Chandrababu Naidu Daydreaming of Becoming the PM: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, 6 January, said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is daydreaming of becoming prime minister, and alleged that he backstabbed the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder and his father-in-law NT Rama Rao twice.

For the second time in less than a week, Modi launched a direct attack on the TDP president.

During a video-conference with workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from five Lok Sabha constituencies, he said Naidu backstabbed NTR for a second time by joining hands with the Congress. He said Naidu was daydreaming of becoming PM though he had failed as the chief minister.

"It was NTR who led 'Congress-mukt' Bharat movement with anti-Congress National Front, but today his son-in-law bowed his head before Congress to save his power. NTR was a true icon of Telugu pride. NTR never forgot Congress for hurting Telugu pride and for betrayal of Telugu interests. Today those in power in Andhra Pradesh are so desperate to cling to their power that they betrayed Telugu interests and stabbed NTR in the back for second a time." - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

"The threat is an outcome of nervousness and insecurity. This means despite a huge government machinery, those in power are afraid. The threat means the BJP workers are succeeding," he said.

Modi warned Opposition parties to never underestimate the power of BJP workers, saying once the party workers decide something, "no force can stop the party from getting success."

"For BJP what matter is the passion to serve Bharat Mata. In some parties what matters is a family. In others, what matters is one's fortune. And for many others, both family and fortune matter," Modi said.

PM interacted with BJP workers and volunteers from Anantapur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Narasaraopet and Tirupati constituencies in Rayalaseema region through Narendra Modi App.

A BJP leader had said that Naidu on 4 January vented his anger on a group of party workers after they blocked the CM’s convoy to protest his comments against Modi.

Naidu had reportedly said, “You will get beaten up. Don’t invite unnecessary trouble. You will be finished. Do you support the injustice meted out to Andhra Pradesh? People will teach you a lesson.”

"For the second time in less than a week, Modi launched a direct attack on the TDP president."

For the second time in less than a week, Modi launched a direct attack on the TDP president.
Dr Faiz Shareef celebrated New Year eve with family and friends
The first two Muslim American women in US Congress

The first two Muslim American women in Congress have been unapologetic about their faith from the start of their campaigns. Swearing-in to the US House of Representatives was no different.

Rashida Tlaib, an American-born Muslim of Palestinian descent, was sworn in with her left hand on her own copy of the Quran, though she considered using a 1734 English translation that belonged to Thomas Jefferson. And Ilhan Omar, who arrived in the US 23 years ago as a refugee fleeing Somalia’s war, used the Quran of her late grandfather, who helped raise her.

New members of Congress are not required to take their oaths on the Bible or any other religious text. In fact, they need not swear on anything at all. Tlaib and Omar used the Qurans at individual, ceremonial swearings-in at the House speaker’s office after the official, en masse swearing-in on the House floor.

Both Democrats, they are part of an extraordinarily diverse class of representatives — “transformative,” as Rep. Nancy Pelosi called them in her address after being elected House speaker. For many Muslim Americans, the presence of a Quran is a symbolic moment amid a presidential administration that has seemed to wage an all-out war on the triple whammy of what Tlaib and Omar represent: immigrants, Muslims and women.

Degha Shabboleh, a suburban Minneapolis high school English teacher whose family was exiled from Somalia when she was a child, says it’s the first time she feels truly represented in national politics. “To finally have women of color, or immigrants or second generation-Americans to be sworn in on a holy book other than the Bible — for me it personally validates that I do belong here, and this is home,” says Shabboleh, who campaigned for Omar and flew to Washington, DC to attend Thursday’s swearing-in. “I personally needed that. Especially now more than ever, with all the bigotry going on and hatred that’s being exposed.” It’s not the first time members of Congress have been sworn in using the Quran. In 2007, former Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota — who was the first Muslim elected to Congress — used Jefferson’s Quran for his ceremonial swearing-in. Omar was elected to Ellison’s old seat after he stepped down to run for state attorney general and won. And Omar used a Quran when she was sworn in to the Minnesota House two years ago.

Tlaib ran for the seat vacated by John Conyers, who resigned over sexual harassment allegations. She lost in a special election to replace him but won the 2018 general.

Omar and Tlaib are joining Rep. André Carson of Indiana, a Democrat, for a total of three Muslim members of the House. Both Carson and Ellison have spoken on behalf of Muslim Americans, particularly as President Donald Trump instituted a travel ban affecting refugees and travelers from several Muslim-majority countries. But the two women’s elections are notable for the diversity they bring to national-level representation of American Muslims, say faith and community leaders. Ellison and Carson, who are both black and grew up in the US, each converted to Islam as young adults. Omar and Tlaib grew up Muslim; Tlaib in an Arab community of Detroit, and Omar in a Kenyan camp for Somali refugees, then a Minneapolis neighborhood that is home to many Somali and East African immigrants.

“For many Muslim Americans, the presence of a Quran is a symbolic moment amid a presidential administration that has seemed to wage an all-out war on the triple whammy of what Tlaib and Omar represent: immigrants, Muslims and women.”

“Unapologetic” Muslim women

Omar, 37, is the first person in Congress to don the hijab, or Islamic head covering worn by many women. That makes her the first hijab-wearing member of the House, too. Shortly after being elected, she vowed to help lift the 181-year-old ban on headwear on the House floor.

Tlaib, 42, does not wear the hijab. Some hope their leadership will challenge stereotypes of Muslim women and show the hijab is an individual choice.

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N.J. Attorney General Gurbir Grewal administers the oath of office to Sadaf Jaffer as Mayor of Montgomery Township, N.J., Jan. 3. Jaffer becomes the first South Asian woman mayor in N.J. and the first Pakistani-American woman mayor in the U.S.

Montgomery Committeewoman Sadaf Jaffer was on Jan. 3 sworn-in as the mayor of the township at its re-organization meeting, becoming the first South Asian woman mayor in New Jersey and the first Pakistani-American woman mayor in the U.S. Attorney General Gurbir Grewal initiated the oath of office.

The Montgomery Township Committee consists of the Mayor and other four members of the Committee of Montgomery Township; having five members in total. The committee organizes during the first week in January, at which time it elects the mayor from among its members.

As mayor Jaffer says she is ready to engage Montgomery residents in local governance and inspire a more connected, cohesive community. She will draw on the strength of Monty’s diversity as she represents her constituents, bringing practicality and vision her role.

“To me, Montgomery is all about the people that make up our vibrant community,” Jaffer said.

“I love attending local events, from the South Asian Charity Organization’s ‘Ootsva’ celebration to the strawberry festival hosted by the Boy Scouts.”

Jaffer, who is a five-year resident of the township, was elected to the committee last year on the Democratic Party ticket. Sadaf is a scholar and activist focused on social justice and human rights with experience in cultural education and government service. She also serves as Somerset County director for the South Asian American Caucus of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and was selected to be in the inaugural training class of Emerge New Jersey, the premier political training program for Democratic women.

She also serves as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in South Asian Studies at Princeton University where she teaches courses on South Asian, Islamic, and Asian American Studies. She serves on the Board of Directors of South Asian American Caucus of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and was selected to be in the inaugural training class of Emerge New Jersey, the premier political training program for Democratic women.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and obtained her PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations with a secondary field in Studies of Women, Gender and Sexuality from Harvard University.

