

Section-B

Group-15

- **Group members**

Tanay Kewalramani: 202201362

Devarshi Patel: 202201447

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Het Panchotiya: 202201441

Arnold Mochahari: 202201522

Rit Trambadia: 202201424

Sumit Vishvakarma: 202201320

Yashkumar Nagvania: 202201314 (New Member)

Note: Harshil Parmar: 202201371 is no longer a part of the group.

- **Word Count: 4119**

- **Character List:**

Joe: Upcoming President

Jack: Friend 1

Chris: Friend 2

Mr.George: Current President

Jonah: Reporter

Alex: Finance Minister

Arthur: Personal Assistant

Matthew: Home Minister

Jimmy: Joe's cousin

Flexible role(Random audience, narration, Education minister, cameraman, etc.)

SCENE 1

(Jack was chilling in his house when Joe and Chris enter)

Jack: Look who finally decided to show up, finished the physics assignment eh?

Joe: Chill man!! Not all of us have taken commerce. Some of us have to actually study.

Jack: You two are so boring, there is so much more in life than just studies. What about that cute girl from your class who often gave a smile to you?

Chris: (Giggles) She was actually smiling at the guy sitting behind him and this idiot thought she was into him.

Joe: First it was that girl from the chemistry lab and now this. My luck sucks!!!

Jack: Leave it. What about your physics assignment?

Chris: The damn professor accused me of copying even though I did the whole assignment myself.

Jack: But didn't Joe copy it from you?

Joe: (gives a weird smile) Well... leave it. We have a week-long vacation thanks to the presidential lottery anyways. Enjoy the FIFA knockouts. They occur only once in four years!

Jack: Ah the elections. Why don't we put our names in the lucky draw too?

Chris: Yeah. Imagine if one of us wins. He will get to be the president for 4 years! Imagine what he can do with that power!

Jack: I can't even think of waking up in the presidential palace. What would you do if you were selected, Joe?

Joe: Don't get your hopes up guys. The odds are one in a million.

Chris: C'mon Joe don't be so pessimistic. Did you forget our nation's saying?

Chris and Jack: (Both together) "May fate be ever fortunate to you!"

Jack: If it were me, I would try my best to be like the current president, Mr. George.

Joe: Yeah, he is the best president ever. The country really progressed under his leadership.

Jack: We can discuss this later, let's first go and put our names in the draw.

Joe: Ugh, do I have to?

Jack and Chris together: Yes!!

(Jack and Chris pull an unwilling Joe from his seat and all three leave)

SCENE 2

(It is the results day and all of them have gathered in Jack's house)

Joe: Hey Jack turn on the TV. The FIFA semis are going on.

Jack: Are you serious?

Joe: Why? What happened?

Jack: They are going to show the election results in 10 minutes for christ's sake!

Joe: Oh yeah, I forgot. Who cares anyways.

Chris: Come on, don't you want to see who is going to lead us for the next 4 years?

Jack: I think as the owner of the house, I get to decide what we will watch. And we are going to watch the presidential lottery.

Joe: You guys are the worst. Why do I even hang out with you guys?

Chris: Well beggars can't be choosers, can they?

(Jack turns on the TV)

Reporter: Good morning countrymen. May fate be ever fortunate to you! With the results coming up in 10 minutes, let's ask around what people think about our way of

elections. (Grabs a random person) What do you think about our lottery system of elections?

Random: Huh what? Oh the elections? Yeah, I feel it's a great system. No political parties, no dirty politics, and you don't have to stand in long lines to vote. Plus everyone has the chance to become the president!

Reporter: Do you think the upcoming president will be better than the current one?

Random: That would be tough. Mr. George was a really good president, but I do certainly hope so.

Reporter: Now the time that we all are eagerly waiting for has arrived. Mr. George has come upon the podium to choose the next President.

(Mr.George enters.)

Mr.George: Good morning Fortuneland! It's been an honour to serve this nation for the last 4 years. (with gloomy eyes) My time has come. (He picks up a ticket from a bowl.) May fate be ever fortunate to you... The winning ticket no. is 136965.

(Venue: Jack's House)

Jack: (seeing the ticket) Damn it! No luck.

Chris: Same here. What about you, Joe?

Joe: Who cares!! Just put on the football match.

