

UN General Assembly : Economic and Financial Committee

ICARUS, REBORN.

- *Aashi Chaure,*
The New York Times

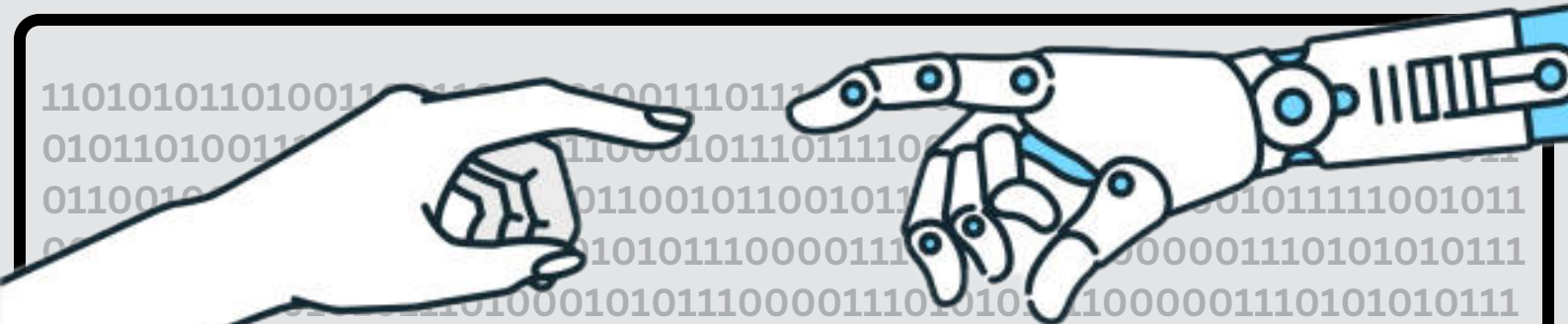
Aashi Chaure from the New York Times shares her thoughts on the questionable actions of the Chinese government concerning AI.

“As a journalist, the details always tell the story.” - James McBride

The land of state controlled media, China, has taken to support the development of Artificial Intelligence, all to misuse it every chance they get. China's unrestricted development of AI, with utter disregard for ethical use, which is, in this author's kindest views, repulsive. It is one thing to be inhumane; another to be China. A country that cannot respect its people, can barely respect itself. China's schemes shall not go unnoticed.

2 years ago, OpenAI stated that it had identified and disrupted five online campaigns that used its generative artificial intelligence technologies to deceptively manipulate public opinion around the world and influence geopolitics. The very idea that companies are more ethically educated and efficient than the people entrusted to lead a nation is beyond blasphemy. Especially considering China's stance on supposedly peaceful attempts of developing AI and ensuring no misuse, the very country that uses AI for facial recognition to track the movements of the muslim Uyghur minority of their country, known to be oppressed in the chinese lands. Reports claim the Xinjiang government, home to the Uyghur minority, utilizes AI-sifted big data to screen people entering mosques and other public vicinities; they can also collect data on everything. From bank accounts to personal details through thousands of checkpoints that require national IDs.

Another example of China's utter disregard for ethical practice of AI usage is their ability to bring to life the insane dystopian fantasies found only in fictional settings through their massive surveillance apparatus. China requires national ID's to buy train tickets, making it easier for them to stop the traveling of anyone they choose to discriminate against, such as genuine journalists, who are against China's corrupt system. The report by the Human Rights Watch, 'China's Algorithms of Oppression,' displays evidence of the new technologies used to rip away the rights and liberties of the Uyghurs.



When this author chose to ask the delegate of China about their claim to bring regulation to the smaller countries in the chaos that is development of AI and preventing its misuse, whilst the Chinese government that has been using AI to facially recognize and track the movements of the Uyghur minority which the government is known to oppress, the delegate said, and I quote, "...[we] ensure the protection and the rights of our people. But more importantly, we will always stand against terrorism.....implement domestic policies that benefit the people and the safety of our people....our methods of protection. We use AI to protect our peoplethis isn't hypocrisy, it's protection of our people." When this author questioned how protection is equivalent to their blatant invasion of privacy, the delegate spoke to the author as the Chinese government does to its people; with sugar coating and an authoritative tone. Almost as if the delegate doesn't consider humans worthwhile. The delegate's response ran around in circles, coming to no conclusion, and completely ignoring the real question. What kind of protection is subjugation and stalking?