Chicago - ELECTION UPDATE

The Feb. 26 election will be the first time a Chicago Municipal Election will feature a 40-day Early Voting schedule under a newer state law. As noted previously, the ability to have a ballot ready so that Early Voting might be offered (only downtown) as early as Jan. 17 remains in doubt. Please see attached.

At the last Municipal Election, Early Voting began 15 days before Election Day.

Shobhana Johri Verma, Director, South Asian Outreach
Chicago Board of Election Commissioners
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Hon. Judge Rabeea Collier will be presiding in the courtroom of the 113th District, Houston. She's a Pakistani Muslim American.

Sarah DeMerchant with Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Commissioner DeMerchant with Chief of Staff, Ahmad Alaswad
Assalamyalaikum,
Wishing you and your family a happy New Year. May each day bring you happiness and prosperity.
Ameen

Mohammed A. Hameed
President - HSNT
Hyderabad Society of North Texas
www.hsntdfw.com
Middle East team at a wedding event in Hyderabad

Mumtaz Ali Akram at Hyderabad Deccan Connection organised an Academic session on Life Management in the age of Technology at Jubail.

TGNF (Telangana Gulf Non-Resident Employees Federation) Office Inaugurated in Lenaine Estate Gunfoundary Hyderabad. President Ahmeduddin Owaisi, Vice President Yousufudin Amjad, General Secretary Aijaz Ahmed Khan, VP Finance Shahbaz Farooqui, All India Coordinator Mr. Khaja Qayyum Anwar

This Page is dedicated to Middle East News and events. (More pages can be added depending on the need)
If you like to have your event covered or would like to purchase a spot you may contact
EditorAsiaTimes@gmail.com or WhatsApp 00 1-219-588-1538
BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY - CONGRATS
NIAMA Election Celebration

NIAMA Encouraged Muslims voters and community to assimilate in the political process and encourage them to run for elected offices in State of Illinois. Over the weekend, Sunday, December 02, 2018 between 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Northern Illinois American Muslim Alliance also called NIAMA held Election Celebration in its Lake county, which was held in Civic center Libertyville Illinois. Discussions during the Public meeting focused on Newly elected election candidate expression who won the election first time also planning and introduce candidate for the upcoming year’s upcoming elections including the 2019.

The gathering, which include a dinner, was held to celebrate the recent Chicago land area and federal and state Democratic election victories. Joining the celebration were Mary Edly-Allen Illinois House Rep District 51, Newly elected congressman Sean Casten, Lake County Elect Treasurer Holly Kim, State Elect Daniel Didech, Lake County Board Julie Simpson, Sheriff Elect John Ideburg, Democratic party Vice Chair Nancy Shepherdson, Lake County Clerk Elect Robin O’Connor, Jennifer Clark and others.

Every newly elected candidate introduced them self and discuss also highlight several stories in his and her election campaign. All the candidate deeply thanks to the Muslim community for big and strong support.

Mayor of the City of Waukegan Sam Cunningham also joined the celebration.

During an interview with Founder & Chairman NIAMA Mr. Vaseem Iftekhar said “The purpose of this organization is to Unite the Muslim community toward fulfilling its civic responsibility under the US constitution. Encourage Muslims voters and community to assimilate in the political process and encourage them to run for elected offices in Northern Illinois. We also encourage and support youth for future political leadership. Support candidates who exhibit fairness at local and national level.”

Northern Illinois American Muslim Alliance consisted of several members including Founder & Chairman. Vaseem Iftekhar, Founder & Treasurer Ans Laman Ahmed, Vice Chairman Dr. Amin Nadeem, Dr. Noman Haider, Mr. Irshad Khan, Mr. Akrom Husain, Mrs. Farah Ahmed, Mrs. Nadia Shah, Mrs. Farah Laman and Mrs. Salma Syed. The program was ended after delicious dinner.
Present Home Minister Janab Mehmood Ali bhai, former Home Minister Nayeni Narasimha Reddy ji, another former Minister Sabitha Reddy garu and former Chief Minister K.Roshiah garu all in less than a week along with Kartik Reddy M.P contestant and Hanumanth Reddy ATA chairman.

Telangana awards function by Sri Lekha Acedemy at Hari Hara Bhavan Secundrabad attended by Honourable K.Roshiah former Governor of Tamilnadu, former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, honour to receive “Talent Of TELANGANA Award” thanks Aruna Upadrasta

Today breakfast at my residence in Shamshabad with Ameer e Jamaat of USA founder of Jamie e Masjid of Chicago at Devon Ave Janab Sayeed bhai, along with Janab Abdul Rahman Khan of Dallas founder of first girls islamic school In Dallas, SAIID Peerzada of Hyderabad, Syed Jahangeer bhai of Shamshabad, Muddaaru, Dr Aslam cardiologist from San Jose and others. Getting prepared for biggest Ishaema at Kurnool.
Fareeduddin Sabiri presented Jaan e Bahar on January 1st, 2019. Nawab Mir Hamed Ali Khan was the Chief Guest and presided over the function. He is the son of Nawab Mir Ahmed Ali Khan, the first Home Minister of combined Andhra Pradesh. He is also he President of IAA. Khaja Moinuddin, P.E., Trustee, Hanover Township was the guest of honor. Azeem Quadeer, P.E., CEO and Publisher, Asia Times US was the special guest who traveled from Dallas. Famous Poet Taufeeq Ansari presented his freshly written poem on New Year. All the guests were honored and presented with flowers. Fareeduddin thanked Faisal Afsar and Masooma Afsar (owners Pita & Kabobz) for their cooperation. Program was followed by entertainment by DJ Shahid Lateef and group. Other artists were Yukta Mehta, Amatul, Azeem, Gulam Samdani, Abdul Gafoor, Shafi and Mirza Rizwan. Mr. Waliuddin entertained with his jokes and Emcee. Other notable attendees were Zahid Ali, Sadiq Khan, Roshan Waliuddin, Mukhtar Khan, AR Saleem, Eraj Ahmed, Mr Akif, Zaki Basalath, Mubashir Farooqi, Shah Basalath, Yawar Ali Khan, Waseem Habibi, Safi Farooqi, Adeeb Farooqi, Bilal Ahmed, Anwar Farooqi, Gulam Idrees, Shaheena Khan, Hamid Ali, Najaf Khan, Asad, Munawer Khan, Moinuddin Khan, Siddiq Khan and others.
INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (IAA)
Chicago, Illinois
Along with Hyderabad Association

Celebrates 70th Republic Day of India

Chief Guest
Neeta Bhushan
Consulate General of India, Chicago

Guest Of Honor
Professor Rajmohan Gandhi
University of Urbana-Champaign

Gala Banquet & Reception
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Special Guest
Padmini Kolhapure
Bollywood Indian Film Actress & Singer
Also Bollywood Artists And Local Artists Will Perform

Prachi Jaitley (Emcee)
Pratibha Jairath (Emcee)
Motika Anand (Emcee)
Amita Saha Karmakar (Singer)
Ishaan Ahmed (Singer)
Shiena Dwivedi (Singer)
Nalini Parikh (Singer)

Take Photo With Padmini Kolhapure $20

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Celebrates
70th Republic Day of India

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019
A connection between Chicago and Marudhara - Sher Mohammed Rajput

The brightest star shining at the dizzy heights on the sky of social service, in Chicago is Mr. Sher Mohammed Rajput from Marudhara. He mixes with everyone. His personality has magnetic attraction. Mr. Sher Mohammed Rajput is the first Indian who is enlisted as the founder of East-West University Chicago popularly known as East-West Asian University and Indo American Centre. He is always ready to help and cooperate with Indians in America. Mr. Rajput prefers humanity to religion. He is well-known as an Asian. People know him as an example of pure and precious service. Mr. Sher Rajput says when one involves in selfless social service to man it becomes service to God.