Chris: Just check the ticket, man.

(Joe frisks himself & takes out the ticket and hands over the ticket to Chris without looking at it)

Chris: Hey Jack, say the number again.

Jack: 1-3-6-9-6-5.

Chris:(Stutters) Say that again!

Mr. George: I repeat, ticket no. 136965 is the winning ticket.

Chris: WHAT THE HECK!!

Jack: No way dude! This can't be happening! Joe, you are the new president!

Joe: Haha, sure I am. Go find someone else to mess around with, let me just watch the match.

Chris: You idiot! See it for yourself. You are the next president!

Joe: (flabbergasted) Am I dreaming?

(Joe's mobile rings)

PA: Is this Mr. Joe?

Joe: Yes?

PA: I am the assistant to the President. Congratulations Mr. Joe! You are cordially invited to the president's palace for the oath taking ceremony. Your new personal limousine shall pick you up in a few minutes.

Joe: (Stutters while speaking) Er...um okay, okay. I'll be there.

Joe:(stands still like a stone) Well you guys were serious, I am gonna be the next president.

Chris: Congratulations... Now get ready, they will be here any minute now.

Joe: Jack, bring any blazer or shirt you have got and please be quick!

Jack: (Mockingly) Yes Mr President! (leaves the room)

Chris: Your luck has been shining these days.

Joe: Yeah man, earlier that physics assignment and now this presidential lottery. Wait (pulls out his pen) I used this pen to do my assignment and sign my ticket. This has got to be my lucky pen. (kisses the pen).

Jack: Hey, Joe, take this asap, I can see officials are arriving here.

Joe: Well guys, thank you for everything. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have put my name in...

Chris: Save the drama for later. Now go (Mockingly) Mr. President!

(The door is knocked and everyone stands still with a pounding heart and white expressionless faces.)

SCENE 3

(He enters the presidential palace)

Joe: (while he was digesting all this, a deep voice interrupts)

PA: May fate be ever fortunate to you, Mr. President.

(all ministers in the palace wearing black blazers bow down, except an old figure standing amid the crowd, walking towards joe...his feet thumping on the ground, walks in)

Old president: It has been an honour to serve our beloved country for such a small yet the most memorable period of my life when I had always been putting my work and people above my health. This has led to such a day when I've happily completed my tenure but left with poor health, yet a smile of satisfaction and completeness on my face.

{A sense of loss hits everyone's face in the building seeing the old president being gloomy that day. After all everyone, had seen him absorbed in his work for years.}

Old president: (coughs and continues) It's not been a long time. I remember I was on your side, getting the unexpected power of a president suddenly. I was similarly ill prepared, everything appeared so fast-moving that it did not even allow me to catch my breath. I hope to see you take the legacy ahead by continuing to accelerate the progress of our country.

PA: Sir, I must now urge you to step on the stage and take the sacred oath.

Joe: I feel honoured to be standing here in front of you all, my fellow countrymen as your president. I shall strive to be a good leader and do everything in my power to help the country grow as a whole. I, as your new president, vow to stand by your side when the zombie apocalypse comes, and should you be turned into one, I promise to let you bite me, so I can too be one and, therefore, stay by your side forever. Lastly, I'd like to promise that I'm never gonna give you up, never gonna let you down, never gonna run around and desert you. Thank you.

HM: Sir, that was a wonderful speech, sir.

PA: Sir I need you to sign a couple of documents. (Holds out pen).

President: No thanks, I have my own pen.

EM: No offence sir, but this dollar store pen doesn't suit the president of fortuneland.

President: (gets angry)(Holding out the pen) Do you know the value of this pen? This pen is the very reason that I am standing in front of you. This pen will change the course of our country's future. (Signs the documents)

PA: Um.. thank you sir. Now our existing ministers shall introduce themselves.

Finance minister: Good morning, Mr. President. I am Alex, the finance minister. I have been in charge of the finance ministry for the last 7 years.

HM: Morning, sir. I am Mathew, the home minister. I am responsible for managing and aiding the administration.

Education minister: Morning sir, I'm the education minister and I'm currently handling...

Joe: I know I know, no need to elaborate. Anyway, I look forward to working with you all. Thank you for your valuable time, you may carry on with your work.