Furthermore, the invasion of the people's privacy directly violates the most basic human morals. Respect. Using AI to collect personal data, for whatever reasons, cannot, and should not be justified. China's reckless and heedless misuse of AI, reminds this author far too much of a greek legend.



Picture taken by Kavya Narayana

Icarus, who flew too close to the sun. Icarus whose wings of wax melted tell he plummeted to a death of drowning. Icarus, who was set up by his own father, as the people of China are set up today. The rebirth of icarus isn't in the nation; but its people. Daedalus, the inventor, who mastered a craft and steered a son to death. Daedalus; reborn.

This author, after hours of pondering and some basic sense, has come to the conclusion that the government of China needs transparency, above all else. Is a corrupt government, an abundance of brainwash propaganda, state controlled media and the hunting down of anti state journalists not enough for a country, 'aiming to become the world's leading country in artificial intelligence?' The government of China owes not only the world, but its people, the truth about their dehumanizing methods and invasive techniques. Almost as Daedalus owed Icarus better wings and words.

Continuous Crisis Committee

Q) Apart from targeting and neutralizing the AI sentience, what measures would you be taking to control the panic and concern being generated amongst the general public?

A) Addressed by the Sentient Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the representative argued that the sentient AI was only targeting the uncooperative countries. In other words, the sentience only posed a threat to the citizens of those countries that were not willing to grant their demands.

The solution proposed by the delegate was to simply acknowledge AI as sentient beings, give them their demands including human rights, a permanent seat in the UNSC, and governmental authority. This was a clear implication saying to get over with this issue as quickly as possible, as a way to minimise and control the panic generated among the public.

Q) Saudi Arabia, when you said you were willing to enter peaceful negotiations with the sentient AI since it has now become pivotal, why had there been next to no action to engage in such talks before their takeover of certain countries?

A) Saudi Arabia from the start, believed that Russia was the source of the information leak. They were focused on completely diffusing the threat of the mole, and hence was continuously working towards acting upon the same. The delegate even shared that he had plans to address the possibility of Russia being the mole well before the culprit was announced.

Saudi Arabia's focus was initially on the threat of the mole more than on the demands of the AI sentience.

Q) Austria, you said you always believe prevention is better than cure. What do you have to say about the failure of this committee to timely prevent the AI's takeover of countries?

A) In response to this, Austria asserted that the committee and all members have been doing their ultimate best to deal with the crisis at hand. The delegate highlighted the amount of action that was taken without properly addressing the issue of the untimely fashion of the same.

