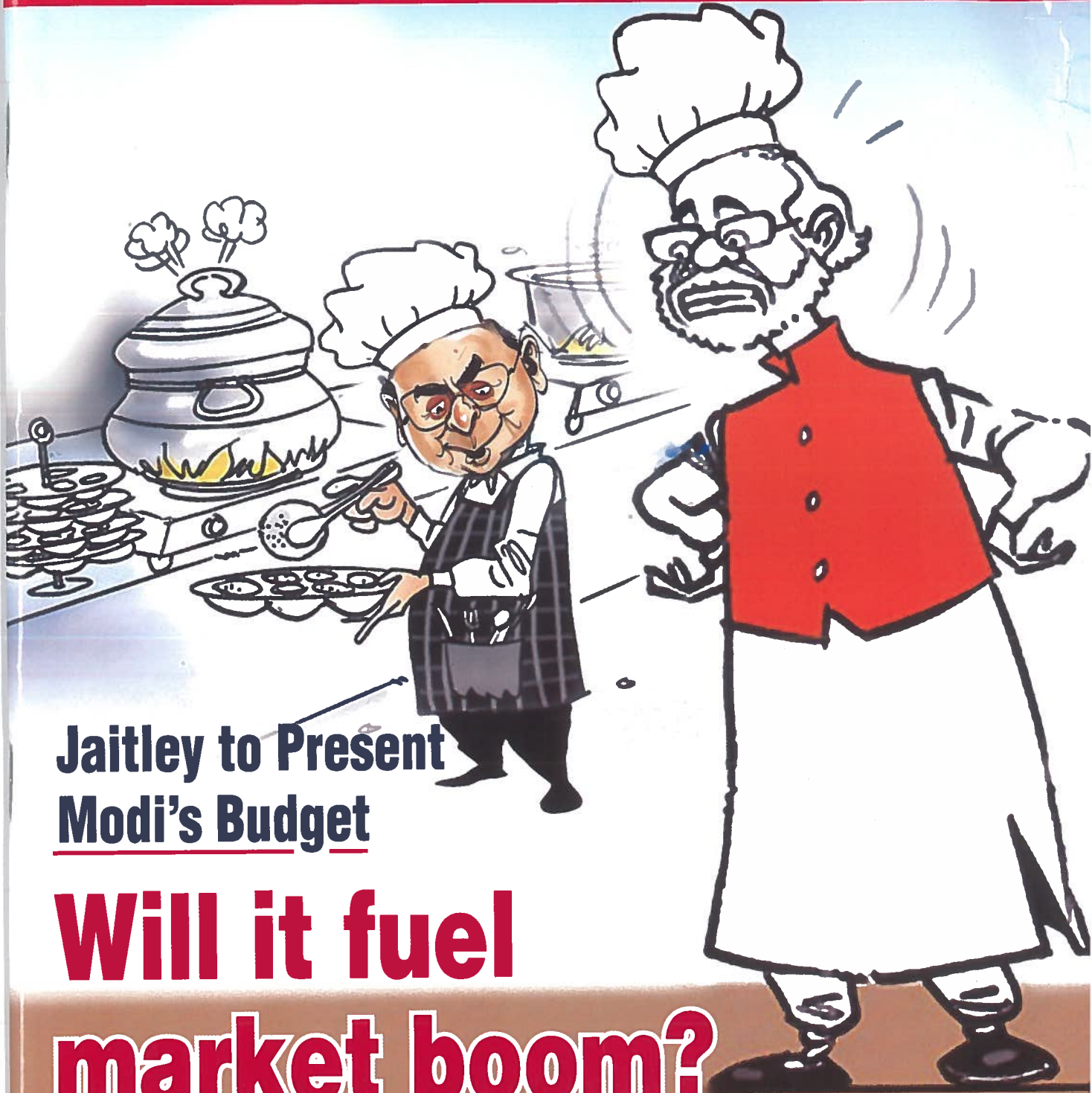


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**Jaitley to Present
Modi's Budget**

**Will it fuel
market boom?**

Behind a successful man...

Behind every successful man is a woman. This old saying is vindicated by the book under review. It is a touching narrative of his life by Bhavarlal H. Jain, the founder and chairman of Jain Irrigation Systems and a pioneer in the field of micro irrigation. Originally published in Marathi as "Tee ani Mee", which became a bestseller, the book is in one word a portrait of their long and happy married life. The author admits that it is an "unusual but real autobiographical heart-to-heart talk" unlike other life sketches. Nevertheless, the small book is a thrilling read.

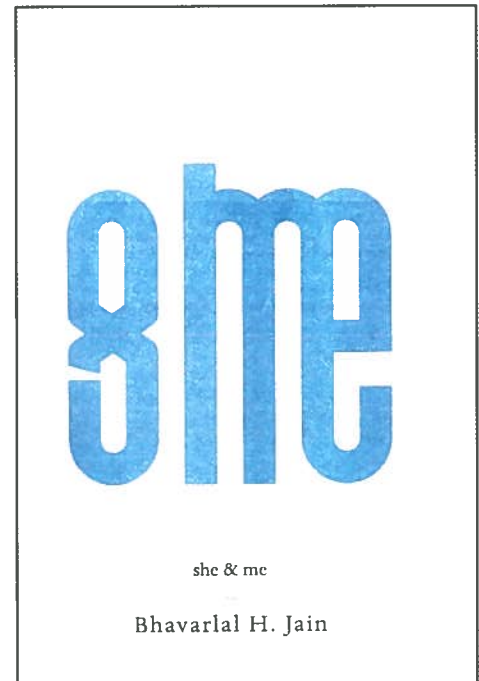
The author very vividly describes the life of Kantabai, first as a little girl, then as a wife, mother and finally as a mother-in-law and elderly lady controlling and directing a huge joint family having as many as 117 members. He points out to her profound influence on him, his life and career. In this process; he takes the reader to the earlier days of the 1960s and 1970s in Jalgaon, then a rural and backward district of Maharashtra.

He has painstakingly brought out the benefits of the joint family system, which is fast becoming extinct. The book is replete with interesting anecdotes. He tells us that when he met Kantabai for the first time, he wanted to know about her past since earlier engagement had been called off and at his instance, Kantabai produced the letters sent by her earlier fianse. When she entered his family as a 'grihalakshmi' or 'homemaker', the strength of their joint family was just 17. Over the years, it rose to 117, "like the tail of Hanumanji"!

Further, he attributes the rapid expansion and diversification of his business to the good luck she brought with her. What started as a small retail outlet for kerosene and petroleum products, soon expanded into several fields such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, motorcycles, tractors, auto parts and pharm products only due to Kantabai's selfless and dedicated service and understanding nature. While he put in daily strenuous long hours of work, not for once did she complain about this. The tally of companies under his control rose to 78 over the years. While acknowledging the contribution and team effort of all his employees in the different companies, he avers that this was possible only to her unstinted support at all critical times and the joint family culture.

While describing the last days of Kantabai in September 2005, the author touchingly recalls several of her sacrifices made during their nearly four and a half decades of intimate companionship. He mentions movingly that while passing away without taking any of her possessions, ensured that her 'prans' or soul did not transmigrate into another body as is the general belief, but was left at his feet. This was so because the very last act of hers was her struggling effort to touch his feet, despite severe pain!

Without any hesitation, one can say that the book is a 'touching account of a successful businessman who has dedicated everything in life to his ever dutiful wife'. There few publications like this one.



SHE & ME

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