SCENE 4

(FM, HM and Joe are sitting in a meeting room.)

HM: Why does there seem to be a commotion outside the office, sir?

Joe: Nothing much, I just fired the education minister.

FM: What? Why?

Joe: He was just promoting studies all the time. And because of his policies, the students were suffering.

FM: But that's his job, sir. Education is important for a country to progress.

Joe: You know, I have signed about 10 suspension letters this week and signing one more won't take much longer. (Pulls out his pen)

FM(Stuttering): I..I, sorry, sir.

HM: Sir sir, I think this is a very good decision. Let me start the selection process for the new education minister right away.

Joe: No need. I already have someone in mind. Welcome your new education minister, Jimmy.

Jimmy(enters): Thanks, brother!

Joe: We are cousins, this is the least I can do for you. Does anyone have any objections?

HM: Of course not, sir...

Joe: Well let's start the meeting then, shall we?

FM: Yes sir. As I had proposed in the last meeting, we are planning to revolutionise taxes. We are introducing tax brackets such that the poor will have to pay less taxes, and that will be compensated by the taxes from the rich...

Jimmy: Leave this, I have a dope idea bro. Oh sorry, I mean Mr. President.

Joe: No need to be formal with me, Jimmy.

Jimmy: Thanks, bro! You are the GOAT. As I was saying, I have an awesome idea. From now on Saturday, Sunday will be school days and the weekdays will be holidays.

FM: That idea is not practical, sir. It will lead to many problems and the whole...

Joe: That's a brilliant idea, Jimmy!

HM: Sir sir, I think this is a very good decision, sir.

Joe: Of course it is. We will implement it right away.

Jimmy: Yeah bro, imagine how happy all the students will be.

Joe: I also have an idea. We will give 100,000 dollars to all the families below the poverty line. No one will go to bed hungry from now on.

FM: But that's not possible sir. We do not have enough money in our treasury.

Joe: We own a money printing press for christ's sake. Just print the extra money needed. God, why do I have to explain everything?

FM: But that will just cause hyperinflation and the value of our currency will decrease. The money given to them will just worsen their condition. It will just cause...

HM: Sir sir, I think this is a very good decision, sir. The Finance minister is just worried for no reason. This will certainly help the poor and the needy.

Jimmy: Bro that's a pretty sick idea. The whole country will benefit from this.

Joe: Of course it will. Those in favour of the decision?

(Joe, Jimmy and the HM raise their hands).

Joe: Well that's settled then. Arthur?

(the PA enters the room)

PA: Yes sir?

Joe: Call the reporters, we are about to announce 2 revolutionary decisions.

PA: Right away, sir. I will bring the necessary documents too.

FM: Are you sure about this sir?

Joe: (gives a cold stare)

(PA brings the paperwork)

Joe (pulling out his pen): A set of legendary decisions with this legendary pen.
(Signs)

HM: Yes sir. May fate be ever fortunate to you.

SCENE 5

(15 days later)

Reporter: Good morning Fortuneland! And may fate be ever fortunate to you. This is Arnab Gosharma from Fortune Times news. Actually...it's not the best morning. The ground-breaking new decisions our respected President took recently haven't exactly been beneficial for the country. There have been massive waves of unrest among the citizens of the country revolting against the new laws. Parents are worried about their children's academics and well-being, while the children are overjoyed. The finances of the country have been crippled too. The currency is losing its value at a rapid pace. The stock market has crashed and investors are pulling out their capital from the country. People are...

Joe: ENOUGH! (slams the remote and turns off the TV) Arthur! Call the director of Fortune Times news ASAP! Get this nonsense away from the people's eyes. The citizens should know how to respect...

PA: But..doesn't that curtail the right to free speech, sir?

Joe: This is not America! Now, do as I say or I'll fire you too just as easily as I fired that useless education minister.

PA: Yes...yes sir, I'm on it. Also sir, the Maggi you ordered is ready. (Hands him a bowl)

Joe: (Sighs) Maggi is the only thing that has kept me going. Oh Maggi, Maggi my love. Arthur! I just had a revolutionary idea! Let's make Maggi the national food, and the people must only eat Maggi on Sundays. This way the Maggi sales will shoot up thereby also stabilising the economy. What say?

PA: (trembling)Y..y..yes, sir, you're right.

