



## Strictly confidential

### In times when privacy is most threatened, is it really difficult to keep things away from the grapevine?

Siona Ahuja, X C & Vidhi Batra, X B, AIS Noida

This has been the year of revealing things that were kept under extreme hush-hush. Right from revelation of iPhone X to Marvel's Infinity War spoilers, leaking out of confidential information is not new. Maybe keeping things confidential in the era of snaps and unboxing videos might not be that easy. Or is it? People who have managed to keep their private information away from the public's eye have a different story to share. Here are a few events that took the world by surprise this year, secrets that were well kept until the very last moment.

firmed the wedding on Twitter which became the most shared tweet of the year. The striking point of this 'match' was the idea of keeping the wedding a secret. After all, weddings are the most trending news which makes for a good PR stunt. So, maybe next time when a celebrity seems to be whining about their privacy, we should direct them to Virat and Anushka.

#### Riding on a seaplane

There have been several captivating campaign ideas to gain public support, but none so much as PM Modi's Seaplane ride on the last day of the Gujarat Campaign. He flew from Sabarmati river to the Dharoi dam reservoir onboard India's first commercial Seaplane on December 12, 2017. An indigenous aircraft capable of taking off and landing in water, this launch will revolutionize and expand the waterways transportation. Our PM has again taught us how to create a bang with best kept secrets.

#### Shuffling it

The September of 2017 unfolded another secret that was well guarded until those in question chose to disclose it themselves. Case in point – Cabinet reshuffle! The swapping and trading places was met by anxious Indians just the way a child responds as he suddenly wakes up to an empty house – befuddled. This was the third reshuffle since 2014 when NDA came to power. The shuffling saw nine new ministers being inducted into the council of ministers and four others being promoted to the cabinet. So many permutations and combinations, and yet the nation was clueless until the D day arrived. Well done, yet again PM Modi!

by the Indian Prime Minister, not only shook the nation but quaked the life of people. Citizens que at ATM's and banks became a routine for the nation. India went onto become digital overnight with Paytm stepping in as the only source of money exchange. But what makes demonetisation stand out is that it was well locked up until announced. No new channels or newspapers carried out news or had an idea about the decision until the PM announced it on November 8, 2017.

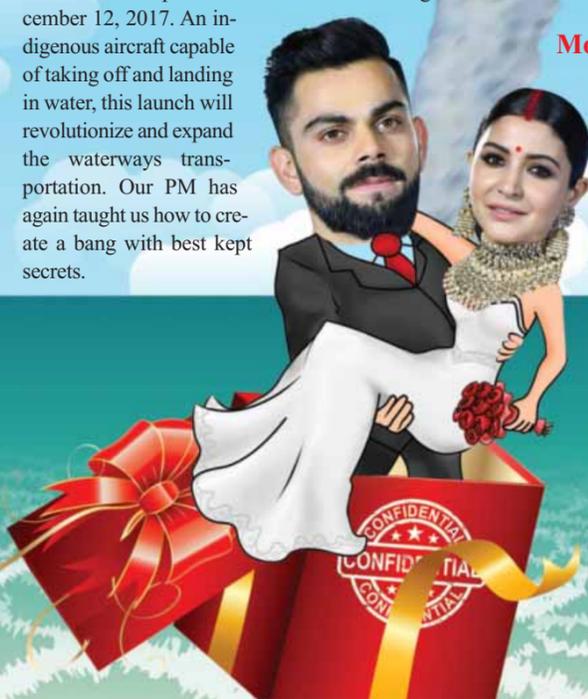
These events will always serve as a reminder of how it maybe difficult to breach the walls of confidentiality. In an internet dominated world, where information (and even rumours) move faster than light, keeping things private maybe a possibility after all.

#### Money matters

The sudden demonetization of Indian currency notes of 500 and 1000 in November 2016 still lingers in the air today. The announcement, made

#### A big fat secret wedding

One of the best kept secrets in the showbiz this year was the star couple, Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma's destination wedding held in Tuscany in Italy, on December 11, 2017. The Indian Cricket team captain and the talented actress have been paparazi's favourite muse for the last 5 years. The speculation of their tying the knot had started earlier this year, but were considered baseless until Virat con-



**INSIDE**

Amity Polo Cup, P3

Year that was, P7

**AMITEpoll**

Should stalking be made a non-bailable offence?

a) Yes  
b) No  
c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

**POLL RESULT**  
for GT Edition December 18, 2017

Do you agree with China's statement that Pakistan has made positive efforts at tackling terrorism?

Yes	No	Can't Say
49%	43%	8%

Results as on December 23, 2017

**Coming Next**  
See you next year!

Imaging: Pankaj Mallik, GT Network

## Fuelling the 'Maharatna'

Pic: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network



**A** graduate from SRCC and an exemplary leader **Dinesh K Sarraf, CMD (Retd) of ONGC, has steered the country through some of the most difficult phases in oil and energy sectors. Anandi Sen, AIS MV, XI G, pens down his experience of leading India's most valuable 'Maharatna' public enterprises.**

**Can you please elaborate on the challenges you faced during your illustrious stint as the CMD of ONGC and how did you tackle them?**

Survival and growth were the main challenges. The first challenge which I faced when I took over as the CMD was the price of oil barrels, then pegged at \$120 per litre. It started coming down later and by Oct-Nov 2015 it was as low as \$3 per litre. Another challenge was to survive in the newly programmed price and meeting the rising demands of the country for more energy and fuel. We decided to do the same things which we were doing earlier, but in a different way. Since drilling consumed more than 60% of our total capital expenditure we increased our drilling efficiency and notched up our efficiency by

24.7% in one single year. Next year again we increased it by 10%. This way, we kept increasing efficiency and managed to reduce costs. The markets also helped us in terms of inputs. We did more projects in the year 2016-17 and registered maximum number of win-win situations in the history of ONGC, despite very low output price. We could tide over the difficult times only because of the innovative ideas of my very capable team members who were always ready to face challenges.

**Speaking of drilling efficiency, what kind of technological advancements have been made in oil extraction process thus far?**

A host of advancements have been made in the extraction process right from the exploration & survey, to drilling and regional management. We have started a separate cell to keep track of all the research done in drilling technology globally. If some-



Dinesh K Sarraf shares views with Anandi, GT Reporter

thing new and innovative is found, we research it further to see, in case we would also like to adopt it and if it could help us reduce our costs further.

**How did you take care of environmental concerns as the CMD?**

Environment is a big concern for oil and gas sector as it deals with fossil fuels. ONGC has always been extremely conscious about protecting environment. We not only adhered to all the environmental norms laid down by the government of India and the state governments, but because of a great team, we overachieved our environmental protection targets. We took utmost care of environmental and human safety during field operations.

**How's your life post retirement?**

Oh! post retirement now I can do so

many things like coming here to Amity University. Recently, I had been to IIT Kanpur addressing their foundation day. About two months back I was in IIT Kharagpur, for their convocation ceremony. There is yet another upcoming conference on petroleum in Jaipur which I have to address. I couldn't do all this during my active service career. Such diverse assignments are keeping me more active and occupied, even after retirement.

**Few gems of prudence for Amitians.**

All I have to say is that, now when you are studying, study honestly & don't study only for exams. Work hard and keep doing productive things in life. Whatever position you are at, do things honestly and sincerely. Integrity, diligence and perseverance are the keys to a successful life.

Dinesh K Sarraf