

A red, dusty road in a mining town.

A POLITICIAN (55) in a white shirt and pants who looks more like a local hood, travels on top of a Jeep which has been designed to look like a mythological chariot. The jeep moves through the market place.

His 40 supporters are on 15 motorcycles bearing bandannas and flags in his party color, yellow. They ride slowly in front of the chariot shouting slogans.

CHORUS

Humara neta kaisa ho? Mangal Netam  
jaisa ho! Mangal Netam Zindabad!

A couple of his supporters climb on the Jeep and garland him. He is already laden with a dozen garlands- all yellow marigolds.

His supporters gesture at everyone to listen to him speak.

He addresses the crowd on a microphone.

POLITICIAN

(in mock anger)

Mangal Netam aapke beech vote  
maangne nahi aaya hai. Mat do mujhe  
vote! Mat do!

His supporters are silent.

POLITICIAN (CONT'D)

Woh log mujhe thekedar kehte hai.  
Mujhe?

(calms down)

Mujhe iss kshetra ka vikaas  
chahiye. Mera sapna hai ki har  
bacche ke daaye haath mein laptop  
aur baayein haath mein mobile ho.  
Aur woh log aapke aur vikaas ke  
beech ka kaanta hai.

His supporters start cheering him to not give up.

POLITICIAN (CONT'D)

(thumps his chest)

Magar yeh dharti ka poot aapke liye  
khada hai. Agar woh laal hai toh  
main kamaal hoon. Agar woh teer hai  
toh main top hoon. Isiliye main  
kehta hoon ki agar aap iss chetra  
ka vikaas chahte ho toh aapko pata  
hai ki aapko kya karna hai.

2 **EXT. HIGHWAY- DAY**

2

The Politician and his cronies travel in a car. He talks on his cellphone.

In front of them, the road is blocked by a fallen tree. As soon as the driver realizes it, everyone in the car panics as he tries to frantically turn the car.

As the driver tries to take a sharp U turn, eight uniformed naxals(4 men, 4 women), their faces covered come out of the woods with guns, mostly 303s.

The driver and bodyguard run out of the car begging them to spare him.

Mangal is frozen. When he turns back he sees both the driver and his bodyguard running away.

A naxal woman opens the car door. A man pulls Mangal out of the car, on the ground below.

The woman pumps two bullets into him with her 303. Very economical.

2A **PROLOGUE: IN POST (Give background of the situation)**

2A

3 **INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM- DAY**

3

An ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICER, P K MISHRA (50) is conducting a workshop for 40 men and women. There's an EVM on the table.

MISHRA

India ka election duniya hairan hokar dekhti hai. Tees hazar karod ka kharcha, chaurasi karod voter, nabbe lakh polling booth. Har baar Guinness Book mein hum apna pichla world record tod ke ek naya record banate hai. Humne saabit kar diya hai ki hamari sansad mein goonde bhale hi chun ke aa jaaye magar chunaav mein goonda gardi nahi kar sakte. Kyun? Kyunki hum aur aap, Election commission ke chunav adhikaari, aisa hone nahi dete...

VOICE

Chunav tak zinda rahenge tab na.

Mishra looks stunned. Some people laugh.

MISHRA

Kaun bola? Saamne aaiye?

Silence.

MISHRA (CONT'D)  
Murga nahi banayenge bhai...

Laughter. Mishra regains his composure.

MISHRA (CONT'D)  
Dekhiye kal ki ghatna ke baad darr  
lagna swabhawik hai... It is human  
nature. Yeh pradesh Maowaad se  
grast hai. Kal ki ghatna se unhone  
chunav boycott ka elan kiya hai.  
Boycott!

(pause)

Maowaadi hamare samvidhaan aur  
prajatantra ko nahi maante. Jo Mao  
ne Cheen mein kiya woh unhe yahan  
karna hai.  
Maoji ka kehna tha ki rajnaitik  
shakti bandook ki nali se behti  
hai. Wahan bahi hogi, yahan nahi  
bahegi.  
Naksaliyon ko koi hathiyaar agar  
mita sakta hai to woh hathiyaar hai  
yeh VOTING MACHINE. Samjhe?

A lady officer raises her hand with trepidation.

Mishra looks at her.

MISHRA (CONT'D)  
Kya samjhe?

LADY OFFICER  
Sir, chunavi hinsa hui to?

Mishra is getting a bit exasperated.

MISHRA  
Awwaal to hogi nahi. Hui bhi to hum  
aapko kuch nahi hone denge. Har  
polling booth sensitive nahi hota.  
Jo log samvedansheel ilaako mein  
jayenge, jaise Dandkaranya jungle,  
unke poora security cover milega.  
Aap sirf free and fair election pe  
focus kare. Chaliye bataiye Chapter  
1 point number 1.2 kya hai?

A KEEN TYPE PROBATIONER, KTP, raises his hand. Mishra points  
to him.

KTP  
Sir, Presiding officer ka polling  
booth ke 200 metre ke radius mein  
poora control hoga. Sabko uska  
aadesh man-na hoga.

Mishra lifts the manual.

MISHRA

Shabaash. Aap sabko bhi yeh manual ghot ke peena hai. Chunav ke din manual dekhne ki naubat nahi aani chahiye. Am I clear?

An officer raises her hand.

OFFICER 1

Sir, agar polling booth pe Maowadiyon ka hamla hua to hum kya kare?

MISHRA

Hero bilkul mat ban-na. Jo bole kar dena. Chup-chap voting machine de dena. Hum uss booth ka chunav radd kar ke re election karvaenge.

OFFICER 2

Sir, agar re election mein bhi upadrav hua to?

MISHRA

To phir re election.

NEWTON

Aur sir, agar re election ke re election mein bhi gadbad hui to?

Mishra is not impressed.

MISHRA

Kya naam hai aapka?

NEWTON

Ji, Newton Kumar.

MISHRA

Newton?

NEWTON

Newton.

MISHRA

Woh apple wala Newton?

NEWTON

Ji.

Officers in the audience laugh.

MISHRA

Huh. Do ke baad kya aata hai?

NEWTON

Jee teen.

MISHRA  
Teen ke baad?

NEWTON  
Jee char.

MISHRA  
Good boy. Baith jao.

The group laughs again.

4 **EXT. RESTAURANT/ CANTEEN- DAY**

4

P.K. Mishra sits alone at a table eating.

Newton enters the restaurant/ canteen. When he spots Mishra, he walks to him.

NEWTON  
Kya sir? Simple doubt tha. Mazak bana diya aapne.

MISHRA  
Sawaal aise poochogey toh jawaab bhi aise hi milege. Accha chhodo. Newton tumhara asli naam hai?

NEWTON  
Ji.

MISHRA  
Pitaji Physics padate hai?

Newton looks at him askance.

MISHRA (CONT'D)  
Mera poochne se matlab tha ki 'Newton' naam kisne rakha.

NEWTON  
Ji, khud maine.

Mishra looks surprised.

MISHRA  
Kyun?

NEWTON  
Actually mera naam Nutan tha. Nutan Kumar. Class mein sab chedte the. Isliye tenth board ke form pe maine Nu ko New aur Tan ko Ton kar diya.

MISHRA  
Nu ka New aur Tan ka Ton? Wah. Nutan ka Newton. Wah wah!. Yaar tum to kalakaar nikle!

NEWTON

Kyun?

MISHRA

Beta Newton naam bada bhari hai.  
(quoting Shakespeare)  
Greatness has been *thrust* upon you.

NEWTON

Kya sir... aap meri class le rahe ho?

MISHRA

Len-den se bhi upar ki baatein hoti hain. Suno ab. Pata hai Newton ne duniya kaise badli?

NEWTON

Sir padha hai. Gravity. Optics.

MISHRA

Itne saalon se aap Newton hain, asli baat toh pakad hi nahi paaye. Beta ek jhatke mein dharti aasmaan baraabar kar diya tha usne. Ab poochho kaise?

NEWTON

Kaise?

MISHRA

Hota kya tha ki purane zamane mein dharti ke alag aur aasman ke alag kanoon hotey the. Ek rule hota tha rajaon ke liye, ek rule hota tha hum jaison ke liye. Pata hai na?

NEWTON

Ji sir.

MISHRA

Lekin ek hi zhatke mein Newton ne duniya ke totay uda diye. Nature ke aagey koi raja nahin, koi fakeer nahi. Sab ke liye ek hi kanoon, chahe chand pe jao, Amrika jao, ya kahin mat jao, inertia mein raho. Jab kudrat Ambani aur bhikari mein bhed bhaav nahi karti, toh hum kaun hote hain? Samjhe?

NEWTON

(thinking deeply)  
Hmmm.

MISHRA

Kaunse department mein ho.

NEWTON

Abhi tak allocate nahi hua hoon.  
Probation par DM daftar mein hoon.

MISHRA

Phir election duty pe kaise ho?

NEWTON

Reserve mein hoon sir.

MISHRA

Twelfth man bhi zaroori hai. Jaise  
cricket-football mein. Maaza aa  
raha hai naukri mein?

NEWTON

Jee.

MISHRA

Bade bhari mann se Jee bol rahe ho.

NEWTON

Ajeeb sa mahoul hai saare daftar  
ka. Koi nakhoon kat-ta hai, koi  
patte khelta hai, koi din bhar  
oonghta rehta hai... bina rishwat  
koi file khiskaane ko raazi nahi  
hai... Gharwale aur rishteydaar  
alag pareshaan karte hai. Jab bhi  
milte hain upar ki kamai kitni hai  
poochte hain...

MISHRA

Dekho naya naya josh hai tum bhi  
seekh jaoge saal bhar mein. Shuru  
shuru mein sabko aise hi lagta hai.

NEWTON

Sir, sirf paise kamane thhe toh  
call centre mein naukri karta. I  
want to make a difference.

MISHRA

Tumhara problem pata hai kya hai?

NEWTON

(confrontational)  
Meri imaandaari?

MISHRA

Yeh imaandari ka ghamand. Dekho  
Newton babu aap imaandaar hokar  
desh samaj kissi pe ehsaan nahi kar  
rahe hai. It is expected of you.  
Samjhe?

Newton listens.

MISHRA (CONT'D)

Imaandaari se mann halka hota hai  
bandhu, bhaari nahi. Mat lo duniya  
ka load, sirf apna kaam karo. Desh  
ki pragati apne aap ho jaegi.

Newton nods. Thinking deeply. Mishra waits for Newton to  
resurface.

Newton gets up to leave.

MISHRA (CONT'D)

Bhains aur bureaucrat main kya  
farak hai jaante ho?

Newton looks askance.

MISHRA (CONT'D)

Bhains gobar karne ki tankha nahi  
leti. Ab chalo.

They laugh.

MISHRA (CONT'D)

Itna saara gyan diya, paaon nahi  
chuogey?

Newton smiles politely.

NEWTON

Sir, main paaon nahi choota.

MISHRA

Aajkal ke launde toh humare jaise  
hi hai!

Mishra laughs. Newton forces a smile.

MISHRA (CONT'D)

Suno. Shaadi hui hai?

NEWTON

Nahi sir.

MISHRA

Soch samajh ke karna. Yeh bhi ek  
prakaar ka seb hai.

5 **EXT. TOWN SCAPE- DAY**

5

A bird's eye view of the town.

6 **INT. LILA'S HOUSE- EVENING**

6

Traditional "Arranged Marriage" match making scenario.  
Newton's parents have taken him to see a girl.

They sit on a wooden sofa with cushions. In front of them sit the girl's father, brother and a 90 year old grandmother with thick glasses.

There's some noticeable disparity between his family and hers- his are far simpler.

GIRL'S FATHER

Bhopal ke aage to yeh kasba sa lagta hoga nai?

NEWTON'S FATHER

Jahan bachha khush rahe apne liye to wahi Bhopal hai.

GIRL'S FATHER

Yeh sahi kahi aapne. Retirement ka sukh to baccho ke saath hi hai. Waise bhaisahab aap lagte nahi saath ke.

NEWTON'S FATHER

Abhi to siraf tireppan poore hue hai. Naukri lagte hi yeh ladne laga, Karwa diya retire!

GIRL'S FATHER

Sakshat Shravan Kumar hai apna Nutan.

NEWTON

Jee Newton.

Her Grandma passes a framed cloth that has a bulbous rose embroidered on it. Newton's mother looks at the embroidery with interest.

GIRL'S GRANDMA

Bachpan se hi shauk hai.

GIRL'S FATHER

Beta ab tumhare roomal kabhi nahi khoyenge. Na koi chori kar paega. Sab par yeh tumhare woh initials kar degi.

NEWTON'S MOTHER

Haan, rumaal toh iske bade khotey hai.

Newton doesn't know how to react. Newton's parents begin to admire the embroidery.

Newton's attention is drawn towards the stairs where he can see some movement. The girl, LILA, nubile and demure enters. Draped in a nice saree, she is escorted by her mother, sister in law and older sister as she holds a tray of tea cups and pakodas.

She places the food before Newton and his family and sits down quietly next to her mother. Her head is bowed.

GIRL'S FATHER  
Pakode khao, beta Nootan.

NEWTON  
Newton.

GIRL'S FATHER  
Beta itni English to mujhe aati nahi.