Joe: Brilliant. Let's make this official tomorrow.

(Scene changes to The reporter.)

Reporter: Do I really have to say all this?

Cameraman: You know what the boss said.

Reporter: But what about freedom of press? The government can't just force this on us.

Cameraman: Well, apparently they can. Just do what he says or both of us lose our jobs. Rolling in 3, 2, 1.

Reporter: (Monotonously) Good morning Fortuneland! I'm pleased to inform you that our honourable President has come up with a revolutionary new law. Maggi is now the national food of this nation! It is now mandatory for every citizen to only consume Maggi on Sundays. Understandably so, this marvellous new decision was entailed by a wave of joy among the youth of the nation. Looking at the larger picture, even the economy...

Citizen 1: *Ah shit, here we go again.* This is utter nonsense. Our country is going nowhere under this kind of leadership. Eating only and only Maggi every Sunday?! Only God can save us now. Every time this man lifts his pen to sign and pass a bill, the already deteriorating state of the country only worsens.

Citizen 2: Watch how the reporter suddenly refers to this gibberish as "revolutionary" and "marvellous." The president has clearly rigged the news channel to present anything and everything he does only in a positive light.

(Pause)

President: Arthur! It's time that I go sign the memorandum and officially put the law in effect. Oh and also bring me the holy pen. Make it quick.

(Pause)

PA: Sir, the papers are ready for you to sign but I couldn't find the holy pen so I've called for a replacement...

Joe: WHAT?! Do you even know the significance of that pen? It is THE holy pen that I used to sign the winning ticket that made me the President. Now go find the holy pen, it must be around somewhere.

PA: On it, sir.

SCENE 6:

(The HM, FM, Joe, and Jimmy are sitting in the room, and Joe's hands are on his head. Suddenly the PA enters)

Joe: Did you find my pen?

PA: Sorry sir. We couldn't find it in the entire palace. I think someone has stolen it.

FM: Sir I can hardly see why this is a pressing concern. We have much more important matters right now at hand. Right now, 10 million dollars have gone missing from the treasury and we feel that this is the work of an insider.

Jimmy: Hey man, can't you see the pen was more important to my bro than 10 million dollars? We can discuss this topic later.

FM: With all due respect sir, I can't see why a simple pen can be worth 10 million dollars...

Joe: Mr. Alex, you are relieved of your duties as of now.

FM: What sir? But...

Joe: Leave the palace before I have to call security.

(FM leaves, defeated)

Joe: Now everyone listen carefully. Until I find my pen, nobody is allowed to leave the country. Every police station should have a photo of my pen. All news channels must broadcast the details of my pen 24/7. Also call the military to check every house, shop, road, nook, and cranny of the country. I must get my pen back at all costs.

HM: Sir why don't we announce a cash prize for the person who returns the pen back?

Joe: Good idea. Announce a cash prize of 10 million dollars on my pen.

PA: Yes right away sir.

(The FM, Ex PM, Jack, and Chris are sitting and the reporter is presenting)
(Cameraman shouts "Rolling in 3, 2, 1")

Reporter: Good morning Fortuneland! And may fate be ever fortunate to you. A new catastrophe has just come to light. The holy pen has gone missing, and Mr. President hasn't taken the hit too well, announcing nationwide search orders, restricting international flights, and also promising prize money of 10 million dollars to whoever finds his pen. This has caused chaos outside the presidential palace as hundreds of people claim to have the pen. Today we have some special guests on our show to discuss this matter. Firstly, we have our ex-FM who was recently fired. Welcome to our show, Mr. Alex. First things first, what do you think could be the reason for your suspension?

FM: Thanks. I'll be frank. I think I was fired because I was pointing out the flaws in Mr. President's decisions, and he didn't like to hear them out.

Reporter: Okay. Our sources gave us some info about a scam that has occurred inside the presidential palace. What can you say about this?

FM: Yes. Recently about 10 million dollars went missing from the treasury.

Reporter: Do you have any idea who took it?

FM: We think it is the work of Jimmy and the HM.

Reporter: That is a very serious accusation. Do you have any proof supporting this claim?

FM: Yes. On the day this scam occurred 5 million dollars were credited to both of their secret offshore accounts.

