

SALEEM SHAHZAD
Who killed him?

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

June 13, 2011 **Rs 25**

FEAR STALKS INDIA INC

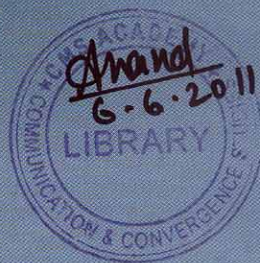
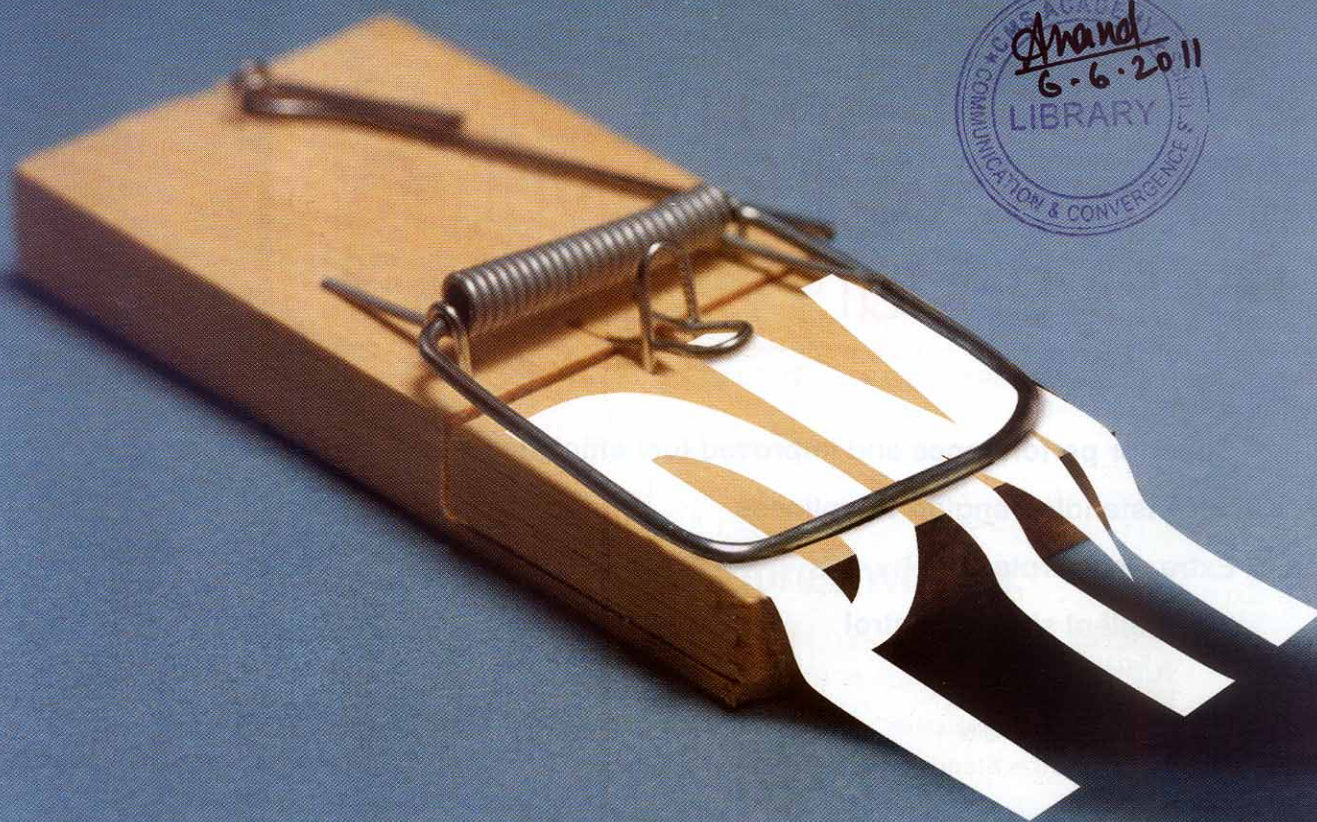
SUBSCRIBER COPY NOT FOR RESALE

