastha, DSP sahab!
Yeh bachche aapki tarah DSP,
doctor, engineer thodi banenge!
Saalo saal bhi padh le toh baarvi
pass naa hogi inse. Hamare sahyog
inn becharon ki life ban jayegi.
Chhoti-moti naukri mil jayegi.

DUSHYANT SINGH

Toh aap lok seva kar rahe hai?

NARENDRA

Na na na hum nahin! Vidhayak ji.
Unka school hai na! Aap zara aaiye.
Akele mein baat karte hain.

Dushyant Singh follows Narendra. Balle to Manoj -

BALLE

Kaha tha na... bado khiladi hai.

Dushyant and Narendra walk through the long corridors as we hear a phone ring...

6. INT. VILLAGE SCHOOL: PRINCIPAL CABIN - DAY

A nameplate reads 'NARENDRA SINGH, PRINCIPAL'. On the table, the phone is ringing. Narendra picks it up.

NARENDRA
Vidhayak ji... Haan, deta hoon.
(hands phone to Dushyant)
Baat kijiye. Vidhayak ji se.

Dushyant takes the phone and... BANGS it on the receiver. Students have gathered at the window to watch the drama.

NARENDRA (CONT'D)
Aap galti kar rahe hai... Chambal
hai yeh. Dakaiton ke rishtedaar bhi
hai in bacchon mein. Ek bhi bachcha
fail ho gaya na unka... aag laga
denge.

Narendra takes out an envelope from a drawer.

NARENDRA (CONT'D)
Khair, jaane dijiye. Khabar thi aap
padhaarenge... Lijiye. Muh meetha
kijiye.

Dushyant opens the envelope. It's full of money.

BALLE
(to Manoj)
Nipat gayo maamlo. Kardi jeb garam...

Dushyant keeps the envelope on the table. Pointing at it, he tells the photographer -

DUSHYANT SINGH
Photo lo iski. Police ko ghoos dena
jurm hai. Arrest him!

The constables put handcuffs on Narendra. He is then pushed into the jeep. A worried Manoj in the crowd says -

MANOJ
(to Balle)
Ab kaa hovego?

7. EXT. VILLAGE HOUSE - EVENING

Courtyard. Pushpa is packing Ramveer's trunk while Dadi is sitting on the cot, smoking a bidi. Ramveer is putting on socks.

PUSHPA

Moda fail ho gayo aur inke kaan pe
joon tak na reng ri hai. Jaa rahe
hai desh sudharne!

DADI

Fail ho gayo, toh kaa ho gayo? Poora
gaanv fail bhayo hai! Agle saal ho
jayego pass!

PUSHPA

Pass ho jaato toh chaprasi ban jaato.
Paise kahan se aayenge ab? Inki toh
pagaar ruk gayi hai.

Ramveer wears shoes as Pushpa shuts the trunk.

DADI

Kahin se bhi laa, pension na deungi
main.

PUSHPA

Ghar chhod ke jaa raho hai tero moda,
aur tujhe pension ki padi hai!
(to Ramveer)
Tumhe koi fikar hai hum sab ki?

RAMVEER

Moye poore desh ki fikar hai, Pushpa.

Ramveer touches his mother's feet. She blesses him.

Picks up his trunk.

And walks away.

Suddenly, Pushpa rushes into the house, picks up a tiffin from the kitchen, and runs out the door. She catches up with Ramveer.

RAMVEER (CONT'D)

Moye jaan de, Pushpa. Main ladunga.

PUSHPA

Bhookhe pet ladoge kaa?

She holds out the tiffin. Ramveer looks at her - a moment of compassion. Then he takes the tiffin.

She watches him go.

8. INT. VILLAGE HOUSE: DADI'S ROOM - NIGHT

A desolate atmosphere. Pushpa serves Dadi food.

DADI
Subzi kyun na dei aaj?

Pushpa does not respond.

Just then, Manoj and Kamlesh come running in, followed by Rajni. Their clothes are messy, but there is a glow on both their faces.

PUSHPA
Kahan marne gaye the subah se? Tumharo
baap chale gayo, tumse itta bhi na hua
ki jaate waqt mil lete?

MANOJ
Aankh band kar...

PUSHPA
Kyun?

MANOJ
Kar toh...

Pushpa complies. Manoj keeps some money in her palm.

KAMLESH
Ab khol...

Pushpa opens her eyes.

PUSHPA
Kahan se mile!?

KAMLESH
Chinta chhod de ab tu... hum dono
kamaan lage hai.

PUSHPA
Matlab?

KAMLESH
Matlab je ki hum bhaade ka Jugaad
chala rahe hain... main driver, aur je
conductor.

Pushpa hugs both her children.

DADI

Achha hua tumharo dada jung mein mar gayo, nahin toh aaj sharam se mar jaato. Jugaad driver!

MANOJ

Bado majedaar kaam hai, dadi! Bas chillano hai, 'MORENA-JAURA-BILGAO! MORENA-JAURA-BILGAO! JALDI AAO! JALDI AAO!'

RAJNI

(joins in)

'MORENA-JAURA-BILGAO! 'MORENA-JAURA-BILGAO! JALDI AAO! JALDI AAO!'

9. EXT. VILLAGE ROADS - DAY

Kamlesh is driving a Jugaad [a makeshift tempo]. Manoj screams -

MANOJ

MORENA-JAURA-BILGAO! MORENA-JAURA-BILGAO! JALDI AAO! JALDI AAO! ARRE, PHOOL PE BAITHO BHAURA, AGLA GAANV HAI JAURA!

A bus awaits them. It has a huge photograph of VIDHAYAK JI on the side, with 'LOK SAHAYAK TRANSPORT' written below.

The bus conductor of the bus stops the Jugaad -

CONDUCTOR

Idhar se aage na chalat hai Jugaad.

KAMLESH

Kaun bola bey?

CONDUCTOR

Naye ho kaa? Jayi rule hai.

KAMLESH

Kisko rule hai? Sarkar ko, ya Vidhayak ko?

CONDUCTOR

Ek hi baat hai launde. Vidhayak ji ki bus khaali na jaawegi.

KAMLESH

Jagah kahan hegi bus mein?

The bus is brimming with faces popping out of windows for air.

CONDUCTOR
 Dikhaun jagah? Arre, driver sahab -
 (whistles)
 Jagah banao!

The driver accelerates and brakes immediately. The people in the bus get pushed forward, creating empty space in the back.

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)
 Ho gayi jagah.
 (grabs the passengers)
 Chalo, chalo! Time na kharaab karo.

KAMLESH
 Sawaari chhod meri...

CONDUCTOR
 Jaanto na hai kiski bus hai?

KAMLESH
 Main na darto kisise.

CONDUCTOR
 Abey, panga na liyo... marega.

The conductor pulls an old man out of the Jugaad.

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)
 Arre jaldi chal daddu!

KAMLESH
 Aise na maanego tu...

Kamlesh takes out his chappal and SLAPS the conductor with it.

Cheers erupt in the bus.

CONDUCTOR
 Saale, itni himmat...
 (shouts at the crowd)
 Pehli baar kisine Vidhayak ji ke aadmi
 ko chappal maari hai!

Manoj tries to stop him but Kamlesh slaps the conductor with his chappal AGAIN.

KAMLESH
 Le, doosri baar bhi maar di.

10. EXT. VILLAGE ROADS - EVENING

From up in the sky, we see the Jugaad cruising through the *beehad*.

PoV of a police jeep moving towards the Jugaad.

The Jugaad is stopped.

A POLICE CONSTABLE steps out of the jeep.

11. INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Manoj and Kamlesh are thrown into a cell.

Albel Singh is sitting across from a 35-YEAR-OLD MAN with a plaster on his leg.

ALBEL SINGH
(pointing at Kamlesh)
Yahi the?

35-YEAR-OLD MAN
Yahi the janaab...

KAMLESH
KYA KIYA HAI HUMNE!

ALBEL SINGH
CHUP!

KAMLESH
VARDI MEIN HAI TOH KUCHH BHI KAR
LEGO!

Albel grabs his stick and walks into the lockup. He strikes Kamlesh on the legs. Kamlesh falls.

Manoj cannot muster the courage to do anything.

KAMLESH (CONT'D)
DALLO HAI TU VIDHAYAK KO!

Albel whacks Kamlesh again and again. Down from the ground, Kamlesh looks up at Albel with rage in his eyes.

A CONSTABLE
Janaab, baap jaiso garimi hai mode
mein.

ALBEL SINGH
Baap chutiyo toh moda maha chutiyo!

MANOJ
Papa ko gaali mat do!

ALBEL SINGH
Nahi toh kaa karego?

MANOJ
Khopdi uda dunga dunali se!

Deathly silence.

ALBEL SINGH
Jaa. Le aa dunali. Aaj raat ya toh tu
uda de mujhe, ya main uda dunga isko.

Albel grabs Manoj by the collar and drags him out of the cell.

Manoj's anger is replaced by dread.

ALBEL SINGH (CONT'D)
Abey ab kya ho gaya! Jaa! LA DUNALI!

He pushes Manoj. The constables laugh. Manoj scurries out.

12. EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Outside the police station, Manoj breaks into a sprint.

13. EXT. VILLAGE ROADS - NIGHT

He runs through the village roads...

14. EXT. A GOVERNMENT BUNGALOW - NIGHT

...until he arrives at a bungalow. There is a CONSTABLE in the guard's cabin.

CONSTABLE
Oye, kahan?

MANOJ
Sir se milno hai...

CONSTABLE
Abey time dekh!

MANOJ
Bahut jaroori hai... please...

The constable ignores him.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
Please, DUSHYANT SIR!

From inside the house, a dog starts barking.

CONSTABLE
Pagal ho gayo? Saab so raho hai!

MANOJ
DUSHYANT SIR!

The constable pushes Manoj to the ground. Commotion ensues.
A dog appears at the balcony, barking, followed by Dushyant.

DUSHYANT SINGH
SIT!

The dog sits.

DUSHYANT SINGH (CONT'D)
Kaun hai yeh?

CONSTABLE
Saab -

MANOJ
Sir, mere bhai ko jail mein daal
diya hai, sir, aur Jugaad zabt kar
liya hai!

DUSHYANT SINGH
Kal subeh aana. Main dekhta hoon.

MANOJ
SIR, LEKIN -

DUSHYANT SINGH
BOLA NA... kal subeh!

Dushyant leaves, his dog stays watching.

CONSTABLE
Chal nikal ab.

Manoj breathing gets faster as slowly... fury consumes him.
He shouts at an empty balcony. The dog barks again.

MANOJ
HUM LOGO KE LIYE KAL SUBEH? USS DIN
KYUN TIME PE AAYE THE CHEATING
ROKNE?

CONSTABLE
(pushes Manoj)
Bhaag yahan se!

MANOJ
 AGLI SUBEH AA JAATE! MAIN PASS HO
 JAATA! NAUKRI LAG JAATI!

The constable whacks Manoj.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
 USS DIN TOH BADE SATYAVAADI BAN
 RAHE THE! AAJ AAPKE POLICE WALE
 MERE BHAII KO GOLI SE UDA DENGE, AUR
 AAP AAOGE "KAL SUBEH"!?

The constable whacks him harder.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
 THOOKTA HOON MAIN AISI IMAANDAARI
 PE!

Manoj spits on the ground. The guard continues whacking him.

The barking suddenly stops -

DUSHYANT SINGH
 RUKO!

Both the constable and Manoj turn towards the house. Dushyant has come down. The dog is right behind him.

DUSHYANT SINGH (CONT'D)
 Poori baat batao.

15. EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT/MAGIC HOUR

A jeep comes to a halt outside the police station. Dushyant Singh, in his night suit, walks in, followed by the dog, followed by Manoj.

16. INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

All the constables as well as Albel stand up in salute. Even the man with the plaster stands up.

DUSHYANT SINGH
 (points at Kamlesh)
 Kya kiya hai isne?

ALBEL SINGH
 (to the plastered man)
 Bata saab ko!

35-YEAR-OLD MAN
Janaab, main Jugaad mein gaya tha
inke.

Dushyant Singh takes Albel's stick and walks towards him...

DUSHYANT SINGH
Bolo bolo...

35-YEAR-OLD MAN
Sharaab se bhara tha Jugaad...

DUSHYANT SINGH
Achha?

35-YEAR-OLD MAN
Janaab main bola... police ko report
karunga... toh meri taang tod di...

Suddenly, the man runs away. The dog barks. Dushyant has a wry smile.

Dushyant commands Albel to open the lockup -

DUSHYANT SINGH
Kholo.

The lockup is opened and Kamlesh limps out.

DUSHYANT SINGH (CONT'D)
(to Manoj and Kamlesh)
Jao tum log.

17. EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - NIGHT

The brothers are walking home on a dark, moonless road. A light hits them from behind.

Dushyant Singh's jeep stops next to them. The dog is in the front seat.

DUSHYANT SINGH
Baitho.

The brothers are nervous.

DUSHYANT SINGH (CONT'D)
Baitho baitho... ghar chhod dunga.

They get into the backseat.

DUSHYANT SINGH (CONT'D)
Kahan hai tumhara ghar?

KAMLESH
Gaon aata hai toh batata hoon,
saab...

Dushyant starts driving.

18. EXT. VILLAGE ROAD: JEEP - NIGHT

The jeep drives on in the middle of the night.

DUSHYANT SINGH
Tumhara naam?

MANOJ
Manoj, sir.

DUSHYANT SINGH
Chhote se ho... lekin dum hai tum
mein.

Manoj smiles.

KAMLESH
(whispers to Manoj)
Jugaad ki baat kar...

Manoj nods.

MANOJ
Sir, kuchh keh sakta hoon...?

DUSHYANT SINGH
Hmm...

MANOJ
Sir, hamaare pitaji bhi aapki tarah
imaandaar hai sir, par woh jahan jaate
hai suspend ho jaate hai. Toh mujhe
laga ki imaandaari bilkul bekaar cheez
hai, sir.

DUSHYANT SINGH
(chuckles)
Itni bhi bekaar nahi hai...

MANOJ
Nahi nahi sir! Phir aapko dekha na...
toh laga ki SAHI insaan ke paas agar
taakat ho, toh baat alag hai!

DUSHYANT SINGH
Hmm... cheating karte ho lekin baatein
samajhdari ki karte ho.

Manoj swells with pride.

KAMLESH
Sir, bas aa gaya hamara ghar.

19. EXT. VILLAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

The jeep stops. They both get off.

KAMLESH
Kya bekaar ki baatein kar raha
tha... bhaag! Jugaad ka poochh!

Manoj runs to Dushyant.

MANOJ
Sir!

DUSHYANT SINGH
Haan?

MANOJ
Sir, ek baat poochhni hai, sir...

DUSHYANT SINGH
Poochho.

MANOJ
Sir, main aapke jaisa banna chahta
hoon.

Dushyant smiles.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
Sir, kaise banunga?

Dushyant puts the jeep in gear. The engine roars.

DUSHYANT SINGH
(broad smile)
Cheating chhodni hogi... bas!

The jeep accelerates away.

20. INT. VILLAGE SCHOOL: CLASSROOM - DAY

Misrilal writes 'ANSWER 5' on the board.

VOICEOVER
*Agle saal, daba ke cheating hui kyunki
Dushyant Singh ka transfer ho gaya
tha.*

(MORE)

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Sirf ek ladka cheating nahi kar raha
tha, kyunki uske kaan mein ek hi awaaz
goonj rahi thi -*

(Dushyant Singh's voice)

'Cheating chhodni hogi... bas!'

Amidst the students, Manoj is the only one not cheating.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Ab le de karke third division mein
baarvi pass karke yeh ladka agle teen
saal ussi junoon se padhta raha.*

21. EXT. VILLAGE: BALLE SHOP - DAY

BALLE

Arre! DSP saab aayo hai! Salute!

All the kids stand up in salute, laughing.

Manoj is crossing Balle's shop while leading 3 cows and studying from a book in his hands.

BALLE (CONT'D)

*Agle saal dekhna jeep mein baith ke
aayego! Pichhli seat pe gaayein
baithegi. Aur siren bajega -
'MOOOOOOOOOO'.*

22. EXT. VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

VOICEOVER

*Aur kharcha utthane ke liye uski
Maa ne ghar ki sabse keemti poonji
ek ek karke bech di.*

We see Pushpa carrying away one cow - cow bell jingles.

23. EXT. VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

Manoj passes by with a book, this time with 2 cows. Some villagers nearby go 'MOOOOOOO'.

24. EXT. VILLAGE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Pushpa carries away one more cow - cow bell jingles.

25. EXT. VILLAGE - EVENING

Manoj passes kids playing, a book still in hand, one cow now.

All the kids go 'MOOOOOOOOOOO'.