Service oriented personality Mr. Sher Rajput worked hard to contribute better coordination, understanding, and relationships among the followers of various religions. He was presented with a memento and declared top most NRI in Bikaner Seva Bhara Sabha Rajasthan has honored him with a title "Messenger of inter faith harmony." Mr. Rajput began a life full of struggle while sharing his past he said. Journey from Ritudnts was full of challenges and hurdles, but he never gave up hopes. He went on to achieve his goals.

Nature changes hardship; aim is fulfilled. He said that he is in Chicago for many years but never felt home sick. It is because people in US have same admiration and love for him as Indians have. Mr. Sher Mohd Rajput received an award for playing an important role to promoting global peace. American Federation of Indian origin (AFMI) and Indo American Centre (IAC) honored him for life time achievement for his service to promote religious respect and tolerance. Chicago Geeta Mandalam had honored with momento Mr. Rajput for rendering service to people of all the religion equally.

Education was his passion. He had financial crisis, couldn't afford plane fare. A sympathetic person helped him with plane fare. He reached university. Payment of fee was another problem. He started working as a gardener in a professor's residence. To support his financial inclusion, the professor had a rent-a-room in his spacious house. He started doing as many odd jobs as he can to meet his expenses. Continued efforts to reach his destination. Many good people came forward to help cooperate and encourage. Noble people's noble attitude inspired him. This inspiration motivates him to help the needy. He said educated people are always his choice right from the beginning. He was in contact with people of good lobby in Chicago. He took fast huge leaps to reach his goal. He got a joining in an insurance company in New York. First month he couldn't sell a single policy. At this juncture, an Indian doctor encouraged him. The doctor asked him to start his sale from home family, relatives, friends, people around, and other people. Then approach making new customers. Improve communication skills to convince them easy. Work will be in peaceful human coexistence. Special parade and meals is organized on 15th August and 26th January. Politicians and VIPs were invited to attend the function. Mr. Sher Rajput expressed his pleasure while sharing that Indo American Centre is rendering amazing exuberant service to the needy and unemployed since last 26 years. Creative focus on the Indo American service and strategies enabled the VIP and other dignitaries to stay connected with Indo American Centre. They extended a hearty help and cooperation. Hard-work clicked and he became No. 1.

Mr. Sher Rajput is source of inspiration for today's youth. He further said application of novel ideas was wonderful. His target was to contact minimum ten people share the importance of insurance policy. Slow and steady wins the race. He overcame hesitation within one year. Public contact and relation improved. He established Indo American Centre. Ex-president of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was the chief of Indo American Centre. The chief guest, Dr. APJ, appreciated and praised Mr. Rajput for his elegant service. Mr. Rajput said that he had established East-West University to take it to the summit of success to brain storm youth with knowledge. Equip them effectively and adequately to locate, learn, and lead. Fee changed is not very expensive. It is within the range of average income. The university tries to impart quality education. Moral values are sustained and expanded. Always ready to help and cooperate render service.

Though Mr. Rajput is a US citizen (Chicago), passion to help his country men will never end. Take his mission of help and service to one and all who deserve. He was honored by Bikaner Zilla Samishaid and NGO (non-Government organization). He is the man of the mass. A leader of international social activism at the climate of truth and reality. "Climb up and high. Aim the stars goal on the sky."
From Left: Amatul Azam, Roshan Waliuddin, Mr. Waliuddin, Emcee, Singer Yukta Mehta and others at New Year Celebration at Pita & Kabobz organised by Freeduddin Sabiri on Jan 1st. 2019
Son Sarfaraz Khan said that Kader Khan died surrounded by his family members and he had a “smile on his face” as he died.
Nawab Mir Hamid Ali Khan  
Engineer USA,  
Director, Advisory Board, Asia Times US  
President, IAA, IL

Happy New Year! 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019
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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/rafeeqa
Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mohammad Amjad

Mohammad Amjad graduated from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, in the Class of 1974 on the Honor Roll. He received his schooling from Little Flower High School in Hyderabad as a distinguished student because of his high academic standard. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in the State of Andrapradash, India, and was offered a gazetted officer position in a development project. Completing the project with much success in the mid-seventies, his knowledge, skill, and ability prepared him as an intellectual engineer for the Public Services Board Exam.

Amjad’s remarkable performance allowed him to secure a student visa for higher education in the United States. He received a full scholarship from Nizam Trust Fund to study in the US. As an exchange student with traveling, boarding, and lodging charges, Amjad arrived in Chicago, Illinois, in 1977. In September 1978, he began his job at the Illinois Department of Transportation and held this position all the way up to December 2018. He celebrates his 40th anniversary after fulfilling his duties with IDOT.

Amjad made history with a number of successful projects for the State of Illinois, including the construction of roads, highways, and bridges. He has now announced his retirement in December 2018 after a career of service and honor.

Congrats to Mr. Waliuddin who received another award

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“Happy Birthday Roshan and wish you all the best for the new year...The whole world celebrate your birthday being on Jan 1st.......”  Wali

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all friends and relatives from A. Waliuddin and Roshan Waliuddin
Bolingbrook Mayor Roger C Claar receives a heroic welcome in Pakistan.

Bolingbrook Mayor Roger C Claar receives a heroic welcome in Pakistan. Pakistan is a peace Loving country and I am witness to this, “Mayor Bolingbrook.” The media portrays a negative image of Pakistan but in the contrary it is as safe as any other country in the world. Pakistani People are very peace loving and friendly. I envy their hospitality.

Mayor of Bolingbrook Mr. Roger C Claar along with 10 members team visited Pakistan on his 3 days trip to Pakistan. Mayor was on his around the world trip to Bangkok, Pakistan and Dubai. Mayor visited Lahore on the official trip on the invitation of Mayor of Lahore Col (R) Mubashar Javid. The trip was arranged by the Consul General of Pakistan in Chicago Hon. Javid Umran who worked tirelessly to make this a memorable visit. He hosted a dinner int the honor of delegates a week before their departure in Desi Dinner in Bolingbrook and briefed the group about Pakistan and its friendly people. The main purpose of visit to Sialkot was to sign Sister city agreement with the Mayor of Sialkot Mr. Toheed Akhtar and also to inaugurate the Street named Bolingbrook. Haji Pura street was named Bolingbrook street, last year a street was named Bolingbrook in Sialkot as well. The delegates included, Mr. Kevin O’Keefe Director Bolingbrook Chamber of Commerce, Sheldon Watts Village trustee, Mary Basta Planning Board, Mir Ali Director of Yum Brands and Planning Commissioner, Mr. Billy Heath a Financial Advisor, Mr. Romy Balcita Project Manager Mr. and Mrs. Ben Seidel Chairman Midwest Fuel Injection a Multi Million company, Sandy Calcagno a represent of non for profit organization and Mr. Talat Rashid a businessman and Police and Fire Commissioner of Village of Bolingbrook.

