

Watch out, 2008 is going to be a special year. Wait a minute. It may not be special for all in every way, but certainly special for everyone in some way or the other.

How are things going to be in 2008? Speculations apart, a realistic but cross eyed look at the way things could be in 2008, surely reveals a curious scene with politicians as clowns, swamis as jerks and everyone as something else. Nothing is going to be the same ever again and that is what is special about year 2008, now here, for us to see.

Watch out!!

Deve Gowda

The big Gowda will become more loud, noisy and irritating. He will get into a repetitive mode, repeating his lines and threatening people and promising great times for his sons and the party. A better than expected result in the State elections will make him emboldened but him becoming the sole cause of the JDS being kept out of any government formation may not help maintain his popularity even within his party. He could hold private acting classes for his children to help them get the sympathy, support and votes they need. There is every chance of him trying some emotional drama just before the elections which would not fail to give him some seats for significance in the State politics.

Krishna

Krishna will eternally wait for the invitation to rule Karnataka. It will not dawn on him even in the new year that an invitation from the Congress party in Karnataka is not an invitation from the people and even if he comes to Karnataka that does not in any way mean that he is the natural first choice for the post of Chief Minister. The chances of him continuing as the Governor of Maharashtra are more than ever. Perhaps he would find more time for manicure and pedicure than dirty his hands and feet by all the political mud slinging in Karnataka.

Kumaaraswamy

2007 was a year of the heart for Kumaaraswamy beginning with matters of the heart resulting in even a film being produced loosely based on his love story and the year ending for him personally with a heart operation. Even his supporters may be expecting to see him start using his brains more sensibly in the new year. Though the Gowda family is more known for the cross connections in the brain, the crooked machinations in politics that Kumaaraswamy is skilled in and known for, could find more public attention in an election year. Though Kumaaraswamy becoming a hero in the new year could be ruled out, certainly we cannot dismiss the part some heroine(s) may play in his life in 2008.

Sonia Gandhi

There is every possibility that Sonia Gandhi may enroll in a Hindi speaking course, lest an unthoughtful phrase like mauth ka saudagar must cause the party its honour in a place like Gujrat. Since none of the leaders in the Congress have the courage to correct their leader's Hindi, the only option she will have is to find a tutor to teach her the language. She would start looking more like her late mother-in-law and may also realize that all the sycophancy in her party is neither helping her nor the party. A possible revamp in Karnataka and the central high command is something that she may try very hard to effect in spite of the advice from all the puppets around her. It would not be surprising if Sonia starts taking interest in some other art form than the usual family tradition of puppetry.

Rahul Gandhi

After saying that avoiding liquor and wearing khadi is mere hypocrisy, Rahul Gandhi can be expected to organize cocktail parties for his party men after all the boring meetings. He may also employ some jobless but famous designer to clothe his party leaders in colours that befit their personalities. Rahul may even begin by changing the looks of Kharge and Dharam Singh in Karnataka to make them look more energetic and camera friendly. He may even go do a beautician diploma to find out ways to do cosmetic changes to India if he ever gets the chance to rule India in the future.

Yeddyurappa

Yeddyurappa and Madam Karandlaje are seen together these days in full view, and they would be given the permission by the party high command to comfort each other even in public as long as they do not make miserable the lives of other leaders in the party. He may even go for plastic surgery to wear a permanent artificial smile on his face to hide his anger against his own party colleagues. Since Modi is his role model and he could even be seen wearing a beard like the Gujarat leader, the Karnataka BJP strongman will continue to forget the one important fact that whatever he tries he still is not Modi and Karnataka is not Gujarat.

Sri Sri Ravishankar

The love and life swamy after trying to wear a cowl over his thinning hair could try a new hair style and may start a new cult called the Art of Hair Styling. He could be expected to set up a brigade of his ardent jobless devotees to protest against anything that is written about him but not in praise of him. The Art of living swamy may also develop some real sense of humor instead of boring his followers with his insipid **pjs** (poor jokes) that they so heartily laugh at. Ha ha.