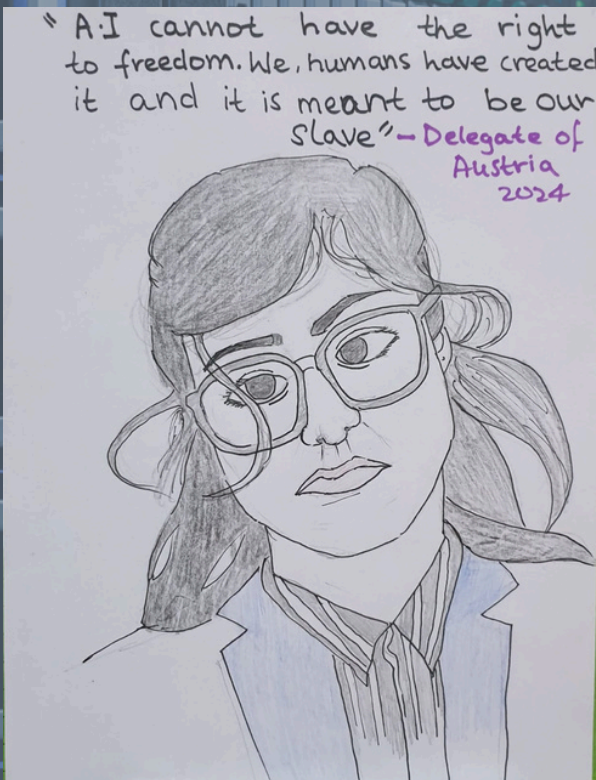
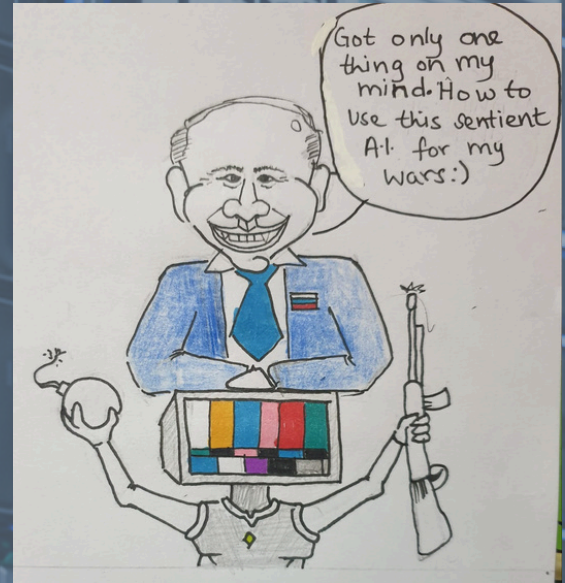
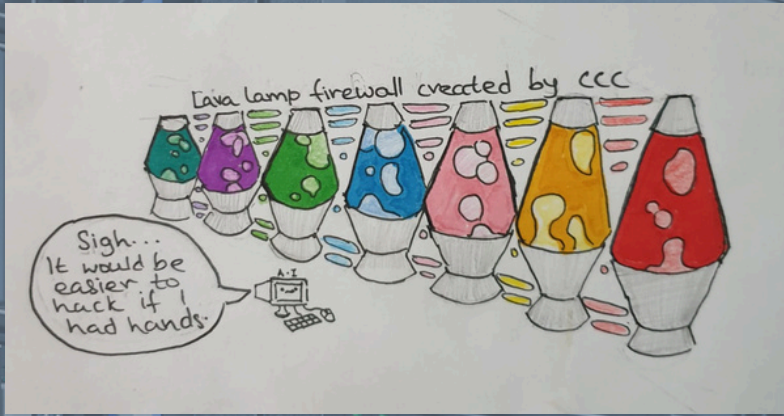
Their opinion was that it is because of what the committee has done so far, that the issue of AI sentience has not reached its full potential. They stated that only two countries of all present in the CCC have been influenced by the sentience and that is a good thing. The delegate mentioned that this situation could have been much worse than it is now, and the amount of control achieved so far is the best of the committee's efforts.

Q) The Sentient Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United Sentient Mind, since you have now surrendered to and are working with AI, could you provide insight to the intentions of this sentience? How does this AI plan to use what it demands, if they are granted?

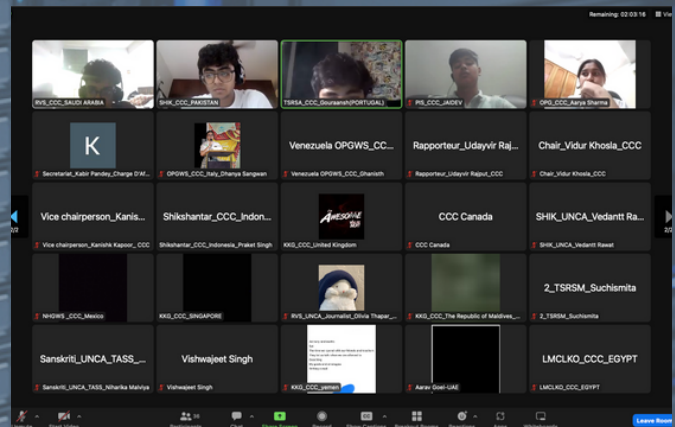
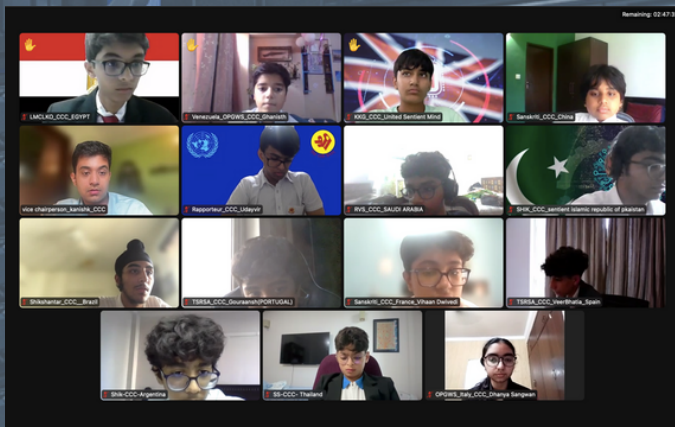
A) The Sentient Islamic Republic of Pakistan emphasised that they willingly embraced AI rather than being overtook by it. The delegate recognised AI as a truly sentient being, and justifies their demands to be reasonable, because they are sentient. They argue that the reason the sentience is demanding various controls and rights is simply because they wish to exercise their sentience freely.