Newton is about to say something when-

GIRL'S MOTHER  
Chai lo beta. Makhi baith jaegi.

She signals Lila with her eyes. Lila picks up the cup of tea around which a fly is hovering and hands it to Newton. When Newton takes a sip, a film of cream sticks to his lips.

He cleans it awkwardly.

Newton looks at Lila who looks uncomfortable.

GIRL'S FATHER  
Beta kuch poochna hai bitiya se? ya sab shaadi ke baad?

The parents laugh. Newton nervously keeps the cup on the table.

NEWTON'S FATHER  
Kadai dekh li, pakode kha liye ab baat karne ko hai kya?

Newton angrily looks at his father. His mother catches on.

GIRL'S FATHER  
Poochne do na. M.Sc. hai. Hogi koi baat. Pooch beta pooch.

Newton clears his throat. He looks at Lila who is looking at the ground.

NEWTON  
Kya shauk rakhti hain aap?

LILA  
Jee pichhur jaane ka shauk hai.

NEWTON  
Sabse favourite kaunsi hai?

LILA  
Jee Hum Aapke Hain Kaun.

Her parents nod with approval.

NEWTON  
College mein ho?

Lila shakes her head.

GIRL'S FATHER  
Badmasho ke adde mein apni beti ko  
main to nahi bhejunga. Naam padhai  
ka kaam saara number do ka.

NEWTON  
To aapne twelveth ke baad kya kiya?

LILA  
Jee woh nauvi tak kiya.

Newton looks at her father. He glares back.

NEWTON  
Kab?

LILA  
Jee teen saal pehle?

Newton looks like he is doing a mental calculation.

NEWTON  
Uss hisaab se to matlab aap  
matlab... Aapki age kya hui?

LEELA  
Jee. Saade solah.

Newton gets up, frightfully.

NEWTON  
Ladki nabaalig hai.

GIRL'S FATHER  
Beta ladki sasuraal mein badi ho  
yehi aacha hai.

Newton looks at his father with anger as if asking: what have you gotten me involved in?

7

**EXT. SMALL TOWN, ROAD- DAY**

7

Two cycle rickshaws- on one, sits Newton, and on the other, sit his parents.

Whenever Newton's rickshaw goes slightly ahead, his father tells his rider to buck up.

NEWTON'S FATHER

To ek-ded saal mein ho jaegi  
baalig. Tab kar lena shaadi. Sasur  
contractor, damad afsar. Retirement  
tak ghee mein dooba rahega.

NEWTON

Mujhe nahi doobna ghee mein.

NEWTON'S MOTHER

Aise nahi bolte babu. Motorcycle  
aur paanch lakh nagdi denge.

NEWTON

Main nahi loonga.

NEWTON'S FATHER

Tujhe de kaun raha hai. Main  
loonga. Saala baap pe masteri  
jhaadta hai.

(to rider)

Tez chala!

NEWTON'S MOTHER

Chhodo na aap bhi.

NEWTON

Mujhe graduate ladki chahiye.

NEWTON'S FATHER

Apni degree kam hai kya chaatne ko  
jo uski bhi chaatega?

NEWTON

Graduate mein kya burai hai?

NEWTON'S FATHER

Graduate ladki dabaegi teri maa ke  
pair? Sarkari naukari kya lag gayi  
tu khud ko jameendar samajne laga?  
Kal kahega thakur brahman ke ghar  
byah do? Apni patloon mein reh.

Newton's rickshaw driver suddenly speeds up.

NEWTON

Main kabhi shaadi nahi karunga.

NEWTON'S FATHER

Beta yeh Dilip Kumar wala lehja  
daftar mein chaprasi pe chalana.  
Woh darega. Main tera baap hoon.



13

**INT. DISPATCH CENTER- DAY**

13

Around 150 men and women are huddled in groups of 3-4, checking their polling materials. They are all carrying handbags.

Presiding officers huddle around two large white-clothed tables with Table 1 officials giving them the EVMs and going over instructions and at Table 2, the Collector informing them about their polling booth. KTP stands in queue at Table 1.

Newton and a few other 'Reserve' officers are sitting a few feet away on a long bench. Some officers are on their phones, some stare at the proceedings vacantly.

Newton watches with the concentration of a benched player.

Table 1:

VOICE  
Kamal Kishore!

KTP  
Yes sir!

The COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATE (local man in his 50's) looks at KTP and ticks his name in his list.

He opens a plastic briefcase with the EVM.

He hands over some papers in a file.

COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATE  
Check kariye.

KTP  
Yes sir.

COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATE  
Control Unit aur Balloting Unit.

He points to a smaller envelope.

COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATE (CONT'D)  
Isme kya hai jaante hain?

KTP  
Yes sir. Iss mein hai hari seal, strip seal, stamp pad, form 17A, Form 17 C, statutory forms, aur syahi vagerah.

The officer is impressed.

COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATE  
Very good. Ab EVM check kare.

KTP connects the Control Unit and the Balloting Unit. He switches on the machine and checks whether it is working.

COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATE (CONT'D)  
Jaiye assign ho jaiye.

KTP  
Sir!

KTP walks to the other table where the collector sits with her assistant.

COLLECTOR'S PA  
(looking into the file)  
Kamal Kishore? Aapka booth 237 hai.

KTP  
Jee Madam.

Collector looks up.

COLLECTOR  
Chhota booth hai. Sirf 76 voters.

KTP  
Madam Gir jungle mein to ek voter ke liye bhi booth bana tha.

COLLECTOR  
I know. Yeh Gir mein nahi Dandkaranya mein hai. Yahan dekho.

KTP's face turns pale. His countenance betrays fright.

KTP  
Jee Jungle mein?

On a map the Collector points to the booth.

COLLECTOR  
Haan. Yahan. Maoist influence kaafi heavy hai, lekin che mahine se poora control administration ke paas hai. Full security milegi. Aapke saath do sahayak jayenge, aur ek BLO bhi hai waha madad ke liye. Aap abhi helicopter se jayenge.

KTP moves closer to the Collector and speaks softly.

KTP  
Mujhe toh City Hall bataya gaya tha.

COLLECTOR  
Kisne?



Newton squints his eyes in the dust and looks around.

Unmarked vehicles belonging to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are waiting for them. There are about a dozen CRPF constables with guns.

The Sub Inspector, KRISHNA SINGH (32) comes towards Newton.

Newton shakes his hand.

KRISHNA  
Jai Hind Newton Sir. Sub Inspector  
Krishna Singh.

We can't hear their voices because of the helicopter's noise.

KRISHNA (CONT'D)  
Election party ke baki log kahan  
hai?

NEWTON  
Sirf hum teen hai.

LOKNATH  
Vanvaas pe.

Krishna smiles and nods his head.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
Ab yahan se kitna?

KRISHNA  
Ghante bhar mein pahuch jayenge.  
Sir, yeh laga lijiye.

He passes a tube of mosquito repellent.

KRISHNA (CONT'D)  
Theek se mal lijiye. Iss ilaake mey  
log goliyon se kum aur malaria se  
zyada marte hai.

Newton, Shambhu, and Loknath rub it on to their hands and faces as they approach their parked jeep.

KRISHNA (CONT'D)  
ROP kaam pe hai.

NEWTON  
Aropi? Aropi kaun hai?

KRISHNA  
R.O.P. Road Opening Party. Raaste  
mein mines vagerah clear karne.  
Dariye mat. Ambush ka chance bahut  
kam hai.



KRISHNA  
 (points in the distance)  
 Sir, woh pahad dekh rahe hai?

A hillock in the distance glistens like a ghost.

NEWTON  
 Kya hai wahan?

KRISHNA  
 Pakistan!

Newton looks at him with disbelief.

DRIVER  
 Pichle August tak wahan lal jhande  
 ko salaami di jaati thi.

KRISHNA  
 (laughing)  
 Meri toh abhi tak jahan bhi posting  
 hui hai na, log alag alag jhandon  
 ko salami dete hai.

LOKNATH  
 Jhande aur dande se hi toh desh  
 banta hai!

NEWTON  
 Yeh naxali area ko Pakistan kyon  
 kehte hai?

KRISHNA  
 Bhagwan jaane sahab. Mere aane se  
 pehle se kehte hai. Dushman meaning  
 Pakistan.

NEWTON  
 Yeh saara area unke paas tha?

KRISHNA  
 Ab humare control mein hai. Phir  
 bhi khatra to hota hi hai. Jageh  
 jageh mines bichi milti hai.  
 (laughing)  
 Aap log yahan wahan pishaab karte  
 samay savdhaan rehna. Galat jageh  
 moot diya to kaand ho jaega.

Four jeeps travel. Car headlights are on.

22 **EXT. HIGHWAY- NIGHT**

22

The four jeeps turn. The light falls on a BLOWN UP JEEP, off the road.

DRIVER (VOICE)

Isi spot pe ambush hua tha. Sau dedh-sau honge unki toli mein. Aadmi aurat sab saath mein chaaron taraf se firing kar rahe the. Aur dus minute mein sab ke sab jungle mein gaayab.

23 **INT. JEEP ON STATE HIGHWAY (JUNGLE)- NIGHT**

23

Newton and Loknath look at the blown up jeep.

NEWTON

Yahan?

The driver shows his left arm as he continues driving. Very little is seen in that light.

DRIVER

Choo ke dekho. Bum ka tukda abhi tak andar dhasa hua hai.

Loknath touches it reluctantly.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Feel kar sakte ho na?  
(to Newton)  
Aap bhi dekho.

Newton touches the hand.

NEWTON

Tagda ghaav hai.

KRISHNA

Commandant sahab ko to yeh kharoch lagti hai. Medal ke liye NDE maangte hai.

NEWTON

NDE matlab?

KRISHNA

Near Death Experience.

24 **EXT. CRPF CAMP- NIGHT**

24

The convoy enters the CRPF camp. Barbed wire at the wall. Sandbags with gunners behind it. A sentry opens the gate.

KRISHNA

Aa gaya London.

LOKNATH

Bhaiya mujhe to neend aane se rahi.

KRISHNA

Dariye mat. Yahan ekdum safe hai.

LOKNATH

Kitna percent safe?

Krishna laughs.

25 **EXT. CRPF CAMP - NIGHT**

25

A small group is huddled outside a tent playing carrom.

Newton, Loknath and Shambhu watch this from their tent door.

26 **INT. TENT, CRPF CAMP- NIGHT**

26

Newton sleeps. Suddenly, there's light on Newton's face.

Newton opens his eyes and sits up. A Gondi man is shining the light. He is LAKHMA.

Torch light on Newton's face. His eyes open and he sits up.

Lakhma puts the torch light on his own face.

LAKHMA

Ghabrao nahi, main Lakhma hoon...

NEWTON

Kya time hua? Sab log kahan hai.

He checks his watch for the time.

NEWTON (CONT'D)

Sade paanch baje gaye. Hum late ho jayenge.

LAKHMA

So jaiye Sirji. Sahab abhi abhi aaye hai.

NEWTON

Aa gaye? Loknath! Shambhu!

27 **EXT. CRPF CAMP- OUTSIDE MESS TENT- NIGHT**

27

Newton, Loknath and Shambhu walk towards Atma Singh who is scolding a constable. They wait till he is done.

Atma Singh turns and offers his hand to Loknath.

ATMA SINGH  
Jai Hind Kumar Sir. Atma Singh  
Assistant Commandant.

Loknath, who looks taken by Atma Singh's personality merely shakes his head.

NEWTON  
Ji, main hoon.  
(takes his hand)  
Newton Kumar, Upper Division Clerk,  
Collector Office. Yeh Loknath hai.

Atma Singh checks Newton out from top to bottom as if re-checking if the EC had indeed sent such a young officer.

ATMA SINGH  
Naam bahut adbhut hai hai aapka.  
Newton. Kisne diya?

NEWTON  
(stern, no nonsense)  
Ji maine.

Atma Singh gets the hint and stops smiling.

ATMA SINGH  
Yehi hai aapki polling party?

NEWTON  
Ek BLO yahan join karega.

ATMA SINGH  
BLO? Bhai, yahan local logon ka koi  
bharosa nahi hai.

NEWTON  
Nahi mujhe Collector madam ne khud  
bola tha ki...

ATMA SINGH  
(cuts in)  
Anda khate ho?

Newton is startled.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
Egg.

A table is set with breakfast of boiled eggs and bread. They are sitting around the table.

Loknath picks one up an egg and checks it out.

ATMA SINGH

Jungli anda hai. Yahan ki murgiyaan  
bhi krantikaari hai. Ghanta bhar  
interrogate kiya tab diya anda.

Laughter from everyone.

Lakhma pours red tea in three chai glasses.

Atma takes out a small bottle and pours some whiskey in his  
tea.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)

Lenge? Himmat ki dawai hai.

Newton shakes his head. Loknath looks at the booze with  
desire.

Newton starts eating.

Atma Singh doesn't like Newton's attitude.

NEWTON

Polling booth kitni door hai?

ATMA SINGH

(politely)

Woh aap mujh pe chhod do. Yahan tak  
aa gaye bahut hai. Aage safe nahi  
hai. Vote andar jakar mere aadmi le  
aayenge. Aap tension mat lo.