Bolingbrook Mayor was given a red carpet welcome reception in Lahore where Mayor of Lahore himself came to Lahore to welcome the delegation at 11PM. Entire delegation was showered with flowers wherever they went. He made sure that the delegate were under high security during their entire stay in Pakistan. Mayor of Lahore went out of his way to keep everything pleasant and comfortable for us, Mayor Roger Claar said. To my surprise he event presented a memorable album and the end of our trip in a very short period of time which is incredible, this shows the love he has for me which I will never forget mayor Claar added.

Mayor of Bolingbrook Roger C Claar said that he has found Pakistan a peaceful and lovely country which is quiet contrary to the propaganda of western media, Addressing the local business community and representatives of both Local governments of Lahore and Sialkot he said that he had seen a happy and smiling faces with no sign of fear and terror anywhere during his visit to Pakistan. Mayor during his interview with local newspaper said after going back to USA he would try to present true picture of Pakistan and inform his people that it was a beautiful and friendly place. “Pakistanis in Bolingbrook are playing an important role in the progress of the city. Mr. Talat Rashid came to me 27 yrs ago and asked if he could raise Pakistani flag on the Pakistan’s Independence Day and I said why not. Over the years it became one of the largest events in USA which converted in to an event of Pakistan when Mir Ali a prominent Pakistani joined the celebrations. Mir Ali played an important role in introducing cricket to Youth and contributed in success of Taste of Pakistan every year. During his address to the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce Mayor of Lahore was praised for the unique industry and export business status of Sialkot and also praised its business community for its sheer determination of undertaking mega projects, like dry port and Sialkot Airport and eventually Stal Air. He also added that both cities will work towards the common goal of bilateral social and economic interests. Mayor Claar reiterated that he will take all necessary steps to promote bilateral ties between both sister cities Sialkot and Lahore. He said Bolingbrook is home of several fortune 500 companies. There are 36 companies who have established headquarters major highways. Similar words were expressed by the Sialkot Chamber President Khawaja Masood Akhtar who added that there are lots of similarities between both cities like, active talented population high level of incomes sustained infrastructure and vision of Progress.

Followings were the high lights of the Trip:
Visit to Embassy of Pakistan Thailand Bangkok, A lavish Pakistani style lunch hosted by Deputy Chief of Mission Hon. Faraz Zaidi and his staff at the embassy followed by the traditional Pakistani presents to all the 11 delegates. Dinner hosted by Mayor of Lahore Col Rtd Mubashar Javid in GYM KHANA with the Federal minister Parvez Malik. Dinner also hosted by Mayor at the Havelay restaurant in Food Street with higher level officials from the city govt including some provincial assembly members. Deputy Consul General of Consulate in Lahore Hon. Mike Guinan and Ann Peterson was also present with protocol officer Umair Malik. Mr. Guinan came to the dinner in traditional Pakistani dress. Umar Shahzad specially came from Islamabad and hosted the breakfast for the Team members and also gave shields to all. He brought a special message from Prime minister Imran Khan. He also arranged a meeting with Chief Minister and Governor but could not materialized because of lack of time.
Visit of a Learning Hub an orphanage school run by director Zerka Tahir with the November born children. This was the first time a Mayor of a foreign country attend the event. The underprivileged children loved this and enjoyed every moment of it. Every member of Mayor’s team also enjoyed and mingled with the kids.
Sister City signing in ceremony at the Municipal hall Sialkot followed inauguration of Haji Pura road named as Bolingbrook street and Lunch hosted by Hon. Toheed Akhtar Mayor of Sialkot. He also presented valuable presents to all delegates. The entire Haji Pura road was decorated with big pictures of Mayor Claar and all the delegates, There were over 100 pictures overall, Mayor Claar said he has no words to thank Mayor Toheed for his outstanding reception for me and my delegates. High Tea was hosted by the Sialkot Chamber present Mr. Khawaja Masood who also presented foot balls to every member from his company Forward sports manufacturer of FIFA World cup footballs 2018 besides other presents. Ch Umar Nawaz a journalist (Novai – Waqat) and World columnnist and Zaman sports presented personalized Foot balls to each delegate which were appreciated by all. Visit of Malik sports maker of famous Cricket Bats and Hockey sticks presented bats and souvenirs to each delegate.
Over all trip was one of the best trip I have had, said Mayor Claar. I loved it so much that I may go back to Pakistan again and visit Northern areas where the beauty of this country depicts. He again said the media should portray a positive image of Pakistan in their programs and news. Pakistan is as safe as any other country since I have seen it myself. Mayor extended invitation to both Mayor of Lahore and Sialkot the presidents of both Lahore and Sialkot chambers include the Chairman of Trade and investment department to visit Bolingbrook along with delegation which was accepted by all.
The US India Chamber of Commerce, Midwest organized its “2018 Annual Gala Dinner” on December 07, 2018 at Ashyana Banquets, Downers Grove, Illinois. The theme of the event was “The New India—Recent Economic Reforms and Fresh Strides in US India Relations”.

The event was graced by Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India, Ms. Nicki Anderson, President/CEO, Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Amit Jhingran, CEO, State Bank of India, Chicago, Commissioner Frank Avila, Commissioner, MWRD. The event was also attended by 114 guest leaders, business leaders, professionals, students and many others and included a vote of thanks to Alex Perumala and Emmanuel Kummari for their hard work behind the stage.

And Christmas greetings given earlier from Illinois State Senator Tom Villivalam. Later in the program Mrs. Raees Yawer (Commissioner of Streamwood Park District) also gave the Christmas greetings. From FIA Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, MEATF group, Mr. Ajeyth Singh, MEATF group Rani Y, Shree Goswami, and Dr. Sonty were present long after the association supper with singing by the adolescent gathering presented late into the night which included tunes and dances.

In his address Dr. Ajit Pant gave a brief description of the activities of the Chamber and explained the “Future Vision of the Chamber”. He also discussed the chosen theme and mentioned that the recent far reaching economic changes made in India as well as the latest progress in US India relations needed to be discussed so as to create positive awareness among the Indo American Community. Consul General of India Ms Neeta Bhushan spoke on the topic Transforming India. She mentioned that over the last 4 and a half years the Government of Prime Minister Modi had accelerated the reform process, bringing forward the changes which had resulted in world class infrastructure, introduction of bullet trains, upgradation of urban as well as rural connectivity, ports, airports etc.

The US India Chamber of Commerce, Midwest organized its “2018 Annual Gala Dinner” on December 07, 2018 at Ashyana Banquets, Downers Grove, Illinois. The theme of the event was “The New India—Recent Economic Reforms and Fresh Strides in US India Relations”.

The event was graced by Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India, Ms. Nicki Anderson, President/CEO, Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Amit Jhingran, CEO, State Bank of India, Chicago, Commissioner Frank Avila, Commissioner, MWRD. The event was also attended by 114 guest leaders, business leaders, professionals, students and many others and included a vote of thanks to Alex Perumala and Emmanuel Kummari for their hard work behind the stage.

