

PIDILITE - THE BIG FAT ZOOM WEDDING

INTERCUT ZOOM CONVERSATION - NIGHT

We see 20-30 participants on the call. All of them are heavily dressed. The women are all wearing heavy silk sarees and the men are ready in their sherwanis and turbans. A wedding is about to begin and the bride's side of the family has arrived. Both families are from UP.

The groom's family is in a state of complete chaos. Everyone is still in the process of getting ready and half of them haven't even arrived.

The father of the bride, who is in his early 60's is taking the call with his wife (bride's mother). He asks the groom's father to begin the ceremonies. He is getting impatient looking at the chaos.

BRIDE'S FATHER

Samdhi ji, rasm mein shuru karte hain, mahurat nikla ja raha hai.

The moment he says this, the shehnai player on the call starts playing, only to be snubbed by the groom's father.

GROOM'S FATHER

Ji dulhe ki chachi ka intejaar hai bas.
Bachpan mein Monu ke saare kapde unhone hi
toh sille hain. Unke bina toh...

Eyi Guddu, jo jo nahi hain, sabko call
ghumao toh jara.

Guddu, who is the youngest of them, and also the tech-savvy kid of the family, jumps into action. Post this point, whoever gets added to the call, reminds the larger group of who's missing. The first to join is the groom's chachi. She is fixing the pleats of her saree, while scanning the people present on the call.

GROOM'S CHACHI

London waali bua nahi dikh rahi? Koi call kardo bhaiyya, nahi toh fir bolengi hum bidesh kya chale gaye, humko sab bhool hi gaye.

GUDDU

(nodding obediently)

Ji chachi ji.

The Bua from London joins in. She too starts to scan the participants of the call. Her British accent is as fake as the diamond necklace that she is clearly trying to flaunt.

GROOM'S BUA

Arey Jamshedpur wali mausi kahan hai? Bachpan mein Monu ke diapers bhabhi se zyada toh unhone badle the.

Monu's mother flinches at this remark. Guddu, being the obedient boy that he is, jumps into action.

GUDDU

Haan bua ji, abhi kar dete hain.

The mausi, who is busy braiding her thick long hair, joins the call. She immediately barks a command.

GROOM'S MAUSI

Vishal ko call kiya koi? Monu aur wo har
Ramleela mein bharat-shatrugan bante the!

At this point, we start losing track of who's joining the call. But anyone who joins, reminds the larger group to add more of the extended family. We can see the call screen dividing into multiple smaller windows.

The groom's fufa ji, who is in his late 60's and is wearing a plain white kurta and pajama speaks up. Only the lower half of his face is visible which is awkwardly close to the camera.

GROOM'S FUFA JI

Monu ki choti bua ko aane dijiye. Uske
mundan se lekar Janeyu tak, sabmein gaayi
thi wo.

The sehnai-wala is also pacing up, syncing perfectly with this flurry of remarks. Guddu, who is trying to bring the whole family to the call, exclaims,

GUDDU**(irritated)**

Arey bhaiyya ye shenai-wale ko mute karo
koi, kachu sunai nahi de raha hai.

In one of the windows, we see an inebriated elderly gentleman just dancing away. His video is inverted. He almost seems unaffected by what's going on.

CHACHA

Hoi! Hoi! Hoi!

GUDDU

Chacha ji ko bhi koi mute kardo.

The bride's side of the family is surprised to see the number of people who have impacted their son-in-law's life. The bride's father is impatiently looking at his watch again and again. He doesn't want to miss the *muhurath*.

BRIDE'S FATHER

Samdhi ji muhurath nikla ja raha hai!

His concerns are completely ignored by the groom's family. A notification pops up. Someone has muted the bride's father. He is just seen talking away, not realizing that he's on mute.

We see another person join the call from the groom's side. This gentleman is wearing an embroidered mask. The groom's father almost bursts into laughter.

GROOM'S FATHER

Mama Ji, video call pe kaahe mask pehne hain?

To add to the chaos, a Dhol wala joins in. Without realising the situation, he bursts into a traditional wedding melody.

DHOLL WALA

Waari warsi khatan gyasi khatke liyandi
chai...

One of the groom's uncles interjects and it just happens to rhyme with the Dhol wala.

GROOM'S TAUJI

Arre kahan reh gayi haldwani waali tai?

At this point, everyone's remarks are overlapping, and all one can make out are names of relations, and why the wedding can't begin without any of them.

VOICES OF DIFFERENT RELATIVES

Unhone Shaadi ka hashtag socha tha;
honeymoon ke tickets book karwaye the.

In all of this chaos, the groom's grandmother is still trying to figure out the interface of the call.

GROOM'S GRANDMOTHER

Eyi Guddu, hum dikhai de rahe hain na

VOICES OF DIFFERENT RELATIVES

Dilli cantt se samaan dilwaaya tha; Matric
pass karwayi thi.

GROOM'S GRANDMOTHER

Bidio chalu ho gaya kya?

Now, there are more than a 100 people on the call. We can still hear the reminders being thrown, as the camera focuses on the bride's father. He now looks uncontrollably impatient. He takes off his pink turban, which reveals his unkempt hair. He speaks out loud

BRIDE'S FATHER

Pundit ji! Sab aa gaye hain, aap shuru
kijiye.

Everyone gets quiet. They finally sense the father's concerns. However, the groom's father responds by saying,

GROOM'S FATHER

Aaj agar Monu ke dada ji aur hote toh
pariwar pura hota.

The whole side of the groom's family nods in agreement, while holding back their tears. One of their cousins from the US makes the Wakanda forever hand gesture and says in an accent,

US COUSIN

Dadu Forever!

The grandmother, who doesn't look as emotionally moved by the remark, breaks the silence,

GROOM'S GRANDMOTHER

40 saal bahut the tumhare bau ji ki saath.
Waise dulha-dulhan nahi dikh rahe?

Embarrassed by his mother's honest remark, the groom's father immediately shifts the blame to the innocent Guddu.

GROOM'S FATHER

Guddu! Ek kaam nahi hota na tujhse? Add kar
unhe.

Guddu nods with fear. He immediately tries to add the bride and the groom. That's when a notification pops up. It reads,

"YOUR CALL HAS REACHED ITS CAPACITY"

At this point, a happy music breaks in the background and the following V.O. is heard as we zoom out to see the entire family, in a beautiful frame, on a zoom screen.

V.O.

Toh ji, iss judi hui pariwar ke naam,
Fevicol ka salaam

The Fevicol logo fades in.

In the comeback we see the bride-groom and the pandit ji, sitting around the agni, not knowing what's happening since their laptop screen is showing that they're being denied entry. The pandit ji looks at the groom and sheepishly says,

Pandit Ji

Waise humara 11:30 ka ek aur zoom call hai.

THE END