Swamy Nityananda

The new kid swamy in town Nityananda, or simply the bliss swamy, after beaming his white teeth and waving his lustrous hair at the hapless devotees may find takers in the advertising business. You need not be surprised if he is seen modeling for toothpaste and hair oil companies. It should not at all be a wonder if the saffron wearing happiness swamy, failing to find devotees starts a vedic hair oil company with his own hair bearing proof for its hair raising power. If some more whites in some corners of the world watch him on Youtube then he surely will be proclaimed a jagatguru by year end, 2008.

Television Channels

After trying everything sensational, now you may be given the opportunity to watch a live murder or rape if that can bring in some valuable TRP (for television viewership measurement). You should be ready for pretty young things walking around dark pubs, discos, brothels and even public toilets looking for juicy stories or wads of notes. Every news reader would have become an interviewer and every interviewer would have become a film star and there would be more news about the news reporters and more headlines created inside television studios.

Print Media

There will be a never before interest in the print media about the internet, that in the media scene with fewer people available to work as reporters to fill in space with worthy substance, the internet would come in handy to search, copy and paste. News of today is history of tomorrow, but a simpler adage is what is on the net today is in the newspaper tomorrow.

Aishwarya Rai

Who is responsible for a rounder Ash, nobody knows, as yet. Is she fuller because of the good food taken care of by her mother-in-law or by the love with her husband will be known to all her fans in the next year. Will an older and mature Ash play a mother's role in either the reel or real life cannot remain a secret till the end of next year, but what even a diehard fan of hers can foretell is that if chosen wrongly her roles can ensure mega flops for her producers.

Abhishek

He is already seen as too old for some roles. Since the charm in him is only seen by some journalists and producers, the small B may be forced to act in mythological and historical movies where under the heavy make up he may be able to exude his charm and still appear as the most eligible bachelor, which he is not.

Astrologers

It is going to be great business for astrologers with an election year, where every politician will be predicted of becoming a minister, many leaders will be promised the chief minister's post on the basis of grace from the stars, and every person filing nomination will be assured victory. If the astrologers go wrong there is always black magic to blame for the deflected influence of the heavenly bodies. Whether the politicians win or not, the men of stars are sure to celebrate their personal success, atleast.

Weather

We can all get our own weather calculator courtesy the weather department. If the weatherman says there is going to be rain for three days immediately subtract two days and you get the right answer. If he says there is going to be sunshine do not forget to carry your umbrella or wear your rain coat. Since the weather man would depend on what he feels about the day's weather by looking at the sky the way you and I do, I think the weather of 2008 is going to be less scientific and more imaginative and sometimes creative too.

Shivaraj Kumar

Since Shivaraj Kumar has made his mission to look younger by the day, he will have to find younger stories and youthful stories, but since there is a hoard of young actors who fit the roles of young people in the stories, Shivaraj Kumar may start looking for inspiration from his late father.

Funcity

After snakes in a liquor bottle we may get to see, spiders on frying pans, frog kebabs and ant snacks. It may not be far into the next year when the bow bow biryani that was available in some dhabas may be found served in the elite clubs too.

City Police

The Bangalore police may wait for journalists to detect crimes, catch the culprits, produce them in courts and even escort them to jails. Watching all this the City Police may still conveniently be ignorant about the whole thing in the end. You may find more police officers in pubs and clubs and still be totally unaware of all the activities there. The Bangalore Police may also be conferred with the title 'The Most Innocent People of 2008' which they missed by misfortune in 2007.

Narayana Murthy

The IT honcho may hunch less in the new year by easing a little of the national burden off his shoulders. He may look more at ease and may even appear less as carrying the responsibility of the progress of India in his mind, always. He may become more popular in Karnataka and could even win some of the popular person in Karnataka contests, the nomination lists in which he willingly or unwillingly can find his name, quite frequently.