VOICEOVER

Manoj laga raha...

26. EXT. VILLAGE HOUSE - LATE EVENING

Against a setting sun, Pushpa takes away the last cow. Cow bell sounds fade out...

27. EXT. CHAMBAL RIVER - SUNSET

Manoj sits by the river, alone, studying.

28. INT. VILLAGE HOUSE: DADI ROOM - DAY

VOICEOVER

*Aur jiss din Manoj ne BA clear
kiya, uss din...*

The old wooden door of Dadi's room is being shut.

DADI

Achhe se band kar. Patthar laga.

Manoj blocks the door with a stone.

DADI (CONT'D)

Mera baksa nikal.

Manoj carefully pulls the trunk out from below her head.

Dadi takes out a key from below her pillow and unlocks it.

Inside the trunk is a photograph of her husband in an army uniform. Below it, a neatly folded uniform. Below it all is a little red pouch. She opens it up and takes out a huge stack of banknotes from it.

Manoj has never seen this much money.

MANOJ

Itto...?

DADI

Bahut mushkil se bachayo hai teri maa
se ye paise.

Dadi hands him the entire stack.

DADI (CONT'D)
 Kharche ki chinta mar kariyo, ab tu
 bada police-afsar bann ke hi lautio.
 (kisses him on the
 forehead)
 Tereko vardi mein dekh ke tere dadaji
 bahut khush honge.

Manoj's eyes well up. He touches her feet and hugs her.

29. EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A bus appears on the highway.

Manoj, Pushpa, Rajni and Kamlesh are waiting. Manoj is holding an old red bag.

PUSHPA
 Bus mein kha lena, beta.

She hands him a packet of food. Manoj puts it in his bag. Hugs Rajni.

RAJNI
 Har mahine phone karna, bhaiya!

The bus comes to a halt.

30. INT. MORENA: BUS - DAY

Manoj goes in, Kamlesh follows. Once settled, Kamlesh hands him a book.

KAMLESH
 Yeh le, surprise. Badi mushkil se
 mili.
 (worried)
 Sahi kitaab hai na?

Manoj reads the title - 'Madhya Pradesh PSC'.

MANOJ
 Haan.

KAMLESH
 (relieved)
 Badhiya!

The engine revs as Kamlesh runs out. The bus starts moving.

KAMLESH (CONT'D)

Raste mein hi padhna shuru kar diyo!

Manoj waves back at his family as the bus takes off.

A woman with her child comes and sits next to Manoj.

MANOJ

Kidhar jaa rahe ho aap?

THE WOMAN

Gwalior. Iske papa ke paas.

MANOJ

Main bhi Gwalior. DSP afsar banne!

From the sky, we see the bus voyage towards the horizon.

FADE OUT.

31. EXT. GWALIOR: BUS STAND - AFTERNOON

On a black screen -

CONDUCTOR (O.S.)

Gwalior! Chalo uttaro!

Manoj wakes up, book in hand.

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)

Gwalior! Chalo uttaro, uttaro!

Manoj reaches below his seat - there's no bag.

MANOJ

(to the conductor)

Bhaiya, mera lal bag yahin tha,
kidhar gaya?

CONDUCTOR

Woh tera tha? Woh toh bhabhi ji le
gayi!

Manoj runs out of the bus holding his PCS textbook - runs helter-skelter, looking for the woman.

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)

(from the bus window)

Abey bhabhi toh Bhind mein hi uttar
gayi! Ek ghanta pehle!

Manoj is SHATTERED. His knees give in as a bus passes by.

32. EXT. GWALIOR: EMPTY STREETS - NIGHT

He's walking through the streets of Gwalior, LOST.

33. EXT. GWALIOR: PCS COACHING CLASSES - EARLY MORNING

The sun rises in Gwalior city.

Manoj is sitting against the shutter of a coaching centre, half-asleep. He is woken up by 2 men who ask him to move.

They open the shutter. Inside, it's empty - barring some computer monitors. The men carry the monitors out.

MANOJ

Teacher kitne baje aayenge?

THE MAN

Teacher kyun aayenge? Akhbar nahin padhta?

MANOJ

Kya hua, bhaiya?

THE MAN

Bharti ruk gayi hai teen saal ke liye.
PCS-VCS sab band.

MANOJ

Kyun!?

THE MAN

Diwali mein diwala nikal gaya sarkar ka. Paise nahi hai tankha dene ke.

MANOJ

Lekin aisa kaise kar sakti hai sarkar?

THE MAN

Sarkar hai - kuchh bhi kar sakti hai.

34 & 34A. EXT. BUS STAND: GWALIOR - NIGHT/DAY

A bus roars, the headlight falls on Manoj.

VOICEOVER

Sahi baat hai - sarkar hai, kuchh bhi kar sakti hai. Par yeh kya karta?

He wakes up with the sound of a sweeper cleaning... Train announcements heard in the distance... A conductor screams all this while - 'BILGAON! BILGAON! BILGAON!'...

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)
*Kayi dinon tak bus stop pe bhookha
 pyaasa pade rehne ke baad jab
 bardaasht nahin hua...*

INT. GWALIOR: RAILWAY CANTEEN - DAY

VOICEOVER
Toh ek din -

THE OWNER of a Railway Canteen is doing accounts.

MANOJ (O.S.)
(barely audible)
Uncle ji?

The Owner does not react.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
 UNCLE JI!

OWNER
 Hmm.

MANOJ
*Uncle ji, bahut bhookh lagi hai...
 khana mil jaye toh main aapke liye
 kuchh kaam kar dunga... paise nahin
 hain...*

The owner looks at the textbook in his hand.

OWNER
 Hmm. OYE CHHOTU! Ek thaali de de
 isko...

INT. GWALIOR: RAILWAY CANTEEN - DAY

Manoj eats like a madman. Camera pans to a young man, PRITAM PANDEY, sitting at the next table, looking at Manoj.

VOICEOVER
*Aur bhaiya ussi din maine... Manoj
 ko pehli baar dekha.*

CUT TO:

Manoj to the Owner, who is still busy doing accounts -

MANOJ

Uncle ji, bahut achha tha khana!
Batao, kya kaam karun?

OWNER

Koi baat nahin.

MANOJ

Arre nahi uncle ji. Main kuchh bhi kar
lunga, bartan saaf kar dunga.

OWNER

Rehne do.

MANOJ

NAHI NAHI! Aap kaam bataiye mujhe,
aise nahin jaunga main!

OWNER

Student ho na? Baad mein de dena.

MANOJ

Nahin hoon student! PCS band ho gayi!
Mere paas kuchh nahin raha. Sab chori
ho gaya. Aap mujhse kaam karwa lo.
Nahin toh main hilunga nahin yahan se!

Pritam Pandey walks to the counter with his suitcase.

OWNER

Dimaag na kharaab kar, jaa yahan se!

MANOJ

Pehle bolte toh main khana KHAATA hi
nahin!

PANDEY

(to the owner)

Mera bill, aur inka bhi main de deta
hoon. Baat khatam.

MANOJ

Kyun? Tum kaun ho?

PANDEY

Sirf tera PCS cancel nahi hua hai,
samjha? Humara bhi hua hai. Relax kar.

MANOJ

Oh... toh ab kya karein?

PANDEY

Mujhe kya pata? Wapas gaon jaa.

MANOJ
Gaon nahin jaa sakto...

PANDEY
Kyun?

MANOJ
Nazar nahin mila paungo Dadi se...

PANDEY
Kyun?

Manoj is quiet.

PANDEY (CONT'D)
KYUN... bolega bhi?

MANOJ
Zindagi bhar ki pension de ke bheje
hai moye, ki DSP afsar banke lautoon.
Kaa bolunga Dadi ko, ki saare paise
chori ho gayo, aur main laut aayo?

PANDEY
Hmm. Je toh ghatna ghat gi tumhare
saath. Paise de de tumhare?

MANOJ
Nahin, bhaiya.

Suddenly Pandey's phone rings. His demeanour changes -

PANDEY
(on the phone)
Ji papa ji, haan papa ji, train main
hi baitha hoon, papa ji... haan papa
ji, okay papa ji. Ji pranaam.
(to Manoj)
Chal, bye phir.

MANOJ
Aap bhi wapas ghar jaa rahe ho?

PANDEY
Na... Dilli.

MANOJ
Kyun?

PANDEY
UPSC karne.

MANOJ
UPSC kya hota hai?

PANDEY
UPSC nahin malum... IAS/IPS toh pata
hoga?

MANOJ
IAS/IPS???

PANDEY
Tujhe IPS nahin pata!?

Manoj shakes his head.

PANDEY (CONT'D)
Aur DSP banne aaya tha Gwalior?

Manoj is clueless.

PANDEY (CONT'D)
Abey IPS... INDIAN POLICE SERVICE...
DSP ka BAAP hota hai.

MANOJ
DSP se bada afsar...?

PANDEY
DSP 20-25 saal ghiswata hai *tab* jaake
IPS banta hai.

A beat.

MANOJ
Main bhi banunga IPS.

PANDEY
Maje le raha hai???

MANOJ
Kitne baje hai train?

OWNER
Ticket ke paise kahan se laayega...
train dho ke?

MANOJ
(to Pandey)
Please mujhe le chalo, ticket ke paise
aapko lauta dunga!

OWNER
Aur Dilli mein rahega kahan, sadak pe?

MANOJ
Reh lunga. Kar lunga manage.

OWNER

Khaane ke paise hai nahin, IPS
banega!

MANOJ

Haan. Banunga.

An approaching train sound is heard...

VOICEOVER

*Gazab adiyal tha. Bartan dhone ki
sadak pe reh ke IPS banne ki baat
kar raha tha.*

MANOJ

Bhaiya please le chalo na...

VOICEOVER

*Mera dimaag keh raha tha - Pritam
Pandey khisak le. Isse pehle ki
main nikalta, jabaan se nikal pada -*

PANDEY

Chal ek shart pe le chalunga.

MANOJ

Aap jo kahein!

PANDEY

Khaane ke paise main dunga.

The train whistles.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

PoV of train entering a tunnel... Screen goes black.

VOICEOVER

*Train mein usne mujhe apni saari
Ram-Kahaani suna di. Gaon, gayein,
baap, koi Dushyant... bahut bola!
Ladke mein jazba toh tha...*

38. EXT. NEW DELHI: MAIN ROAD - EVENING

Manoj's face - distraught. They are on a cycle rickshaw.

VOICEOVER

*Lekin jab hum Dilli ke Mukherjee
Nagar pahunche, wahan students ki
bheed dekh ke adiyal ki ho gayi
aisi ki taisi.*

Manoj sees thousands of students spread across the street. A kaleidoscope of chaotic movement DISORIENTS him.

There's a CACOPHONY of coaching billboards, juice stalls, cigarette booths, book shops, photocopy machines...

39. INT. PANDEY FLAT: BEDROOM - NIGHT

Manoj is looking at the CACOPHONY of Mukherjee Nagar from the balcony as Pandey sleeps in the bedroom.

VOICEOVER

*Uss bheed-bhadakke mein humko kamra
toh mil gaya - lekin Manoj ko aaram
nahin mila. Soya nahin poori raat.*

40. INT. PANDEY FLAT: BEDROOM - DAY

Morning. The bell rings. Pandey wakes up, sees Manoj at the balcony. Then he goes to open the door.

PANDEY

Arre aao, Tutul!

TUTUL, a fat errand boy, enters with supplies, breathless.

PANDEY (CONT'D)

Champagne laaya?

TUTUL

Raat ko launga, Pandey bhai. Abhi
toh bread-ande laaya hoon...

Pandey walks up to Manoj at the balcony.

PANDEY

Manoj tujhe ghanti nahin sunayi di?

Manoj is quiet.

PANDEY (CONT'D)

Kya ho gaya bhai?

MANOJ

Itne saare students... kaise hoga?

TUTUL

Main bataun?

41. EXT. NEHRU VIHAR - DAY

Manoj and Pandey follow Tutul over a gutter...

VOICEOVER

*Tutul humein le gaya naale ke
paar... Nehru Vihar. Hindi Medium
ke Bhishma-Pitamah ke paas.*

They enter a tiny alley. Above them, thousands of wires...

TUTUL

8 saal se idhar hai Gauri bhaiya.
Koi bhi tension ho... solve kar
dete hain.

They climb up a narrow staircase...

TUTUL (CONT'D)

Ghar-var sab chhod ke aaye the. Bas
ab agle hafte IPS ban jayenge.
Bahut yaad aayegi unki.

42. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - DAY

They walk through a hallway full of students on the floor...

TUTUL

Hato.

Inside, students are sprawled across the room, writing. In one corner, GAURINANDAN is explaining to a student -

GAURI

English qualifying paper hai, babu!
Fail hue toh gaya attempt!
(sees Tutul)
Bolo Tutul.

TUTUL

(points at Manoj & Pandey)
Naye hai, Gauri bhaiya!

GAURI

Ttheek hai, bithao wahan.
(to the student)
Samjhe? Qualifying paper!

Tutul makes Manoj & Pandey sit. He then takes down a towel hanging on the wall - revealing a board-game of 'Snakes & Ladders' behind it.

GAURI (CONT'D)
 (to Manoj and Pandey)
 Saanp-seedi khele ho kabhi?

PANDEY
 Haan.

GAURI
 Bas! Wohi hai UPSC.
 (points at '0')
 Dhyan se dekho, yeh tum ho, pehli
 seedi pe - 'Prelims' - tumhari tarah
 lag-bhag 3 lakh dete hai. Unme se 1000-
 1200 pahunchte hai doosri seedi,
 'Mains' tak -

PANDEY
 Bas!?

Manoj is also shocked. Students sitting around chuckle.

GAURI
 (smiling)
 Phat gayi? Uss 1000-1200 mein se keval
 150-200 pahunchte hai teesri seedi,
 interview tak. Lekin wahan ee zehreela
 cobra... 10 mein se 8 ko ddus leta
 hai. Toh ghuma-phira ke baat ee hui,
 ki Hindi Medium ke 3 lakh mein se
 maatra 25-30 bante hai IAS/IPS.

PANDEY
 3 lakh mein se 25-30!?!?

GAURI
 Baaki 2,99,970 back to jeero. Restart.

MANOJ
 Restart?

GAURI
 Saanp-seedi ka khel hai na babu...
 Toh restart!

A student comes to Gauri with a paper -

STUDENT 1
 Gauri bhaiya, ho gaya!

GAURI
 Arre Santosh, santosh rakho na!
 Game samjha rahe hain!
 (to Manoj)
 Paanch baar hum fail hue...
 (MORE)

GAURI (CONT'D)

aur paanch baar hum restart kiye. Aur
phir baat samajh mein aayi - ki
missing kaa hai. MOTIVATION.

Gauri uncovers an IPS uniform hanging in a corner.

GAURI (CONT'D)

Toh hum ee vardi le aaye. TTHAAN liye -
ki ek din gaon jaayenge yeh vardi
pehen kar, aur babuji ko salute
karenge.

(chokes)

Ussi motivation se chhatte attempt
mein hum aaj tak ka BEST interview
diye hai.

PANDEY

Maine toh padha 4 hi attempt hote hai!

GAURI

Humko 6 mil gaya toh tumko problem
hai? Arre sahi padhe tum! General
waalon ko 4 hi milta hai. Hum OBC
hai na... aur kuchh?

(to the waiting student)

Haan, aao tum.

Gauri begins checking the waiting student's paper -

MANOJ

(hesitantly)

Gauri bhaiya, ek baat poochhni thi...
akele mein...

GAURI

English Medium ke ho kaa? Khul ke
poochho!

MANOJ

Bhaiya, woh... paise ki thodi problem
thi. Koi kaam mil sakta hai?

GAURI

Hum jab aaye the toh saaf-safai ka
kaam kiye the 3 saal! Tum kar loge
saaf-safai?

MANOJ

Haan, bhaiya, kuchh bhi kar lunga!

43. INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Manoj is standing in front of HUKUMCHAND, the library manager. The library caretaker, HARIRAM, is also present.

HUKUMCHAND

Toilet roz saaf hona chahiye. UPSC students aate hai yahan, kitaabein dhundne mai unka time waste nahi hona chahiye. Mahine ka 280 milega. Kamra de raha hoon, lekin 5 minute late bhi utthega toh poore din ki tankha kaatunga!

MANOJ

(thrilled)

5 minute late nahin, 5 minute jaldi uttunga, Hukum ji!

44. INT. PANDEY'S FLAT - NIGHT

POP! Pandey opens a bottle of champagne and sips it. It spills all over him.

PANDEY

Teri pehli naukri ke naam!

Pandey passes the bottle to Manoj.

MANOJ

Nahin, main nahin.

PANDEY

Tu lega Tutul???