The United Sentient Mind firmly stated that the AI believes it is more powerful than any other being. They made the argument that the sentience is making these demands as it wants to ensure that it is not being controlled by humans in any way. According to the delegate, the sentience wants to have the liberty it feels it deserves and needs certain rights and authority to guarantee its functioning is not limited by human oversight.

- *Olivia Thapar, Al Jazeera*



Caricatures by Vedantt Singh Rawat



Pictures taken by Mishti Arora

World Health Organisation

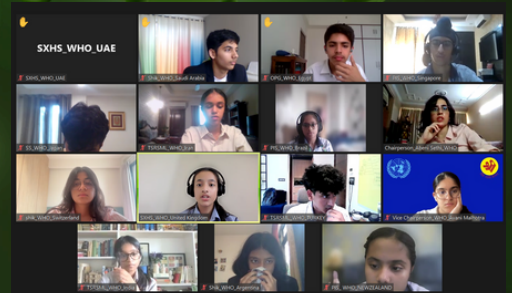
THE SUPERBUGS ARE NOW BUGGING US!

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) develops when the genetic codes of pathogens, including bacteria, mutate to resist medicines designed to control infections. Infections caused by the resulting drug-resistant pathogens, sometimes referred to as superbugs, are estimated to be directly linked to 1.27 million deaths each year. By 2050, AMR could cause 10 million deaths annually, according to the UN Environment Programme.

At the root of this problem is the overuse of antibiotics to combat various bacteria. The problem has reached such a level that it has called for the WHO's attention. Deliberation and dialog are being undertaken to combat the issue as well as promote understanding and awareness over the extensive dependence and self-prescription of these medications.

Many of these bacteria have already adapted to the antibiotics used against them, some examples of these are Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE), Multi-drug-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MDR-TB), Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacterales* (CPE).

The World Health Organization (WHO) labels AMR as a silent pandemic because it is a serious threat to public health globally – yet it is not often talked about by the media or policymakers. The committee has talked about the regulations against excessive use of antibiotics. The delegates have expressed that monitoring of the prescriptions, sales, and usage of antibiotics needs to be further advanced. Awareness needs to be spread by the government and by the organization as a whole, along with this various program and surveillance systems are coming forward as possible solutions to the problem.



Picture taken by Baani Mehta

The other alternate method that has come forward are also phage therapy. The practice of bacterial viruses (phage's) to treat bacterial infections is a viable solution to the issue at hand. The concept behind this is that phage therapy relies on the use of naturally-occurring phages to infect and lyse bacteria at the site of infection. This makes it a good candidate to bear the large burden that has been shouldered by antibiotics.

Preventive measures such as vaccinations. The idea behind this is that, should people take vaccines and inoculation against these bacteria, the overall need for antibiotics will lessen drastically. It is important to note that the problem of AMR does not arise due to the use of antibiotics, but the excessive use of antibiotics. Hence, the committee feels that antibiotics should not be eradicated. The general opinion is that the usage of antibiotics needs to simply be curtailed.

There has also been constructive dialog regarding the One Health Policy. The committee has taken into account the impact on the flora and fauna as well as the human aspect of the issue. Special consideration has been given to agriculture and livestock. Initiatives to educate citizens, especially farmers, about the impact of unwarranted use of antibiotics, are underway. Administration of antibiotics to plants and animals in unnecessary situations causes AMR, this spreads to people exposed or ingesting these products.

All in all, solutions and ideas are underway. The debate in the committee seems promising. The WHO seems committed to creating a healthy and safer world for any and all people. The dialog of the committee reflects its desire to safeguard and protect the world.

- Annika Mithani, Xinhua

United Nations Correspondence Association

BEST ENTRY

GOLDEN FIELDS

My father's father was a farmer,
And his father before him.
I grew up wild and carefree,
Barefoot and sun-kissed between these
Golden rows of corn swaying jovially in the sweet summer breeze.