And Christmas greetings given earlier from Illinois State Senator Tom Villivalam. Later in the program Mrs. Raees Yawer (Commissioner of Streamwood Park District) also gave the Christmas greetings. From FIA Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, MEATF group, Mr. Ajeyth Singh, MEATF group Rani Y, Shree Goswami, and Dr. Sonty were present long after the association supper with singing by the adolescent gathering presented late into the night which included tunes and dances.

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Zardari, accomplices ‘grabbed’ state entities: JIT report

ISLAMABAD: The joint investigation team (JIT) report on fake bank accounts has revealed that former president Asif Ali Zardari and his accomplices “grabbed” state-run entities in Sindh through corruption tactics.

According to the report submitted to the Supreme Court, the Omni Group (allegedly owned by Mr Zardari and his close aides) acquired four state-run entities — Thatta Cement Factory, Thatta Sugar Mills, Naujodro Sugar Mills and Dadu Sugar Mills — in Sindh at throwaway prices.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Accountability Shahzad Akbar said that first the Sindh government intentionally turned these entities into sick units by suspending funds/subsidies and then closed them down. These entities were later purchased by companies owned by the Omni Group, he added.

According to the JIT report, Thatta Cement was purchased by the Omni Group for Rs135 million and the amount was paid through fake bank accounts. Naujodro Sugar Mills was acquired by the group in 2001 for Rs66.8m. However, the JIT report said the market value of the entity at that time was Rs142.89m.

Similarly, Thatta Sugar Mills was sold to the Omni Group for Rs127.5m in 2013, while its then market value was said to be Rs176.11m. Dadu Sugar Mills was also a property of the Sindh government and it was acquired by the same group in 2008 at Rs90m against its original price of Rs626.70m.

Minister says first these units were declared sick and then sold to Omni Group at throwaway prices.

When contacted, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the modus operandi of the Omni Group was so novel that they first declared the state-run entities sick and then purchased them at throwaway prices. The group later ate up the subsidies given in the name of revival of sick units, he added.

“The group not only grabbed state entities, it also swallowed the subsidies given to these entities for poor farmers and labourers.”

The information minister said the role of incumbent Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah (being former provincial finance minister) was quite significant in “shady deals” about sale/purchase and subsidies given to the four state-run entities.

According to the JIT report, the Omni Group after purchasing the four entities also gulped Rs7.19 billion subsidies given by the Sindh government. It said that a subsidy of Rs3.8bn had been given in the name of subsidised loans for the revival of sick industrial units. Of this, Rs3.72bn (97 per cent) went to the Omni Group.

Similarly, a subsidy of Rs2.31bn was given in the name of new captive power plants, of which Rs1.58bn (68pc) was obtained by the group. A sum of Rs3.98bn was released for cane growers and the group got Rs0.84bn (22pc).

Similarly, an amount of Rs1.99bn was released under annual subsidised tractor schemes and Rs1.05bn (51pc) was obtained by the Omni Group.

Fraud financial techniques

According to the JIT, the Omni Group also used techniques of financial frauds and obtained bank loans amounting to Rs53.53bn. “The investigation has clearly indentified the modus operandi of financial fraud coupled with influence over the banks in obtaining astounding loans against ‘inferior collaterals’, it said.

The report said the group hired a single evaluator to increase the value of its inferior collaterals as the value of Naujodro Sugar Mills in 2009 was Rs90m and in the same year it was valued at Rs1.56bn, while in 2006 its value was assessed as Rs4.13bn which was 46 times higher in six years. The group obtained a bank loan of Rs3.8bn by increasing the value of the mill.

Similarly, the actual worth of Tando Allah Yar Sugar Mills was Rs40m in 2011, but it was shown as Rs400m in 2012 and Rs1.1bn in 2017 which is 28 times higher in six years. The Omni Group obtained a bank loan of Rs2.5 billion against this mill.

Two plots — A1-50 HITE Hub and 87/96-C Model Town, Lahore — were taken at Rs198m and Rs193m, respectively, and they were pledged with the banks with their enhanced values of Rs1.8m and Rs300m, respectively.

The JIT has recommended sending the case to the National Accountability Bureau and freezing all assets (worth less than Rs53.53bn) of the Omni Group and its directors.

Published in Dawn, December 26th, 2018

Sri Lankan president doubts he can work with reappointed PM

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president accused newly reappointed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of corrupt leadership in a scathing speech Sunday in which he voiced doubts about their ability to work together and signaled the end of the impasse, but Sirisena's 마음 not permitted. It initially indicated an end to the impasse, but Sirisena’s speech is a sign of more acrimony, possibly leading to early parliamentary elections.

A new Cabinet is expected to be sworn in soon. Wickremesinghe spoke separately at his official residence and refinanced from responding to Sirisena. “Now I will assume duties of the office of prime minister,” Wickremesinghe told his cheering supporters.

“Unfortunately, during the past few weeks, the progress of this country and the development programs that we undertook were stalled,” he said. “Not only that, the country went backward. Today we commit accurately.

We all need a normal life, we need our freedom of movement and Supreme Court did their duties without the law, “ Wickremesinghe said.

When his opponents went to court, the Court of Appeal suspended Rajapaksa and his Cabinet from functioning in their offices. Rajapaksa asked the Supreme Court to lift the suspension, but it refused and extended the suspension until mid-January, forcing Rajapaksa to resign on Saturday.

The suspension had left Sri Lanka without a government and in danger of being unable to spend government money from Jan. 1. It is also committed to repay $1 billion in foreign debts in January.

“We can be proud of the way our Parliament and Supreme Court did their duties according to the law,” Wickremesinghe said Sunday, adding that the Supreme Court had strengthened the freedom of the citizens by interpreting the law accurately.

Sirisena was health minister in Rajapaksa’s Cabinet when he defected to join Wickremesinghe and challenge Rajapaksa in the 2015 presidential election. After winning the election, he formed a government with Wickremesinghe as prime minister, but the two leaders started to have differences over economic policy and the investigations of alleged wartime abuses.

“We need our progress and it is to this that we are committed,” he said.

Published in Dawn, December 26th, 2018
Residents Increasingly Fleeing New York, Los Angeles and Chicago

Even migration is bigger in Texas. Dallas leads all U.S. cities as the largest net gainer with 246 people arriving daily, according to a Bloomberg analysis of 2017 Census data on migration to the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas. In 2014, the crown belonged to Houston with 269 migrants per day.

After Dallas, Sun Belt beacons Phoenix, Tampa, Atlanta and Orlando round out the top five. Seattle, at number six with a gain of 116 people daily, is the only cold-weather destination in the top 10. The daily influx surpassed 100 people in nine cities, while Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles saw an exodus of more than 100 people every day.

The migration trend has two channels – international and domestic. The international portion is the difference between those moving from outside the U.S. and those leaving the country. The second part of the equation, net domestic migration counts those who move in from another part of the country and subtracts those who leave for other U.S. areas.

Voting with Their Feet
Relocations can lead to large skill and investment transfers.

People who choose to relocate to other parts of the country are taking their talents with them. States and local governments make a large investment in educating people and many people further this by investing in a college education, so when one moves, a large investment transfer is occurring.

Dallas was the greatest beneficiary of this domestic migration, adding nearly 59,000 domestic movers in 2017, followed by Phoenix (51,000) and Tampa (41,000), which serve as anchors for the western and southern regions that got the bulk of the gains.