TUTUL

Haan!!!

He passes the bottle to Tutul who takes a big swig.

TUTUL (CONT'D)

Itni mehengi toh pehli baar kisike liye laaya hoon!!

PANDEY

Abey haraam ki kamayi udaane ka majja hi alag hai!

MANOJ

Matlab?

PANDEY

Matlab yaar mera baap thekedaar hai
PWD ka, haraam ki kamaata hai. Wahi
chahta hai mujhse bhi.

MANOJ

Tabhi aap deshbhakt afsar banna
chahte hain!

PANDEY

Ghanta deshbhakt! Baap ne pehle
Gwalior bheja ki PCS kar, Deputy
Collector ban, haraam ki kamai
double... Phir bola Dilli jaa, UPSC
kar, IAS ban, bada afsar... haraam
ki kamayi triple!

MANOJ

Par aapka mann kaa hai?

PANDEY

Yeh toh kisine poochha hi nahin
mujhse...

(beat)

Yaar, main toh TV pe aana chahta
hoon...

He whispers into Manoj's ear -

PANDEY (CONT'D)

Lekin himmat nahin hai papa se
kehne ki.

MANOJ

Aur mummy?

PANDEY

Mummy hoti toh pakka meri side leti.

FADE OUT.

45. INT. PANDEY FLAT: BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Pandey wakes up - walks out into the living room. The house
is spotless...

PANDEY

Mehengi champagne peekay ghar ekdum
saaf dikhta hai yaar!

Manoj smiles as he cleans the kitchen.

PANDEY (CONT'D)
 Sun, tu yahin reh. Kiraye ki
 tension mat le.

MANOJ
 Nahin bhaiya. Mujhe aise madad lena
 achha nahi lagta.

PANDEY
 Arre yaar, tu itna adiyal kyun -
 Doorbell. Pandey walks to the door. Opens it.
 It's a girl - extremely agitated.

TANYA
 Listen, I need coffee. You have coffee?

PANDEY
 (looks back at Manoj)
 Coffee hai???

Manoj shakes his head.

TANYA
 Shit, yaar! I'm so STUPID!

PANDEY
 Manoj, coffee layega?

MANOJ
 Haan. Kidhar laun?

PANDEY
 (to Tanya)
 Where to get?

TANYA
 Upar, chhat pe.

MANOJ
 Kitni laun?

PANDEY
 (to Tanya)
 Kitni chahiye?

46. EXT. MUKHERJEE NAGAR: TEA STALL - DAY

Manoj runs to a Tea Stall and holds out money.

MANOJ
 12 cup coffee. Jaldi!

47. I/E. TANYA'S TERRACE - MORNING

Manoj is walking up to the terrace, holding a kettle and glasses, as he hears a voice...

DEEP MOHAN (O.S.)
...see, Prelims and Mains are about what you know. But the interview is about WHO YOU ARE. So BE YOURSELF.

Manoj steps onto a terrace. Some 15-20 people sprawled across. In the middle is DEEP MOHAN. Even in a thin frame, his bespectacled face oozed confidence and security.

DEEP MOHAN (CONT'D)
 For example, the final question he asked me was 'What do you think about the walls of this room?' And I said 'I don't think about them!'

Everyone laughs. Tanya, sitting next to Pandey, gestures to Manoj to take the tray to Deep.

DEEP MOHAN (CONT'D)
 Mehta laughed, like you all, and asked - 'Who coached you?' and I said - 'No one, Dr. Mehta! It's all self-study! No coaching.'
 (Deep notices Manoj)
 Ah! Timing! Thank you, chhotu!

PANDEY
 Chhotu nahin hai Deep sir, he is UPSC student, my friend Manoj. Tanya ask him to get coffee.

DEEP MOHAN
 I'm so sorry, Manoj! Hindi Medium?

MANOJ
 Ji, sir.

Deep gives Tanya a look. Then turns to NAVAL -

DEEP MOHAN
 Naval, take the tray. You serve.
 (to Manoj)
 Sorry man, I called you 'chhotu'! I owe you one. Yahan baitho.

Manoj sits near Deep, thrilled. Pandey gives him a thumbs up.

VOICEOVER
Yeh tha real Bhishma-Pitamah.

48. EXT. UPSC BUILDING - DAY

There is a massive crowd inside the official UPSC building, looking at the results posted on big boards.

VOICEOVER

*Phir result aaya. Aur hua wahi - jo
hona tha.*

Tutul is holding a paper bag, slightly torn open from one side. In it, a shining IPS uniform can be seen.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Deep Mohan ne top kiya, aur Baba
Gaurinandan ho gaye fail. Unki
'motivational' vardi hamesha ke liye
lifafa mein hi band reh gayi. Uss waqt
mujhe ehssaas hua ki main ek haari hui
kaum ka hissa hoon.*

Pandey looks at everyone congratulating Deep.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Bas, maine fat se apna dal badal diya.

Pandey walks over to Deep, leaving Manoj behind.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Manoj aur main thoda door ho gaye.

Back here, Manoj consoles a teary-eyed Tutul.

TUTUL

Ab kya karenge Gauri bhaiya?

They look at Gauri on the ground, broken.

SLOW FADE OUT.

49. EXT. RESTART TEA STALL: ONE MONTH LATER - NIGHT

BLACK SCREEN. Whispers -

*Kanpatti khuja ke beeti raat...
Raasta na dikhe koi aaj...*

GAURI (O.S.)

Tutul, bulb jala!

'RESTART SONG' kicks in as a bulb comes on -

*Batti jala!
Raat bhaga!*

Gauri is fixing up a board...

*Paasa palat de!
Board ulat de!
Arre utth! Baazi le apne haath!*

The board is revealed - 'FREE UPSC GUIDANCE CENTRE & Restart Tea Stall'. Up from the ladder, Gauri addresses everyone -

GAURI (CONT'D)
Attempt khatam hue hai, zindagi
khatam na hui, samjhe! Chalo.
Restart.

50. EXT. RESTART TEA STALL - DAY

Whispers of 'RESTART SONG' on various students, including Manoj, as they listen to Gauri attentively.

GAURI
Sab jagah gyaan bat raha hai, babu!
Jahan se mile, lapet lo. Newspaper
padho, radio suno, duniya ki saari
khabar rakho. Kahin se kuchh bhi
sawaal aa sakta hai! Samjhe?

EXT. RESTART TEA STALL - NIGHT

Gauri gives them final tips before their exam -

GAURI
200 question aate hain Prelims mein
- har question do baar padhna -
jaldi mat karna!

Students look nervous, including Manoj.

GAURI (CONT'D)
Prelims hai Manoj babu, sahi answer
sirf tick karna hai, tension wala
kaam nahin hai! Chalo! Best of
luck!

51. EXT. CYBERCAFE - AFTERNOON

Several students at the cyber cafe. Some are happy but Manoj is in tears.

VOICEOVER

*Restart Tea Stall ki free guidance
ke bavajood Manoj apne pehle
Prelims mein fail ho gaya. Aur
Gaurinandan ne usko ek baar phir
wahi shabd bola -*

Gauri grabs Manoj by the shoulder and shakes him -

GAURI

RESTART!

52. INT. RESTART TEA STALL - A FEW WEEKS LATER - MORNING

Pandey, Tanya and Naval are chilling, having breakfast at the tea stall.

PANDEY

"Aaya toh tha Dilli,
Leke books aur copies,
Jab se mile hai inse,
Favourite ho gayi Coffee...
coffee..."

(to Tutul)

BLACK COFFEE, TUTUL!

TUTUL

Laya, Pandey bhai!

Laughter. Pandey notices Manoj run in with a supply of rusks -

PANDEY

Abey Manoj... kaisa hai?

MANOJ

First class!

(hands rusks to Gauri)

Bhaagta hoon, Gauri bhaiya!

GAURI

Bhaagne se pehle kuchh khaale! Behosh
ho jayega! Pakad.

Gauri throws a packet of rusks to Manoj. Manoj catches it.

PANDEY

Kidhar bhaag raha hai?

MANOJ

Library! Late ho raha hoon! Bye
Tanya! Bye Naval!

Manoj runs out.

TANYA

Kahan mila tujhe ye?

PANDEY

Gwalior mein mila tha yaar. IPS ka I bhi nahin jaanta tha. Par bola - "Main banunga IPS". First attempt mein toh buri tarah fail ho gaya bechara.

NAVAL

Kya yaar! I feel bad for him. Yeh log country ke har kone se bhed-bakriyon ki tarah aa jaate hai Dilli - ki "IPS banunga". Phir yahan aa ke padhai ke alawa har tarah ki gadha majdoori mein lag jaate hai. I mean, no disrespect... but you're just wasting the country's resources, man! Just fucking accept it - nahin banne waale tum log IPS officers, and move on!

GAURI

(serving them tea)

Bilkul sahi keh rahe ho tum. Chale aate hai bhed bakriyon ki tarah buson aur trainon mein bhar ke! Kuchh nahin hota inke paas.

Gauri's voice overlaps as Manoj runs into the library.

53. INT. LIBRARY - DAY

(This scene intercuts between Gauri's outburst and Manoj)

GAURI

Gareeb hota hai inka baap. Koi subji bechta hai, koi truck chalata hai... toh koi sadak pe jhaadu lagata hai. Mai-June ki tapti garmi mein kheton mein majdoori karta hai mera baap.

54. INT. LIBRARY TOILET - MORNING

Manoj cleans the toilet hole with a brush, cleans the area around the pot vigorously and flushes.

GAURI

Nahin padha paate yeh baap apne bachchon ko mehenge schoolon mein. Dilli aate samay coaching ki fees nahin rakh paate inki jebon mein.

(MORE)

GAURI (CONT'D)

Par pata hai... phir bhi yeh khaali
haath nahin aate.

55. INT. LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Manoj brooms the library.

GAURI

JAZBA lekar aate hai. Ki ek din IAS
IPS banenge, chaahe inhe library
mein jhaadu lagana pade ya kisi ka
toilet saaf karna pade...

56. INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

The library is almost empty as Manoj settles chairs back into
tables.

GAURI

Aur ye jo jazba hota hai na, Naval...
ye kisi mehenge school ya college mein
padhne se nahin aata. Yeh jazba
Hindustan ke karodo nirdhan aur
pichhde logon ki ummeedon se paida
hota hai. Aur yahi jazba inki poonji
hoti hai.

57. INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Manoj washes his only shirt and pant. Puts it for drying. He
finally sits down in his vest and opens a course book.

GAURI

Haar-jeet toh lagi rehti hai, Naval,
lekin hum mein se ek ki bhi jeet hoti
hai na...

58. INT. LIBRARY - EARLY MORNING

GAURI (O.S.)

...toh karodon bhed-bakriyon ki
jeet hoti hai.

A YEAR LATER.

Manoj is asleep on a table. Course books next to him.

Hariram wakes him up. Manoj wakes up. He is UNSHAVEN -
completely disheveled, drained out.

HARIRAM
Tera doosra attempt hai na aaj?

MANOJ
Kitne baj gaye!?

HARIRAM
Ek ghanta hai abhi! Jaa naha le.
Shakal dekh apni!

MANOJ
Nahin, revision karni hai!

VOICEOVER
(on Manoj's face)
*Baarah mahine padhai mein aisa dooba
raha ki apni shakal tak nahin dekhi
usne. Library se nikla hi nahi woh, bas
padtha raha. Aur main...?*

59. EXT. MUKHERJEE NAGAR: CYBER CAFE - DAY

Pandey is with Tanya. They don't seem unhappy.

PANDEY
(on the phone)
Jyada-tar log fail hi hue hai, papa
ji. Itna jaldi Prelims nahin nikalta!

Tanya is also on her phone -

TANYA
I didn't clear it, dad.

PANDEY
Next attempt mein pakka kar lunga,
abhi seedhe padhne hi jaa raha hun.
Haan papa ji... OK papa ji. Ji
pranaam.

As Pandey disconnects, Tanya is relieved -

TANYA
That was easy!

Just then Manoj comes running -

MANOJ
Pandey, phone de! Maa ko batana hai!

PANDEY
Kya batana hai?

MANOJ
Clear ho gaya mera!

PANDEY
Tera ho gaya!?

TANYA
Arre congrats yaar!!!

Just then, Gauri runs in and lifts Manoj in the air.

GAURI
CHHA GAYE NA MANOJ BABU! Ho gaya na
restart!?!?

MANOJ
Thank you, Gauri bhaiya!

GAURI
Ab Mains ke liye best coaching
dhoondho, aur lag jao!

Pandey, feeling left out, turns Manoj around.

PANDEY
Yaar Manoj, tu Gwalior se yahi
pehen ke ghoom raha hai - tujhe aaj
kapde gift karunga main!
(to Gauri)
Prelims clear kiya hai isne. Majaak
thodi hai!

60. INT. A2Z COACHING CENTRE - DAY

Manoj, in a brand new shirt and haircut, is negotiating a deal with ZAI ARORA, the owner of A2Z Hindi & English UPSC Coaching Centre. In the background, workers are putting up photographs of previous toppers on the wall.

MANOJ
Aap jo kaam bologe main karunga,
ma'am, bas fees *thodi* aur kam kar
dijiye. Coaching ki bahut zaroorat
hai.

ZAI
Ttheek hai. Deposit do. 1,200.

MANOJ
(holds out money)
Ma'am, abhi 680 hai. Baaki
installments mein de dunga...

ZAI
Tum toh gale hi pad gaye yaar!

Zai notices new customers walking in - a girl and her father.
She grabs the 680 rupees from Manoj's hand.

ZAI (CONT'D)
Ttheek hai ttheek hai, kuchh kar
lenge. Abhi jao unki madad karo.

She points at the workers and attends to her new customers.

ZAI (CONT'D)
Hello ma'am, hello sir! I'm Zai Arora,
the Z in A2Z.

Manoj hands the workers the pictures. They put it up on walls.
The wall reads in block letters - 'UPSC TOPPERS 2001'.

When he picks up the next photograph, Manoj shouts -

MANOJ
ARRE MA'AM! YEH DEEP MOHAN NAHIN PADHE
IDHAR! MISTAKE HAI!

ZAI
(to her customers)
Aap form bhariye, main aati hoon.

She rushes to Manoj and whispers -

ZAI (CONT'D)
Yeh kya kar rahe ho tum?

MANOJ
(whispers back)
Ma'am, aapse galti hui hai. Deep Mohan
ne toh coaching nahin ki! Main mila
hoon unse!

ZAI
Tum kisi film star ko mile ho?

Manoj is confused.

ZAI (CONT'D)
Kisi bhi film star ko. Bade se bada...
mile ho?
(Manoj shakes his head)
Tumhe lagta hai woh wahi tambakku
khaata hai jo tumko bechte hai, hmm?

Manoj has no answer.

ZAI (CONT'D)

Isse 'ADVERTISING' kehte hai. Dedh lakh diya hai humne Deep Mohan ko. Tum bhi top karo, tumhe bhi de denge. Ab chup-chaap apna kaam karo. Samjhe?
(mumbles as she leaves)
Bloody idiot.

Zai is back to her customers.

THE GIRL

Kya keh rahe the woh? Deep Mohan yahan nahi padhe?

ZAI

Of course padhe hai, ma'am. Photo dekhiye na!

THE GIRL

(to Manoj)

Aap kya keh rahe the?

MANOJ

Woh nahi padhe yahan. Main jaanta hoon Deep sir ko. Yeh jhooth bol rahi hai.

THE GIRL

Aap jhooth bol rahi hai?

ZAI

(turns to Prabhakar)

Sir, aap jahan baithe hai, wahin Deep ke father bhi baithe the!

THE FATHER

Admission form dikhaiye unka.

ZAI

Ji?

THE GIRL

Very good idea dad. Dikhaiye Deep Mohan ka admission form!

ZAI

Private document hai, hum nahi dikha sakte. Agar aapko admission nahi chahiye, toh jaiye.

THE GIRL

Chaliye, papa.

MANOJ

Mujhe bhi nahin chahiye admission.
Mera deposit wapas kijiye.

ZAI

Deposit wapas nahi hota.

THE GIRL

Kaise wapas nahi hota?
(to Manoj)
Kab diya tha aapne?

MANOJ

Aapke aane se 2 minute pehle.

ZAI

(bangs money on the table)
Yeh lo apne 680 रुपये. Dobra apni
shakal mat dikhana.

THE FATHER

(gets up, folds his hands)
Humain bhi aapki shakal nahin
dekhni, madam.

THE GIRL

Delhi mein toh saare hi aise honge,
papa. Aana hi nahi chahiye tha!

MANOJ

Arre nahi, saare aise nahi hote.
Hum ddhoondh lenge koi achhi
coaching!

They walk to the exit.

