

# Twitter Archive of Indian Politicians

Samarth Bansal  
*Data Journalist, Hindustan Times*

# Why collect Twitter Data for Politicians?

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- Twitter API has returns the latest 3200 tweets only
- No comprehensive dataset of Indian politicians to study aggregate patterns
- Twitter: a tool for political messaging and framing online narratives
- Flow of information from social media to the mainstream media
- Resource for data scientists

~~Conversations: What are people talking about? Reaction to political events?~~

# How many Indian Politicians are on Twitter?

We don't know.

**Problem #1:** Curate a list of Politicians (MPs, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, CMs, Office Bearers, Party Spokespersons, Other Associates)

To set up the system, list of 314 politicians sourced from [surendran.info](http://surendran.info).

# Tweet Collection Process

## Initial Setup

**Step 1:** Create a file *twitter\_handles.csv* with list of all accounts to archive

**Step 2:** The scraper fetches the latest 3200 tweets for all these accounts

**Step 3:** *Bypass Twitter API: use web scraping to fetch older tweets. (Under development)*

## Automated Twitter Collection System

- Update *twitter\_handles.csv* whenever a new political account is identified. The system will fetch older tweets automatically.
- Run the scraper every midnight to fetch new tweets
- System being tested on Google Cloud Platform

31313

Search...

Tips ▾

Options ▾



dd/mm/yyyy

dd/mm/yyyy

Any time ▴ ▾

All devices ▴ ▾

1. Jul 14, 2017 03:09:05 AM .@VP Mike Pence is working hard on HealthCare and getting our wonderful Republican Senators to do what is right for the people. [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
2. Jul 14, 2017 03:07:29 AM After all of these years of suffering thru ObamaCare, Republican Senators must come through as they have promised! [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
3. Jul 14, 2017 03:05:36 AM So imp't Rep Senators, under leadership of @SenateMajLdr McConnell get healthcare plan approved. After 7yrs of O'Care disaster, must happen! [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
4. Jul 14, 2017 02:57:33 AM Republicans Senators are working hard to get their failed ObamaCare replacement approved. I will be at my desk, pen in hand! [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
5. Jul 14, 2017 02:56:26 AM Great evening with President @EmmanuelMacron & Mrs. Macron. Went to Eiffel Tower for dinner. Relationship with France stronger than ever. <https://t.co/ib1pdUYoEU> [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
6. Jul 13, 2017 02:20:56 PM Great bilateral meetings at Élysée Palace w/ President @EmmanuelMacron. The friendship between our two nations and ourselves is unbreakable. <https://t.co/IOSoCOMdPv> [Twitter for iPhone]
7. Jul 13, 2017 01:45:49 PM President @EmmanuelMacron, Thank you for the beautiful welcome ceremony at Les Invalides today! <https://t.co/RKir1GcRrB> [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
8. Jul 13, 2017 07:50:16 AM Melania and I were thrilled to join the dedicated men and women of the @USEmbassyFrance, members of the U.S. Military and their families. <https://t.co/ZSdsj0BSbl> [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
9. Jul 13, 2017 03:06:11 AM Just landed in Paris, France with @FLOTUS Melania. <https://t.co/knULGOQF1K> [Twitter Web Client] [link](#)
10. Jul 12, 2017 06:24:08 PM Big WIN today for building the wall. It will secure the border & save lives. Now the full House & Senate must act! 🇺🇸 <https://t.co/TTg7lvBdo2> <https://t.co/xhiknXko70> [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
11. Jul 12, 2017 06:12:03 PM JOBS, JOBS, JOBS! #MAGA🇺🇸 <https://t.co/H5cS4Y9ZJK> [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
12. Jul 12, 2017 06:06:19 PM Stock market hits another high with spirit and enthusiasm so positive. Jobs outlook looking very good! #MAGA🇺🇸 <https://t.co/Vwxsb2vWGe> [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
13. Jul 12, 2017 05:35:53 PM Getting rdy to leave for France @ the invitation of President Macron to celebrate & honor Bastille Day and 100yrs since U.S. entry into WWI. [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
14. Jul 12, 2017 03:20:56 PM "After 14 years, U.S. beef hits Chinese market. Trade deal an exciting opportunity for agriculture." <https://t.co/gDGgejqFMs> [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
15. Jul 12, 2017 08:39:25 AM The W.H. is functioning perfectly, focused on HealthCare, Tax Cuts/Reform & many other things. I have very little time for watching T.V. [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
16. Jul 12, 2017 08:27:03 AM Why aren't the same standards placed on the Democrats. Look what Hillary Clinton may have gotten away with. Disgraceful! [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
17. Jul 12, 2017 07:12:42 AM .@WashTimes states "Democrats have willfully used Moscow disinformation to influence the presidential election against Donald Trump." [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
18. Jul 12, 2017 06:05:53 AM ISIS is on the run & will soon be wiped out of Syria & Iraq, illegal border crossings are way down (75%) & MS 13 gangs are being removed. [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
19. Jul 12, 2017 05:40:32 AM RT @foxandfriends: Getting the job done! Sen. Mitch McConnell delays August recess to work on health care bill <https://t.co/wBjha8IdeK> [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
20. Jul 12, 2017 05:32:56 AM Remember, when you hear the words "sources say" from the Fake Media, often times those sources are made up and do not exist. [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)
21. Jul 12, 2017 05:19:32 AM My son Donald did a good job last night. He was open, transparent and innocent. This is the greatest Witch Hunt in political history. Sad! [Twitter for iPhone] [link](#)