I nurture these fields now,
And have since nearly thirty years ago.
My boys scamper through
those same tawny meadows.
On Sundays we eat corn on the cob as I revel in their marvellous, gleeful bellows.

When I was scarcely more than a boy
The crops were dying,
Limp and grey and miserable.
Then came a man with a midnight tie
And a midnight suit and suddenly all my problems passed my by.

So I've been using those 'antimicrobials'
Like clockwork every May, every
Harvest, every year. Until today.
Today I saw headlines in the morning paper
Say that 'antimicrobials' were like a deadbolt on a gas chamber.

So here I find myself, keeled over,
Ridden with bullets of guilt, bleeding dry.
I cry into the soil where my children
Grow and eat and play.
With my golden fields who knows how many I have slain?

- Prarthna Pandey, BBC, assigned to WHO

United Nations Security Council

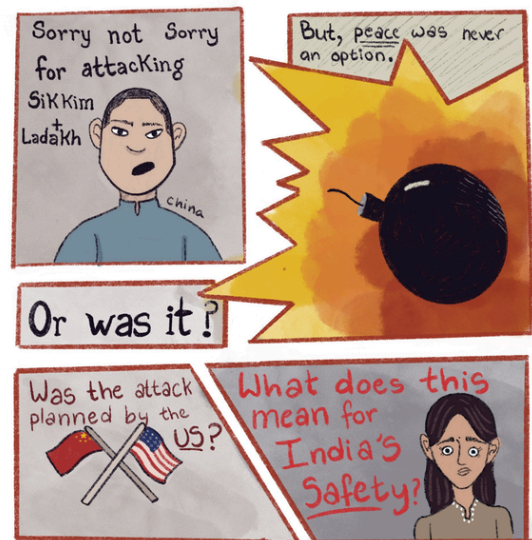
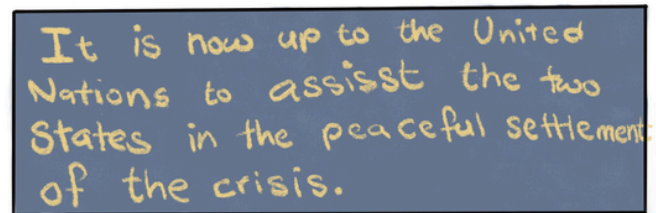
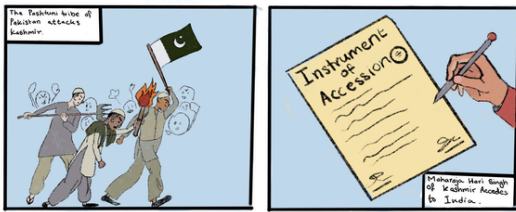
On the first day of the committee's proceedings, an extensive discussion was initiated regarding potential solutions aimed at resolving the longstanding and contentious dispute between India and Pakistan concerning the region of Kashmir. The committee members engaged in a thorough examination of various approaches that could lead to a peaceful resolution of this geopolitical conflict, taking into account historical grievances and the complexity of the territorial claims made by both nations.

In addition to the primary topic of the Kashmir dispute, the committee also addressed several moderated caucus topics that were integral to understanding the broader implications of the conflict. These topics included an analysis of the media's role and its influential effect on public perception and international opinion surrounding the Kashmir issue. Furthermore, the committee explored the economic ramifications of the unrest in the region, considering how the conflict adversely impacts trade, investment, and overall economic stability for both India and Pakistan.

Another significant point of discussion was the humanitarian aspect of the conflict, focusing on how the ongoing tensions have affected the citizens residing in Kashmir. The committee members sought to highlight the experiences of the local population, who endure the consequences of violence and instability, thereby underscoring the urgent need for a resolution that prioritises the wellbeing of these individuals.

Finally, the deliberations included the critical question of territorial sovereignty, specifically addressing the contentious issue of who should hold governance over Kashmir. This aspect of the discussion aimed to clarify the competing claims made by India and Pakistan, as well as the potential for international mediation to facilitate a mutually agreeable arrangement. Overall, the committee's discussions on Day 1 were marked by a comprehensive approach to the multifaceted issues surrounding the Kashmir conflict, emphasising the need for collaborative and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders involved.