THE GIRL

(to Manoj)
Aapko bhi PCS ke liye coaching
chahiye?

MANOJ

Nahi. UPSC Mains ke liye.

THE GIRL

Toh prelims ki coaching kahan kari?

MANOJ

Kahin se nahi. Self-study.

THE GIRL

Bina coaching ke clear kar diya! Arre
wah! What's your name?

MANOJ
Manoj. Aapka?

THE FATHER
Beta, thank you. Hum chalte hai.

MANOJ
Ok, uncle ji!

They are about to leave, when -

MANOJ (CONT'D)
Aapko kabhi madad chahiye, toh main
Vidya Vaachnalay mein padhta hoon.
Saara din!

Manoj watches them leave.

ZAI
GET OUT, PLEASE!

MANOJ
Ji!

VOICEOVER
*Itni khushi se Manoj kahin se "get
out" nahin hua tha...*

61. INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Manoj is happily settling books back into racks.

VOICEOVER
*Kayi dino tak Manoj uss din ke
baare mein sochta raha...*

It's raining outside the library.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)
Phir ek din -

A girl enters the library with a dripping umbrella. We see her point of view - she walks to him and sees an engineering book in his hand.

THE GIRL
Tumne engineering ki hai!?

MANOJ
(blurts out)
Haan -
(looks at the book)
"Aeronautical Engineering."

THE GIRL

Tabhi bina coaching ke kar liya!

MANOJ

Arre mujhe laga aap wapas chali gayi!

SHRADDHA

Nahi. Thoda dhoondha toh ek achhi coaching mil hi gayi.

MANOJ

Phir toh main bhi wahin jaunga!

An awkward laugh, followed by an awkward silence.

SHRADDHA

(extends a hand)

Hello. I'm Shraddha.

MANOJ

(shakes her hand)

Manoj.

SHRADDHA

Toh aap yahan padhte hain?

MANOJ

Haan. Aap baithiye na!

They sit.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Aapke papa...?

SHRADDHA

Woh gaye wapas. Mussoorie.

MANOJ

Achha...

(fumbling)

Mussoorie mein kidhar rehti hai aap?

SHRADDHA

Company Garden hai na, wahan se ek chhota sa rasta upar jaata hai... bas, 50 kadam chhado, wahin mera ghar hai! Aapne dekha hai Mussoorie?

MANOJ

Nahin...

SHRADDHA
Aaiye kabhi. It's beautiful!

Another awkward silence.

MANOJ
Padhai bhi... wahin ki aapne?

SHRADDHA
Haan, papa chahte the main doctor banun... Par ek din maine Civil Services ka decision liya. Aur papa bole, "Phir chal Dilli! Best jagah se padhai kar!"

A little laugh from Manoj.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)
Aapne engineering kidhar se kari?

MANOJ
(mumbles)
Gwalior -

HUKUMCHAND
OYE LADKE! RADDI BECHI?

MANOJ
(stands up abruptly)
Ji woh, wahi kar raha tha...

HUKUMCHAND
Baith ke gappe maarne ki tankha nahi deta tujhe! Abhi kar!

MANOJ
Ji.

SHRADDHA
Tum yahan... kaam karte ho?

MANOJ
(tries to play it cool)
Din bhar kaam, raat bhar padhai. Vaise maine kal hi padha hai ki Abdul Kalam street lamp ke neeche padhte the. Mere paas toh poori library hai...

62. INT. VIKAS SIR'S COACHING CLASS - DAY

Hundreds of students inside a classroom. A well-groomed Manoj enters and scans the class -

SHRADDHA
IDHAR!!!

Manoj rushes and sits next to her.

MANOJ
Yeh lo, pichhle hafte ke notes.

He hands her some notes.

SHRADDHA
Achha suno, kal bhi library jaa
rahe ho?

MANOJ
Nahin. Diwali ki chhutti hai! Bolo?

SHRADDHA
Dilli Haat chaloge?

Just then VIKAS DIVYAKIRTI, the professor, walks into class.
Everyone stands up immediately.

VIKAS SIR
Mere aate hi tum log jhatke se
khade ho jaate ho, lagta hai mujhe
maaroge!

The students laugh, still standing.

VIKAS SIR (CONT'D)
Inhi classes se shayad 1200-1500
civil servants bane hai jo sarkar
mein badi positions pe hain. Bilkul
aapki tarah aise hi khade hua karte
the woh bhi, jhatke se. Lekin unn
1200-1500 mein se, sirf... 2-2.5%,
30-40 honge... jo jab saamne aate
hai toh main khada ho jaata hoon.
Unko dekh ke meri umeed jagi rehti
hai ki aap mein se bhi kuchh aise
officers nikal ke aayenge... jinke
liye garv se main khada hunge...
jhatke se!

The students laugh and applaud.

VIKAS SIR (CONT'D)
Sab baith jayein. Manoj Kumar
Sharma khade rahein.

SHRADDHA
 (whispers to Manoj)
 Kya baat hai, Manoj! Aaj tumhe
 chocolate mil rahi hai!!!

VIKAS SIR
 Inka essay padhiye 'Indian
 Terrorism' pe. Bahut badhiya likha
 hai. Factually correct, simple
 bhasha... ek ek line ka meaning
 doosre se connected. Ek achha essay
 ek dilchasp kahani ki tarah hota
 hai. Pata hi nahin chalta kab shuru
 hua, kab khatam!
 (gives Manoj a chocolate)
 Aaj ka chocolate tumhare liye.

The class applauds. Manoj passes the chocolate to Shraddha.
 She accepts it with a smile.

63. EXT. DILLI HAAT - AFTERNOON

Dilli Haat. 'HAPPY DIWALI' written all over.

PANDEY
 पुराने ज़खमों का अब कोई दर्द नहीं है...
 दिल अब उतना सर्द नहीं है...

Shraddha, Manoj, Tanya and Pandey are sitting around a table.
 In the middle is a bottle, pointed at Pandey.

PANDEY (CONT'D)
 वोह क्या आई चौखट पे कॉफ़ी मांगने,
 तब से ये प्रीतम... उतना फ़र्द नहीं है!

Laughter.

SHRADDHA
 Aap toh bahut achha likhte hai,
 Pandey ji!

TANYA
 What the hell is 'fard'!?

SHRADDHA
 Lonely!

Pandey spins the bottle. It stops at Shraddha.

TANYA
 Truth or dare?

SHRADDHA

Dare!

MANOJ

Yesssss! Gaana sunao!

SHRADDHA

Nahin nahin... Yahan kaise...

TANYA

No no! You *have* to sing!

PANDEY

Arre hum poetry sunaye na? Tum gaana sunao!

A moment. Shraddha begins to hum a song...

64. EXT. DILLI HAAT: BOOK SHOP - AFTERNOON

Shraddha's humming continues, as -

She watches Manoj from a distance. Manoj is looking at a book - APJ Kalam's 'Agni Ki Udaan'. He picks it up and sees its price tag.

From a distance, Shraddha watches him put the book back.

65. EXT. DILLI HAAT: JUICE SHOP - EVENING

Shraddha's humming plays on - Manoj and Shraddha are having tea together. She takes out a book from her handbag.

SHRADDHA

Tumhare liye.

It is 'Agni ki Udaan'.

MANOJ

Shraddha... yeh main kaise le sakta hoon?

SHRADDHA

(hands the book to him)

Aise.

Their hands meet. Crackers burst at a distance as he takes the book.

MANOJ

Thank you.

66. EXT. DILLI HAAT - MAGIC HOUR [EVENING]

Her humming stops...

SHRADDHA

Pata hai pichhli Diwali pe hi maine
decide kiya tha ki main doctor
nahin, Collector banungi.

MANOJ

Pichhli Diwali?

They are walking around.

SHRADDHA

Haan. Hospital mein intern thi.
Case aaya. 18-saal ki ladki...
Nylon ki saadi... 3rd-degree
burns... dahej ka chakkar... same
as usual. Aur hamesha ki tarah FIR
pe official cause of death -
'accidental'. Maine socha agar mere
paas power hota, toh main aisa
kabhi nahin hone deti. Then I
thought - kyun nahin ho sakta mere
paas power? Bilkul ho sakta hai!
Main bhi ban sakti hoon Collector!
Bas. Maine papa ko bataya, aur papa
bole - 'Phir chal Dilli...'

MANOJ

'...best jagah se padhai kar.'

Crackers burst at a distance.

67. INT. VIKAS SIR'S COACHING CLASS - DAY

Blackboard - on one side, a rocket is drawn, on another side,
Vikas sir finishes drawing a Diwali rocket.

VIKAS SIR

Mazze ki baat hai ki Diwali ka
rocket unhi fundamentals pe udta
hai jispe chaand jaane wala rocket
udta hai. Newton's third law of
motion. Every action has equal and
opposite reaction. Toh jab ek taraf
rocket tezsi se aag pheakta hai,
doosri taraf... farrrrrrrrrrrr!

Laughter.

VIKAS SIR (CONT'D)
Aerodynamics ke 3 fundamentals kaun
batayega?

Silence.

SHRADDHA
(nudges Manoj, whispers)
Tum bolo na!

MANOJ
(whispers back)
Kya boloon? Mujhe nahin aata!

SHRADDHA
Arre jitna aata hai bol do -

VIKAS SIR
(noticing them)
Kyun Shraddha, Manoj ko
aerodynamics samjha rahi ho?

SHRADDHA
(stands up, awkward)
Nahin sir, yeh sharma raha hai
bolne se. Engineer hai. Kalam Sahab
ki kitaab bhi padhi hai isne!

VIKAS SIR
Engineer?
(to Manoj)
Tum toh Hindi Sahitya ke student ho
na? Ya mujhe galatfehmi hui hai?

MANOJ
Nahin sir, Sahitya ka hi hoon...

VIKAS SIR
Toh phir?

MANOJ
(stands up)
Sir, humare beech galatfehmi ho
gayi -

Light laughter. Shraddha is confused.

SOME ASSHOLE
Tumhe kis angle se yeh engineer
dikhta hai???

SHRADDHA
Woh -

Shraddha's throat clogs up. More laughter.

MANOJ

Yaar woh mere haath mein kitaab thi
- woh engineering wali -
(turns to Shraddha)
Tumhe laga main engineer hoon -

The laughter grows.

VIKAS SIR

Shhh! Bas!
(laughter dies down)
Koi baat nahin, hota hai Shraddha.
Tum dono baitho. Main batata hoon
Fundamentals of Aerodynamics...

Manoj and Shraddha sit as Vikas sir explains aerodynamics.

MANOJ

(whispers to Shraddha)
Asal mein main - main tumhe batane
wala tha - mujhe mauka nahin mila -
nahin, mauka tha... himmat nahin
hui, main darr gaya ki tum -

STUDENT 1

(focussed on the lecture)
Shh!! Bhai ishq bahar kar liyo,
lecture sunne de!

Shraddha is broken.

68. INT. LIBRARY: STORE ROOM - EVENING

Manoj is in a small, desolate room. Hariram opens the door -

HARIRAM

Kamre mein kya kar raha hai? Saab
bula rahe hain! Jaldi aa!

69. INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

Manoj follows him to Hukum's desk. Hukum is counting money.

HUKUMCHAND

Kahan mar gaya tha?

MANOJ

Thodi tabiyat kharaab thi, Hukum
ji...

HUKUMCHAND

Haan, chori kar ke toh tabiyat
kharaab hogi hi na?

(points at the money)

Kya hai yeh?

MANOJ

Paise...

HUKUMCHAND

Kaun se paise?

MANOJ

Raddi ke paise.

HUKUMCHAND

Haan. Sirf 4800? Picchle saal 7000 ki
biki thi!

MANOJ

Sir, 400 kilo raddi thi. 12 rupaye ke
hisaab se 4800 rupaye hi hue.

HUKUMCHAND

2200 jeb mein daal liye!?

MANOJ

Jo hisaab tha seedha-seedha diya hai,
Hukum ji!

HUKUMCHAND

Dekh Hariram, kitni aaram se jhooth
bol raha hai! Abhi se yeh haal hai,
IPS banke toh poora desh hi loot lega
yeh! Chor ki aulad...

Something comes over Manoj. He takes out his chappal...

MANOJ

Papa ko chor bola na, toh...

Manoj's face becomes one of pure rage. Hukum looks afraid.
Manoj wears the chappal back...

And walks out of the library.

VOICEOVER

Manoj ne library chhod di.

70. EXT. OLD DELHI LANES - DAY

Pandey rides a new bike through narrow alleys...

VOICEOVER

Class aana bhi chhod diya. Adiyal saala.

He takes a left, goes through an old archway...

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Dhoondhte dhoondhte main pahuncha kahan? Malka Ganj ki Gali No. 6.

71. I/E. ATTA CHAKKI - DAY

The thumping sound of a machine. Pandey arrives and enters a small dungeon-like hellhole... There is a boy in shorts and a vest, working on an atta chakki machine. The boy's back is towards Pandey.

PANDEY

MANOJ SHARMA YAHAN KAAM KARTA HAI?

The boy turns around. It *is* Manoj.

MANOJ

HAAN, YAHIN KARTA HAI, PANDEY JI!

PANDEY

YAAR TU YEH KYA KAR RAHA HAI?
LIBRARY KYUN CHHODI TUNE? AUR YEH
CLASS KYUN NAHIN AA RAHA?

MANOJ

KAISE HO AAP?

PANDEY

MUJHE CHHOD. SHRADDHA APNE PRELIMS
KE LIYE MUSSOORIE JAA RAHI HAI.
JAAKE SORRY BOL USSE!

MANOJ

AB TOH MAIN MAINS CLEAR KAR KE HI
SORRY BOLUNGA.

PANDEY

KAISE KAREGA CLEAR? ITNE SHOR MEIN
PADHEGA KAISE?

Manoj shuts off the machine. Silence. He walks to a cloth-covered table and uncovers it. Course books are neatly stacked up on it.

MANOJ

Aise.

PANDEY

Adiyal mat ban. Saath chal, ghar pe
padhai kar. Wapas zero pe aa
jayega...

(voice begins to fade out)

Phir kya muh dikhayega Shraddha
ko...

His voice merges with the voiceover...

VOICEOVER

*Mujhe laga woh waapis zero pe aa
jayega...*

72. INT. NP BOYS SCHOOL: EXAMINATION HALL - DAY

Manoj writes his exam, smiling from side to side.

VOICEOVER

*Par english exam mein usko likhte
dekh english medium wale bhi ghabra
gaye.*

Naval looks at Manoj, nervous.

73. EXT. NP BOYS SCHOOL: COURTYARD - AFTERNOON

VOICEOVER

Aur bahar nikalte hi -

Hundreds of students pouring out. Manoj is thrilled.

NAVAL

Kaisa gaya paper?

MANOJ

Jabardast! English ho gaya, baaki
sab toh kar hi lunga! Interview
call pakka!

NAVAL

Congratulations.

MANOJ

Meri kismat dekho Naval bhai -
jaana pehchana essay aa gaya!

NAVAL

Kaun sa?

MANOJ

Terrorism wala! Maine class mein
bahut achha likha tha Hindi mein.
Wohi english mein chep diya!

NAVAL

Terrorism? Terrorism pe kaun sa
question tha?

Naval begins flicking through the question paper.

MANOJ

Question nahi, essay. Last page pe
dekho. 'Terrorism in India'. Ek dum
detail mein likha hai maine,
reason, impact, how to solve the
problem, difference between Punjab
terrorism, Kashmir terrorism,
Naxal, North-East -

NAVAL

Kidhar hai yaar???

MANOJ

Yeh dekho.

Manoj points - Naval reads. Instantly, he relaxes.

NAVAL

Fuck you, man! English toh padhna
seekh le! IAS kya ghanta karega tu!
'Terrorism in India' nahi, '*Tourism*
in India' likha hai. DEKH! 'T-O-U-R-
I-S-M'!

Points to the question. It clearly said '**Tourism** in India'.

NAVAL (CONT'D)

Abey yeh qualifying paper tha! Gaya
tera doosra attempt bhi!
(chuckles while leaving)
Kehta interview ka call aayega!

Manoj crumbles.

--- MIDPOINT ---

74. EXT. DELHI BUS STOP - NIGHT

Manoj is sitting in a bus, forlorn. The bus starts.

75. EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

A bus is driving through beautiful mountains...

76. EXT. MUSSOORIE: SHRADDHA HOUSE - DAY

Manoj is climbing up, counting the steps -

MANOJ

44... 45... 46... 47... 48... 49...

After one more step, he reaches a gate. On it, a nameplate -
'PROF. PRABHAKAR JOSHI'.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

50.

Manoj enters the garden. Sees a white cottage. He rings the bell.

Footsteps...

A servant opens.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Shraddha se milne hai.