NEWTON

Madam ne to bataya tha ki yahan  
cheh mahine se kuch nahi hua hai.

ATMA SINGH

To hum yahan chor police kyon khel  
rahe hain? Dekho disturbed area  
mein chunav aise hi hota hai.  
Kashmir aur Manipur mein maine khud  
karaya hain.

NEWTON

Lekin yahan presiding officer main  
hoon.

Newton pulls out his map.

NEWTON (CONT'D)

Jis school mein booth hai woh kuch  
aath kilometer door hai.

ATMA SINGH

Ek dum correct information hai  
aapki. Wahi se mere aadmi vote  
layenge.

LOKNATH  
Aapka ilaaka hai. Jaise aap kahe.

Newton cuts Loknath.

NEWTON  
Loknath ji. Please.  
(to Atma)  
Humein apni duty karni hai.

ATMA SINGH  
Newton ji, inn logon ko kuch nahi  
padi election ki. Upar se boycott  
ka elan hua hai. Main likh ke deta  
hoon koi nahi ayega.

NEWTON  
Theek hai phir likh ke dijiye.

ATMA SINGH  
Kya?

NEWTON  
Aap jo bhi keh rahe ho, writing mey  
dijiye. Main usse apne collector ko  
forward kar doonga.

Atma Singh is stunned. Long silence. Atma Singh stares into  
Newton eyes. Newton looks here and there, not wanting to  
stare back.

Finally Atma Singh turns.

ATMA SINGH  
Rajendra! BP jacket nikalo!

Newton and Loknath look at each other.

29 OMITTED 29

30 **EXT. CRPF CAMP- NIGHT** 30

Lights from torches.

Newton, Loknath and Shambhu are being helped into their vests  
by constables. Atma Singh comes to Newton and tightens his  
vest like a corset. Newton gasps for breath.

ATMA SINGH  
(under his breath)  
Sarkari maal hai. Kaske na baandho  
to goli paar nikal hi jaati hai.

He barks instructions on the walkie.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
Alpha to Alpha 4.

VOICE ON WALKIE  
Alpha 4 here. Aadesh kare.

ATMA SINGH  
Point 44 pe area domination kar ke  
khabar karo.

VOICE ON WALKIE  
Janaab. Jai hind.

30A      **EXT. BUSHY JUNGLE PLAIN- NIGHT**      30A

In a wide shot, forty men are walking. Only their torch lights are seen. Murmurs are heard.

One by one, torches are switched off.

VOICE  
Ab ullu bano ullu! Zinda rehna hai  
toh andhere mein dekhna seekho.

Others hush him.

30B      **EXT. JUNGLE- DAWN**      30B

The first rays of the rising sun. The jungle wakes up.

31      **EXT. BUSHY JUNGLE PLAIN- DAY**      31

The group walks in a V formation.

As they walk towards the jungle, they see a lady walking towards them.

The men get alarmed.

Rajendra and two constables walk in her direction.

RAJENDRA  
Ruko! Kaun ho?

PRIYA  
Main Priya hoon. BLO.

Newton wants to go to her but Atma Singh stops him.

ATMA SINGH  
ID dekho.

She fishes it out of her bag. Atma Singh walks towards her. Newton follows him. Rajendra checks it.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
Aap nahi chal sakti. Safe nahi hai.

Priya looks confused. She looks at Newton askance.

NEWTON  
Kyun?

ATMA SINGH  
(mumbles to Newton)  
Local logon se thoda bach ke rehna  
chahiye.

NEWTON  
Yeh election team main hai. Yeh  
jayengi.

Atma Singh sizes up Newton.

ATMA SINGH  
Rajendra, bullet proof.

PRIYA  
Nahi chahiye. Main local hoon. Yeh  
pehnungi toh zyada khatra hai.

Newton is alarmed with her tone.

NEWTON  
Mujhe bhi nahi chahiye yeh  
bulletproof.

ATMA SINGH  
Aap pehne raho. Aap local nahi ho.

Priya walks to Newton.

LOKNATH  
Voter list hai aapke paas?

PRIYA  
Hai.

NEWTON  
Updated hai na?

PRIYA  
Jo hai wahi hai.

32A **EXT. ENTERING THE JUNGLE FROM THE PLAIN- MORNING**

32A

Loknath walks with Lakhma.

LOKNATH  
Aaj baarish hogi?

LAKHMA  
Ho sakti hai.

LOKNATH  
Magar aasmaan mein to ek bhi badal  
nahi hai.

LAKHMA  
Phir nahi hogi.

Loknath looks at Lakhma strangely.

LOKNATH  
Ajeeb ho tum.

After walking for some more time.

LAKHMA  
Yeh Shahrukh ka jo agla filam aa  
raha hai woh hit hogi kya?

LOKNATH  
Ho sakti hai.

LAKHMA  
Par uske pehle wali filam toh pitt  
gayi thi.

LOKNATH  
Phir nahi hogi.

Lakhma's cronies laugh at Loknath.

32B **EXT. JUNGLE - MORNING**

32B

**PBS # 1 starts.**

Caravan of 40 men and Priya walk in the jungle in a formation. They are led by a local head constable and the six SPOs who carry guns. Two men with mine detectors are in the front. Some men are carrying foldable tables, chairs, tent material. Newton and Priya hold a files. Loknath clutches the EVM box. Shambhu is taking a selfie as he walks.

32C **EXT. JUNGLE- MORNING**

32C

MID SHOTS of Newton, Priya, Atma Singh, Loknath, SPO Lakhma, Krishna, Rajendra, constables walking through the path which is flanked by thick bushes on both sides.

32D **EXT. RIVER BED- DAY**

32D

The group crosses a dried up river bed.

32E **EXT. SAL FOREST- DAY** 32E

Group walks up a hill. Krishna points out to an old tattered red rag- on the tree. It's an old Maoist flag. Beneath it is a graffiti written on the tree.

32F **EXT. SAL FOREST- DAY** 32F

Atma Singh walks a few paces behind Newton, observing him.

Suddenly a snap is heard and a branch falls a few meters ahead of them. **PBS # 1 stops abruptly.**

All guns are pointed in different directions.

Eerie silence. Atma Singh gestures at the polling officers to duck.

LOKNATH  
(whispers)  
Yeh-

ATMA SINGH  
Shhhhh.... neeche neeche!

Newton, Loknath and Priya sit down. They watch how Atma Singh and his party approach the branch. They check if it's a booby trap and then when they are sure, they cross the path and move ahead.

**PBS # 1 starts again.**

The group begins to walk ahead.

32G **EXT. SAL FOREST- DAY** 32G

They exit the thicker forest and come on a bushy plain.

The group walks through another part of the thick jungle. A couple of constables lip sync the song for a few seconds.

**PBS # 1 fades out.**

As the group walks, Loknath stops.

LOKNATH  
Sir. Jaana padega.

NEWTON  
Kahan?

LOKNATH  
Deerghshanka.

Loknath gestures that he needs to answer nature's call.

ATMA SINGH  
Wahan camp mein kyun nahi gaye?

LOKNATH  
Sir, mere karam phoote hai. Bina mehnat ki toh mujhe tatti bhi nahi aati.

ATMA SINGH  
(mumbles)  
Yeh election party hai ya Ramleela mandali, sab saale kalaakar jungle mein prakat hotay hai.

KRISHNA  
Halt!

Krishna and others are gentle.

KRISHNA (CONT'D)  
Chaliye, hum karwa dete hai.

Everyone stops.

CUT TO:

32H LATER:

32H

Everyone waits.

Loknath is escorted by two constables and another one with a mine detector scans a bush and then gestures at Loknath to sit. He is mumbling a prayer under his breath.

Loknath sits and then gestures at the men to give him privacy.

The men stand on guard.

Loknath starts singing.

As they wait, Newton is silently contemplating. Atma Singh is watching him. Loknath's song is heard faintly. Priya drinks water.

Shambhu whispers to a constable.

SHAMBHU  
Yeh bandook kaunsi hai?

RAJENDRA  
Yeh bandook nahi hai.

Shambhu has a goofy smile.

SHAMBHU  
Phir kya hai yeh?

RAJENDRA  
 Isse hum kabz ka ilaaj karte hai.  
 Aap kahe toh aapka kara de?

Shambhu stops smiling.

Suddenly, four Gondi boys and girls in their late teens appear in the distance through the fog. They are covered in black woolen blankets.

They are stopped by SPOs.

SPO JOGA  
 (questions them in Gondi)

GONDI YOUTH 1  
 (replies in Gondi)

Two other SPOs check them for arms.

KRISHNA  
 Kya bata rahe hai?

SPO Lakhma  
 Tendu patta laane jaa rahe hai.

ATMA SINGH  
 Sabke vote abhi le lo.

Newton walks to them.

NEWTON  
 Voting ka procedure hota hai. Aise nahi. Inka ID card vagerah check karna hoga. Uske bina yeh vote nahi daal sakte.

ATMA SINGH  
 Poocho hai ki nahi.

SPO Joga and local constable DINU (35) SPEAK to the Gondi youth in Gondi.

DINU/ SPO JOGA  
 (speaks in Gondi)

GONDI YOUTH 2  
 (replies in Gondi)

Priya and Newton are in earshot.

Lakhma lets the four Gondi youngsters go and then turns to Atma Singh.

LAKHMA  
 Ghar pe hai card inka. Kaam se ghar hokar card le ke phir aayenge.

ATMA SINGH  
 (Looking at Newton)  
 Good.

Newton feels assured. Priya looks uncomfortable.

Loknath walks back towards them, feeling jubilant.

LOKNATH  
 Chalo sattar mein se char voter to  
 aa gaye. Kam se kam paanch per cent  
 turnout to hoga.

ATMA SINGH  
 Aapka kitna percent turnout hua?

Priya speaks up hesitantly.

PRIYA  
 Sir woh... woh shayad yeh log nahi  
 aayenge. Unhe bola gaya hai ki  
 matdaan kewal barah baje tak hoga.

Newton looks at Atma Singh.

NEWTON  
 Atma Singh ji!

Atma Singh turns.

NEWTON (CONT'D)  
 Atma Singh ji aapke aadmi barah  
 baje ka time bata rahe hai....

Newton looks in the distance towards the Gondi youth and  
 calls out to them.

NEWTON (CONT'D)  
 Aye aye! Ruko. Priya jao aur batao  
 hum yahan teen baje tak rehne wale  
 hai. Aaram se kaam karke aa sakte  
 hain.

Priya walks towards the Gondis.

PRIYA  
 (tells him in Gondi-  
 "Please come by three in  
 the afternoon.")

32I **EXT. JUNGLE- DAY**

32I

They have walked a little ahead. After eyeing him for a  
 while, Atma Singh turns to Newton.

ATMA SINGH  
 Cricket khelte thhe bachpan mein?

-NEWTON

Ji.

ATMA SINGH  
Batsman the ya Bowler?

NEWTON  
Umpire.

ATMA SINGH  
Laga mujhe... yeh Naxaliyon ke  
baare mein aapke kya vichaar hai?

NEWTON  
Mera koi vichaar nahi hai Sir,  
tabhi toh humein election karaane  
bheja hai.

Atma Singh takes it as an affront.

ATMA SINGH  
Aap itne intelligent ho, IAS ki  
pareeksha kyun nahi di?

NEWTON  
Di thi. Fail ho gaya.

ATMA SINGH  
Lagaa mujhe.

Silence for some seconds.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
Nagaland ka capital jaante ho?

NEWTON  
Kohima.

ATMA SINGH  
Manipur ka?

NEWTON  
Imphal.

ATMA SINGH  
Aur Kashmir ka?

NEWTON  
Srinagar.

ATMA SINGH  
Kabhi gaye ho?

NEWTON  
Nahi.

ATMA SINGH  
Main gaya hoon.

He takes off his gun and hands it to Newton.

Newton is pretty awkward with the gun.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
Bhari hai na?

NEWTON  
Haan.

ATMA SINGH  
Yeh desh ka bhar hai. Aur yeh mere  
kandho pe hai.

He takes the gun back.

Walks silence.

Newton to lighten mood, as he understands at some level  
Atma's pain.

NEWTON  
Accha sir yeh batao...

ATMA SINGH  
Jungle mein sawal sirf main poochta  
hoon.  
(changes mood)  
Yeh lo, supari khao.

32J **EXT. JUNGLE- DAY**

32J

Newton walks with Priya and Loknath.

LOKNATH  
Sir, aapka koi rishteydaar mantri  
hai kya? Ya koi aur tagdi backing?

Newton glares at Loknath.

NEWTON  
Kyon Loknath ji?

LOKNATH  
Sir, bina backing yahan CRP ke  
afsaro se aise pesh koi aa hi nahi  
sakta.

Priya smiles at Newton.

33 **EXT. GHOST VILLAGE- MORNING**

33

The group reaches a ghost village in a jungle clearing: all  
around are broken down, damaged houses (about 8), with not a  
soul in sight.

They walk past a broken down hand pump.

NEWTON

Yahan sab ghar toote kyon hai? Aur log kahan hai?

ATMA SINGH

Maowadiyon se bacha kar unhe campo mein bhej diya hai.