On the flip side, more than 208,000 residents left the New York City metropolitan area last year. This was nearly twice as many as the second biggest loser, Los Angeles, which had a decline of nearly 110,000. Chicago fell by 85,000. Honolulu, San Jose, New York and Bridgeport, CT lost the highest shares of their residents to other parts of the country.

In Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, the three areas with a triple-digit daily exodus, people are fleeing at a greater rate than just a few years earlier. Soaring home prices and high local taxes are pushing local residents out and scaring off potential movers from other parts of the country.

Growing Exodus
Three years ago, Chicago was the only metro area losing more than 100 per day in net migration; Now there are three, and at a precipitous rate of exodus

Boise, ID and Charleston, SC reported more than 10 times as many domestic net movers as international arrivals in their metro areas. In 2017, Boise gained 41 people per day and Charleston 28.

Data on migration flows are essential for understanding localized growth for everything from employment, real estate trends, retail development to government infrastructure and environmental shocks.

International Migration

Miami, San Jose, Orlando and New York gained the largest share of population from abroad. Boston and Washington tied for the fifth spot. Aside from Orlando, all of these cities lost residents to other parts of the country.

Among the 100 most populous metro areas, 28 shrunk in total net migration, all due to negative domestic migration. Of the 71 areas posting a net gain, 18 lost residents to other parts of the country and could attribute their gains solely to international migration. New Orleans was the only area where the influx and exodus was a wash.

Seven metro areas have been successful in turning the tide on migration flows in recent years. In 2014, Albuquerque, NM; Dayton, OH; Philadelphia, Provo, UT; Salt Lake City, Scranton, PA; and Springfield, MA were all seeing a daily loss due to migration. But these all reported net positives in 2017.

"New Mexico’s strong business climate for manufacturers makes for a very compelling value proposition. With a competitive total cost of operations, we can compete with foreign-made product right,” said T. C. Huang, Chairman & CEO of I-Sheng Electric Wire & Cable and majority shareholder of Admiral Cable, which recently announced plans to build a new manufacturing plant in New Mexico.

These sentiments were echoed in emailed comments from Mark Moores, a New Mexico state senator in Albuquerque – “Now that we have a more competitive business climate to go with our amazing natural climate, people are rediscovering us.”

By Alexandre Tanzi and Wei Lu, Bloomberg
During his time as a renowned professor and researcher in academia, Dr. Mohammed T. AliNiazee recognized the increasing tuition rates, increasing student loans and debts, and increasing time periods required for acquiring a college degree. Confronting this imbalance, NWSC is here to make a difference by offering more student guidance, smaller classes, and three full terms per year (rather than two). A culmination of his longtime dream of establishing a world class center of education founded on the principles of service, compassion, and quality, Professor AliNiazee and the NWSC team are dedicated to building a private, non-profit school of higher education that provides affordable and quality education dedicated to science, medicine, and the humanities.

A cultural hub with numerous advanced centers for healthcare and medicine, Chicago was selected as the city to establish NWSC. In 2008, President AliNiazee acquired the property in Rolling Meadows, IL that is now NWSC. After establishing the Corporate Board and the Board of Regents, M.A.Q. Khan (late), a retired professor of biology for the University of Illinois at Chicago joined NWSC as the Chairman of the Board of Regents, and was appointed as the college’s Vice President. Dr. Khan was instrumental in this formative period at NWSC. Additional faculty and staff were hired by Dr. AliNiazee as the school started to grow. Since its founding in 2008, NWSC has made great progress and continues to diligently work toward providing the very best educational environment. Currently, NWSC is an accredited institution offering accelerated degree seeking and healthcare certification programs. Since NWSC's first two students in 2009, nearly 500 students have graduated over the past six years. Recent highlights of NWSC’s journey include attaining Title IV funding approval in May 2016 and initial institutional accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) in August 2014. If past performance is any indicator, NWSC has a bright future ahead.

NWSC believes that nothing should hinder the pursuit of education, so we strive to provide an affordable education for our students. Our low tuition rates, combined with our quality, direct instruction and caring community, offers more for less.

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Harry’s Relationship With William Is Changing Amid Kensington Palace Split

News that Prince Harry will leave Kensington Palace with Meghan Markle in the new year, and move to Frogmore Cottage in Windsor, has shocked fans of the royal family. Prince Harry and Prince William’s relationship has apparently been undergoing some changes, especially since Harry got married earlier this year.

According to a new report in People, Prince Harry has allegedly been “really grumpy,” and “no one can quite put their finger on” why.

Following the news that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will no longer be neighbors with Prince William and Kate Middleton, reports of a royal rift have pervaded. And now, according to People, via a royal source, Prince Harry is working hard to define his new role within the royal family.

The real reason Meghan and Harry have chosen to move to Frogmore Cottage in 2019 is to give their baby space to grow up out of the spotlight. But as Harry and William have always been so close, royal fans are wondering how the move will impact upon their relationship.

According to People, via a royal source, “Harry doesn’t have his own structure like William, whose role [as the future King] is clear-cut and defined. Harry’s isn’t.” This, the “palace insider” claims, is the key to Harry’s apparent discontent. The prince needs some direction in his life, and to carve out a separate path, away from his brother who will one day rule.

If you have any tips, you can leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636. Tipsters can also e-mail tips at http://www.modesto-police.com/CrimeStoppers.

Newman, CA Police Officer Ronil Singh Shot and Killed- Unidentified Suspect Caught on Surveillance Video

Newman Police Officer Ronil Singh (33) was shot and killed during a traffic stop just before 1:00 AM on 12/26/18. At 12:57 AM, Officer Singh called off on a traffic stop at Merced Street and Eucalyptus Avenue in Newman. A few moments later he called out “shots fired” over the radio. Multiple agencies responded to assist and Singh was found at the scene with gunshot wounds. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

The suspect had fled the scene in his vehicle prior to assisting officer’s arrival. A gray, extended cab Dodge Ram pickup was seen in the area at the time of the shooting. The Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Department will be leading the investigation. Detectives have photographs of the suspect and suspect vehicle and are asking anyone with information regarding the identity of the suspect to contact Detective Michael Fisher at 209-525-7083 or dispatch at 209-552-2468.

Officer Singh was a native of Fiji and has been employed by Newman Police Department since July 2011. “Our Newman Police family is devastated by the loss of Ronil,” said Newman Police Chief Randy Richardson. “If anyone has any information regarding the identity of the suspect, please contact law enforcement immediately so we can get this cop-killer off the streets.”

This investigation is ongoing and more information will be released as it becomes available.
The Gandhi clan is back. Following a period in the doldrums under the bombastic rule of their arch-rival, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a series of intriguing victories in state elections has put India’s first family back in the political spotlight.

Shock wins by Rahul Gandhi’s Congress Party in state elections this week germinated what many thought impossible just a few weeks ago - a palpable threat to Mr Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in next year’s general elections.

Long seen as an ineffectual leader and, by some, as a hopeless cause for the centre-Left’s return to power, Mr Gandhi has surprised his critics with a shock turn-around. “The two most powerful warriors are patience and time,” the youthful looking 48-year-old said, quoting Leo Tolstoy.