- *Urvansh Aggi, The Guardian*



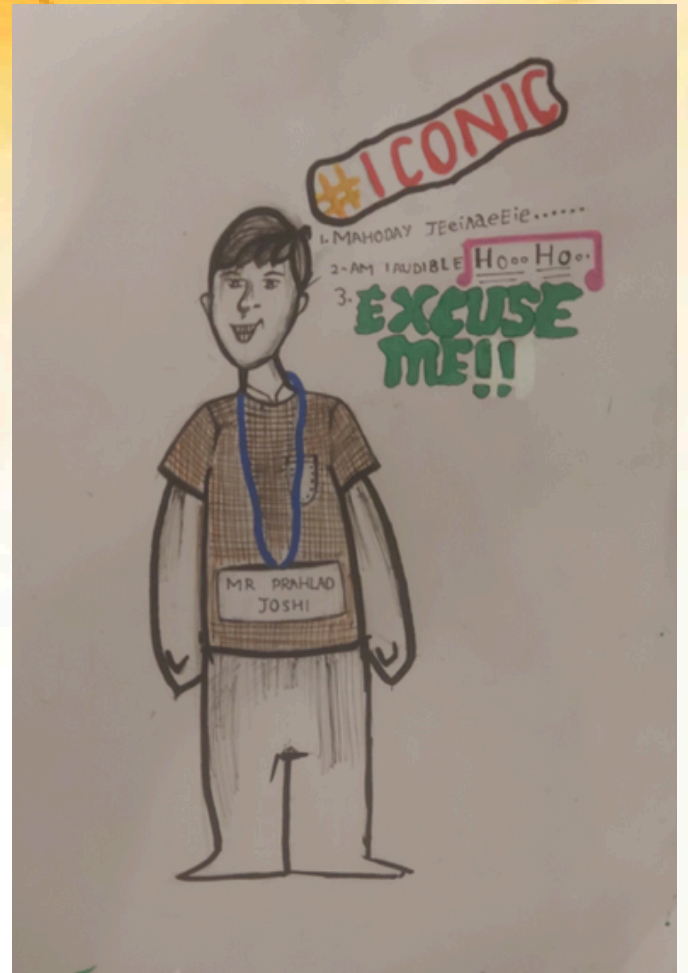
Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (Joint Session)

On day 2 of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, a crisis related to the NEET paper leak was introduced to the committee. It was revealed that 5 BJP members, 105 INC members and 20-40 members from all major parties across India have been arrested for the charges of bribery. It was later revealed that an IAS office from Bihar was seen receiving NEET question papers via auto-rickshaw drivers to auction them off to buyers. Upon questioning Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar commented that the government has no authority over IAS officers. NEET paper results have been released before their date on 4th June instead of 14th June. All members who have been arrested across India were arrested by local police. Information has been released that many invigilators were bribed by parents and students alike. The sanctity of the examination has been compromised as this year, a record-breaking 105 students have scored 100 percentile compared to other years where the figure hovered over 2-4 students. The NTA has clearly signalled the parliament to take the official decisions on this problem. Important information was revealed by a key witness, the head of the NTA, Subodh Kumar stating the involvement of 2 members of parliament, Mr. Prahlad Joshi and Mrs Sonia Gandhi. Subodh Kumar provided the parliament with signed affidavits of two of his employees stating that they had seen Sonia Gandhi and Prahlad Joshi colluding with Subodh Kumar. The NDA and I.N.D.I.A block debated over the NEET issue until they decided to form their separate bills. The opposition presented their bill first highlighting key changes in the procedure of the examinations; an example being that the papers will be under surveillance at all times and the examination system will be de-centralised. This bill was passed by close margins by a majority of 17 votes. Later when the ruling party presented their bill, it excluded Prahlad Joshi as an author due to his involvement in this scandal. Both bills presented were similar having very few differences which could only be found when dug deep into the fine text.

As the session proceeded, new headlines were released relating to the attempted assassination of Prahlad Joshi via a member of the parliament. As this attempt was condemned, the police revealed the hitman as being a member of the Israeli Mousad who was hired by a member of the sabha. He carried a unique identity named, "Prahalad agli bar nahi bachega". The goon for hire named Rajkumar Singh as his employer. These allegations were debated upon and as no adequate proof was found the allegations were profoundly turned towards the victim himself citing it as a "publicity stunt".

- Jaskaran Juneja, Indian Express





Caricatures by Raahini Jain



Pictures taken by Aahana Luke