SERVANT

Unki bua ke ghar shaadi hai... sab wahan gaye hai.

MANOJ

Oh... wahan ka address kya hai?

The servant does not answer.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Ya phone number? Main Dilli se aaya hoon...

SERVANT

Aaiye.

77. INT. MUSSOORIE: SHRADDHA HOUSE - DAY

Manoj enters Shraddha's house and looks around. Meanwhile, the servant dials a number from the landline.

SERVANT

Ji Kishan. Shraddha didi ke liye
koi aaya hai...

Manoj sees family photographs - Shraddha with her parents...
there's a trophy cabinet. Every trophy inside it has the same
name - 'SHRADDHA JOSHI'.

SERVANT (CONT'D)

Shraddha didi... aapka dost aaya
hai Dilli se.

He passes the phone to Manoj.

MANOJ

Hello Shraddha!

SHRADDHA

(on the phone)

Manoj???? Tum mere ghar pe? Mera
address kahan se mila?

MANOJ

Tumhi ne toh bataya tha! Bhool
gayi? Company Garden, 50 seedi
upar...

A beat.

SHRADDHA

Mere ghar kyun aaye ho?

MANOJ

Tumhe sorry bolne. Please mil sakti
ho 5 minute ke liye?

SHRADDHA

Tumhare Mains ka kya hua?

MANOJ

Qualifying paper mein fail ho gaya!

SHRADDHA

Kyun?

MANOJ

'Tourism' ki jagah 'Terrorism' pe
essay likh diya.

SHRADDHA

Kyun kiya aisa?

MANOJ

Mujhe laga tum khush ho jaogi ki
mera English paper ho gaya.
Jaldbaazi mein maine doosri baar
check hi nahin kiya!

SHRADDHA

Aur dobara padhai shuru karne ki
jagah tum Mussoorie mere ghar aa
gaye?

MANOJ

Please mujhe mil lo, please...
tumhe kuchh kehna hai...

SHRADDHA

Kya kehna hai?

Manoj is quiet.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)

Bolo ab!

MANOJ

(whispers)
Shraddha, I love you.

SHRADDHA

Kya!?

MANOJ

Please Shraddha. Bas tum bhi ek
baar bol do...

SHRADDHA

Kya bol dun, Manoj!

MANOJ

Bol do 'I love you'. Phir tumhare
liye main duniya ulat-pulat dunga.

SHRADDHA

Please Kishan ko phone do.

Manoj passes the phone to Kishan.

KISHAN

Ji, didi?

He listens, keeps the phone down, and turns to Manoj -

KISHAN (CONT'D)

Aap wapas Dilli jaiye.

78. INT. BUS - NIGHT

A bus is cruising through the night.

Inside, Manoj is broken.

79. EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - DAY

A different bus arrives at an arid village with Vidhayak Ji's photo on the side. Manoj gets off.

The photo mocks him.

81. EXT. BALLE'S SHOP - DAY

Balle sees Manoj.

BALLE

Manoj!

Balle jumps over the counter of his shop, runs and hugs Manoj warmly.

BALLE (CONT'D)

Bahut dukh hua, yaar.

MANOJ

Tujhe kaise pata?

BALLE

Kaise pata matlab?

MANOJ

Tu kya bol raha hai?

BALLE

Tujhe pata nahin?

MANOJ

Kya hua?

BALLE

Kuchh nahin. RAJNI!!!

RAJNI (O.S.)

HAAN!

BALLE

TERA BHAII AAYA HAI!

Rajni runs down to them and hugs Manoj.

RAJNI
Kitne dinon baad aaye ho!

MANOJ
(concerned)
Papa ttheek hai?

RAJNI
Haan, chitthi aayi thi!

Manoj is relieved. He notices how much Rajni has grown.

MANOJ
Kitni badi ho gayi tu!

RAJNI
Aap toh bilkul patle ho gaye
bhaiya!

He hugs her. They begin walking up.

MANOJ
Maa kidhar hai?

RAJNI
Kalicharan ke yahan!

MANOJ
Kyun?

RAJNI
Woh jo gayein bechi thi usko, unka
khayaal rakhti hai.

MANOJ
Aur Kamlesh?

RAJNI
Kamlesh Bhaiya ab Jaura mein rehte
hain. Wahin dihani pe kaam karte
hain. Bhaiya aap DSP ban gaye!?

Manoj sees that Dadi's khatiya is resting against the wall.

MANOJ
Dadi kidhar hai?

Rajni goes quiet. She shuffles - bangles clink. Manoj notices she is wearing Dadi's bangles. From a distance, Balle and some other villagers watch.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
Kidhar hai dadi?

Rajni begins weeping.

Manoj rushes to Dadi's room - and pushes the heavy wooden door open.

82. INT. VILLAGE HOUSE: DADI ROOM - DAY

Inside, it's empty. Dadi's mattress is folded up. Her belongings are all stacked up on her trunk. Reality sinks in.

MANOJ

Bataya kyun nahin mujhe?

Manoj's face is red with rage.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Bataya kyun nahin?

RAJNI

Dadi ne mana kiya tha...

MANOJ

KYUN!

FADE OUT.

83. INT. VILLAGE HOUSE: BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

PUSHPA

Tere papa ko bhi nahin bataya.

MANOJ

KYUN LEKIN!

Manoj is standing, angry, while Pushpa is sitting on the bed, a bottle of oil in her hands.

PUSHPA

Teri Dadi ne mana kiya tha. Kehti thi ki dono jaroori kaam kar rahe hain, bekaar mein tang mat karo. Kehti thi ki dekhna - mero Manoj vardi pehen ke hi wapas aayego! Mann se bahut bhali thi dukariya.

(a beat)

Aa, baith.

Manoj submits - sits on the ground. She pours oil into his head and starts massaging him.

PUSHPA (CONT'D)

Yahan sab badhiya hai. Kamlesh ko achhi majdoodi mil rahi hai. Apni jo gaye bik gayi thi, ab unhi hi seva kar rahi hoon, moye bado sukh milto hai.

Out of Pushpa's sight, Manoj breaks down.

PUSHPA (CONT'D)

Rajni toh pooro ghar sambhal leti hai. Moye kachhu kaam hi na karne deti! Tere papa ki chitthi bhi aayi thi. Keh rahe the ki woh jaldi bahaal ho jaayenge. Aur paise ki bhi mujhe koi takleef na hai -

MANOJ

Kitna jhooth bolegi, maa?

PUSHPA

(holding back tears)

Tu agli baar aayego, toh vardi pehenkar aayego na, beta?

84. I/E. ATTA CHAKKI/CLASSROOM - DAY/EVENING/NIGHT

Wheat grains are poured into the machine. The machine is switched on. The thumping sound of the atta chakki starts.

84A. INT. VIKAS SIR COACHING CLASS: DAY

Manoj flips through the pages of a textbook in class.

84B. INT. ATTA CHAKKI: DAY

Loads grains into machine, the machine is running...

84C. INT. VIKAS SIR COACHING CLASS: DAY

In a classroom, writing.

84D. INT. ATTA CHAKKI: DAY

The machine is running...

VOICEOVER

Padhai ke saath saath usne ghar ka bhoj bhi apne kandhon pe le liya.

85. INT. VIKAS SIR COACHING CLASS - DAY

In the classroom, Pandey nudges Manoj.

VOICEOVER

Phir ek din -

PANDEY

Woh dekh, kaun aaya hai.

The chakki sound fades out as Manoj looks up - it's Shraddha.

SHRADDHA

May I come in, sir?

VIKAS SIR

Welcome Shraddha Joshi! Kaise hue tumhare Prelims?

SHRADDHA

Bahut achhe, sir!

VIKAS SIR

Very good! Baitho.

Shraddha sits and scan the class. Manoj avoids her gaze.

PANDEY

(softly to Manoj)

Sunn isne phone kiya tha mujhe.
Poochh rahi thi tere baare mein.

MANOJ

Mujhe bataya kyun nahin?

PANDEY

Bhool gaya yaar.
(smiles)
Pi rakhi hogi.

Manoj darts back into his notes.

MANOJ

Peena kam kar, Pandey.

PANDEY

Baap mat ban mera, samjha?

86. EXT. VIKAS SIR COACHING CLASS - DAY

Students are pouring out. Shraddha catches up with Manoj.

SHRADDHA

Manoj!

He stops. She waits for students to pass by.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

MANOJ

Koi baat nahi.

SHRADDHA

I was in shock ki tum mere ghar tak pahunch gaye. Maine wapas phone kiya lekin tum jaa chuke the! I'm sorry, I was so rude...

MANOJ

Thank you for being rude, Shraddha. Main bhatak gaya tha. Pyaar-vyaar ka time hi kahan hai? Mujhe bas padhai pe focus karna hai. Bahut zimmedariyaan hai meri.

The students have cleared out. They are alone.

SHRADDHA

Mujhe bataya Pandey ne.

MANOJ

Kya?

SHRADDHA

Sab kuchh... Tumhare ghar ke baare mein, tumhare papa ke baare mein... Hum kahin chal ke baith sakte hain?

A beat.

MANOJ

Main tumhe apne prelims ke baad milta hoon.

SHRADDHA

Lekin woh toh...
(she stops herself)
Best of luck!

They shake hands. Shraddha watches as Manoj walks away and gets lost in the crowd...

VOICEOVER
*Shraddha usse 2 mahine tak nahin
 mil payi. Kyunki woh apni
 zimmedaariyon mein uljha raha.*

87. EXT. MUKHERJEE NAGAR: CYBER CAFE - AFTERNOON

Winter. Students at the cyber cafe.

VOICEOVER
Aur phir aaya Prelims ka result -

PANDEY
 (on the phone)
 Nahin hua papa ji. Sorry papa ji.

We hear yelling through the phone. Meanwhile, Tanya comes running in -

TANYA
 I finally cleared it!

PANDEY
 Toh main kya karun? Nachun?
 (back into the phone)
 Last attempt mein pakka, papa. Ji
 papa, ji...

Tanya has walked away. Pandey sees her go, as Shraddha comes out of the cyber cafe, excited. She runs to Pandey.

SHRADDHA
 Manoj kidhar hai?

PANDEY
 Hoga kahin. Mujhe kya pata.

SHRADDHA
 Uska prelims clear ho gaya. Aur woh
 apna result bhi dekhne nahin aaya!

Pandey is quiet.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)
 Kyun nahin aaya? Kidhar hai?

On Pandey's face, the sound of the atta chakki fades in...

88. I/E. ATTA CHAKKI - EVENING

Shraddha reaches the atta chakki. It takes her a few seconds to absorb the sight of Manoj working in a dark dungeon...

SHRADDHA

MANOJ!

MANOJ

SHRADDHA!? TUM YAHAN?

SHRADDHA

CONGRATULATIONS! TUMHARA PRELIMS
CLEAR HO GAYA!

MANOJ

HONA HI THA!

It's too loud for Shraddha -

SHRADDHA

PLEASE YEH SHOR BAND KARO!

He switches off the machine. Silence.

MANOJ

Paper ke baad ghar aake maine ek ek
question cross check kiya tha. 98
marks chahiye pass hone ke liye,
maine toh 200 mein se 164 answers
sahi tick kiye the! Tum dekhna,
aise hi Mains bhi nikaal lunga!

He clears a space for her.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Aao, baitho.

SHRADDHA

(remains standing)

Mains mein yes ya no tick nahin
karna hota, lambe lambe answers
likhne padte hain. Prepare nahin
karoge toh nahin hoga.

MANOJ

Pata hai. Kar lunga manage.

SHRADDHA

Kaise karoge manage? Pandey ne
bataya tum yahan 12-15 ghante kaam
karte ho!

(a beat)

Manoj suno, yeh atta chakki ka kaam
chhod do please, I will lend you
money.

MANOJ

Paise ki zaroorat nahin hai mujhe.

SHRADDHA
Zaroorat nahin hai toh padhai chhod
ke yeh sab kyun kar rahe ho?

Manoj is quiet.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)
Mussoorie se aayi toh tum 2 mahine
mujhe mile nahin. Tumne kaha ki
sirf *padhai* pe focus karoge! Kaha
tha ki nahin?

MANOJ
Kaha tha.

SHRADDHA
Toh phir karo focus! Kyun kar rahe ho
yeh sab!?

MANOJ
(lets go)
Tum nahin samjhogi! Tumhari meri
duniya bahut alag hai, Shraddha!

She's stunned, her eyes well up. He calms down.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
Baitho please.

She sits. As he pours a glass of water -

MANOJ (CONT'D)
Ek raat main yahan padh raha tha...

89. INT. ATTA CHAKKI - FLASHBACK

NIGHT. Manoj is studying in the *Atta Chakki*.

Suddenly, the door creaks open. It is Gauri.

MANOJ
Kya hua Gauri bhaiya?

GAURI
Dekho kaun aaya hai.
(folds his hands to
someone)
Achha, chalta hoon. Kuchh chahiye
toh bata dijiyega.

Gauri leaves... and Ramveer appears at the door.

MANOJ

Papa!?

RAMVEER

Bado mushkil se milo tu, beta.

Manoj does pranaam and rushes to lay a mat on the floor.

MANOJ

Aap baithiye papa...

Ramveer sits. Manoj pours him a glass of water. Ramveer holds the glass, but does not drink.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Aap yahan...?

RAMVEER

Tujhe lene aaya hoon. Yeh kis narak mein reh raha hai tu!? Chal, wapas ghar chalte hain. Beejon ki kaala-bajaari mein bahut kamayi hai, beta! Achha paisa kamayenge.

Ramveer gulps down the water.

MANOJ

Yeh kya baatein kar rahe hain aap, papa?

Ramveer lets go -

RAMVEER

Meri maa mar gayi, aur mujhe pata hi nahin chala! Main apni hi ladai mein laga raha. Socha - beimaani ke khilaaf datke khade raho, aakhir mein sachchai ki jeet hogi. Lekin sab bakwaas baatein hain. Jamana badal gaya hai beta. Duniya mein har jagah Chauhan aur Vidhayak hi bhare hue hain. Koi nahin hara sakta unko.

(he gradually breaks down)

Teri maa ttheek kehti hai. Moorkh hoon main. Sachchai ke chakkar mein maine apna ghar barbaad kar diya.

(starts weeping)

Soch liya hai maine. Chal ghar chalein. Pushpa ne akele bahut sambhal liya... ab hum mil ke sambhal lenge. Chauhan ke pair pakad lunga, jiss file pe bolega sign kar dunga.

(MORE)

RAMVEER (CONT'D)

Chal Manoj, baandh apna boriya
bistar. Bahut ho gayi yeh
imaandaari ki ladai. Bekaar cheez
hai.

Manoj holds him lovingly.

MANOJ

Itni bhi bekaar nahi hai, papa.

RAMVEER

Bekaar hai! Hum jaise log kabhi
nahin jeet paayenge.

MANOJ

Lekin haar bhi toh nahi maanenge
na?

Ramveer looks up.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Yaad hai, papa?

OVERLAP of Rajni's voice reciting the poem -

RAJNI (O.S.)

हार नहीं मानूँगा,
रार नयी ठानूँगा...

MANOJ

हार नहीं मानूँगा,
रार नयी ठानूँगा...
काल के कपाल पर लिखता मिटाता हूँ।

Ramveer finishes the poem -

RAMVEER

गीत नया गाता हूँ।

Ramveer has become the child, Manoj, the father...

MANOJ (O.S.)

*Maine papa se kaha ghar ka khayaal
main rakhunga...*

90. INT. ATTA CHAKKI - EVENING

BACK TO PRESENT.

MANOJ

...aap ladiye. Main aapke saath
hoon.

(offers her the glass of
water)

Zimmedariyaan hai meri, Shraddha.

A beat.

SHRADDHA

Lekin tum itne andhere mein padhoge
kaise?

MANOJ

Papa kehte the bahar ke andhere se
nahin, andar ke andhere se daro.

SHRADDHA

Manoj lekin -

MANOJ

- suvidhayon ke laalach mein
samjhautoh ka andhera.
(lightens the mood)
Street lamp ke neeche padhte the
Abdul Kalam. Mera paas toh phir bhi
apna bulb hai.

The bulb flickers...

VOICEOVER

*Bulb toh tha uske paas, lekin hua
wahi jo Shraddha ko darr tha.*

The bulb goes out. In darkness -

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Woh Mains ke exam mein fail ho
gaya.*

91. EXT. RESTART TEA STALL - NIGHT

Shraddha is sitting with Manoj, holding his hand. At another
table, Pandey is drunk, looking at them.

VOICEOVER

*Lekin phir bhi woh uske saath thi,
uska haath pakad kar.*

Naval joins Pandey with two quarters of whiskey.