The Gandhi dynasty boasts three prime ministers, starting with independent India’s first, Jawaharlal Nehru, and later his daughter, Indira Gandhi. However, Nehru’s great-grandson Rahul has often been called out for lacking the gravitas, charisma or brinkmanship of his ancestors - all but ruling him out from governing the world’s second most populous country. But after years of being seen as a reluctant, lightweight spouting immature and petulant jibes at his rivals, he has forged a talent for riling his opponents, especially Mr Modi.

In the past year Mr Gandhi has gone on the offensive, making trips to several provinces to woo the vote from a wide strata of Indian society; from farmers and village chiefs, to CEOs and foreign policy thinktanks.

Last week’s unexpected victories, albeit close ones, in the state assembly polls of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were won in the religious, linguistic and demographic powerbase of the BJP.

Mr Gandhi attributed his party’s triumphs to “farmers, party workers, shopkeepers and small businessmen” - the BJP’s bread-and-butter vote.

The Congress party - whose high command also includes Sonia Gandhi, mother of Rahul and widow of the assassinated prime minister Rajiv Gandhi - is now a credible threat and is gearing up for two more state elections early next year, in the north-east states of Sikkhim and Arunachal Pradesh.

The votes next year, culminating in a national poll for India’s top job are now being framed as a “gladiatorial contest between PM Modi and Rahul Gandhi” by influential newspaper editorials. The Gandhis will now be re-energised in attempts to form an alliance with various regional parties, who could hold the key to unseating Mr Modi in the election, which must be held before May 2019.

Since the shock defeats last week, Mr Modi has been working on sweetners to buy off voters in an increasing sign of panic over his rising rival. After conceding that he would “respect the mandate of the people” he is said to be working on ways to waive big loans taken by farmers and possible minimum prices for crops to appease the rural vote.

Mr Modi’s blend of Hindu nationalism, technological focus, diplomatic dealings, and a strong - if slightly dubious - backstory of rising from lowly tea seller to the land’s highest office chimed with the masses four years ago, winning him a landslide election.

But it seems many of the 900 million-strong electorate may be focused on matters other than temples and tweets, such as the plunging rupee, agricultural loans and education.

Mr Gandhi’s direction for India would be markedly different in that his party’s ideology is strictly secular and is traditionally the choice of a broad mix of the urban middle class and liberals.

“PM Modi was handed a huge opportunity. It is a sad thing that he refused to listen to the heartbeat of the country. The arrogance came in,” said Mr Gandhi.

New MP CM Kamal Nath waives off farm loans of upto Rs 2 lakh

That was quick! New MP CM Kamal Nath waives off farm loans of upto Rs 2 lakh

The loan waiver was one of the most prominent promises Nath had made while campaigning for the assembly election.

The first act, and a pretty quick one at that, of the newly sworn-in chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath, after assuming office on Monday afternoon was to sign the farm loan waiver file.

The signature, hereby, means that loans up to Rs 2 lakh will now be waived off.

From what we guess, the waiver came almost two hours after the swearing-in.

The loan waiver was one of the most prominent promises Nath had made while campaigning for the assembly election.

Kamal Nath was announced as the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister-designate on Thursday night, after which, in his first interview, he said loan waiver is the first thing he’d look into.

Speaking with India Today TV’s Rajdeep Sardesai, Kamal Nath said, “As promised, farm loans will be waived within 10 days of government formation.” Asked if this was a ‘jumla’, Nath again assured that it would be delivered within time.

He added, “We will have to work out the budget, source funds for the waiver, but it will be done.”

In its manifesto, the ‘Vachan Patra’, the Congress party had promised to waive off farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh.

The promise of farm loan waive has earned the Congress rich dividends in Madhya Pradesh thus bringing the party back in power here after a gap of 15 years.

After Rahul Gandhi’s loan waiver promise during the campaigning for the November 28 polls, cultivators in the state stopped selling their paddy produce and stocked them to reap the benefits of the promised loan write-off, a farmer leader had told PTI.

This was done to avoid paying loan installments to banks as sale proceeds would have been directly deposited in their accounts, he said.

And the gambit seems to have worked well.
Mueller's rush to sentence Trump associates - an unusual way to treat cooperating witnesses - suggests Russia investigation is ending

Amid the whirlwind of hearings, guilty pleas and sentencing memos that has been Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe in the last few weeks, an unusual pattern has emerged.

One of Mueller's biggest successes as his team investigate 2016 election meddling and possible collusion between Moscow and Donald Trump's campaign team, has been his ability to get former associates of the president to "flip" and cooperate with him.

Among the more high-profile are Trump's former lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen, former White House national security advisor Michael Flynn, and former campaign foreign policy advisor George Papadopoulos. They have all pleaded guilty to charges in some form and pledged to work with Mueller.

But the curious thing comes with the speed at which Mueller's team has rushed to sentencing. Papadopoulos has already been released from a two-week jail term and Cohen was handed just over three years for a number of finance charges - and leaving for Congress - earlier this week. Flynn will be sentenced for lying to federal investigators in the next few days.

A prosecutor would normally leave those cooperating to last to sentencing, leaving the door open for possible testimony in court before any punishment is finalised. Indeed, Mueller has praised Flynn for his "valuable" help and Cohen as well. Meanwhile Cohen's legal team have said more of what he knows about the president could come after Mueller's report is finished.

"There will come a time after Mr Mueller is done with his work that Michael Cohen will be sitting in front of a microphone before a congressional committee and what he has to say about the truth will be judged by the members of Congress listening," spokesman Lanny Davis has said. Trump has denied wrongdoing in any of the investigations currently being undertaken.

And it is not like Mueller cannot walk the traditional route. He has in one case: Rick Gates. Gates pleaded guilty to financial crimes as part of lobbying work in Ukraine with former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. Gates, who worked under Manafort during the Trump campaign, testified at trial against his former boss and is still awaiting sentencing. Mueller's team has until 15 January to tell a judge if they are ready to move forward with that.

One explanation for the unusual moves is that "the accounts of those cooperating witnesses will appear in a written report, not in court" according to Robert Ray, a former independent counsel on the Whitewater investigation into real estate dealings of Bill and Hillary Clinton.

That would mean that Mueller's report is nearly done and Ray told The Washington Post he expects Mueller to deliver a report on his findings in the first three months of 2019.

Whatever those individuals have done for the special counsel investigation, there [appears] no further use for them," Ray said. "If there were any contemplation of using them at trial, you would sentence them later. And the only conclusion I can draw from all that is that we are nearing the end."

Mueller's treatment of Manafort points to that as well. Manafort was convicted of eight financial crimes in Virginia in August at the trial where Gates testified. Jurors could not reach a decision on 10 other charges. Manafort then reached a deal with Mueller's team in September to avoid a second trial in Washington DC, offering cooperation for the dismissal of the 10 charges and a guilty plea on others.

But, in another highly unusual move, Mueller's team blew apart that plea deal in late November, accusing Manafort of lying to investigators.

A breach [in the plea agreement] relieves the government of any obligations it has under the agreement, including its agreement to a reduction in the sentencing guidelines for acceptance of responsibility, but leaves intact all the obligations of the defendant as well as his guilty pleas," prosecutors said in court documents. Manafort has denied being untruthful.