@realDonaldTrump

# Analysis

# Retweet Analysis

@ArvindKejriwal | 14th February 2015 to 14th February 2017 | 12,064 Tweets

## Accounts retweeted $\geq 70$ times by Delhi CM

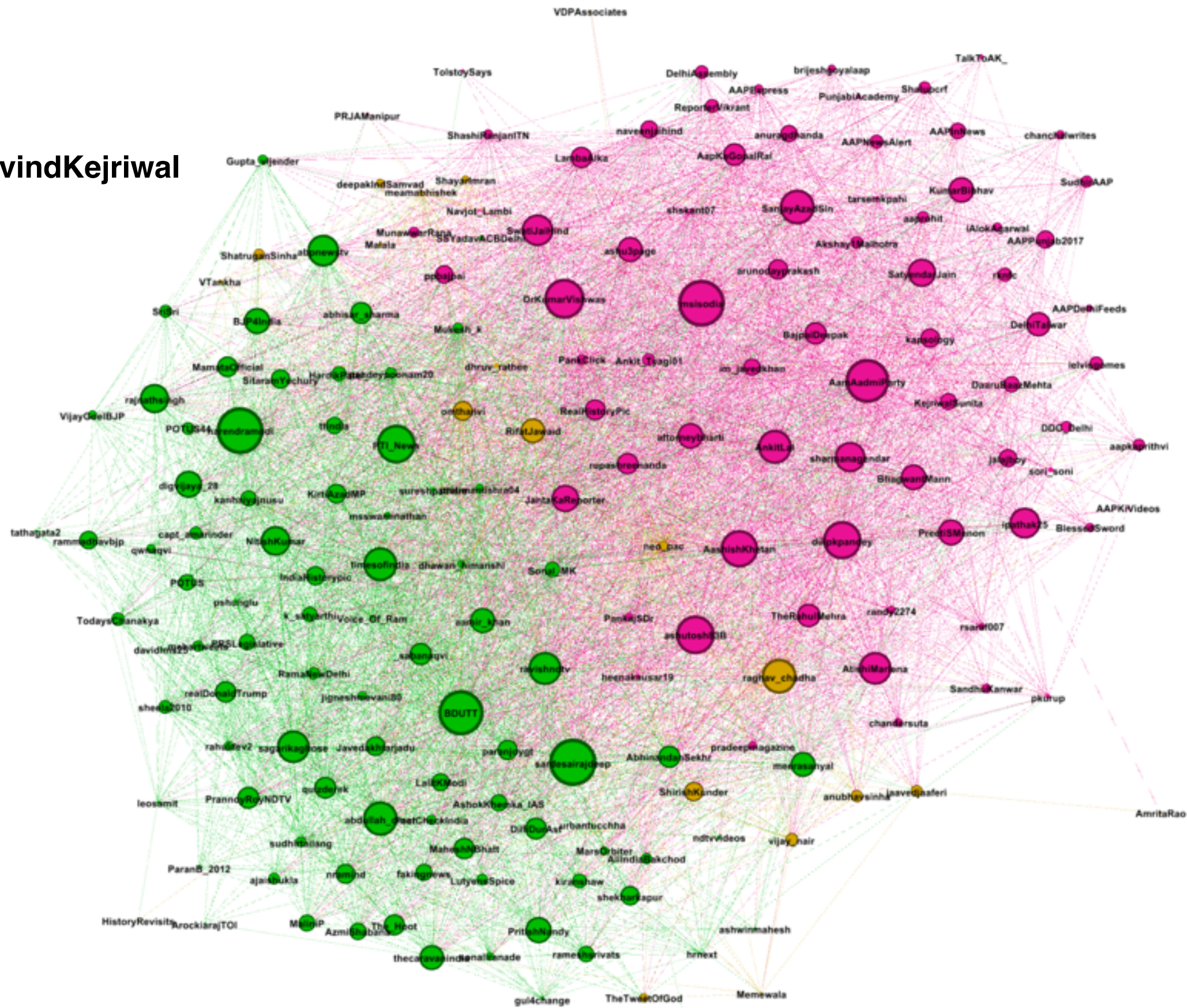
Handle	Number of Retweets
AAPInNews	805
ashu3page	481
msisodia	339
JantaKaReporter	256
DaaruBaazMehta	192
AashishKhetan	163
rupashreenanda	152
Shalupcrf	134
ashutosh83B	129
SatyendarJain	128
SanjayAzadSIn	122
KapilMishraAAP	102
sharmanagendar	100
Akshay1Malhotra	92
AnkitLal	91
ShirishKunder	88
RealHistoryPic	87
sagarikaghose	86
jalajboy	84
Rohinisgh_ET	71
AAPPunjab2017	70



# Social Network Analysis

Community Detection using Follower Network

@ArvindKejriwal





# What else?

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**Links shared:** Collect all URLs shared by politicians. Which are the websites—media, blogs, personal websites, gov websites—that the account is sharing?

**When the account was created:** When did politicians start using Twitter? Was there any time period when most of these accounts were created?