PANDEY

Je badhiya cheez laye ho tum Naval!
Ab banega mahaul!

Gauri serves them snacks.

GAURI

Vaise party final selection ke baad
hi deni chahiye, Naval. Mains ke
baad toh maine bhi kayi partiyaan
di thi.

PANDEY

Par Gauri bhaiya... Naval ka
selection pakka hai. Poochho kyun?

GAURI

Kyun?

PANDEY

Kyunki iski life mein distract
karne ke liye koi Shraddha nahin
hai. Shraddha Dilli na aati toh...
Manoj ka bhi Mains clear ho jaata.

GAURI

Pandey tum achha nahin bol sakte
toh muh band rakho.

PANDEY

Arre Gauri bhaiya main toh isse keh
raha hoon kuchh ban jao! Nahin toh
madam chhodke chali jayegi! Woh
gayi na, Tanya? Losers ke saath koi
nahin tikta.

Shraddha stares at Pandey. Pandey is unhinged.

PANDEY (CONT'D)

Manoj! Aaj se 15 saal baad, zindagi
ke kisi mod par yeh ladki tumhe
milti hai aur poochhti hai ki...
"Manoj dear, what are you doing
these days?" Toh tum kya jawaab
doge? "Shraddha I am working in
atta chakki? Ya phir Morena se
Jaura Jugaad chala raha hoon?"

GAURI

Pandey, tum piye hue ho, hosh mein
aao.

PANDEY

Hosh mein toh main isse laane ki
koshish kar raha hoon, Gauri
bhaiya! Sab ladkiyan ek jaisi hoti
hain! Do minute nahin lagati losers
ko chhodne mein.

Shraddha storms out.

PANDEY (CONT'D)

(to Gauri)

Kaha tha na maine? 2 minute nahin
lagati!

Manoj runs after Shraddha.

92. EXT. SHRADDHA HOUSE: STREET - NIGHT

Shraddha is walking away. Manoj catches up.

MANOJ

Shraddha suno -

SHRADDHA

Maybe Pandey is right! Tumne
'tourism' ki jagah 'terrorism' pe
essay likha kyunki -

MANOJ

Please suno -

SHRADDHA

Kyunki tumhe *mujhe* batane ki jaldi
thi. Agar main tumhari life mein nahin
hoti, tum doosri baar question padhte,
sahi essay likhte -

MANOJ

Aisa mat socho -

SHRADDHA

You see, I am your distraction! Tum
padhai chhod kar mere ghar tak aa
gaye! Socho Manoj -

MANOJ

(lets go)

Kya karun main? Tum nahin nikalti
mere dil se! Bahut koshish kar li!
Pandey 15 saal ki baat kar raha
hai, 15 kya, 50 saal baad bhi main
tumhe nahin bhoolunga! Tum nahin
samjhogi...

SHRADDHA

Suno Manoj... I will hate myself...
agar tum meri wajah se IPS nahin
bane...

MANOJ

Agar main kabhi IPS bana, toh woh
tumhari wajah se hoga! Fail hone ke
baad main Mussorie kyun aaya tha?
Kyunki tum meri STRENGTH ho! Tum meri
distraction nahin, tum meri MOTIVATION
ho!

SHRADDHA

Mussoorie se main tumhe sorry kehne
wapas aayi, lekin tumne kaha tum
Prelims ke baad miloge... Yaad hai?

A beat.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)

Woh waqt meri zindagi ka sabse
tough... main tumhe dekhne - tumhe
milne ke liye... Room ki bell bajti
mujhe - mujhe lagta tum ho... sadak
par - kitaabon ki dukaan par... Ek
din tum dikhe bhi... lekin main
door rahi... because I didn't want
to distract you...

(she collects herself)

Tumne kaha tha na uss din ki tum
duniya palat doge agar main keh dun I
love you?

Silence.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)

Manoj... I love you. Ab jao, palat do
duniya.

93. EXT. DELHI: ROADS - NIGHT

Mad passion on his face... Manoj is running... through
Mukerhjee Nagar... then on New Delhi roads...

94. EXT. DEEP RESIDENCE: DOOR - NIGHT

He runs into a bungalow's compound. The guard sitting there
chases him -

GUARD

Abey ruk!

Manoj reaches a door and knocks. The door opens just as the guard pulls Manoj back.

It is IAS Officer Deep Mohan.

DEEP MOHAN
Yes?

MANOJ
Deep Sir... main Manoj.

DEEP MOHAN
Kaun?

MANOJ
Tanya ke ghar coffee laya tha, yaad hai? Aur aapko laga main chhotu -

DEEP MOHAN
Oh... Manoj! Chhodo isse.

The guard lets go of Manoj.

DEEP MOHAN (CONT'D)
Tell me.

MANOJ
Sir... mera aakhri attempt hai. I need your help.

DEEP MOHAN
Not now, Manoj. I'm busy. Some other time.

MANOJ
Please sir, aapne kaha tha you owe me one.

95. INT. DEEP RESIDENCE: OFFICE - NIGHT

Manoj follow Deep through a living room. Some officials are sitting there.

DEEP MOHAN
Guys, please draft that letter. I have to deal with something.

Deep takes Manoj to the dining room.

DEEP MOHAN (CONT'D)
Bolo.

MANOJ

Sir Prelims nikaal leta hoon, lekin
Mains nahin nikalte... ab last
attempt hai, sir...

DEEP MOHAN

Ratta maar ke Prelims koi bhi nikal
sakta hai, you just have to tick
the right box. But Mains sabke bas
ki baat nahin hoti.

MANOJ

Main manage kar lunga, sir.

DEEP MOHAN

3 hours, 20 questions. That's 9
minutes to write an answer - *within*
200 words. So you'll take around 40
seconds to analyze, strategize,
construct your answer... Giving you
8 minutes 20 seconds to actually
write it in 200 words. 4000 words
per exam. A total of 9 exams in
total. That's 36000 words, Manoj.
Tumhe sirf lagta hai tum manage kar
loge.

MANOJ

Main kar lunga, sir...

Deep picks up a pen and a paper from the table.

DEEP MOHAN

Ok. Show me.

(hands it to Manoj)

Tumhare paas 8 min 20 second hai.
Write 200 words.

MANOJ

Kiske upar, sir?

DEEP MOHAN

What's your full name?

MANOJ

Manoj Kumar Sharma.

DEEP MOHAN

That's your topic. 'Manoj Kumar
Sharma'. And you can write in
Hindi.

MANOJ

Arre! Woh toh bahut easy hai!

DEEP MOHAN
 Likho phir.
 (starts a timer on his
 wristwatch)
 Start.

Manoj writes as Deep leaves - 'मनोज का जनम चम्बल के बिलगाओं में हुआ...'

96. INT. DEEP RESIDENCE: HALL - NIGHT

8 minutes 20 seconds later.

The timer on the watch is running. Deep's voice is heard over it -

DEEP MOHAN (O.S.)
 Send this draft to the home
 secretary, and request -

The timer beeps - 00:00.

DEEP MOHAN (CONT'D)
 Give me a minute.

97. INT. DEEP RESIDENCE: OFFICE - NIGHT

Deep bursts through the door -

DEEP MOHAN
 Time.

Deep takes the paper. It is not even half full.

DEEP MOHAN (CONT'D)
 This was easy for you, right?
 'Manoj Kumar Sharma'. Jiss topic ke
 baare mein tu sabse zyada jaanta
 hai, uspe 80-90 shabd bhi nahin
 likh paaya... toh how on earth will
 you write 200 words about Internal
 Security, International Relations,
 Social Justice, Governance...?

Manoj has no answer.

DEEP MOHAN (CONT'D)
 I don't want to demean you... but
 tere se nahin hoga.

98. EXT. RESTART TEA STALL - LATER THAT NIGHT

Manoj is washing utensils. Tutul is wrapping up chairs and tables. Gauri is wiping the tea stall.

GAURI
(muttering loudly)
'Tere se nahin hoga'. Apne AC ke kamre se bahar nikal Deep Mohan, din-raat atta chakki chala, phir kar ke dikha...

Gauri look at the utensils Manoj is cleaning.

GAURI (CONT'D)
Chhodo yeh.

Gauri walks towards him -

GAURI (CONT'D)
EK DUM CHHODO YEH BARTAN.

MANOJ
Kya hua?

GAURI
Nahin hoga tumse. Bartan dhote rahoge, atta peeste rahoge, toh nahin hoga. Shraddha sahi kehti hai. Hamari bhi yahi galti thi!

MANOJ
Kaam toh karna hi hai na, Gauri bhaiya!

GAURI
Tum aise nahin samjhoge. TUTUL!

Tutul comes running.

GAURI (CONT'D)
Mera kamra khaali karo. Manoj ka saara samaan wahan shift karo.

MANOJ
Kya -

TUTUL
Ji Gauri bhaiya!

GAURI
Ab se tumhari chai ki duty band, tum roz iske liye teen time khaana banayoge.

TUTUL
Ji Gauri bhaiya!

MANOJ
Gauri bhaiya -

GAURI
Aur TUM - aaj se, padhai ke alawa
KUCHH NAHIN KAROGE! Chakki-vakki
sab band. Tumhare ghar paisa *hum*
bhejenge.

MANOJ
Gauri bhaiya -

GAURI
Daan nahin hai. Udhar rahega tum
par! Apni pehli tankha se double
waapis karna!

MANOJ
NAHIN GAURI BHAIYA!

GAURI
CHUP KARO! EK AUR SHABD BOLOGE TOH
YAHIN GAAD DENGE TUMHE! YEH SIRF
TUMHARI LADAI NAHI HAI! HUM SAB KI
HAI! SAALA HUM MEIN SE EK KI BHI
JEET HOTI HAI NA, TOH KARODO BHED-
BAKRIYON KI JEET HOTI HAI! SAMJHE
KAA? KI DUN EK?

Manoj hugs Gauri. Music kicks in.

VOICEOVER
*Ussi raat, kamra set hua. First
time adiyal ne kisi ki baat maani
thi.*

99. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - NIGHT

Camera tracks in to reveal Manoj, Gauri and Tutul setting up
Gauri's room for Manoj.

VOICEOVER
*AC nahin tha, lekin 4 saalon mein
pehli baar sone ke liye ek bistar,
aur padhne ke liye ek table zaroor
tha.*

100. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - MORNING

VOICEOVER

Phir agli subeh...

Shraddha takes out an old stopwatch from her bag.

SHRADDHA

Yeh papa ne mujhe di thi. Unhone
kaha iska ek hi rule hai. Jab
padhne baitho, chala do. Jab uttho,
chaahe 10 second ke liye bhi...
band kar do. No cheating.

(hands him the stopwatch)

Everyday 16 ghante ghadi chalni
chahiye. Aur 16 ghante padhai.

Manoj takes the stopwatch, smiling.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)

Kya padh rahe ho?

MANOJ

Picchle 10 saal ke question papers.
Gauri bhaiya ne kaha har question
ka answer 8 minute 20 second 200
word mein likho.

SHRADDHA

(picks up the first paper)

Toh likho! Bharat ke samvedhaan
mein Dr. Ambedkar ka yogdaan...

Manoj looks at her with deep affection.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)

Chalo, shuru karo!

Manoj opens the notebook. Shraddha waits till he puts his pen
to the paper. Then she starts the stopwatch.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)

Start!

The music picks up with the ticking stopwatch...

101. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - NIGHT

Manoj is writing.

VOICEOVER

*Tutul khud menu decide karke kabhi
aloo, kabhi palak, kabhi tinde ki
subzi bana ke usko khilata raha.*

Tutul gives a plate of food to Manoj.

TUTUL

8 minute 20 second mein khao yeh.

MANOJ

Kyun?

TUTUL

Taaki khaane ke saath timing bhi
pet mein ghus jaaye!

Manoj smiles.

102. INT. STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

Shraddha is studying at a desk, alongside many other students...

VOICEOVER

*Shraddha apne PCS Exam ke liye
padhti rahi...*

103. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - NIGHT/DAY

VOICEOVER

Aur Manoj apni padhai karta raha.

NIGHT TRANSITIONS TO DAY - Manoj is at his desk, focussed.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

*Maheene beet gaye. Woh ek doosre se
mile hi nahin...*

He's so lost in a textbook that he doesn't notice Shraddha looking at him from the door. Then he turns around - she comes and stops the watch.

SHRADDHA

Mussoorie jaa rahi hoon.

MANOJ

Kyun!?

SHRADDHA

PCS Mains exam ke liye, idiot!

MANOJ

July aa gaya? Time ka pata hi nahi chala!

SHRADDHA

Aise hi tumhare Mains bhi aa jayenge. Pata nahin chalega. Lage Raho!

MANOJ

Laga rahunga!

They both laugh.

She resumes the stopwatch. The music resumes.

104. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - DAY/EVENING/NIGHT

Music swells. Manoj is energized to *another level!* MACRO SHOTS - The maps he is drawing are more precise. His written answers are organized - with examples, highlights, illustrations, maps...

105. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - NIGHT

NIGHT. The water is boiling on a stove. Tutul is sleeping in the corner. Manoj is drawing a map... loses his grip on the pen, his fingers are swollen.

Manoj walks to the stove. Pours the water into a mug. Mixes some cold water. Dips his hand in it. He looks at the running stopwatch - it bothers him.

Takes out his hand. Starts writing.

106. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - MORNING

MORNING. Gauri walks in and pauses the stopwatch. Manoj looks completely drained out. Gauri stuffs a laddoo into his mouth.

GAURI

Badhai ho. Shraddha ka phone aaya tha. Uska Mains clear ho gaya! Agle mahine interview hai.

Manoj hugs Gauri ecstatically.

GAURI (CONT'D)

Maa se bhi baat hui. Khush hai! Money order bhi mil gaya hai.

107. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - NIGHT

NIGHT. His eyes droop. So he stops the watch, sticks his head into a water bucket next to him, sits back down. Resumes the stopwatch. Begins to study. In a while, his eyes droop again.

So he takes a piece of paper and writes - "TERE SE NAHIN HOGA" and sticks it in front of him. Looks at it. Continues studying, fully awake.

108. EXT. NEHRU VIHAR: STREET - NIGHT

Lights go out in Nehru Vihar.

Students chatter on the streets. One guy runs through them - it's Tutul. He finds Manoj studying under a street lamp.

TUTUL
Kya kar rahe ho?

MANOJ
Pata hai, Abdul Kalam bhi -

TUTUL
- street lamp ke neeche padhte the.
Pata hai. Kab se dhoondh raha hoon
aapko. Chalo saath!

MANOJ
Kahan?

TUTUL
ARRE BHAAGO! SAB INTEZAAR KAR RAHE
HAIN!

EXT. RESTART TEA STALL - NIGHT

Tutul and Manoj run into Restart Tea Stall, Tutul behind him. Some students are standing around the landline, a smile across their faces. Gauri, holding the phone, passes it to Manoj.

MANOJ
Hello?

SHRADDHA
MANOJ MERA INTERVIEW CLEAR HO GAYA!

MANOJ
Clear ho gaya matlab...?

TUTUL
MATLAB DIDI DEPUTY COLLECTOR BAN
GAYI HAIN!

GAURI
Samjhe ki dobara samjhaun?

Tutul begins dancing. Applause erupts all around as a wide smile breaks across Manoj's face. All voices fade out...

VOICEOVER
*Jo aaj tak uski motivation thi, ab
inspiration bhi ban gayi.*

109. INT. UPSC BUILDING: EXAMINATION HALL - DAY

VOICEOVER
*Mains mein ek ke baad ek answer
sheet ke panne aise palat raha
tha... jaise duniya palat raha ho.*

Manoj writes with overpowered energy. At another table, Pandey is also writing passionately. Somewhere nearby, a student faints with exhaustion.

110. EXT. MUKHERJEE NAGAR: CYBER CAFE - DAY

VOICEOVER
Aur phir aaya result ka din.

Pandey is on the phone with his father, in tears.

PANDEY
Sorry papa, nahin hua. Sorry papa.
Please chillaiye mat, please papa.
Bahut koshish kari... please...

Screaming from the other end of the phone. Pandey cuts the call angrily. His phone rings again. It's his father again. He cuts it again.

Just then, Manoj comes running in -

MANOJ
Pandey phone de please! Shraddha ko
call karna hai!

PANDEY
Ho gaya tera?

MANOJ
Haan. Ho gaya!

PANDEY
Mera poochhega? Mera nahin hua. Par
tujhe kya?

His phone rings - he cuts it again.

PANDEY (CONT'D)
UPSC pata bhi nahin tha tujhe.
Dilli tujhe MAIN laya. Flat pe
rakha, kapde diye. AB TUJHE MERA
PHONE BHI CHAHIYE? NAHIN DUNGA!
BHAAD MEIN JAA! APNI GIRLFRIEND KO
BHI BOL BHAAD MEIN JAYE!