OUTLOOK

EXCLUSIVE OPINION POLL

61% want PM under Lokpal

While the UPA gives civil society activists the runaround on the anti-corruption bill, ordinary Indians cry out loud: the prime minister should be included in the new law's ambit





OPINION POLL

80% Want CBI Under Lokpal

Ordinary Indians cry out loud: 61% want PM under the Lokpal while 60% want SC judges and MPs covered

OUTLOOK

While the UPA ties itself up in knots over the Lokpal Bill, two out of every three Indians say the prime minister and the higher judiciary should be brought under the bill's purview, an issue that has seen the UPA government differing with civil society representatives.

This was the predominant finding of an opinion poll conducted for **Outlook by Marketing & Development Research Associates (MDRA)** in Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai on June 1. Surprisingly, the percentage of those who felt the PM should be brought into the ambit of the bill was lowest for one city that went to the polls recently (Chennai 25.6%) and highest for another (Calcutta 87.2%).

The trend was the same on the issue of keeping Supreme Court judges and members of Parliament out. Overall, 60% say judges and MPs too should come under the Lokpal's eagle eye, but in Chennai—in many senses the epicentre of the 2G scam—that figure shoots up to as much as 95.2%.

Although reservations have been expressed about the Lokpal becoming a big brother with oversight over the executive,

judiciary and Parliament, two out of three respondents say they are comfortable with the thought of a body with overarching powers.

Most respondents hold the government responsible for the standoff, and no city wants civil society representatives to quit the joint panel in case the Centre doesn't accede to the demands. The fervour hasn't died down either—over 80% say they will join a fresh protest if talks break down. A total of 630 adults (455 men, 175 women) were polled. The confidence level is 95% with +/-3.90% error or margin.

Should the prime minister be brought under the purview of the Lokpal Bill?

	Yes	No
Bangalore	47.2	52.8
Chennai	25.6	74.4
Delhi	81.9	18.1
Calcutta	87.2	12.8
Mumbai	64.1	35.9
	61.3	38.7

Will bringing the PM under Lokpal expose him to false and/or frivolous charges?

Bangalore	37.6	62.4
Chennai	33.6	66.4
Delhi	32.3	67.7
Calcutta	85.6	14.4
Mumbai	60.2	39.8
	49.8	50.2

Should Supreme Court judges and MPs be left out of the Lokpal Bill?

	Yes	No	Can't say
Bangalore	67.2	23.2	9.6
Chennai	1.06	95.2	3.2
Delhi	37.0	58.3	4.7
Calcutta	14.4	85.6	0
Mumbai	47.7	38.3	14.1
	33.7	60.0	6.3

Should anti-corruption outfits (like CBI, CVC) be under a unified Lokpal?

Yes	79.2
No	17.8
Can't say	3.0

Should Lokpal have powers over executive, judiciary, bureaucracy, Parliament?

Yes	67.9
No	26.0
Can't say	6.1

Who do you hold responsible for the current standoff?

Government representatives	73.8
Can't say	14.8
Civil society activists	11.4

Does government give more importance to Sonia Gandhi-led NAC over civil society?

Yes	58.7
No	24.9
Can't say	16.4

Are civil society activists being unreasonable in their demands on PM, judges?

	Yes	No
Bangalore	13.6	86.4
Chennai	0.8	99.2
Delhi	19.7	80.3
Calcutta	10.4	89.6
Mumbai	83.6	16.4
	25.9	74.1

Should civil society activists quit the panel if the government doesn't relent?

Yes	33.2
No	10.3
Can't say	56.5

Why do you think the government is reluctant to bow to civil society demands?

Because it wants to shield the corrupt	33.5
Because it fears losing its powers	45.9

Because it could open floodgates to similar demands	13.2
Because this was all a charade from the beginning	3.5
Can't say	4.0

If a fresh protest against a watered-down Lokpal bill is launched, will you join it?

Yes	81.0
No	11.9
Can't say	7.1

All figures in percent

[Click here to see the article in its standard web format](#)

▪