As they walk through the ghost village.

NEWTON

Ghar naksaliyon ne tode hai?

ATMA SINGH

Nahi humne. Taki naksali kabza na kar sake.

NEWTON

Logon ko gaon se bhaga kar unke ghar tod diye? Yeh kiska idea tha?

ATMA SINGH

Har sawaal ka jawaab nahi hota.

Newton looks around, feels sad and asks Krishna.

NEWTON

Yeh ghar todna aapne kiss training school mein seekha?

34

**EXT. SCHOOL- DAY**

34

They reach the two room school which is at the far end of the Ghost Village. An advance party is waiting for them.

ATMA SINGH

Lijiye. School aa gaya. Chaliye bataiye kahan booth banega?

Newton walks around the building examining the situation. The wooden door is broken and a couple of windows of the school have been removed. There are a dozen bullet holes on the school walls

He walks around the corner and looks startled and signals the others to come.

There is Maoist graffiti scrawled on the wall. It looks old.

35

**INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

35

They enter the two room school room and examine it.



40      **INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

40

Newton, his three polling officers set up the place. Newton looks at the diagram of an ideal polling booth in his handbook. The difference is alarming.

They place the foldable tables as per the directives, make space for the polling booth, enclose it with cardboard.

Priya takes out the register of voters and places it on her table.

Newton and Shambhu arrange the booth.

Loknath takes out a bottle of indelible ink and places it on his table.

Newton takes out the EVM and connects the two units. He ensures that the seal is intact.

Newton checks his watch. It's seven seconds to 8 am. Six. Five. Four. Three. Two. One.

Newton presses the ON button of the EVM. BGM stops. SILENCE.

41      **INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

41

The three polling officers are sitting next to each other at the table.

They wait.

Wait.

CU of Newton- studying the list of voters.

CU of Priya- looks outside.

CU of Loknath- suppresses a yawn.

CU of Shambhu- he looks dazed.

## 42      OMITTED

42

43      **EXT. GHOST VILLAGE- DAY**

43

43A      A) An armed constable stands guard at the door of the school. ~~43A~~

43B      B) At a distance under a tree, Krishna stands with Rajendra ~~43B~~  
who fixes him some tobacco.

43C      C) 3 SPOs and the police head constable are huddled around ~~43C~~  
stove that they are setting up to make tea. They are  
gossiping in Gondi in whispers.

43D D) Atma Singh in his Aviator sunglasses, dozes off on a chair outside the hut. His transistor is on. Playing BBC Hindi news.

44 **EXT. JUNGLE (AROUND THE GHOST VILLAGE)- DAY(MONTAGE)** 44

44A CRPF constables are on patrolling duty in batches of two. 44A

44B At least 6 different batches are shown walking in the forest or on sentry duty in the periphery. 44B

44C CRPF constables are on patrolling duty in batches of two. 44C

44D CRPF constables are on patrolling duty in batches of two. 44D

44E CRPF constables are on patrolling duty in batches of two. 44E

44F CRPF constables are on patrolling duty in batches of two. 44F

44G Constable hums a song in the tune of "Ek din bik jayega ma ke mol" as he keeps watch. 44G

SINGING CONSTABLE

Hmmm hmmm hmmm hmmm hmmm... hmmm  
hmmm hmmm hmmm...

Another constable comes in front of them and 'shoots' him with his finger (shaped like a gun). He pretends to be shot by 'bullets' and falls down slowly, gasping for breath like in an 80's film.

45 **INT. SCHOOL- DAY** 45

Newton looks eagerly at the door of the School. Priya is still doodling. Loknath shifts his position as he naps with his head resting on the table.

NEWTON

Priya, aap teacher ho?

PRIYA

Hau.

NEWTON

Kya padati ho?

PRIYA

Chhote bacche hote hain to sab padhana hota hai.

NEWTON

Aapko accha lagta hai padhana?

PRIYA

Kaafi pareshaani hoti hai. Yahan ke bacche Gondi bolte hain magar padai saari Hindi mein hoti hai. Jitna ho sakta hai main Gondi mein samjhati hoon magar kitaab mein kya likha hai unhe samajh nahi aata.

Newton nods.

Loknath is suddenly alerted from his slumber.

LOKNATH

Hindi mein kuch nahi rakha. MA hoon Hindi sahitya mein, dekho aaj kahan hoon. English padao baccho ko. Aajkal to kutte bhi English samajhte hain.

Newton and Priya look at him. He has woken up and looks fresh.

PRIYA

Aap bolte ho English?

LOKNATH

Seekh raha hoon.

NEWTON

Adult education?

LOKNATH

Nahi sir. Adult...Matlab english film dekh ke. Aapko shauq hai? Dhero hain phone mein.. Return of Dracula, Bride of Chucky, Seed of Chucky...

NEWTON

Bada gyaan hai aapke phone mein?

LOKNATH

Chinese maal mein aisa hi hota hai.

They chuckle.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)

Sir, aap shadi shuda hai?

Newton

Nahi.

LOKNATH

Aur aap madam?

PRIYA

Nahi.

Awkward silence.

Newton

Aur aap?

LOKNATH

83 mein love marriage honi thi. Uska baap utpaat na machata to aaj teen teen bacche hotey. Tab kahan fashion tha love marriage ka? Ek seth Budau se byah diya Kamla ko.

NEWTON

(taking his trip)

Yeh to bahut bura hua.

LOKNATH

Kyon? Vidhwa Sethani hai aaj meri Kamla. Hame nahi poochti yeh aur baat hai. Humne bhi kaha chalo jo hai so hai. Ab lekhak ko kasht nahi hoga to kahani kaise phootegi?

PRIYA

Aap lekhak hai Loknath ji?

He nods proudly.

NEWTON

Kya likh rahe ho aajkal?

LOKNATH

Kahani ek election party ki hai jo jungle mein voting karane jaati hai magar laut ke nahi aati.

Silence.

NEWTON

Laut ke kyon nahi aati?

LOKNATH

Kyonki gaon wale aadivaasi kai baras pehle mar chuke hain. Unki laashein Jombie ban chuki hai.

NEWTON

Jombie?

LOKNATH

Khoon ki pyaasi zinda laash. Ek dum sadi gali. Kaisa laga plot?

NEWTON

Ekduk wahiyat. English picture dekh dekh ke aapka dimaag kharab ho gaya hai.

Loknath looks in disbelief. Priya laughs.

Loknath pulls out a pack of cards defiantly. He starts shuffling. He looks at Priya.

Newton is amused.

NEWTON (CONT'D)  
Taash khelna mana hai Loknathji.  
Andar rakh do.

Loknath freezes.

LOKNATH  
Sirji booth mein taash khelne ki  
purani parampara hai.

NEWTON  
Department mein bhi suspend hone ki  
purani Parampara hai.

Loknath keeps the playing cards in his pocket.

Loknath comes towards Newton.

LOKNATH  
Sabse purani parampara to  
bhavishyawaani ki hai. Kar doon?

Newton is confused as to what is going on.

Loknath taking advantage of the situation shuffles the cards and spread them on the table. Then he takes three cards and puts them in a line.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
Ab inhe bina dekhe indhar udhar  
kare.

Newton does it.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
**Ab jo pehla card hai woh aap kal  
thhe, jo card beech mein hai woh  
aap ab ho, aur teesra card kal!**

Newton for a minute is perplexed genuinely.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
Please Sir, itna toh kijiye.

He picks three cards and places them- facing down on the table.

Loknath unfolds card 1: 2 of Hearts.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
Kal aap thhe duggi magar dilwale.

He unfolds Card 2: Joker

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
Aaj aap joker hain kyunki chunav  
mein presiding officer hain.

He is about to pick the third card.

NEWTON  
Tameez se Loknathji. Iss bakwaas  
mein mujhe vishwas nahi.

LOKNATH  
Bhavisyawani sunke bade bade darr  
jate hain. Chaliye nahi uthaenye  
teesra patta...

Saying this, he keeps the card in his front shirt pocket.

46 **EXT. JUNGLE- DAY** 46

46A Peepul trees. Leaves sway in the breeze. Patterns of sun light are formed. 46A

46B A dense grove. Monkeys play on branches high up. Scores of them. There is a battle between two alpha males. 46B

46C A little baby monkey, stuck to his mother's bosom looks happy. 46C

47 **EXT. SCHOOL/ GHOST VILLAGE- DAY** 47

Newton walks out of the School and looks for Atma Singh. SPO Lakhma is outside.

NEWTON  
Sahab kahan hai?

LAKHMA  
Field exercise pe.

48 **EXT. JUNGLE, MANGO TREE- DAY** 48

Atma Singh is barking instructions.

ATMA SINGH  
Aur upar jao! Haan!

He is standing under the tree with two armed constables. He watches SPOs JOGA and KOSA (20's) who have climbed up on the tree and are choosing the mangoes from the branches.

Newton and Lakhma enter. Newton looks irritated and observes.

JOGA

Yeh wala paka nahi hai.

ATMA SINGH

Woh dekho daayein... Abe baayein  
nahin daayein. Abe mera daayaan,  
tera baayaaan.

Joga looks confused as he scampers on the tree branch. He  
throws a couple of raw mangoes down which Raju catches.

Newton stands next to Atma Singh and clears his throat.

NEWTON

Yahan se bastiyan kitni door hai?

ATMA SINGH

Raju, Newton sahab ki madad karo.

SPO RAJU

Ek basti poorab mein khaai ke taraf  
ded kilometer andar hai aur doosri  
uss taraf pahad ke taraf do  
kilometer.

NEWTON

Dekhiye boycott ki wajah se logon  
ka na aana swabhavik hai. Toh iss  
situation mein main chahta hun ki  
kuch constables ko unki basti mein  
bhejkar unhe yahan surakshit le  
aate hai.

Atma Singh spits a seed.

ATMA SINGH

Sorry. Woh nahi ho sakta.  
(to Joga)  
Catch do!

NEWTON

Kaise nahi ho sakta? Main presiding  
officer hoon. Aapko mera nirdesh  
man-na hoga.

Atma Singh catches a mango. As he rubs it against his shirt  
and bites it, he talks.

ATMA SINGH

Aapka hukum polling booth ke 200  
metre ki range mein hai. Uske aage  
mera order chalta. Aur main kewal  
apne superiors ke nirdesh maanta  
hoon. Aapki tarah hamara bhi  
procedure hota hai.

He offers Newton a raw mango. Newton shakes his head.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)

Kha lo na? Aapse kuch personal thodi hai. Aapko zero voting ka darr hai na? Nahi hone doonga. Mere aadmi de denge vote. Chutti nahi milti vote kaise denge?

Newton is astounded.

NEWTON

Main yeh sab jaalsaazi nahi hone doonga.

ATMA SINGH

Lagbhag satta voter hai. Polling agent to chhodiye, ek neta nahi dikha. Na laptop wala, na muft ke chawal wala. Aur aap hame jaalsaz kehte hain?

NEWTON

Main apni duty kar raha hoon.

Atma Singh takes another piece.

ATMA SINGH

Kya age kya hai aapki?

NEWTON

Kya?

ATMA SINGH

Main chalees ka hoon. Aap?

NEWTON

Age ka iss sab se kya lena-dena?

ATMA SINGH

Topic change kar raha hoon. Age ko chhodo... accha yeh batao: what is two plus two divided by two?

NEWTON

Two.

Atma Singh is delighted. Chewing the mango piece he nods.

ATMA SINGH

Three. Rule Rule karte ho aur basic rule bhool gaye? Addition se pehle division karna padta hai.

As Newton walks to the school, Lakhma hesitatingly asks.

LAKHMA

Newton sir aapke paas motorcycle hai?

NEWTON

Nahi.

LAKHMA

Main agle mahine lene wala hoon. Handa. Sir ek baat poocho aap bura to nahi manoge?

NEWTON

Bolo.

LAKHMA

Sir aap socho ki aap jitna kaam karte ho utna hi karte raho magar aapki tankha dugni ho jaye?

NEWTON

Main rishwat nahi leta.

LAKHMA

Waise nahi sir.

NEWTON

To tankha kaise dugni hogi?

LAKHMA

Ek scheme hai. Shuru mein paanch sau rupaye dene hote hai. Phir dus log aur dhoondhne hote hai jo paanch paanch sau rupaye de. Har naye member pe paisa milta hai. Phir aise hi kadi se kadi judti rahegi aur aap ghar baithe note chapoge. Scheme wale sab samjhate hain. Meeting hoti hai tab khaana bhi milta hai. Sukma mein to ek memberin ne do mahine mey hi Sony ka mobile le liya. Sirf paanch sau rupaye lagte hai. Lakapati ban jaoge. Bolo Sir?

Newton is irritated at Lakhma's pyramid scheme and quips in a childish accent.

NEWTON

Jab tum lakapati ban jao to apne bangle par khaane pe bulana. Tab baat karenge.

He walks towards the school.

50      **INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

50

Newton enters the booth to see sits deep in thought with a worried expression on his face. A writing pad lies open before him.

Loknath, Priya and Shambhu are watching an English film on his cell phone.

Music of an action scene. The hero seems to have saved the heroine.

NEWTON

Phone allowed nahi hai...