Reporter: Oh my! Thank you for your time and insights about the matter, Mr. Alex. Countrymen, as you can see the current government is full of corruption and family politics. Next, I would talk with the ex-president under whose leadership the country saw rapid progress. Welcome to the show, Mr. George.

Ex-president: Good to be here.

Reporter: You have been in the shoes of the president before. Can you explain the possible reasons for the absurd decisions by our current president?

George: I think the main reason is that power corrupts. I think he believes he is genuinely helping the country. But he is not listening to valid criticism from his well-wishers. The FM warned him multiple times but because of his ego, he ignored him. It is very important for a president to listen to every opinion. As the great uncle Ben said, with great power comes great responsibility.

Reporter: Very well said, Mr. George. Those are some very wise words. Now we are going to reveal something that will surprise the entire country, and for that, we are going to call Chris and Jack. Welcome to the show!

Chris and Jack: Thanks for having us on the show.

Reporter: Before the big reveal, can you tell us your relationship with the President, and what he was like before becoming the president?

Chris: Before winning the lottery, we three were the best of friends. We were inseparable.

Jack: Yeah. He was a good person back then. God knows what happened to him after he became president.

Reporter: Uh-huh. And now the moment we all are waiting for. You told us you had the most valuable article which everyone in the country would like to see. Well, what is it?

(Jack takes out Joe's pen from his pocket)

Jack: It was us who stole the President's pen.

(Everybody in the room is visibly shocked.)

Reporter: Can you tell us how you stole the pen?

Chris: The guards at the presidential palace knew we were Joe's best friends, so they let us in when we said we wanted to meet him. Then we went to his room and took the pen.

Reporter: Right. And can you tell us why you stole the pen?

Jack: When we heard the new decisions, we immediately guessed the impact they were going to have on the country. So we thought, if we stole the holy pen then Joe would lose all his confidence and not sign such absurd decisions.

Chris: Needless to say we were wrong. Because of our rash decisions the entire country is suffering now. So through this news channel we want to tell Mr. president that his holy pen is with us.

Jack: Yes. He can come take the pen, and arrest both of us. But please end the suffering in the country.

Joe: Arthur!

PA: Yes sir.

Joe: Call The HM and Jimmy please.

PA: Yes sir. Sir, can I tell you something?

Joe: Yes of course.

PA: The HM and Jimmy were trying to leave the country after the interview with the FM. But I had told the guards to arrest them. I am so sorry sir, I did what I thought was good.

Joe: No no, what you did was perfect. Now bring them in front of me.

(2 guards escort the HM and Jimmy inside the room)

Joe: Why? Why did both of you do this? Especially you Jimmy, after all the trust I put on you? You called me bro and you backstabbed the country?

Jimmy: Bro forget the country, who cares about the country? Why don't we both leave and go live in Singapore or something? Think of it bro, no work, no studies. Lets leave this stupid HM and get on that plane bro.

Joe: Silence Jimmy! Ramesh, put both these scumbags behind bars. And call out the limousine, we both are going to the Fortune Times news channel headquarters.

PA: Right away sir.

Reporter: We just have received news that Mr. president is on our set. Mr. president, please have a seat.

Jack: Well, at least you came personally to arrest us. Take the holy pen Joe, but please leave the innocent people of the country.

Joe: That's not why I am here.

Reporter: Then why are you here?

Joe: I am here to announce a new decision.

(Everybody gasps, all eyes terrified)

Reporter: And what will that decision be, Mr president?

Joe: I am here to announce my resignation.

(Visible shock in the entire room)

Joe: And I want the presidential lottery to be conducted again.

Reporter: What led you to make this decision?

Joe: I was an ignorant fool. I passed down laws which only appeared good to me and didn't think about the consequences. I was mad over a stupid pen and believed that any law signed by the pen could never be wrong. But all that ends today. Arthur, bring the documents please.

(PA brings some documents and Joe signs them with his holy pen)

Joe: From now on, I am not your president. And as a final gesture...

(Joe breaks his holy pen)

Joe: May fate be ever fortunate to you!

(Scene 6 ends)

(6 months later)

Reporter: On today's news, the new President of our country has just announced another set of revolutionary laws. Under his guidance, the country has started healing from the previous wounds and is rapidly progressing. That's all for today's news. May fate be ever fortunate to you!