Twitter Thread by Somesh Jha



Somesh Jha
@someshjha7



A personal update: Monday was my last day at Business Standard and I can truly count the past 3 years as the golden phase of my career, where I got the opportunity to not only report but also break some of the biggest news stories during this period.

From January, I will be writing for the @BloombergQuint.

Even though I will miss the adrenaline rush of finding my byline in the paper every morning, I am really excited about starting a new journey with a digital platform.

In this thread, I am sharing some of the work that I did at @bsindia, which is close to my heart.

I wrote a series of stories with @dilasha on how the cryptocurrency players in India are surviving in a hostile regulatory climate.

https://t.co/NJAcIwAgmC

In Feb 2018, I exposed how the government secretly commissioned a survey to two independent economists, giving them unauthorised access to private data of citizens only to establish ‘robust’ job creation.

https://t.co/JmN7VjQxkC

State-owned PNB was hit by the country's biggest banking fraud.

This letter written by the finance ministry to the RBI became the first point of friction between the govt and the regulator. (Ultimately, Urjit Patel had to step down as the RBI Guv)

https://t.co/Z4oFEDZUr8

In Apr 2018, I broke the story about a currency crunch at ATMs in at least 8 Indian states. Why did this happen? Hint: demonetisation

This was followed by extensive coverage on the issue (the govt did acknowledge publicly that there was a cash crunch).

https://t.co/KU67ulaTMO

I continued to dig into the PNB fraud & found this gem:

I reported how PNB (of all banks) didn't receive a crucial directive sent by the RBI in 2016 asking all lenders to strengthen their risk mechanism to avert fraud.

The story about a missing e-mail

https://t.co/My6Ll42Bp0

The RBI vs government tussle was heating up. I wrote a series of stories on the friction points:

https://t.co/IREwm8LeOU

https://t.co/3801yfOJRg

https://t.co/BYCVe5kcpq

https://t.co/O3jIuI0dpM

https://t.co/YXDTiarSFh

https://t.co/JCcyzd75gD

In September 2018, I reported how the government has found over 60% of the money deposited in 37 million Jan-Dhan accounts in the weeks following the note ban announcement in 2016 as “suspicious”

https://t.co/gwsYVOQnle

Politics of data was a project I took up in the past 3 years. The following stories aptly throw light on an ever-important issue:

A day before leaving office as NITI Aayog vice-chairman in 2017, Arvind Panagariya submitted the final report of the task force he chaired for recommending improvements in jobs data. The final report never saw the light of the day. Here are the details:

https://t.co/FyagN0UMrY

An official survey on jobs conducted in 2016-17 by the Labour Bureau (part of the labour and employment ministry) was never made public. Here are the findings of the report (this survey has been officially junked since then):

https://t.co/4A2uw3gppj

The biggest scoop of my career (yet). The unemployment rate rose to a 45-yr-high, a year before India went into elections. Shockingly, the Modi govt didn't officially release the findings of the report until it came back to power in the 2019 elections.

https://t.co/FBcV5VTggg

Some important analysis from the hidden report in the run up to the national elections:

https://t.co/NZGwD4EUpI

https://t.co/9YsxMzBlqr

https://t.co/qMluVa4rLP

Of course, the government initiated an inquiry to find out my sources but it was to no avail :)

https://t.co/GLfNOlEhv0

Months later, I brought out the findings of another hidden survey report that showed consumer spending falling for the first time in over four decades.

https://t.co/zejgxPn4MI

The data hasn't been made public till date as the government decided to scrap the survey report the day we published the results.

More in this thread:

https://t.co/5Kur6wiMyf

> Breaking: India's chief economic advisor wants the junked consumer spending report to be made public. Krishnamurthy Subramanian wrote to the National Statistical Commission seeking the survey report of 2017-18 for analysis in the upcoming Economic Survey.https://t.co/IizS3SqQ7i
>
> — Somesh Jha (@someshjha7) December 7, 2020

I also did some ground reporting during the 2019 national elections:

https://t.co/ibihPxveAS

https://t.co/6FUJaLAwHv

https://t.co/fNh0ltutDe

I added on to @nit_set's stellar investigative work on electoral bonds to report how the finance ministry knew that there was a hidden serial number which could reveal the donor's identity

https://t.co/tX2sCof3Ki

Last winter, I covered the anti-CAA protests. I went to the protest sites across Delhi almost everyday and wrote on the many voices leading the protests

https://t.co/TFMEXfArWD

I visited the riot-affected areas in Delhi with @ari_maj to bring out the horror stories of alienation, distrust and exodus that loomed in parts of the national capital early this year (the most difficult reporting assignment till date for me)

https://t.co/0xbfbf4qmI

Then of course, there was a (COVID-19) lockdown.

I went to the ground to cover the plight of migrants:

https://t.co/6XSOHu5TDa

https://t.co/wIym1nCfbH

https://t.co/cEA9TmcWaB

https://t.co/Dshk24AcZG

https://t.co/YYY6N284aV

https://t.co/rNMyZpedLj

Many states swung into action to do away with labour laws this year. Here's an extensive coverage:

https://t.co/1NyDcish0A

https://t.co/EGH3qvWJVZ

https://t.co/IPapM0bzog

https://t.co/kv252xNHwE

https://t.co/m6QCiNEEYK

https://t.co/j3AkQ7ihHY

https://t.co/Bn7Kn0W02V

I wrote extensively on the labour law changes and its impact....

https://t.co/LaGJPOQ3pC

https://t.co/Zx2ZI1uzHJ

https://t.co/3q39YKHJqQ

https://t.co/ox3TMwbSR5

...while also highlighting the issues in the labour laws:

https://t.co/IqiVrt0ri4

https://t.co/IzzeLVL3h0

I am thankful to everyone - my present and former colleagues and editors at @bsindia, industry colleagues, readers, whistle-blowers and everyone who helped give shape and add value to my work. I look forward to your love and support as I embark on this new journey :)