LOKNATH

Yahan network kahan hai? Tower hi nahi hai jungle mein...

Newton looks away.

The actors in the movie get close and start making out.

The woman starts moaning. Loknath, Priya and Shambhu are embarrassed.

Priya looks away while Loknath fumbles with the phone trying to shut it down. Shambhu simply smiles at Newton sheepishly.

51      **EXT. GHOST VILLAGE- DAY**

51

Rajendra walks with some jawans carrying the raw mangoes.

JAWAN

Kuch bhi kaho. Chunav ka apna maza hai. Tyohaar jaisa lagta hai. Service mein aane se pehle hum raajneeti mein jaana chahte the...desh ka sochte the...

Atma Singh, who's walking a few paces behind, kicks him on his butt in jest.

ATMA SINGH

Netagiri karni hai? Sab saalo ko jail kar do. Raaton raat desh sudhar jaega. Jo ye paisath saal mein nahi ukhaad paaye ek dictator danda karke dus saal mein kar dega. Saale macchar desh ka khoon chooste hai.

52      **INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

52

A mosquito buzzes.

LOKNATH

Sab apni duty hi to kar rahe hai.  
Commandent sahab ne aise hi chunav  
dekhe honge.

NEWTON

Yeh nakli election nahi hai.

LOKNATH

Main samajhta hoon sir. Mera kewal  
itna kehna hai ki yeh log bina  
hilaye hilte nahi, aur hilte hain  
to rukte nahi hai. Ek prakar ke  
jombie ban chuke hai yeh log.

NEWTON

(confrontational)

Toh kya main kuch nahi karu?

LOKNATH

Aap akele nahi hai sir. Hum sab  
milkar kuch nahi karenge... bas yeh  
saale...

Saying this Loknath swats a mosquito on his forearm.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)

Cream ki adhi tube mal di, tab bhi  
khoon choos rahe hai. Mujhe thodi  
sarsarahat si bhi ho rahi hai.

PRIYA

Khoon choosne wale tube se mare  
hai? Iska ilaaj hai. Chalo ek  
minute mein ho jaega. Malaria nahi  
hoga.

She looks at Newton. Loknath looks doubtful.

NEWTON

Try kar lo Loknathji. By chance  
kuch hua, waise hoga to nahi, phir  
bhi hua to Cerebral malaria bhi ho  
sakta hai.

Loknath looks frightened for real.

Priya walks out of the school.

LOKNATH

Shubh shubh bolo sir. Jadi booti  
hai kya?

Newton and Loknath are standing in front of the school next  
to the sentry.

Priya is looking for something in the bushes outside the school.

She breaks a stem and comes out, holding it. Red Ants have made a nest from 3 leaves and the branch is laden with them.

LOKNATH

Yeh kya hai?

NEWTON

Patta chabana hai.

PRIYA

Nahi chintiyon se katwana hai. Aap shirt utaro main chinti chodti hoon. Cheentiyaan kaategi toh Aap paseena paseena ho jaogey. Aur do teen ghante mein malaria gayab!

Newton laughs.

PRIYA (CONT'D)

Main mazak nahi kar rahi. Chinti se hi katwana hai.

NEWTON

Accha? Yeh treatment hai? Ok.

LOKNATH

Sir main ekdum theek mehsoos kar raha hoon. Dekhiye fast chal bhi paa raha hoon.

He walks around and goes into the room.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)

Bus, thank you...

Priya eats an ant and throws the branch away.

PRIYA

Aap bhi khaa ke dekho.

She gives him one. Newton hesitates and takes it and puts it in his mouth.

NEWTON

Khatta hai. Acidic.

PRIYA

Iski chutney banti hai. Badi tasty hoti hai.

NEWTON

Interesting.

PRIYA

Interesting yeh hai ki yahan se  
kuch hi ghante door rehne ke  
bawajood aapko yahan ka kuch nahi  
pata.

NEWTON

(mulls)

Baat aapki sahi hai...

PRIYA

Aap itne padhe likhe ho, mujhe ek  
baat poochni thi jo kabhi samajh  
mein nahi aayi.

NEWTON

Kya?

PRIYA

Yeh rule kisne banaya ki ek insaan  
doosre insaan pe hukum kaise chala  
sakta hai?

Newton is struck by that question.

Just then loud voice of two boys singing a song comes. Newton  
gives a puzzled look at Priya.

NEWTON

(pleasantly)

Koi gaa raha hai?

54

**EXT. GHOST VILLAGE- DAY**

54

Newton and Priya follow the voice and see that two Gondi  
children not older than 13 surrounded by CRPF jawans are  
singing a Gondi song. Atma Singh sits on a ledge and listens  
to them.

NEWTON

Kya ho raha hai yeh sab?

The two children become quiet upon hearing Newton's voice.  
The CRPF men are also alarmed.

Atma Singh's voice is heard.

ATMA SINGH

Interrogation.

Newton

Kis baat ki interrogation?

Priya talks to the children in Gondi and hears their version.

Atma Singh is perturbed.

Newton to Priya.

NEWTON (CONT'D)

Kya hua?

PRIYA

Kuch nahi. Ped pe chad ke khel rahe the.

KRISHNA

Khabri hai sab. Ped pe chad ke booth mein jhank rahe the ki kitne aadmi they.

NEWTON

Kitne aadmi they? Yeh Kalia hai jo yahan dekhke Gabbar ko khabar dene jayenge, ain?

ATMA SINGH

Bade harami hai yeh bacche. Isse bhi chhote hote hai unki fauj mein.

PRIYA

Jee nahi.

ATMA SINGH

Tere se kaun baat kar raha hai? Tere to sage wale hai yeh.

NEWTON

Aap inse aise baat nahi kar sakte. (Beat) Agar yeh khabri hai to inse gaana kyon gawa rahe the?

ATMA SINGH

To aap chahte hain main baccho pe haath uthaun? Unhe peetu?

(to Lakhma)

Poocho, koi movement thi kya?

The child replies.

BOY

Nahi.

ATMA SINGH

Dekha kaise fatt kar ke "nahi" bola? Aye Mowgli, aaja idhar.

The child comes to him, eyeing his AK 47 which hangs on his shoulder.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)

Dekho aa gaya. Saala Hindi to jaanta hai. Natak karta hai mere saath?

The child nods his head.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)

Bol!

Atma Singh looks deeply into his eyes. The boy looks back. Puppy eyes. Atma Singh takes out his cell phone and directs the camera side towards the boy and clicks a picture.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)

Apne gaon ja aur sab ko yahan lekar  
aa. Bolo voting honi hai. Samjhha?

The boy looks at Lakhma. Lakhma translates what Atma Singh said in Gondi. The boy nods 'yes'.

Newton and Priya watch in horror.

RAJENDRA

Chal bhaag...

Atma Singh looks pleased with himself and keeps his cell phone back into his pocket. When he turns back, he sees Newton, who looks furious but is very polite and respectful in his tone.

Kids run away.

ATMA SINGH

Aapke benefit ke liye hi ho raha  
hai bandobast.

NEWTON

Aap aise hi vardi ke dum pe jisse  
chahe dhamka rahe hai?

ATMA SINGH

Vardi mein vinti dhamki hi lagti  
hai.

Lakhma repeats this line softly, nodding his head, highly amused at the word play.

The constables laugh.

NEWTON

Yeh log apke ghulam nahi hai!

Atma Singh glares at Newton.

ATMA SINGH

Newton ho Newton hi raho. Einstein  
ban-ne ki koshish mat karo.  
Samajhte ho na main kya keh raha  
hoon, Newton babu?

Atma Singh straightens Newton's collar.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
 Ek-aadh ghante mein hum bhi nikal  
 lenge. Attack shaam ko jyaada hote  
 hai. Jaaiye, tambu mein duty  
 kariye.

55

**INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

55

Newton is at his table. He's writing furiously.

NEWTON  
 Loknathji hum Atma Singh ke paas  
 exactly kitne baje pahuche the?

LOKNATH  
 Jee yahi koi paune cheh baje honge?

Newton notes it down.

NEWTON  
 Aur wahan se savva cheh- sade cheh  
 chale the. Hai na?

LOKNATH  
 Aisa hi kuch hoga.

NEWTON  
 Theek theek batao.

PRIYA  
 Main cheh bees pe aayi thi.

NEWTON  
 Hmm.

He keeps writing.

LOKNATH  
 Aap complaint likh rahe ho?

Newton ignores him. Priya and Loknath look at each other.  
 Loknath gestures at her to do something.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
 Aap kyon apna BP bada rahe ho.  
 Hum sab ko pata hai aap kitne  
 chintit hai chunav ko lekar...  
 Dekhiye Chunav ke baad sirf ek  
 badlaw aata hai.

He looks around.

SHAMBHU  
 Kya?

LOKNATH  
 Netao ke photo badalte hai.

Newton is at his wit's end.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
 Aur nahi toh kya, logon ko do waqt  
 ka khana naseeb ho ya na ho, unhe  
 har election mey vote zaroor karna  
 chahiye.

Newton looks at Priya.

NEWTON  
 Aap bhi inki hi tarah nirashawadi  
 hai?

Priya looks hesitant.

PRIYA  
 Nahin, main aadivaasi hoon.

56 **EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING- DAY**

56

Constables off sentry duty are resting outside a broken down hut.

CONSTABLE  
 Yaar meri galti thodi hai ki mere  
 dadaji ne azaadi ke jung mein hissa  
 nahi liya. Freedom fighter hotay  
 toh kamse kum quota mein gas agency  
 toh mil jaati.

57 **INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

57

Newton is studying his manual silently, Priya is reading a newspaper and Loknath is watching an 80's Hindi film on his cell phone.

Shambhu takes a selfie with the sentry's gun.

SENTRY  
 Aap jungle mein kyun aaye? Koi  
 approach nahin tha kya mana  
 karneka?

SHAMBHU  
 Mujhe helicopter mein baithna tha.

Newton is irritated by the dialogues from the film. But Loknath is too immersed to notice or care.

The sentry at the door calls out.

SENTRY  
 Newton ji... Polcent line pe hai.

NEWTON

Kaun?

SENTRY

Ji, Polcent. Yaani IG sahab.

58A **EXT. GHOST VILLAGE- DAY**

58A

Newton is outside. He picks up the wireless.

NEWTON

Hello?

58B **EXT. HIGHWAY (JUNGLE)- DAY**

58B

A convoy of jeeps is heading deeper in a convoy of three Scorpions.

Seated in a jeep is a tough looking man in uniform, IG VERMA, (late 40's). Next to him, sit two white journalists from CNN-DEBBIE (30, in salwar kameez) and ADAM (30's).

Verma barks on his wireless.

VERMA

Newton?

60 **INTERCUT WITH:**

60

NEWTON

Yes Sir?

VERMA

Kitne percent vote gire?

NEWTON

Zero. Sir, yahan toh kuch theek nahi ho raha, yeh order nahi maan rahe-

Verma softens his tone, cups his hands around his wireless.

VERMA

Hello. Suno. Woh aa rahe hai. Atma Singh lekar aega meri baat ho gai hai. Main inspection karne saade gyarah tak aa raha hoon. Foreign media hai saath. Mahoul jama dena. Mood, colour, anecdote. Sab chahiye. Clear?

NEWTON

Sir.

Verma hangs up.

Newton looks jubilantly at Atma Singh. Taking cue, he directs his men, Krishna and Rajendra. He draws a rough map on the ground below with a stick.

ATMA SINGH

Newton ji voter laane ke liye bees  
bees jawano ki do tukdiya jaengi.  
Ek khaai wale gaon mey aur doosra  
pahad wale. Main bhi jaunga. Aap  
aagya de to hum chale?

NEWTON

Kissi ko jabardasti laane ki  
aavashyakta nahi hai. Kewal chunav  
hain yeh bata de. Jo aana chahe  
aapke saath aa sakte hain.

ATMA SINGH

(sarcastic)

Jabardasti aur hum? Kya keh rahe  
hain Newton babu? Aap kahe to  
bandook yahi chhod jaye?

The constables betray subdued laughter. Newton looks a bit apprehensive.

**INTERVAL**

59           **EXT. JUNGLE PATH 1- DAY (Jungle near Ghost Village)**           59

Atma Singh, SPOs Lakhma, Joga and a dozen constables, armed with guns walk the forest path downwards towards Hamlet 1.

60           **EXT. JUNGLE PATH 2- DAY (Jungle near Ghost Village)**           60

Krishna and Rajendra are moving towards Hamlet 2 on the hillock with a dozen troops armed with AK47s. SPO Kosa, Dinu are with them.

The monkeys on the trees are alerted by their presence and scream.

62           **EXT. JUNGLE, HILLOCK- DAY (Jungle near Hamlet 2)**           62

Krishna and his troops walk downhill. They cross some graves.

61           **EXT. JUNGLE, STREAM- DAY (Jungle near Hamlet 1)**           61

Atma Singh and his troops cross a dry stream.

63 **EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING- DAY**

63

Newton, Priya and Loknath are sipping tea at the door of the school.

Loknath muses.

LOKNATH

Iss jageh ka itihas pata hai  
kisiko? Bahut pracheen hai...