**Break down** the results by party, age, state, position held.

**Hashtags/Keywords:** Find out the most commonly used hashtags and keywords

**Additional Variable for** Political science research.

# Other Work

DATA

## Sushma Swaraj, the common tweep's leader

Samarth Bansal

NEW DELHI, JULY 05, 2016 02:39 IST  
UPDATED: JULY 05, 2016 02:39 IST

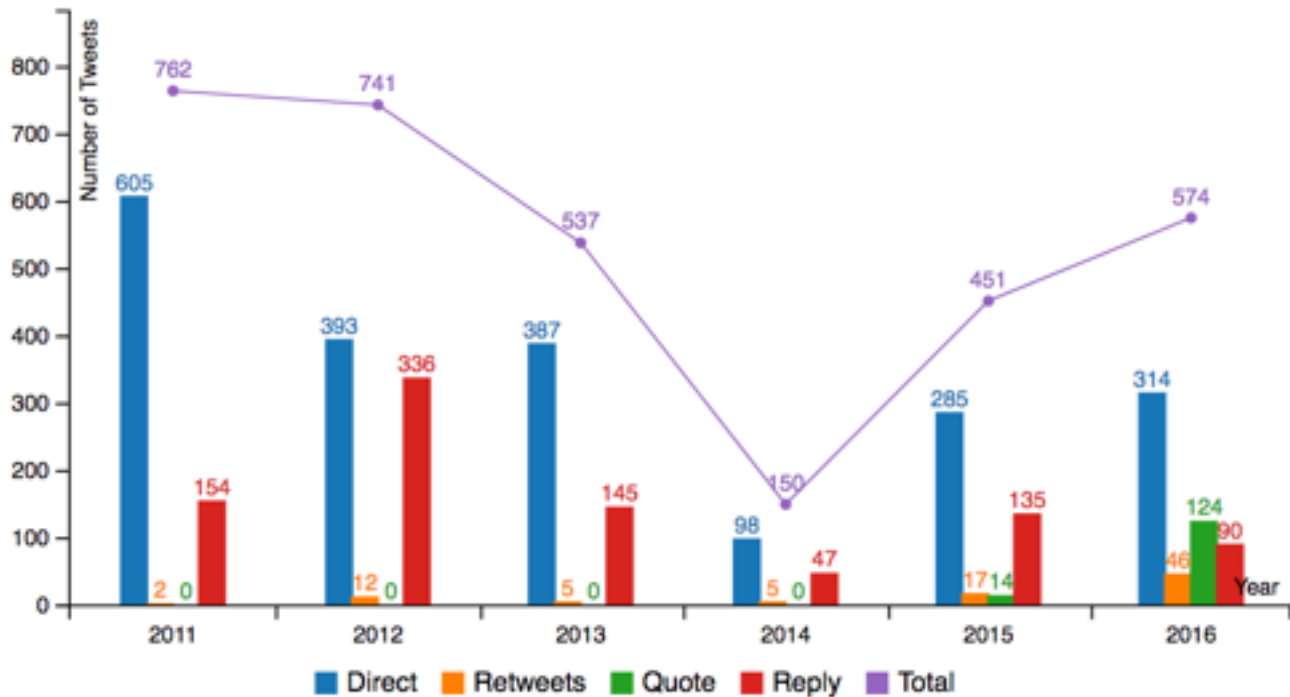
SHARE ARTICLE [f](#) [t](#) [r](#) [e](#) [p](#) [r](#) [i](#) [n](#) [t](#) [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

### The Minister listens, and replies to the small voices more, study shows

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's tweets show that she has a marked preference for engaging with Twitter's *aam aadmi*.

About 64 per cent of all her replies on the microblogging site are with users having less than 500 followers, with 32 per cent of replies going to those with 100 followers or less, The Hindu's analysis of her tweets between May 2011 and June 2016 has revealed.

