



inside a company envelope. Reaching out into the drawer, he looked at the passport-sized photograph.

One advantage of being in the Corporate Communications
Department was that you always had snaps of company big shots.
He dropped the photograph into the envelope too, sealed it and wrote an address.

It was his last day in office. Gautam had got his release papers and cheque. He had said his 'goodbyes' to office colleagues. Only one more task remained. He dialled a number. "Hello, can you put me to your advertisement dept..."

A lady came on line.
"I am calling from Shogun
Software. Have you received
our advertisement matter
and photograph, scheduled
for tomorrow?"

The lady replied in the affirmative and asked him a question.

"Yes, it's a direct release this time. Considering the delicacy of the matter, we didn't want to involve our agency," Gautam replied solemnly, "Format the photo and accompanying matter in a simple 10 column cms layout." He thanked the lady and disconnected. Thank God the stature of his company was such that the newspaper's advertisement department had not insisted on advance payment. A Saturday release was a good choice, he chuckled to himself. The resultant damage would not be rectified till the following Monday. Next morning, he eagerly opened the newspaper. There it was on the Business Page — a 10-cm column advertisement of Shogun Software with Nair's photograph and the words underneath that would give his ex-boss, corporate immortality.

'Shogun Software hereby informs all concerned that Srinivas Nair has been relieved from the services of the company. All concerned may be cautioned against any attempt/ claim by Mr Nair of representing Shogun Software.'

Gautam sat back and sipped his tea contentedly. What did these corporate big-wigs think? That they alone could ruin careers of subordinates at will? At least one of them would know better now!

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