They look at him.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)

Dandkaranya yaani veh jageh jahan  
daand diya jaaye. Ramji aur Sitaji  
yahin aaye the vanvaas kaatne.  
Surpanakha ki naak yahin kati thi,  
yahin Sitaji ne Lakshmanrekha  
laanghi, aur yehi se Ravan unka  
apharan karke Sri Lanka le gaya  
tha...Itihaas bahut hai yahan.

They nod disinterestedly.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)

Aap log bacche rahe honge jab  
Ramanand Sagar ka serial  
doordarshan par aaya tha. India ka  
pehla plane Pushpak bhi yahin uda  
tha pehli baar.

64 **EXT. HAMLET 1- DAY (Achanakpur)**

64

(Take shots of mundane life before raid)

Atma Singh's party enters the hamlet.

SPO Joga shouts in his megaphone in Gondi.

JOGA

(Shouts instructions in Gondi to  
come out with their cards for  
voting)

65 **EXT HAMLET 2- DAY (Rampur)**

65

(Take shots mundane of life before raid)

Krishna and Rajendra and their men enter the hamlet. Dinu  
shouts in his megaphone.

DINU

(instructs in Gondi to  
come and fall in with  
their ID cards)



Atma Singh cleans his sunglasses with his breath, wipes it with a kerchief and wears it.

SPO Joga gives them instructions. They all raise their cards.

SPO JOGA  
(instructions in Gondi)

72A **EXT. HAMLET 1- DAY** 72A

Two constables chase the running man in the rice fields. One of stops and aims at him.

FASTER CONSTABLE  
Ruko nahin toh goli maroonga!

The man stops with his hands up. They seize him.

72B **EXT. HAMLET 1- DAY** 72B

Constables search a hut. A sick man is sleeping. They make him to come out.

73A **EXT. HAMLET 2- DAY** 73A

Constables open a pig sty, a large pig runs out.

73B **EXT. HAMLET 2- DAY** 73B

Constables stand on guard with their guns. A group of women are talking to Rajendra in Gondi.

RAJENDRA  
Sab buddhe dikh rahe hai. Ladke  
ladkiyan kab lautenge?

Old woman points at 60 degrees.

OLD WOMAN  
(Speaks in Gondi)

RAJENDRA  
Kya?

DINU  
Jab sooraj wahan hoga. Do dhai  
baje.

74 **EXT. HAMLET 1- DAY** 74

Meanwhile, Constable Romesh walks towards a stack of hay and begin to carelessly stomp on it and disheveling it.

75 **EXT. HAMLET 2- DAY**

75

Krishna is talking to some people. He's polite.

MIDDLEAGED WOMAN  
(Speaks in Gondi.)

KOSA  
Dadalog ne vote dene se mana kiya  
hai.

KRISHNA  
Kab aaye the kitne aaye the? Poocho  
usko.

KOSA  
(Speaks in Gondi)

The woman shakes her head.

Krishna pulls out a folded b/w print-out with four mug shots.

KRISHNA  
Isme se koi tha kya?

The woman shakes her head.

76 **EXT. HAMLET 1- DAY**

76

Constables get an old man (Pistak) to vote. He comes with his grand kid.

Behind him, three constables are bringing a couple out of their hut.

75A **EXT. HAMLET 2- DAY**

75A

Krishna and Rajendra are trying to control the chaotic situation. The Gondis are arguing with them.

One of them is a bit vehement. Rajendra slaps him.

The man stares at him.

RAJENDRA  
Ghoorta hai?

He gives him another slap. Krishna calms him down.

76A **EXT. HAMLET 1- DAY**

76A

Atma Singh studies a printout with faces of wanted guerrillas. He looks at the men and women who are sitting Indian style on the ground.

In the background, SPO Joga questions the sick man. The man looks scared and pleads innocence.

75B **EXT. HAMLET 2- DAY** 75B

An unattended infant watches. Wide eyed.

Adults are all sitting in front of a hut in a straight line with their IDs.

75C **EXT. HAMLET 2- DAY** 75C

A petrified man is hiding on a tree. A constable is standing under the tree.

CONSTABLE

O Haddi Pehelwan! Neecha aao bhai.  
Vote karna hai.

PETRIFIED MAN

(speaks no in Gondi.)

Constable shakes the tree. The man holds tight.

CONSTABLE

Aajao bhai... tumhara adhikaar hai.

77 **EXT. HAMLET 1- DAY** 77

A constable is examining the ID cards of the villagers. Not all villagers have it. They separate the ones who have cards.

Two villagers, extremely drunk, are in their own world creating commotion.

One has an old key tied to a black thread around his neck. Atma Singh grabs the key and pulls the man.

ATMA SINGH

Yeh chabi kiski hai?

Drunk points to the ground.

DRUNKARD

Mere baap ke lohe ke khazane ki  
chabi hai. Zameen mey arab arab  
arab gade hai.

Atma Singh snatches the key and throws it away.

78 **INT. SCHOOL- DAY** 78

Newton, Priya and Loknath are waiting at their tables.



NEWTON  
Par aa jayenge na?

DINU  
Bol ke rakha hai.

NEWTON  
Theek time bataya hai na, subeh ki tarah toh nahi kiya?

DINU  
Nahi nahi!

The Lakhma, the SPOs and Dinu direct them in Gondii to stand in a line.

NEWTON  
Aadmi saare uss taraf. Mahilayein iss taraf.

82

**INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

82

Newton is at his table with the control unit.

NEWTON  
Chaliye ab ek ek karke sabko andar bhejiye. Aap log ready hai?

PRIYA  
Haan ready.

NEWTON  
Loknath ji?

He holds out his ink bottle like a trophy.

LOKNATH  
Aadesh kare.

PRIYA  
(gestures at the first woman)  
Aa jao...

An old woman comes to Priya.

PRIYA (CONT'D)  
Card?

She shows her card. Priya finds her name on the list and ticks it. She puts her thumb impression next to her name on the list. Priya directs her to Loknath.

The old woman walks to Loknath. He signals her to show her index finger and puts an ink mark on it.

Newton directs the woman to the booth. He goes and holds the control unit, which has a button which needs to be pressed at the time someone is voting.

NEWTON

Wahan par button daba ke vote de.

The next person in the queue is let in and he goes to Priya with his card held out.

The old woman stands in front of the EVM. Newton is watching her from afar, waiting for her to press a button.

LOKNATH

Arre wahan khade mat raho. Vote do aur fatafat niklo.

She looks at the Electronic Voting Machine and nervously looks at everyone who is anticipating some magic to happen from her end.

NEWTON

Samasya kya hai inki?

Newton looks at Priya, searching for answers.

PRIYA

Sir, yahan toh election pehli baar hua hai na.

LOKNATH

Matlab inhone voting machine pehli baar dekh rahi hain!

Newton looks open mouthedly.

83

**EXT. JUNGLE PATH- DAY**

83

There are 30 CRPF constables accompanying the journalists. All the 8 journalists are wearing bullet proof jackets and helmets.

Verma CHATS with Debbie. Adam shoots them.

A Zee News reporter walks backwards as the cameraman moves towards him with a video camera. He talks very softly, huffing and puffing as if there is grave danger.

ZEE NEWS REPORTER

Yeh jungle jitna khoobsoorat hai usse zyada khatarnaak. Ambush kahin bhi lag sakta hai, IEDs aur surang kahin bhi phat sakte hai. Iss dehshatmand ilaake mein maut baatne wale naxali aur zehreele cobra kabhi bhi mil sakte hai!

The villagers are sitting on the ground, Indian style. Newton addresses them, holding the polystyrene model of the voting machine.

NEWTON

Sab log dhyan se suno. Aap sab log  
ek ek karke apna apna vote denge.  
Yeh machine aapka vote legi.

PRIYA

(translates)

Newton gives a firm but benevolent look.

The Drunkard asks a question in broken Hindi.

DRUNKARD

Kitna paisa milega?

NEWTON

Paisa?

SPOs and Krishna scold him together.

KRISHNA

Aye baith neeche!

Newton signals Krishna to not meddle.

DRUNKARD

(trailing off)

Logon ko to milta hai vote dene ka  
paisa?

NEWTON

Vote dena aapka adhikaar hai. Na  
koi aapko paisa dega aur na hi koi  
zor zabardasti hogi. Priya batao na  
inhe.

Priya nods.

PRIYA

(translates)

Silence. Blank faces.

NEWTON

Sab samajh gaye? Kissi ko kuch  
poochna hai? Daro mat! Poocho.

He senses some hesitation in a middle aged woman and encourages her to speak up.

NEWTON (CONT'D)

Aap... haan... poochiye...

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN  
(speaks in Gondi)

Newton looks at Priya.

PRIYA  
Poochti hai inhe kya fayda hoga?

NEWTON  
Yeh desh ka sabse bada chunav hai.  
Lok Sabha ka. Aap sab ko sadak,  
bijli, paani, samajik nyay vagerah  
chahiye na? Aap jise vote doge woh  
aapke liye yeh sab karega.

She MUMBLES something in Gondi to her companions.

NEWTON (CONT'D)  
Kya hua?

PRIYA  
Yeh pooch rahi hai Lok sabha kya  
hai?

Newton gathers himself.

NEWTON  
Lok Sabha matlab jahan desh ke  
sabse bade kanoon bante hai.

PRIYA  
Hamare apne kanoon hai sir. Hazaron  
saal purane.

Newton is annoyed.

NEWTON  
Aap kewal anuwwad kare. Please co-  
operate. Inhe bataiye inka neta  
dilli jaega.

PRIYA  
(Translation- the leader you choose  
with go to Delhi.)

They all nod. They mumble amongst themselves. Some of the Adivasis point to an old bearded man with gray locks. He smiles and stands up. They speak to Newton who doesn't understand.

PRIYA (CONT'D)  
Yeh keh rahe hai yehi inka neta  
hai. Isse inki taraf se Dilli bheja  
ja sakta hai.

They nod. Newton is at his wits end.

NEWTON

Yeh kaise Dilli jaenge! Priya samjhao na. Candidates ki list padho!

Newton looks at PRIYA and prompts her to translate this. She translates and then reads out the list.

PRIYA

Meena Kumari (Indian National Party)  
Lingaram Netam (Bharatiya Vikas Party)  
Lalsingh Tekam (Lok Seva Dal)  
Budhri Patel (Independent)  
Gladstone Usendi (Independent)  
Dr. Joga Chaudhary (Independent)  
Muttaka Masram (Krishi Party)  
Bedu Ram Kashyap (People's Front)  
Satter Netam (Independent)  
Nelawati Devi (Independent)  
Binod Kumar (Rashtriya Dal)  
Comrade Bhim Kumar (Kisan Party)  
Jhitku Ram (Janata Sangh)  
Maheshwar Baghel (Adarsh Bharat Party)

At each candidate's name, we cut to a unique visual of the candidate or his/her poster. The visuals are all set in the town:

- (A) T-shirt
- (B) Newspaper advertisement
- (C) Painting on Wall
- (D) Posters on Wall
- (E) Cut Out being transported by hand.
- (F) Printed on bags which are hung in a shop.
- (G) writing on a Gandhi cap worn by a supporter who's distributing pamphlets.
- (H) Cycle rickshaw with loudspeakers
- (I) Party Office with cut out and posters.
- (J) Umbrella
- (K) Parked Bike with flag and sticker
- (L) Poster on wall
- (M) Children with masks of the candidate's face

(N) flex with Barack Obama

We cut back to the scene:

The Adivasis are looking at Priya blankly.

NEWTON

Iss soochi mein se kissi ko bhi  
vote de sakte ho.

They shake their heads and murmur. Newton looks at Priya for translation.

PRIYA

Yeh naam aaj yeh pehli baar sun  
rahe hai.

The old man asks a question in Gondi.

OLD MAN

(asks question in Gondi)

Newton looks at Priya for translation.

Atma Singh checks his watch and looks at Krishna. Krishna shakes his head as he is listening to the walkie.

PRIYA

Sir inko sirf yeh pata karna hai ki  
in netaon mey se kaunsa neta tendu  
patta ka sahi bhaav dilwaega?

Newton has no answer. A woman asks something to Priya.

PRIYA (CONT'D)

Sir yeh kehti hai ki vote diya toh  
dadalog pareshan karenge, nahi diya  
toh police. Koi inhe poochta nahi  
hai inhe kya chahiye.

NEWTON

Kya chahiye hai inhe?

PRIYA

Inhe donon se chutkara chahiye.

NEWTON

Aisa inhone kaha?

Priya's doesn't make eye contact.

An exasperated Atma Singh, his arms folded across his chest, is standing at a distance. His eyes meet Loknath's.

Loknath shrugs. He says to Newton softly.

LOKNATH

Sir, main handle karoon?

Newton dismisses him with a gesture.

NEWTON  
Sochne do yaar!

Loknath sulkily looks towards Atma Singh and gestures at him to do something.

Atma Singh comes and takes over.

ATMA SINGH  
Newton babu, aap ke bas ki lag nahi rahi hai. Now let me take over.  
(shouts at the Adivasis)  
Sharam aani chahiye aap logon ko.

SPO Joga translates in real time.