Prasad Bidapa

The fashion guru whose fashion is not popular in Bangalore may try to make some new statement about how the pout should be curved or how an acquired squint in the eyes may add beauty to the face. If he or his son are not caught doing anything wrong for the third consecutive year, then he would certainly have a happy new year, that he may have started celebrating for a week already, now.

Mano Murthy

If there is any chance of Mano Murthy becoming another A.R. Rehman it is in 2008. Not the Rehman of his hey days but when he was churning out music that was a copy of his own originals. Mano Murthy may sound as a stuck record if he does not start oiling his music machine.

Vishnuvardhan

Since the superstar of Kannada will continue to choose roles that would not suit him even in the new year, there may be more misses than hits, next year too. Most of his fans are praying that atleast in 2008 Vishnu may realize that a real farmer does not wear lipstick and look like having lived all his life in an air conditioned room. It is better that some director who would engage Vishnuvardhan realizes that movie goes in a changed world may not be too happy with elderly actors doing silly dances when so many young and pretty people are still waiting for their chances to shake a leg and enthrall the viewers.

Rameshwar Thakur

There is a high possibility that by June next year Mr. Thakur may realize that he is not an elected representative of the people and his administration is not a popular government with people's mandate. If he is not out of his day dream of running the State like a ruler then he certainly would be readily accepted as the darling of the media that they would like to write so much about from all angles.

Vijay Mallya

The great VJM may try to entice someone into handing over his company to be merged into his UB empire with an offer of a Kingfisher calendar and invitation to a few special parties. Starting off with a stake in Air Deccan, now the soul of the airline

itself has been sold to Mallya. What is left according to some is for Captain Gopi to change his name to Gopinath Mallya in 2008. Mallya in the new year may be forced to realize that everything cannot be up always and like his planes may have to touch ground once in a while.

Kumble

The hope is that just like what his friends and national media see in him the Karnataka media too would like to see his humility and goodness which somehow is invisible. Though he behaved like Kannadigas were responsible for him not becoming the Captain or getting his due, now with a new innings as the Captain he is hoped to become the Humble Kumble so many other dear friends of his call him, fondly.

Ramya

The heroine cannot certainly be cast in any role in a sports movie unless she is playing the role of a spectator who is watching a football match to be inspired to lose weight. With changing boyfriends and language interests, Ramya may be forced to act with all kinds of newcomers only for the benefit of their friendship than the success of the movies. 2008 maybe a year in which Ramya may be expect to rely more on her talents than her looks. So sorry.

Ganesh

Mungaru Male actor Comedy Time Ganesh may become more serious in the new year. He for the first time may even show his family photo so we can all see where he got his non typical Kannada looks from? He would be officially called the Moon of Kannada Cinema because with every passing day his face is becoming rounder and rounder and that way he would have more screen presence than anyone else in the movies.

Prathibha Patil

Next year Srimathi Prathibha Patil may open her mouth and blurt out some jewels of statement and end up committing faux pas here and there. Though all of us have seen her tight lipped all these days in 2007 the desire to commit faux pas, a habit with her, may take its toll in the new year, causing some moments of mirth for all her countrymen.

Nandini and Padmini

The Seeta aur Geetha jodi of the Bangalore art scene will be ready again with a Bangalore Habba next year too. Vittala Murthy with his Kannada and Culture department will be there to support them with funds and advice. Once again people from all over the world will descend on Bangalore to do art seva for Bangaloreans, and Kannadigas in Bangalore once again will stay indoors and fully support their own Bengalooru Habba.

... and me Deepak Thimaya

The guy who thinks he is the best interviewer and a great journalist deserves a proper grilling by all the victims of his shows and writing. Someone may properly give it back to him the coming year. Many are hoping that at least in 2008 he may realize that he is not an eighteen year old any more and definitely needs some exercise to look and behave fit. In the new year, many pray, that he will really turn out as intelligent as he appears to be.