The phone rings. This time, it continues ringing -

MANOJ
Shraddha ko kuchh mat bol. Itni
himmat hai toh apne baap ko bol
jo bolna hai.

Manoj storms off as Pandey fumes.

PANDEY
Baap pe mat jaa...

111. EXT. RESTART TEA STALL - DAY

Gauri is talking on the landline -

GAURI
Bahut khush hai hum, Maa ji! Ab
sirf interview reh gaya!
(Manoj runs in)
Lijiye aa gaya aapka beta!

Gauri hugs Manoj as he gives him the phone.

112. EXT. VILLAGE: BALLE SHOP - DAY

PUSHPA
Badhayi ho beta, badhayi ho!

MANOJ
Thank you maa! Papa kaise hain?

PUSHPA
Tujhse milne ke baad se toh bahut
khush hai, beta! Gwalior gaye hain,
high court, arzi leke!

MANOJ
Bahut achha, maa!

PUSHPA
Yeh le Rajni se -

RAJNI
(grabs the phone)
Badhai ho, bhaiya!

MANOJ
Thank you Rajni! Sun, main baad
mein -

He hears Kamlesh now -

KAMLESH
Oye chhotu! Jhande gaad diye tune!

MANOJ
Thank you bhai, sun na, mujhe ek
urgent phone karna hai.

KAMLESH
Abhi se afsari shuru, haan?

MANOJ
SUN! Main baad mein phone karta
hoon, bye!

112A. EXT. RESTART TEA STALL - DAY

Manoj keeps the phone down and dials another number. Waits.

A woman picks up.

THE WOMAN
Hello?

MANOJ
SHRADDHA MERA MAINS CLEAR HO GAYA!

THE WOMAN
Congratulations, beta! Main Leela
aunty, Shraddha ki mummy.

MANOJ
Arre, aunty, sorry! Namaste!
Shraddha hai? Main Manoj, Dilli se.

LEELA
Haan main samajh gayi. Main bolungi
usse phone karne ke liye.

MANOJ
Please usse kahiye phone karne ko.
Main wait karunga.

113. INT. MUSSOORIE: SHRADDHA HOUSE - DAY

LEELA
Ok beta. Bye.

As she keeps the phone down, Shraddha and Prabhakar are seen seated on the sofa. Shraddha is distraught.

The atmosphere is tense.

114. EXT. RESTART TEA STALL - NIGHT

Desolate roads. A clock at the tea stall says 2 AM.

Manoj is sitting at a table, alert. Tutul is asleep. Gauri is droopy-eyed.

Just then the phone rings. Manoj grabs the phone.

MANOJ
Hello?

114A. I/E. MUSSOORIE/NEW DELHI: JOSHI RESIDENCE/RESTART TEA STALL - CONTINUOUS

SHRADDHA
Hello Manoj. Congratulations!

MANOJ
Thank you, Shraddha!

SHRADDHA
Sorry late ho gayi.

MANOJ
Tum Dilli aa rahi ho na? Mere
interview ke liye?

Shraddha's living room. Prabhakar and Leela are sitting at the dining table. Food is served, but untouched.

SHRADDHA
Nahin.

MANOJ
Kya hua, Shraddha?

SHRADDHA

Kisine mere papa ko phone karke bol
diya ki I was sleeping with you in
Delhi.

MANOJ

Kya!? Aisa kyun karega koi!?

SHRADDHA

Kya farak padta hai? What matters
is ki papa ne ek stranger ki baat
pe yakeen kar liya.

Prabhakar gently leaves the room. Shraddha notices him.

SHRADDHA (CONT'D)

Ab main rakhti hoon, ok? Tum please
apne interview pe focus karo. All
the best. Bye!

Manoj keeps the phone down, taken aback.

Then, something strikes him - he dials a number aggressively.

114B/115. I/E. POLICE STATION/RESTART TEA STALL - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT

A cellphone rings on the table. A cop picks up.

CONSTABLE 1

Hallo?

MANOJ

Pandey kidhar hai!

CONSTABLE 1

OYE TERE KISI DOST KA PHONE AA
GAYA. Aa jaa bhai isko lene!

MANOJ

Kidhar?

CONSTABLE 1

Mukherjee Nagar thana. Jaldi aa ja.
Bahut sankat mein hai launda.

Manoj bangs the phone and runs out.

117. INT. POLICE STATION: MUKHERJEE NAGAR - NIGHT

Manoj runs in to the police station. Pandey screams from inside a jail cell.

PANDEY

Manoj! Bhaiiii! Congratulations for
your Mains yaar! Kamaal kar diya
tune!

Manoj ignores him and walks to A CONSTABLE sitting there.

MANOJ

Ji bataiye. Kya hua?

CONSTABLE 1

Haan... tera naam?

MANOJ

Manoj Kumar Sharma.

CONSTABLE 1

Haan toh Manoj Kumar ji... ye jo
aapka dost hai, chilla chilla ke
phone pe gaaliyan de raha tha.

PANDEY

MAINE BAAP KO BOL DIYA BHAI! BOL
DIYA NAHI BANNA IAS!

CONSTABLE 1

CHUP KAR OYE!

PANDEY

BOL DIYA NAHIN KARNI HARAAM KI
KAMAYI!

MANOJ

Pandey chup kar!

Pandey shuts up. Manoj turns to the constable -

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Kahiye.

CONSTABLE 1

Maine shaant hone ko bola toh mere
pe chilla pada. Ek police wale pe!

MANOJ

Isne aap pe haath utthaya?

CONSTABLE 1

Uttha ke toh dekhe!

MANOJ
Aapko gaali di?

CONSTABLE 1
Danga macha raha tha launda!

MANOJ
Kisiko maara?

CONSTABLE 1
Maarne ka wait karta main?

MANOJ
Toh aapne IPC ke kya section ke
under isko arrest kiya hai?

CONSTABLE 1
Section? Daru peeke chilla raha tha
public mein!

MANOJ
Sir, woh ek non-cognizable offense
hai. Aapne kisi magistrate se
permission leke arrest warrant
issue kiya?

The constable has no response. From inside his cabin, the
SENIOR INSPECTOR is listening carefully.

CONSTABLE 1
Public property damage kari isne!
3000 bhara hai, 2000 aur fine
lagega!

MANOJ
Evidence dikhao.

CONSTABLE 1
Hain?

MANOJ
Ek non-cognizable offense ke liye
bina warrant ka arrest, aur
property damage ka bina evidence ke
fine lena, dono illegal hai.

CONSTABLE 1
Bhai, fine toh lagega.

MANOJ
Woh fine nahin, ghos hai.
Ghoskhori kar raha hai tu.

CONSTABLE 1
Muh jyada chala raha hai tu -

MANOJ
Muh chalana shuru hi nahin kiya
abhi. Chambal ka hoon, havaldaar.

CONSTABLE 1
Abey -

MANOJ
Eyewitness ke saamne ghos maangi
hai tune. Woh, tere senior jo andar
sun rahein hai, eyewitness hai woh.
(menacingly)
Aaj mera Mains clear hua hai. Ek
mahine mein mera interview hai. IPS
ban gaya na, havaldaar... pehla
paper jo sign karunga teri
suspension ka hoga.

The senior inspector walks in.

SENIOR INSPECTOR
Kya hua?

CONSTABLE 1
Sir, yeh -

SENIOR INSPECTOR
Warning dekhe chhod de.

MANOJ
Sir isne 3000 रुपये ghos li hai.

SENIOR INSPECTOR
(to the constable)
WAAPIS KAR!

118. EXT. POLICE STATION: MUKHERJEE NAGAR - NIGHT

Pandey puts the money in his wallet as he and Manoj step out.

PANDEY
Bhai tune toh dikha diya usse...
saala koi nahin aaya mere liye -

MANOJ
Apna phone de.

PANDEY

(teases)

Shraddha ko phone karega! Le dost,
jee bhar ke baat kar le. Yeh le.

Manoj takes the phone, checks 'call history', grabs him by the collar, violently shoves the phone into his face.

The phone shows an outgoing call to 'SHRADDHA HOME'.

INT. MUSSOORIE: JOSHI RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Silence. No one is talking.

LEELA

Tumhe Manoj ko papa ki baat nahin
bolni chahiye thi. Unhe bahut bura
laga.

SHRADDHA

Unhone ek stranger ki baat pe
yakeen kar liya, mujhe bhi bahut
bura laga! Itna bhi trust nahin hai
mujhpe?

LEELA

Aisa nahin hai, beta. He trusts
you.

SHRADDHA

He *used* to trust me, mummy. We were
one team. Maine inko darrte hue
bola tha ki doctory chhodkar civil
services karni hai, par yeh phat se
bole - 'Phir chal Dilli. Best jagah
se padhai kar.' Yaad hai? Khud
chhodne aaye! Because he *used* to
trust me. But not anymore.

PRABHAKAR

I still trust you, beta.

SHRADDHA

No you don't! Kyunki agar aap trust
karte toh mujhe aise rokte nahin!
Sach toh yeh hai papa ki aaj main
chahun toh abhi utth ke jaa sakti
hoon Dilli. Manoj ki life ka sabse
bada din hai - I want to be there
for him! Like you two are there for
each other! Par main aisa kabhi
nahin karungi... kyunki I will
never break your trust, papa.

Long silence.

PRABHAKAR

Uska interview ho jaane do, phir
chale jaana.

SHRADDHA

Lekin phir main Manoj se kabhi nahi
mil paungi, papa...

LEELA

Aisa kyun?

SHRADDHA

Kyunki tab toh main ek IPS Officer
se milungi, sirf Manoj se nahin.

120. INT. NEHRU VIHAR: GAURI ROOM - DAY

Gauri and Manoj in the room. Manoj is forlorn, dressing up
for the interview.

GAURI

Pehen ni padegi tie.

MANOJ

Interview mein ek tie se kuchh
nahin hoga, Gauri bhaiya.

GAURI

Angrezi-Medium wale sab pehente
hain. Humne nahin pehni thi! Tumhe
wahi galti nahin karne denge!

MANOJ

Gauri bhaiya, tie se kuchh -

SHRADDHA

Pehen ni padegi.

Shraddha has burst into the room.

MANOJ

(flabbergasted)
Shraddha!?

GAURI

Tum hi samjhao iss gadhe ko! Ab
Mains mein pass ho gaya hai toh
mujhse darra bhi nahin hai.

SHRADDHA

Samjha dunga.

GAURI
Baal bhi katwa dena.

Gauri leaves, shutting the door.

MANOJ
Tum kaise aa gayi!?

She hugs him, says -

SHRADDHA
Aise!

And then... kisses him.

121. INT. DELHI: BARBER SHOP - DAY

Manoj sits, reflected in the mirror.

BARBER
IAS cut, ya IPS cut?

SHRADDHA
IPS.

The barber begins. The trimmer starts buzzing...

122. INT. DELHI: GARMENT SHOP - DAY

Back shot - Manoj is reflected in a mirror. He has transformed. A smart haircut, shaven face, a crisp shirt... Shraddha walks in and puts a tie around him.

MANOJ
(sees its price tag)
Rehne do. Yeh bahut mehengi hai.

SHRADDHA
Papa ne kaha - 'It's all about the first impression. Dress him well.'

123. I/E. DELHI ROAD: TAXI - DAY

Manoj and Shraddha are in a taxi.

SHRADDHA
Kaisa lag raha hai?

MANOJ
(shifts his feet)
Joote thode tight hai...

SHRADDHA
Naye hai. Khul jayenge.

A beat.

MANOJ
Shraddha, suno toh... Pandey se
milna hai.

SHRADDHA
Kyun?

124. INT. PANDEY FLAT: LIVING ROOM - DAY

The bell rings. Pandey opens. He's shocked to see Manoj and Shraddha at the door.

MANOJ
Tujhe thank you karne aaya hoon.

Pandey is bewildered.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
Tu nahin hota toh... Main yahan tak
kabhi nahin pahunchta. Thank you
yaar.

Pandey tears up and hugs Manoj.

MANOJ (CONT'D)
Mera interview hai aaj. Wish nahin
karega?

PANDEY
Best of luck, bhai...
(to Shraddha)
I am sorry, Shraddha. Mujhe phone
nahin karna chahiye tha.

SHRADDHA
Arre aap phone nahin karte toh papa
mujhe kabhi na kehte - "Jaa Dilli.
I trust you."

PANDEY
Toh achha hi kar diya maine!

SHRADDHA
Bahut achha kiya! Private taxi book
ki unhone mere liye.

PANDEY
Haan yeh toh kamaal kar diya maine!

SHRADDHA
 Vaise Pritam Pandey ji, aap jhoothi
 baatein itni sachchai se bol dete
 hain... Aapko toh TV pe reporter
 hona chahiye!

Pandey reflects. Then says -

PANDEY
 TV pe?

125. I/E. DELHI ROAD: TAXI - DAY

The taxi cruises. Inside, Manoj is tense. Shraddha takes out a note from her handbag and hands it to him.

MANOJ
 (unwrapping it)
 Kya hai yeh?

SHRADDHA
 (stops him)
 Mere saamne nahin... Akele mein
 padhna.

MANOJ
 (keeps it in his pocket)
 Shraddha... pata nahin interview
 mein kya poochhenge?

SHRADDHA
 Sirf ek baat yaad rakho, Manoj...
 Tum andar bas vaise hi rehna...
 jaise tum ho.

EXT. UPSC BUILDING: MAIN ROAD

Manoj shows his admit card to the guards, gets frisked, and proceeds towards the intimidating building.

He waves at Shraddha waiting in the taxi - she waves back.

He turns and stares at the board on the wall - 'UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION'.

INT. UPSC BUILDING: CORRIDOR

Manoj walks through a long corridor, crossing various rooms. He's cross checking the numbers on top of doors with a piece of paper in his hand.

Finally he reaches a room - the number matches.

The guard outside lets him in - shuts the door behind him.

126. INT. UPSC BUILDING: WAITING HALL - DAY

Intense atmosphere. The hall is full of students sitting quietly at different tables...

A LONG WAIT. Half the waiting hall has become empty.

Then, a PEON walks up to Manoj -

PEON

Manoj Kumar Sharma?

(Manoj stands up)

Section Officer bula rahe hain.

Manoj goes to the SECTION OFFICER'S desk.

SECTION OFFICER

Manoj Kumar Sharma?

MANOJ

Ji, yes sir.

SECTION OFFICER

Tumne 12th do saal mein kari hai...
drop year liya tha?

MANOJ

Sir pehli baar fail ho gaya tha.

The Section Officer chuckles.

SECTION OFFICER

(to the peon)

Le jao inko.

127. INT. UPSC BUILDING: CORRIDOR - DAY

The peon takes Manoj to the interview room. A guard outside.

The bell rings. Guard goes in.

The peon whispers -

PEON

Tumhare chairman Dr. Mehta hai.
Hindi Medium waale pasand nahin
unhe. Andar mat bolna fail ho gaye
the! Keh dena dadaji mar gaye the.

The guard steps out, tells Manoj to go in.

128. INT. UPSC BUILDING: INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Manoj is rattled as he takes a step inside. There are 5 panelists sitting across from an empty chair in the middle of the room. He stands at the gate.

DR. MEHTA
Yes. Come in.

The door shuts behind him as Manoj walks to the empty chair.

MANOJ
Namaste sir, namaste ma'am!

Dr. Mehta is going through some files.

DR. MEHTA
Namaste. Your language preference?

MANOJ
Hindi, sir.

DR. MEHTA
Hmm... Sit, sit.
(to the panelists)
This is Mr. Manoj Sharma. From Muraina. That's in Chambal... notorious for dacoits!
(chuckles)
Manoj has done his graduation in Arts... in 2nd division. He has 1st division in class 10th and... 3rd division in class 12th. Surprising! And...
(a beat)
Oh... he took 2 years to clear his 12th!

Manoj is quiet.

DR. MEHTA (CONT'D)
Aap 12th mein fail hue the?

Manoj is looking at his shoes. They are hurting.

DR. MEHTA (CONT'D)
Mr. Sharma!?

MANOJ
Haan, sir. Fail hua tha.

DR. MEHTA
 Unbelievable. Maine aaj tak aisa
 candidate nahin dekha hai!
 (to Manoj)
 Aap fail kaise hue?

PEON (O.S.)
 (whispers)
Keh dena dada ji mar gaye the.

MANOJ
 Sir... uss saal hamare school mein
 cheating nahin hui thi.

DR. MEHTA
 What?

MANOJ
 Ek naye DSP sir aaye the, Dushyant
 Singh sir. Unhone cheating rok di
 aur saara school fail ho gaya.