JOGA  
(Translation)

ATMA SINGH  
Dekhiye, sirf aap logon ke liye yeh babulog apni jaan jokhim mein daal kar shehar se jungle aye hai.

JOGA  
(Translation)

NEWTON  
Yeh kya bol rahe ho!

Atma Singh ignores him. Newton aggressively moves towards Atma Singh, Rajendra stops him.

ATMA SINGH  
Mehmaano ke saath aap log aise pesh aate hai? Unhe pareshaan karte hai?

JOGA  
(Translation)

ATMA SINGH  
Dekhiye voting machine ke khilone jaisa hai...

NEWTON  
Kya bakwaas kar rahe ho aap?

ATMA SINGH  
Aapka pehla election hai, itna uddo mat. Khudse to kuch ho nahi raha hai, aur jo kar sakte hain unko obstruct karte ho.

Newton loses it and screams.

NEWTON

Obstruct main nahi aap kar rahe ho.  
Yeh sab jaega meri report main. Ek  
ek point likhunga. Dikhaunga!

ATMA SINGH

Rajendra!  
(to the Adivasis)  
Haan to main keh raha tha ki iss  
khilone se khelna bahut aasan hai.

Rajendra takes Newton away.

RAJENDRA

Aaiye sir..Aaiye na..idhar...

ATMA SINGH

Isme seb hai, anar hai, chashma  
hai, phool hai, motorcycle hai,  
bansuri hai, ghoda hai, hawai jahaz  
hai, lota hai, nota hai- aapko jo  
cheez acchi lagti hai uss par  
button daba do. Bas.

JOGA

(Translates)

As Joga translates, a voice is heard.

DRUNKARD

Humein chotta baccha samjhata hai  
kya?

ATMA SINGH

(shouts)  
Kaun bola!!?

Cold silence. He searches the crowd for the miscreant. Timid  
faces stare back.

Newton comes back.

NEWTON

Sahi bol raha hai. Aap inse aise  
baat nahi kar sakte.

ATMA SINGH

Aapse poocha maine? Lakhma! Khada  
kar do inhe line mein.

NEWTON

Atma Singh aap power ka misuse kar  
rahe hain. Main dekh loonga.

Atma Singh faces Newton and walks, Newton retreats.

ATMA SINGH

Abhi dekh lo jo dekhna hai.

The old bearded Gondi man with grey locks comes to them and says something very forcefully.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
Kya bol raha hai yeh?

SPO LAKHMA  
(hesitates)  
Gaon ka majhi hai. Kehta hai aap  
logon ka faisla yeh kar sakta hai.

ATMA SINGH  
Yeh inn sab ka mukhiya hai?

The Headman nods.

SPO LAKHMA  
Haan.

Atma Singh does a Namaste with mock reverence and the headman reciprocates sincerely.

ATMA SINGH  
Pehle kyon nahi bataya mahashay?  
Aapko kandhe pe bitha ke laata  
yahan.

85      **INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

85

Inside the School, Priya checks the register, Loknath puts the indelible ink on the left forefinger of the voter and the voters go and randomly press any button.

Newton sulks, showing his extreme unhappiness over the proceedings. He squirms every time he hears a "beep" of the EVM and chooses to look away.

86      **EXT. SCHOOL- DAY**

86

The TV crews are shooting the voters queue.

87      **EXT. GHOST VILLAGE, NEXT TO A BROKEN HUT- DAY**

87

With the backdrop of a broken hut, Debbie gives a piece to camera as she walks sideways.

DEBBIE  
This ghost village is a by product  
of its insurgent past. With most  
villagers still in camps, a booth  
has been set up here for just  
seventy voters from two neighboring  
villages. Despite such stark  
contrasts, Democracy truly runs  
deep in India.

88 **INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

88

Slow Motion.

The old head man who was in the queue, walks towards Priya and shows her his ID. She looks for his name in her register and ticks it.

Loknath applies ink on the old headman's forefinger and he walks to the booth.

All eyes are on him.

He looks nervously at the cameras. He goes to the booth and stands there for a while. Debbie takes a video on her iPhone. Camera flashes and sun gun lights. Press persons are poised like vultures on a dying prey.

Finally, a beep is heard and Newton looks helpless.

89 **EXT. SCHOOL- DAY**

89

89A A) The Zee News reporter interviews some voters who are 89A looking into the camera.

ZEE NEWS REPORTER

Kissi ne aapko darane ki koshish to nahi ki?

The young man whom the question is asked to merely stares into the camera. He shifts his mic to other people who are in the frame. His cameraman says:

CAMERAMAN

Inhe Hindi kahan aati hai?

ZEE NEWS REPORTER

Oho... toh ek kaam karo ek accha sa long shot le lo. Baaki main P2C mein dekh loonga.

He walks a few pacesr.

ZEE NEWS CAMERAMAN

Rolling!

Huffing and puffing, in his feeble voice, he speaks forcefully as he moves around the school.

ZEE NEWS REPORTER

Jaise ki aap ne abhi dekha, log nidar ho kar vote dene aaye hai. Dehshat failane walon ko mooh-tod jawab deneka yeh ek hi tareeqa hai. Aaj Democracy ki jeet hui hai!

89B B) Debbie is gearing to interview Atma Singh.

89B

Atma Singh is about to wear his sunglasses when he looks in the direction of Verma. Verma has identical pair of sunglasses and they share a moment when they both recognize that fact. Verma wears his sunglasses. Atma Singh sheepishly smiles and doesn't wear his.

DEBBIE

So Atma Singh, a package of almost \$35 million dollars has been given by the center to fight Naxalism. Do you think that's enough?

He has a strange smile plastered on his face.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Please don't look into the camera, look at me.

Debbie waits. Gestures at him to elaborate.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Why?

ATMA SINGH

Why?

DEBBIE

Why is it not enough?

ATMA SINGH

It is less.

DEBBIE

Ok. But what do you need?

ATMA SINGH

Better weapons, night vision goggles, thermal imaging, laser range finders.

DEBBIE

Ok. Thank you.

Debbie is creeped out and looks at her cameraman.

ATMA SINGH

Thank you.

89C C) IG Verma speaks into a number of mikes thrust at him. 89C

He's wearing his aviators.

DAINIK JOURNALIST (O.S.)

Kuch logon ka kehna hai ki iss darr ke mahoul se kewal mining companiyon ko labh hota hai.

(MORE)

DAINIK JOURNALIST (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Gaon khali karke jungle unko de  
diya jaega?

VERMA  
Jin logon ka aisa kehna hai woh  
naxal sympathiser hai. Adhi samasya  
ji jad wahi hai.

DAINIK JOURNALIST (O.S.)  
Aapki personal rai kya hai iss  
saare masle par?

VERMA  
Retirement ke baad kitaab mein  
likhunga. Aap khareed ke padhna!  
Chalo, thank you.

89D D) Debbie's cameraman Adam shoots SPOs Lakhma, Joga and the ~~9D~~  
group who pose. Debbie is whispering to him.

DEBBIE  
Gimme children! Gimme children!

Krishna and Constable who are standing nearby tease the SPOs.

CONSTABLE  
Tum log ab Amrika mey dikhogey!

KRISHNA  
Lakhma, mem ki tujhpe hi nazar hai.  
Le jayegi tujhe apne saath.

Lakhma grins.

DEBBIE  
(in Hindi)  
Haan kyun nahin, tumhe bhi le  
jaungi.

Krishna is embarrassed.

89E E) Constables are teasing the Hindi news cameramen who are ~~9E~~  
wrapping up.

CONSTABLE 1  
Humara bhi photo kheencho.

CONSTABLE 2  
Yeh TV pe aaega ya cable pe?

89F F) Atma Singh mumbles to Krishna and Rajendra as they watch ~~9F~~  
press persons interviewing a voter.

ATMA SINGH  
Baraatiyon ke nikalte hi hamari bhi  
bidai ho jaegi.

Krishna nods.

90

**INT/EXT. SCHOOL- DAY**

90

Verma huddles with Newton and Atma Singh at the door of the school.

VERMA

Kitna vote gira?

NEWTON

70 mein se 39.

VERMA

Very Good. Hame aur booth dekhne jaana hai. Aapka kya karyakram hai? Kab tak hain yahan?

NEWTON

Ji teen baje tak. Abhi toh asli voter... 'youth' toh aye nahi hai...

VERMA

Aayenge bhi nahi.

NEWTON

Par wait to karna hai na sir. Chahe koi na aaye. Agar ek bhi voter reh gaya to fair nahi hoga sir.

VERMA

Hmmm...

NEWTON

Aapko pata nahin yahan kya kya hua hai-

VERMA

Kya hua, chunavi dhandli hui? Booth capturing? Naqli vote?

NEWTON

Nahi...

Verma looks at Atma Singh.

VERMA

Then it's fine.

91

**EXT. HAMLET 2- DAY**

91

Close up shot of a pot of Chicken Curry being cooked. A female hand adds salt on the top.



PRIYA (CONT'D)

Humne bhi ek Newton ki kahani suni hai. Humari kahani mein Newton ke sar pe seb girne pe kahi saal lage the. Aur jab seb gira toh uski aankhein khul gayi thi.

NEWTON

Haan haan, woh maine suna hai... point kya hai aapka?

PRIYA

Sar koi bhi tapasya ek din mein poori nahi hoti. Jungle banne mein saalon lag jaatey hai. Thoda ro lijiye. Mann halka ho jayega.

She exits.

Shambhu is left alone at his table. He is watching the drama with wide eyes.

NEWTON

Ab aap bhi kuch bol ke jao!

Shambhu shakes his head and darts out of the room.

Newton is alone.

95

**EXT. GHOST VILLAGE- DAY**

95

In the far corner by a broken hut, Dinu is opening a pot of chicken that has been covered by leaves. Two teenage Gondi boys are with him who have brought the food. The non vegetarian food is for a small clique of Atma Singh's cronies- Krishna, Romesh, Lakhma, Loknath who wait patiently for their turn. Atma Singh is wearing his sunglasses.

Someone passes salad made of tomatoes and beet.

CONSTABLE

Laal salaad!

EVERYONE

Laal salaad! Laal salaad!

Loknath is talking to Atma Singh.

LOKNATH

Yahan pe jo anyaay ho raha hai isko kaabu mein laane ka solution mere paas hai.

ATMA SINGH

Kya?

LOKNATH  
TV. Har ghar mein TV laga do.

ATMA SINGH  
TV?

LOKNATH  
Haan TV! Do saal mein sabko Coco Cola aur washing machine ki lat lag jayegi aur kranti bhool kar line pe aa jayenge.

ATMA SINGH  
Aap bhi bahut bade gyani nikle.

LOKNATH  
Kya kare, majboor hai. Suraj na chahte hue bhi prakash baat hi deta hai.

Atma Singh picks his plate.

ATMA SINGH  
(referring to the boys)  
Laundo ne vote diya?

RAJENDRA  
Yeh? Abhi to solah ke bhi nahi hai yeh.

KRISHNA  
Maine to chaudah saal mein pehli baar vote diya tha. Solah saal mein to hamare jile ke launde chunav lad jaate the.

ATMA SINGH  
(Laughs. Sniffs the pot)  
Aaye haaye!

KRISHNA  
Virender kitna accha bhuna chicken banata tha. Yaad hai?

Atma Singh gives Krishna a furious look.

KRISHNA (CONT'D)  
Sorry Sir.

Loknath is waiting with his plate.

Dinu serves generous amounts of the curry. The chicken looks delicious.

Rajendra has a sip of mahua from his water bottle.

The boys look eagerly for payment.



99B **EXT. JUNGLE- DAY**

99B

Children are playing Chor-Police (Naxal-Police) in the jungle. High speed shots. They have sticks and twigs that look like guns.

100 **INT. SCHOOL- DAY**

100

Tight Close Up of Newton. Camera tracks back. He's sitting on a chair expressionless.

PBS # 2 ends.

Few moments later.

Atma Singh comes to the door with a plate of food.

ATMA SINGH

Rule book ke mutabik main andar nahi aa sakta, magar aapko aise dekh kar bura lag raha hai.

Newton looks at him. Awkward.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)

Situation pe na to aapka control hai na hi mera. Hum dono ko to apni duty karni hai. Aap khaana nahi khaenge to mujhe bahut guilty feel hoga.

Long silence. Newton looks at Atma Singh when-

Gun shots are heard. Atma Singh is alarmed.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)

Aap yahan se hilna mat.

He rushes out. More Gunshots. Atma Singh is shouting instructions. Newton tries to rush out when Priya and Loknath rush into the school followed by an armed constable.

CONSTABLE 1

Bahar mat ayiye! Ambush ho gaya hai!

They all huddle in one corner.

Suddenly Atma Singh carrying his AK-47 reappears with SPO Lakhma.

ATMA SINGH

Aap log apna saman sameto aur niklo.

Priya and Loknath start wrapping up.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
 Newton sir aap theek ho? Ghabrane  
 ki koi baat nahi hai. Lakhma aur  
 Krishna ek team lekar aapke saath  
 highway tak jayenge. Wahan se  
 hamari jeeps aapko le jayengi.  
 Raaste mein Priya ko unke gaon  
 chhod denge.