### Sushma Swaraj's Tweets



TheUpshot

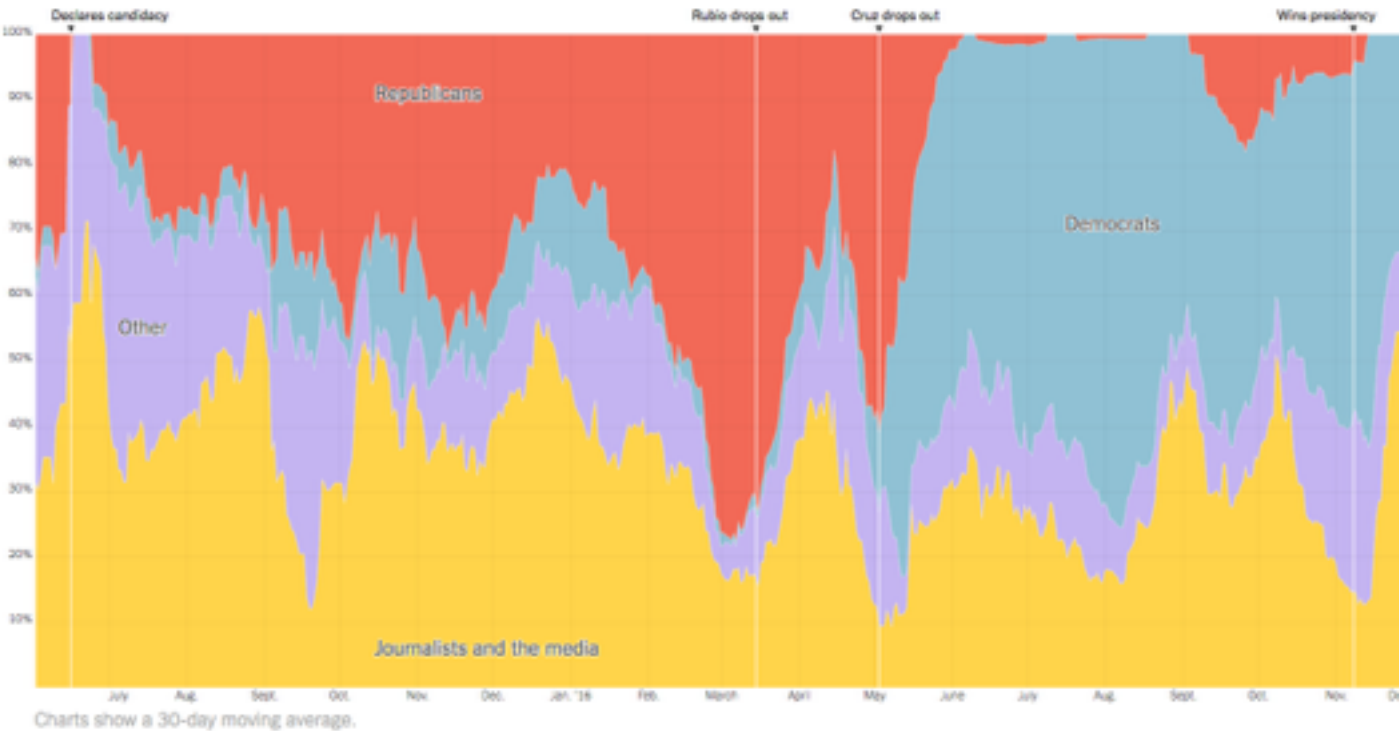
FOLLOW US: [f](#) [t](#) [r](#) [e](#) [p](#) [r](#) [i](#) [n](#) [t](#)  
GET THE UPSHOT IN YOUR INBOX

