

April, 2012

28. *Loyalty recalled*: ed-in-c Shekhar G salutes the blue-starred Sikh generals who had unflinchingly executed Indira Gandhi's bloody orders, resulting in a massacre of thousands of Sikh pilgrims, in June 1984. (IE)
29. *The 3 easy Q's, with A's, that St Peter asked 3 ex-nuns before letting them in*: for first (Q) "Who was the first man?" (A) "Adam", for second (Q) "Who was the first woman?" (A) "Eve", for Mother Superior (Q) "What was the first thing Eve said to Adam?" (A) "Oh, dear! That's a hard one ...". (Khushwant's column in Sunday Tr)
30. *Stealing the narrative*: a Ruchir Sharma, all for ruthless capitalism, says if you are for a welfare state then you are against **reforms**, and a columnist reprinted from Economist says a French presidential candidate's harping on social justice means he too is against reforms. (IE)

May, 2012

2. *Runaround*: the SC rules the 2006 CBI chargesheet for the Pathribal murders of 2000 invalid, but says the five officers—whom the Army has been stoutly defending and promoting, one of them is a Major-General by now—can be court-martialled forthwith, or the Army can opt to let that same civil court and the CBI handle the matter de novo, subject to permissions from the centre for doing the same, under the AFSPA imposed in Kashmir. (IE, Tr)
5. *Laundry*: since 2000 tiny Mauritius has sent 40 % of the "foreign" direct investment flowing into India. (IE)
7. *Directive*: the Akal Takht says all Sikhs should support a genocide petition to the U.N. on the November 1984 murder of 30,000 Sikhs by Rajiv's regime to avenge the murder of his mother Indira by two Sikhs. (IE)
8. *Murder he said*: ever since that 2002 massacre of thousands of Muslims, not only has Narendra Modi remained firmly in power in Gujarat, his popularity has risen so steeply that he is on everyone's short-list as a future P.M. of India, yet an SC-appointed amicus curiae (differing from the SC-appointed SIT) says the admittedly meagre direct evidence against him—notably, a police officer has testified that at a post-Godhra meeting, of which the minutes are not available, the C.M. had said that Hindus should be allowed to vent their ire and teach the Muslims a lesson—is still sufficient to warrant his prosecution on the lesser charge of fomenting communal discord. (IE, Tr)
11. *A shattered father*: a CBI court gives the benefit of the doubt to acquit the Punjab policemen it had charged in 2010 for a brazen abduction and murder in 1989 (though common by then, police atrocities reached their crescendo only later under Narasimha Rao, the number of Sikhs murdered by the police during his regime being probably more than those massacred in 1984) because the CBI was unable to prove that the missing son, for whose whereabouts a 73-year old ex-schoolteacher had filed a habeas corpus way back then, was in fact dead at all, and not still roaming around as a proclaimed offender, as the police records showed. (Tr, IE)
26. *Weather vanes*: ruling he relied on the SC to rectify the recorded year of his birth, the reluctant-to-retire Army chief reveals he retreated because a judge remarked, "Wise men are those who move with the wind," whereas, as he himself sees it, "...then we will all become muggers, we will all become corrupt. Wind is going that way." (IE)
30. *Corruption-proof*: the expert economist, who failed to find anything fishy in all those 2G or coal allotment files darting in and out of his prime ministerial office, wonders why anyone would doubt his well-known and life-long honesty, and says he'll quit if there is an iota of truth in these allegations. (Tr, IE)

June, 2012

2. *Super cop-out*: a PIL filed in the HC, asking how a notorious police officer facing a CBI trial for the abduction and murder of three in 1994 (when a Vinod Kumar had begged the same HC to save him from this SSP hours before he was abducted, liquidated as well were his brother-in-law and car driver, and the CBI enquiry and chargesheet had ensued from a habeas corpus filed in the same HC two days later) can be deemed to have a "very good record for the purpose of being appointed" the chief of the Punjab police, takes a tiny step forward, with the CBI confirming that the government was fully aware of this trial. (Tr)