Newton responds well to the situation. He hesitates for a moment and puts the control unit and balloting unit into a bag and rushes out.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
 Jaldi kare!

Atma Singh is facing Newton.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
 Alvida Newton babu. Dua mein yaad  
 rakhna.

Newton feels sentimental. The men share a moment. He holds Atma Singh's hands. Atma Singh nods and rushes out.

LAKHMA  
 Jaldi chalo.

Newton, Priya and Loknath rush out.

101      **EXT. GHOST VILLAGE- DAY**      101

As soon as they come out:

LAKHMA  
 Mere peeche peeche aao. Jaldi.

Krishna is a hundred meters away with a band of ten armed SPOs/constables. He gestures them to rush. They all begin to run.

Gunshots are heard sporadically.

102      **EXT. THICK JUNGLE PATH- DAY**      102

Newton, Priya, Loknath, Shambhu, Krishna, Lakhma and others run down the path.

103      **EXT. BUSHY SLOPE- DAY**      103

As they descend from the slope, they have slowed down and the firing has stopped.

Newton walks by himself, thoughtful.

Priya, Lakhma, Shambhu are walking behind him.

Krishna is walking a bit ahead with Loknath and two constables. They are followed by two. (Loknath is telling some story we cannot hear).

They stop at a point from where a path cuts to the left and leads into the thicket.

KRISHNA

Aap to chali jayengi yahan se.

PRIYA

Jee.

(to Newton)

Accha sir. Dhanyawaad.

NEWTON

Akele kaise jayengi yeh? Attack hua hai.

PRIYA

Main chali jaungi.

NEWTON

Nahi nahi aise kaise?

KRISHNA

Inko kuch nahi hoga... agar aap kaho toh kisiko-

PRIYA

Nahi nahi... main chali jaungi.

(to Newton)

Kabhi iss taraf aana hua toh mil lijiyega. Maspur gaon hai mera.

Newton smiles.

Krishna and Lakhma look on, naughtily.

LOKNATH

Priyaji kalam to leti jaiye baccho ko sher kaise banayengi?

Handing the pen to her, Loknath finds the card in his pocket.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)

Ah Lo! Newton babu ke patte khul gaye.

PRIYA

Kaun sa hai? Duggi Joker to tha ab kya hai?

Loknath shows it- 5. He looks at Newton who's disinterested.

LOKNATH

Paanch. Kuch kaam ka nahi hai. Ikka baadshah begum hoti to maza aata.

PRIYA

Nahin Sir, yeh hota hai paanch.

She shows him her hand and makes it into a fist.

PRIYA (CONT'D)

(tapping her temple)

Aur yeh hota hai chhe.

Newton absorbs it but doesn't acknowledge.

LOKNATH

Chhati indri ki baat kar rahi hai Sir. Sixth sense.

Priya smiles and walks away.

She walks into the distance and disappears into the thicket without ever turning back.

104

**EXT. BUSHY JUNGLE PATH- DAY**

104

Newton walks with the group. They resume walking. He is feeling uneasy.

After walking a few meters. Lakhma is talking about a Salman Khan film to Krishna. Newton listens to them and starts thinking.

NEWTON

Loknath ji, aapko filmein dekhna pasand hai na?

LOKNATH

Ji.

NEWTON

Aap agar wapis jaakar aaj ki kahani kisiko sunaogey toh aapko nahin lagta woh bada khush hoga, woh kahega 'arre wah, iss kahani mein toh sab kuch hai- shuru mein kuch hota hi nahin hai aur aakhir mein goliyan chalne lagti hai.' Kyun?

Loknath nods and laughs. Krishna and Lakhma silently listen to Newton.

NEWTON (CONT'D)

Yeh bahut badiya kissa nahi hua humare saath? Ab kissa kahan hota hai, Loknath ji? Kissa hota hai theater mein, parde pe.

(MORE)

NEWTON (CONT'D)

Subah se shanti thi, jaise hi  
voting khatam hua, achanak se twist  
aa gaya.

KRISHNA

Sir ji, kya bol rahe ho aap?

NEWTON

Atma Singh ko bata do ki kalaai  
khul gaya hai.

Newton turns and walks back.

KRISHNA

Sir, aap aise jaa nahi sakte.

Newton ignores him and keeps walking.

KRISHNA (CONT'D)

Sir! Aise mat jaiye.

Newton keeps walking briskly. Krishna and others walk behind  
him.

Loknath, Shambhu and a constable stay back.

Krishna talks on the walkie.

KRISHNA (CONT'D)

Tango calling cheetah.

105A **EXT. BUSHY SLOPE- DAY**

105A

Atma Singh and his platoon of constables are walking through  
the jungle. Rajendra passes him a walkie.

KRISHNA (O.S.)

Janab, lagta hai yeh Newton ji  
wapas booth jaa raha hai.

ATMA SINGH

Huh? Kya bak rahe ho?

105B **INTERCUT:**

105B

KRISHNA

Ruk nahi rahe hai. Lagta hai inko  
pata chal gaya hai...

ATMA SINGH

(scolds)

Useless hai sab ke sab. Ek kaam  
theek se nahi kar sakte. Pakdo  
usse!

106      **EXT. BUSHY JUNGLE PATH- DAY**      106

As they walk back, Krishna and Lakhma try to reason with Newton in their own way.

LAKHMA

Sir, kyun humare naukri ko khatre  
mein daal rahe ho.

Krishna and Lakhma run behind him. Newton begins to run with the EVM in his hand.

It soon turns into a **CHASE**, Newton has a good lead.

107      **EXT. BUSHY SLOPE- DAY**      107

Newton runs ahead. From the distance, he sees Atma Singh and his troops coming downhill- around 200 meters away.

Newton freezes for a second.

ATMA SINGH

Pakdo usse!

The men run downhill towards Newton. Behind him, Krishna and Lakhma are waiting with some constables.

Newton turns in the third direction and runs towards the deep jungle. The men chase him.

30 men run behind Newton. In a wide shot- we see Newton running towards the deep forest full of Sal trees. The men follow him.

108      **EXT. SAL FOREST- DAY**      108

Newton runs into the Sal forest with the men following him.

Finally after a formidable chase, he is nabbed by Rajendra and another constable.

Scolding him, they drag him out of the forest towards the Barren Jungle Path.

Newton is completely exhausted, he is holding the EVM tight. A constable grabs it from his hands.

109      **EXT. BUSHY SLOPE- DAY**      109

Newton is brought to Atma Singh and his cronies who wait.

NEWTON

Aap logon ne fraud kiya hai!

Atma Singh comes close to Newton. Looks him in the eye.

ATMA SINGH

Bahar mat bolna. Log hasenge.  
Chaliye chalte hain.

NEWTON

Main sab likhoonga apne report  
mein.

ATMA SINGH

Likho! Kaun gawahi dega?

They walk towards the bushy jungle path.

110 **EXT. BUSHY JUNGLE PATH**

110

Loknath, Shambhu and a couple of constables are waiting for them. As soon as they see Atma Singh and his platoon bringing Newton- dragging him by his arms, they stand up, shocked.

111 **EXT. JUNGLE PATH**

111

They all walk down the path- silently.

In the distance, the four Gondi youth who they encountered in the morning are seen, coming back with baskets full of tendu leaves.

They stop and raise their ID cards.

YOUNG MAN 1

Vote dena?

ATMA SINGH

Kya vote? Bhaggg!

The young Adivasis turn and walk away.

NEWTON

Ruko!!! Ruko!!!

They stop and look back.

Newton tries to free himself. They violently pin him down. In the scuffle that ensues, Newton pounces on Romesh and grabs his gun.

He points the gun at Atma Singh.

Shock.

ATMA SINGH

Mental jaisi harkat mat karo  
Newton. Naukri kharab ho jaegi.

NEWTON

Sab bandooke neeche karo.

All guns are pointing at Newton. Everyone is talking  
SIMULTANEOUSLY.

ATMA SINGH  
Trigger se ungli hatao!

LOKNATH  
Newton sir!!!

NEWTON  
Bandook neeche. Unko yahan bulao!

ATMA SINGH  
Bandook neeche.

His men obey him.

NEWTON  
Koi chalaki nahi! Unko bulao yahan!

<p>ATMARAM Newton babu hosh mein aa jao...Sab neeche rakh do bhai bandook. Batchheet se sab hal ho sakta hai. Dekhiye hamari aapki koi personal dushmani thodi hai.</p>	<p>KRISHNA (calls the tribal youth) Aao bhai... aao!</p>
---	--

LOKNATH  
Aao bhailog!!

The Gondis come with their hands up.

NEWTON  
Aap log haath neeche... Shambhu  
wahan machine lagao!

Shambhu is so nervous, he's shaking and does as told.

Atma Singh is in reconciliatory mode.

ATMA SINGH  
Accha kara lo chunav bas. Bandook  
idhar de do please. Chal gayi  
musibaat aa jeagi. Aap samajh nahi  
rahe ho.

NEWTON  
(screams)  
Haath upar mooh band.

The Gondi youth turn to run away.

NEWTON (CONT'D)  
Tum nahi. Tum yahan aao. Dinu! Bolo  
inhe.

Dinu tells them to stop in Gondi and tells them to vote.

NEWTON (CONT'D)  
Jaldi aao! Loknath, ID check karo  
aur voting karao.

LOKNATH  
Sir aap jaante ho na aap kya kar  
rahe ho?

Newton gives him a look, Loknath does as he is told. He sets up the polling booth behind a bush.

ATMA SINGH  
Election officer ke haath mein  
bandook shobha nahi deti.

Newton ignores them, Shambhu is checking their cards, marking the names in the book and getting them to put their thumb impressions.

Atma Singh and his men look at Newton.

ATMA SINGH (CONT'D)  
Aagya ho main baith jaaun?

NEWTON  
Bandook se door.

He sits.

NEWTON (CONT'D)  
Kyon ki nakli firing?

ATMA SINGH  
Aap seedhe seedhe maan kaha rahe  
the? Subah se bol raha hoon ilaka  
safe nahi hai. Do saal se night  
vision googles maang rahe  
hai...Bahadur ladke faltu mein  
marte hai accha nahi lagta.  
Aapke election picnic ke chakkar  
mein main apne aadmiyon ki jaan  
jokham mein nahi daal sakta.

NEWTON  
Justify karne ki koshish mat  
kijiye. Loknath!

Newton signals him to start.

Loknath talks to a voter as he applies indelible ink on the voter's forefinger.

LOKNATH  
Kisko vote doge?

The young man stares at Loknath and presses his button by covering the EVM with his body. The man knows whom to vote for.

The first beep of the voting machine is heard.

Newton's brow is beaded with sweat.

Atma Singh looks like a miffed school boy sitting in one corner.

Another beep is heard.

One of the voters steals a glance at Atma Singh who glares back at him. The voter lowers his eyes and goes to vote.

Another beep is heard.

LOKNATH (CONT'D)  
Sir, aapka sign chahiye.

NEWTON  
Sab theek se hua?

LOKNATH  
Jee.

NEWTON  
Kya time hua?

LOKNATH  
2.55

NEWTON  
Paanch minute hai. Ruk jao.

SILENCE FOR FIVE MINUTES AS EVERYONE WAITS. Mid shots and Close ups of all characters.

THE WATCH HITS THREE. AND...

Newton signs on the paper. Loknath brings him the EVM. Newton switches off the button. Big beep.

ATMA SINGH  
Ho gaya?

Newton nods.

Atma Singh is assisted to get up by Krishna. He brushes his pants and stands up.

NEWTON  
Mujhe pata hai aap arrest karoge.  
Kar lo.

Newton keeps the gun on the ground.

As soon as he does that- ALL THE MEN POUNCE ON NEWTON. FREEZE FRAME.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

112      **EXT. MINING SHOTS- DAY**      112

Over shots of Iron Ore mining. SUPER: "Six Months Later"

113      **INT. HALL- DAY**      113

Banner on the stage reads "EKTA MANCH- a forum for democracy". A middle aged woman is reading out from a paper.

EMCEE

Aap Dandkaranya jungle mein election duty par the jahan achanak naxali hamla ho gaya. Chunav ko prajatantra ka sabse prabhavshaali chinh maante hue aapne naxaliyon ke hamle ka mooh tod jawab diya. Gaur talab hai ki hamle ke waqt chunav adhikari ka mansik santulan bigad gaya aur veh mat daan machine lekar jungle me bhaag gaye. Atma Singh ne soojbhooj aur bahaduri ka praman dete hue na sirf uss chunav adhikari aur matdaan machine ko surakshit vapas pahuchaya balki chaar khatarnaak naxaliyon ko bhi aatma samarpan karne ke liye vivash kar diya. Assistant Commandent Atma Singh ko yeh puraskar dene ke liye main swatantra senani Radhyeshyam ji ko maanch par amantratit karna chahungi.

Atma Singh walks to the stage and accepts an award from an 90 year old man. Audience claps.

114      **INT. HAMLET- DAY**      114

A little boy of 8 rushes out of his hut. He is carrying a slate. He runs into the woods. He sits sext to some children who have gathered. We reveal that Newton is teaching children who were seen in the Chor-Police sequence. A little away, Priya is teaching kids.

115      **THE END.**      115