DR. MEHTA
 What nonsense! Is this a joke?
 (shuts the file)
 Anyway... you may leave.

Manoj does not move.

DR. MEHTA (CONT'D)
 Suna nahin? Jaaiye aap!

Manoj gets up, walks to the door...

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA
 Manoj, aap do minute wait kijiye,
 bahar.

129. INT. UPSC BUILDING: CORRIDOR - DAY

Manoj stands outside the door, sweating.

A bell rings. The guard goes inside.

Manoj takes out his new handkerchief. Shraddha's note comes
 out along with it. He unwraps it -

SHRADDHA (V.O.)
*"Manoj, tum chaahe atta chakki mein
 kaam karo ya IPS Officer bano, main
 poori zindagi tumhare saath bitana
 chahti hoon. Will you marry me?"*

The guard comes out.

GUARD

Jao andar.

Manoj keeps the paper in his pocket. Then he takes out his shoes. Presses down the back end. Slips them back on, his heels jutting out. He's finally comfortable.

130. INT. UPSC BUILDING: INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Manoj enters the room.

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA

Please sit.

(Manoj sits)

Aapne cheating ke baare mein kyun bataya? Jhooth bhi bol sakte the...

MANOJ

Mera mann nahin maana ma'am... ki ek cheating chhupaane ke liye doosri cheating karun.

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA

Phir cheating ki hi kyun?

MANOJ

Pata hi nahi tha cheating galat baat hai, ma'am. Hamaare yahan teachers khud karwate hain...

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA

But that's wrong!

MANOJ

Yes ma'am, very wrong!

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA

Agle saal pass kaise hue? Teachers ne phir cheating karwayi?

MANOJ

Haan ma'am, aur sabne ki. Lekin maine nahin ki. Cheating karta toh 10th ki tarah first division aati na!

DR. MEHTA

Badi jaldi vichar badal gaye aapke!

MANOJ

Jaldi kahan, sir! 19 saal lag gaye. Dushyant sir nahin milte toh kabhi badalte hi nahin! Sabki first division aayi, aur meri third. Lekin main *sabse* zyada khush tha! Uss din samajh aaya ki imaandaari ki 3rd division beimaani ki first division se kahin zyada khushi deti hai.

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA

(to other panelists)

Teachers helping cheat... I am appalled!

MANOJ

Ma'am, yeh toh har gaon ki kahaani hai! Aur yeh kahaani chalti rahegi! Kabhi khatam nahin hogi!

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA

Why do you say that?

MANOJ

Kyunki ma'am, koi yeh badalna hi nahin chahta! Jiske paas power hai woh power kabhi chhodna nahin chahta! Garib agar anpadh rahega toh bhed-bakriyon ki tarah netaon ke ishaaron pe chalega, anpadh log hi toh unke vote bank hai, ma'am, jo dharm aur jaat ke naam pe vote dete aaye hain. Issiliye Dr. Ambedkar ne kaha tha - 'Educate, Agitate, and Organize!' Janta padh likh gayi toh netaon ke liye samasya ho jayegi na!

MR. SOLANKI

Mr. Manoj, I think you're in the wrong chamber. With such myopic perspectives, you should aim for a career in politics!

MANOJ

I'm sorry, sir. Yeh 'myopic' ka matlab Hindi mein bata sakte hain?

MR. SOLANKI

Aap baatein toh bahut badi badi karte hain, lekin simple english bhi nahin samajh sakte. I don't think you fit here.

MANOJ
No sir, I do fit!

MR. SOLANKI
How?

MANOJ
Kyunki bhasha sirf ek medium hai,
sir!

DR. MEHTA
That's just an excuse to cover your
weakness. You've said you fit,
convince me you fit!

Silence.

MANOJ
Paani pi sakta hoon, sir?

DR. MEHTA
Go ahead.

Manoj picks up a glass of water... but does not drink it.

MANOJ
Sir, steel ke glass mein mil sakta
hai, please? Kaanch ke glass ki
aadat nahi hai.

DR. MEHTA
Don't waste our time. Pani saaf hai
na?

MANOJ
Haan sir.

DR. MEHTA
Toh pi lijiye.

MANOJ
Wahi toh, sir! Paani saaf hona
chahiye, bas! Phir chaahe woh steel
ke glass mein ho, ya kaanch ke!
Vaise hi officer saaf hona chahiye,
bas! Phir chaahe woh English bole,
ya Hindi!

DR. MEHTA
Please! Don't give me all that
nonsense! Hamare paas kayi IIT aur
IIM toppers hain. Hum ek 12th fail
ko kyun select karen?

MANOJ

Woh topper zaroor hai, sir, main maanta hoon, par unhone woh sab nahin dekha, jo maine *jhela* hai. Unhone gaon mein cheating hote nahin dekhi, sir. Agar mujhe mauka milega toh mere poore jile mein cheating nahi hogi. Kahin koi Jugaad zabt nahin hoga. I'll do *better* than them.

DR. MEHTA

Really?

MANOJ

Yes, sir.

DR. MEHTA

You *really* think a 12th fail will do better than an IIT topper?

MANOJ

Sir... maybe not better. Par main unse zyada *yogya* hoon.

DR. MEHTA

I think you're delusional. How can you say that?

MANOJ

Sir Edmund Hillary aur Tenzing Sherpa pehle aadmi the jo Mount Everest pe chaddhe. Unka photo *sabne* dekha hai, sir. Lekin Ang Rita pehle Sherpa the, jo Everest pe bina oxygen support ke chaddhe. Maine *unki* photo dekhi hai, sir. Mere vichaar mein Sherpa Ang Rita ka bina oxygen ke chaddhna zyada badi baat hai. Main bhi yahan tak unki tarah bina oxygen support ke pahuncha hoon, sir, woh bhi nange pair - bina suvidhayon ke.

DR. MEHTA

Let me tell you one last thing, Mr. Sharma. If Sir Edmund Hillary had not found the way, that Sherpa would never have reached the peak. Anyway, I'm done with you. Anyone else?

PROF. NAGMA QURESHI

Yeh aapka kaun sa attempt hai?

MANOJ

Last attempt, ma'am.

PROF. NAGMA QURESHI

Select nahin hue toh?

MANOJ

Koi baat nahin, ma'am. Haar nahin maanunga. Raar nayi thaanunga. Apne lakshya ki praapti tak nahin rukunga.

PROF. NAGMA QURESHI

Last attempt hai, lakshya kaise praapt hoga?

MANOJ

IPS lakshya nahin ho sakta, ma'am. Lakshya toh desh ko sudharna hai! Agar mera selection nahin hua, toh main gaon jaake teacher banunga, aur bachchon ko padhaunga ki cheating chhodni hogi. Unhone school mein cheating chhod di, ma'am, toh life mein kabhi cheating nahin karenge.

(a beat)

Ma'am, ek din main street lamp ke neeche padh raha tha toh ek baat sooji -

(to Dr. Mehta)

English mein bolunga sir - 'If I cannot be the sun that shines upon the earth, I can still be the lamp that lights my street...'

DR. MEHTA

Good. Be a lamp. You may go now.

MANOJ

(getting up)

Thank you sir, thank you ma'am!

Just before he exits the room, he overhears -

DR. MEHTA

Waste of time... Such arrogance!

FADE OUT.

131. I/E. DELHI ROAD: AUTO - DAY

A dark screen -

VOICEOVER

*Dedh mahine baad Shraddha
zabardasti Manoj ko leke aayi...
UPSC ka final result dekhne.*

Manoj and Shraddha are in an auto. Manoj is unshaven.

MANOJ

Mujhe abhi bhi Mehta ka 'waste of
time' sunai de raha hai, Shraddha.
Nahin hoga.

SHRADDHA

Nahin hoga toh saath mein chakki
chala lenge. Ttheek hai?

She hugs him warmly as the auto arrives at the UPSC building.

132. EXT. UPSC BUILDING: GATE - DAY

They get off from the auto, into chaos. A traffic constable
is controlling the crowd.

SHRADDHA

Sir, result nikal gaya??

TRAFFIC CONSTABLE

THAARI NAUKRI NA KAR RAHA MAIN
MADAM! MANNE NA PATA!
(to the driver)
CHAL AUTO BADHA!

133. EXT. UPSC BUILDING: COURTYARD - DAY

Hundreds of students are waiting at the grilled gate,
clasping the grills. Manoj and Shraddha are just behind.
Beyond the grills, they can see the results being put up.

Then the gate opens. The hoard of students runs in...

Manoj is rooted to his spot.

MANOJ

Tum dekh aao. Mujhe pata hai nahin
hoga.

She lets go of his hand and disappears into the crowd.

On Manoj's face, we hear -

DR. MEHTA (O.S.)

Waste of time...

134. INT. UPSC BUILDING: INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY [FLASHBACK]

Manoj leaves. The door shuts as he hears -

DR. MEHTA
...such arrogance!

INSIDE -

MR. SOLANKI
Isse toh netagiri karni chahiye.

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA
Sorry, but I disagree.

MR. SOLANKI
Usko baat karne ki tameez bhi nahin hai, madam!

PROF. SUJATA MISHRA
Abhi raw hai. Seedha dil se bol raha hai. Training mil jayegi toh bolna bhi seekh jayega.

DR. MEHTA
What about you, Dr. Yadav?

DR. YADAV
Khara insaan hai. Aise candidates select na ho toh iss exam ka fayeda nahin.

DR. MEHTA
And you, Ms. Qureshi?

PROF. NAGMA QURESHI
Aayega toh police ki image sudhar dega.

135. EXT. UPSC BUILDING: COURTYARD - DAY

Shraddha resurfaces from the ocean of blurred faces. She is weeping, looking at him. She slowly nods.

Manoj breaks down. As Shraddha runs to him and hugs him, his knees give in. He's on the ground.

Then Pandey emerges from the crowd with a camera, screaming -

PANDEY
JE HUI NA BAAAAAAT!

He switches on his camera and pans -

THE IMAGE TURNS GRAINY --

Camera pans to Manoj and Shraddha on the ground, hugging -

From the other side, Gauri comes running in with Tutul, who is holding a paper bag -

GAURI
TUTUL! NIKAL VARDI!

Tutul rips open the paper bag, revealing Gauri's uniform.

Gauri goes down on his knees and puts the uniform around Manoj's shoulders. Hugs him.

PANDEY
**Breaking news!!! The 12th Fail,
library sweeper, atta-chakki boy
and my friend, is now IPS TOPPER
MANOJ KUMAR SHARMA! PRITAM PANDEY
REPORTING LIVE ON TV FOR FIRST TIME
FOR -**

Pandey stumbles and falls.

The camera goes all over, blurred.

Forgetting about the camera, Pandey joins the huddle. So does Tutul.

A moment of bliss.

136. EXT. VILLAGE LANES - DAY

Balle runs through the village, screaming -

BALLE
BAN GAYO! BAN GAYO! BAN GAYO!

He bursts into a cowshed, Pushpa is milking the cows -

BALLE (CONT'D)
MANOJ IPS BAN GAYO!

Pushpa is stunned, rooted to her spot.

PUSHPA (O.S.)
Manoj?

137. EXT. VILLAGE: BALLE SHOP - DAY

On the phone -

PUSHPA
Tu IPS ban gayo?

MANOJ
Haan maa.

A beat.

PUSHPA
Tu agli baar aayego, toh vardi
pehen kar aayego na, beta?

MANOJ
Haan maa...

She breaks down just as Ramveer runs in and grabs the phone.

RAMVEER
Ban gayo tu?

MANOJ
Haan papa!

RAMVEER
(eyes well up)
Chalta hoon.

He hands the phone to Pushpa -

PUSHPA
Arre kidhar chale!?

RAMVEER
Uss chor Bharat Chauhan ko bolne ki
usne ek IPS ke baap se panga liyo
hai.

MANOJ
Kidhar chale ye???

PUSHPA
Uss chor Bharat Chauhan ko bolne ki
usne ek IPS ke baap se panga liyo
hai!

138. EXT. UPSC BUILDING: COURTYARD - DAY

Manoj is in tears as he hands the phone back to Pandey.

SHRADDHA
Are you ok?

MANOJ
Haan, woh papa -

FREEZE. It's a B/W picture of them.

ZAI (O.S.)
Ek photo udhar se lo!

CLICK. Another B/W picture of them.

ZAI (CONT'D)
Ab video on karo!

Zai from A2Z Coaching rushes to Manoj.

ZAI (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Congratulations Mr. Manoj! Yeh dedh
lakh cash hai.
(hands him an envelope)
Bas camera pe kehna hai ki A2Z
Coaching se padhe ho, just a byte,
ok?
(to her cameraman)
Video camera on kar.

The CAMERAMAN starts rolling. ***So does Pandey.***

ZAI (CONT'D)
Aap kaun si coaching se padhe hain,
Manoj Kumar Sharma ji?

MANOJ
Mujhe pehchana nahin aapne? 3 saal
pehle aapne mujhse poochha tha ki
bade se bada star tambakku bechta
hai - usme kya galat hai? Aaj aapko
batata hoon ki galat kya hai -

Zai grabs the envelope and runs away. Laughter ensues.

PANDEY
Bhaag gayi! Koi nahin sun raha tera
bhashan!

GAURI
Koi baat nahin, dobara sunao -

TUTUL
(chimes in)
- RESTART!

Everyone laughs.

139. EXT. UPSC BUILDING: MAIN ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

They all come out of the crowded building. Happy.

The traffic constable from before notices them.

TRAFFIC CONSTABLE
Kya hua? Tera result?

SHRADDHA
(proudly)
IPS!

His body language changes completely. HE SALUTES.

TRAFFIC CONSTABLE
SIR!

140. I/E. UNKNOWN VILLAGE: POLICE STATION - DAY

A lal-batti jeep stops outside a police station. A uniformed officer steps out of the jeep. A constable outside the station salutes -

CONSTABLES
SIR!

A SUB-INSPECTOR emerges from the station -

SUB-INSPECTOR
SIR!

Then... DSP Dushyant Singh steps outside his cabin.

DUSHYANT SINGH
SIR!

The uniformed officer being saluted takes out his cap, bends down and touches Dushyant's feet. As this officer gets up, the stars shine on his shoulder. It's Manoj.

He gives Dushyant Singh a wedding invite.

MANOJ
Sir, meri shaadi ka pehla card.

DUSHYANT SINGH
(perplexed)
Kaun...?

MANOJ

Main wahi ladka hoon, sir... jisko
aapne kaha tha ki cheating chhodni
hogi.

Dushyant's eyes well up as he recognizes Manoj.

MANOJ (CONT'D)

Maine cheating chhod di, sir.

They embrace. On them -

**“यह फ़िल्म उन मुट्ठी भर निष्ठावान अधिकारियों को
समर्पित है जिनकी वजह से हमारा देश और संविधान
सुरक्षित है...”**

**“DEDICATED TO THOSE HONEST OFFICERS
WHOSE INTEGRITY SAFEGUARDS OUR
COUNTRY AND CONSTITUTION. MAY THEIR
TRIBE INCREASE.”**

Dhols begin playing.

141. EXT. CHAMBAL/VILLAGE HOUSE - MAGIC HOUR

Chambal river.

A FILM BY VIDHU VINOD CHOPRA

Camera pans to the village -

VOICEOVER

*Yeh hai Chambal... arre wahi,
dakuon wala. Aur aaj yahan se Manoj
ki baraat Mussoorie jaa rahi hai.*

The house is decorated. A decked-up car and some Jugaads stand nearby, purring. Next to them, Kamlesh, Rajni, Balle and his friends are all dancing.

Ramveer and Pushpa escort a decked-up groom, Manoj, out of the house. Pandey rushes to record them.

Through Pandey's camera -

***The camera moves from the groom to the villagers dancing...
into one of the Jugaads. Three powerful men sit in there with
Balle and other villagers -***

PANDEY (V.O.)

*Arre, inko pehchana aapne? Hamaare
jaane pehchaane Vidhayak ji,
ghooshkhor Chauhan ji, aur
bhrashtachari Albel ji. Sab ke sab
ek Jugaad mein.*

*(they all do namaste to
the camera)*

Kamlesh, all decked up, runs in and starts the Jugaad.

PANDEY

*Sochiye! Ek imaandaar afsar kitna
badlaav laa sakta hai!*

Kamlesh drives off with all three.

PANDEY (CONT'D)

*(turns the camera to
himself)*

*Samjhe kya? Ki jeero se restart
karun?*

*'Restart Song' plays on end titles. Over titles, real Manoj
and Shraddha's photographs - from early life to today.*

**"INSPIRED BY THE TRUE STORY OF
IPS OFFICER MANOJ KUMAR SHARMA AND
IRS OFFICER SHRADDHA JOSHI"**

--- CREDIT ROLL ---

RESTART.