SHARE

## How to Know What Donald Trump Really Cares About: Look at What He's Insulting

By KEVIN QUEALY DEC. 6, 2016

The kinds of people, places and things Trump has insulted over time



SPECIAL ARTICLE

## Twitter and the Rebranding of Narendra Modi

JOYOJEET PAL, PRIYANK CHANDRA, V G VINOD VYDISWARAN

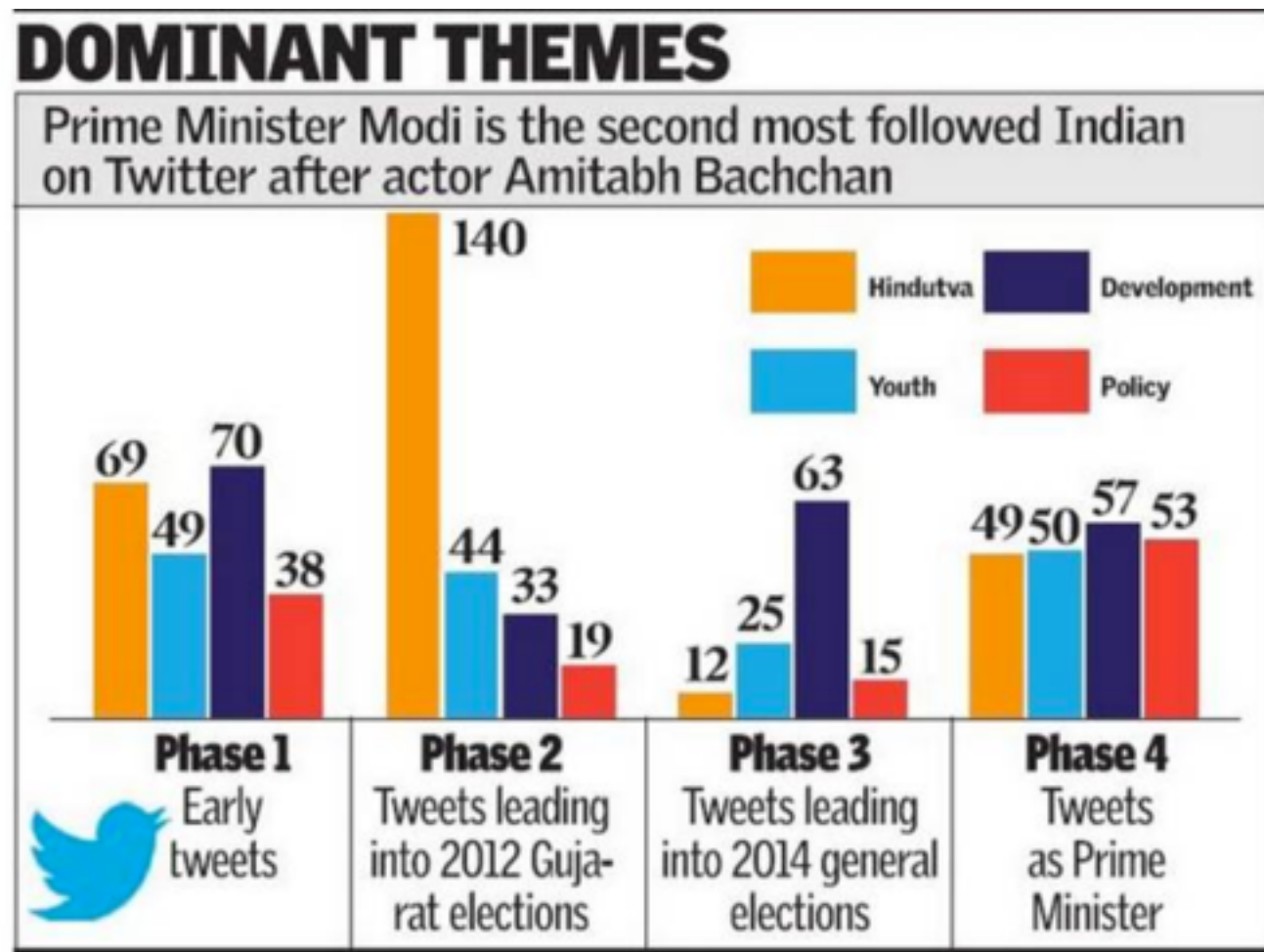
Through a qualitative study of the historical patterns of retweeting and favouriting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's messages, followbacks to other Twitter accounts, and evolving themes of messages pre- and post-election, this essay examines trends in his political discourse that have corresponded to four distinct periods. Thoughtful construction of messages on Twitter has helped Modi build a powerful online brand, allowing him to transcend a problematic past and emerge as a techno-savvy global leader who speaks directly to his electorate.

During a visit to China in May 2015, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted a photo of himself with Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang. The image quickly went viral, with the *Wall Street Journal* calling it the "most powerful selfie in history" (Sugden 2015). By this point, Modi had more than 12.4 million followers on Twitter, making him the second-most followed elected politician there. The same week, Modi declined a one-year anniversary press conference amid news reports that "the extremely social media savvy premiere does not feel the necessity for another 'connect' through the media when he is already in direct touch with the people" (Sharma 2015).

Narendra Modi does indeed have phenomenal direct reach via social media. Besides the Twitter page, Modi's team runs a YouTube channel, a Facebook page with more than 28 million

# Challenging Problems

**Content:** Identifying theme/topic of every tweet.



Source: EPW; University of Michigan

**Account:** managed by self or PR? Can an based on features of the tweet?

**How the tweet spreads?**

Retweet/Favorite patterns over time  
Who is retweeting? (Bots?)



Source: Observatory on Social Media, Indiana University

Questions?