To make such a move, Mueller is likely sure he has whatever Manafort brought to the table as part of the Russia investigation corroborated by other sources, or several statements from others that contradict what Manafort has said. To jettison someone who was in Trump's close circle suggests that Mueller may have his case laid out already.

"This was never going to be the Paul Manafort show," Patrick Cotter, a former assistant US attorney in the Eastern District of New York now in private practice in Chicago told USA Today. "He was going to be part of a mosaic, and his piece didn't fit because he's a liar. The rest of the mosaic is still there."

Also this week, Mueller's team hit back at suggestions from Flynn's lawyers that Trump's first national security advisor was not told lying to the FBI was a crime during an interview in January 2017. Mueller has suggested possibly as little as no jail time for Flynn thanks to his extensive cooperation with the Russia probe, but the criticism is a message - don't lie to me.

If Mueller is wrapping up soon, the cases of Flynn, Manafort and Cohen are laid out in a way that will be clear to any more people who wish to cooperate. You can either cooperate fully, like Flynn, and get little to no jail time. You can cooperate slightly less than fully, like Cohen did with New York prosecutors, and get a few years. Or you can not cooperate, like Manafort and face a decade or more in prison.

The choice is out there, but it looks like it won't be there much longer.
The history of Mercedes Cars begins in Simplex 1901 by Daimler-Motoren Gesellschaft (Daimler Motor Corporation) to present day Mercedes-Benz S class. Mercedes-Benz traces its origin to Benz's 's creation of the first petrol car. The name of Mercedes over the time has got associated with status of persons who own them from diplomats to royalty, from business tycoons to rich and famous. In India too, it remains a tag of rich and famous. Well over a century it has built its reputation for safety, comfort and luxury. The modest section of the society too factor hiring of a Mercedes for the bridegrooms. Even the preowned cars find ways to reach many African countries and one would be surprised to see the population of Mercs in a place like Lagos.

It was late seventies, all developing countries including India were being exploited by Industries of developed nations to set up turnkey engineering projects. A turnkey project would involve etire gamut from Technology, supply of machinery, training and in some cases, also buy back. India being large and populous had plenty as share of market to offer. However, my company established in 1953 with the famous Oerlikon of Switzerland, had grown leaps and bound and was in a position to offer turnkey projects just as it had received from various technology companies. The Company had set up a subsidiary to export technology and products during 1974. With inhouse efforts and assistance from Indian missions abroad, HMT took several steps and soon it was able to export to many countries and had its own offices in Europe, Australia, US and Africa. The Company made forays through participating in global tenders. The then continuously deprecating Indian Rupee against major currencies made it competitive and, the company soon landed with an order to export to many countries.

The Project of Meters was very complex in terms of logistics as the machines, toolings and other material had to be consolidated at Marseilles, France in batches and shipped to India.

The Project of Water Meters, Gas Meters, and Electricity Meters in collaboration with Singer (USA), Aqua Metro (Swiss) and Landis Gyr (Swiss). The recommended machines were to be sourced from India, Europe, Japan, and USA.

HMT was required to train 70 Algerian engineers in India, depute over 100 Indian technicians to Setif to set up the factory. A senior lead GM, from India was stationed at Setif to coordinate the efforts to the satisfaction of clients. The project was successfully completed and was handed over by then Industry Minister Jate Mr.ND Tiwari.

I was posted as Export Manager for North Africa towards the end of implementation of the Project to spearhead export efforts with my base as Algiers. In India the seventies and eighties were the golden years for the public sector companies and HMT headquartered at Bangalore, was amongst the top PSUs. The CMD of the company enjoyed very special position amongst the PSU chiefs. The company management buoyed with the status of the company felt that the CMD of HMT must have a Mercedes car in keeping with status as a chief of the company. However, then prevailing customs rules did not permit, to import a Mercedes car for official purposes, India's official car those days was good old Ambassador which had its own charm, and perhaps the longest product life. Perhaps next only to VW Beetle. However the company came up with a solution to beat the system and avail concessional customs duty, from around three hundred fifty percent of CIF value to manageable limits. This was possible by availing concessional duty by "using the car" at the project site for six months and then importing as equipment to be brought back after the completion of project. Therefore, the company decided to import one Mercedes 200D, a lower end vehicle. Keep it in Setif and repatriate to India after six months without using it at Project site. An order was placed on German Carmaker and in few weeks a right hand driven car to comply with the Indian conditions arrived at Algiers and was towed with great care to a rented covered car parking slot at Setif. By this time the practical work at the project site was completed and people had left for India. I was stationed at Algiers 350 kms away and was made responsible for safe keeping the car at Setif for six months and then to ship it out to India.

The Project of Meters was very complex in terms of logistics as the machines, toolings and other material had to be consolidated at Marseilles, France in batches and shipped to India. Those days, consolidation of cargo, use of Containers in shipping was at its infancy and was Greek and Latin to Indian companies. To overcome the issues, we had hired a Shipping Co Kuehne & Nagel based in Swiss. The banking was centralised at SBI, Frankfurt since multi currencies were involved in both imports and exports. The Indian Rupee was continuously deprecating giving us huge profits and those days we made a net profit of about USD 4 millions. Timely communication between India and project site also was a complex issue and the project personnel use to chat on Telex machines and waiting time for trunk calls used to be for at least two days!!! The Merc was sitting pretty for me to ship out to India for the use of our CMD.

During 1983 after mandatory six months, I was asked to containerise and ship it out to India, from Algiers via Marseilles. As special instructions, my personal involvement in safe despatch was advised by the Boss. As I was located at Algiers. I felt that its enough to despatch my driver to Setif who can drive carefully and bring the car to my house at Algiers. Unfortunately, while he was driving back he met with a minor accident and the front right side was damaged. When I received the car, my heart sank since I did not go to Setif and accompanied the vehicle. I was upset, and felt totally guilty of not following the advise of the Hq. It was just not possible to repair in Algiers as there was no Mercedes show room. My friendly contact in Europe was only with Othmar Gautchi, Manager of Logistics from Kuehne and Nagel, Geneva, who was associated with Meter Project. I spoke to him and shared my helplessness. I requested him to get the car repaired completely at Marseilles and ship it out to India on priority, I further requested him that entire cost of repair would be met by me from my personal funds. Ever dependable, Gautchi, offered to travel and do the needful. At this point, at my insistence that I will bear the cost, he made a statement which rings in my ear even today "You people from East and from India are so different culturally and own the cost of such an accident". He did exactly as was requested, and the Merc was delivered from India and joined the fleet of company cars and occupied the star position.

I returned to India during 1987 and was at the headquarters, and by 1994, I was heading International operations and whenever I use to see the White Merc of CMD, I use to feel strange as if it is communicating to me something. I progressed in career ladder and was interviewed for the position of CMD. To my pleasant surprise, I received a mail from the Ministry appointing me as CMD on a day in July 2002, and for a couple hours, I had to do the reporting formalities and shift to CMD's office. The day was long receiving good wishes and from colleagues dropping by to wish me. Finally I decided to leave the Office by about 7pm, to get back home to share the joy with family. When I reached the portico, there was no Ambassador car, but the white Merc with which I had a secret relation of looking after was waiting for me with its driver and perhaps lovingly whispering in my ears "I have been waiting for you for the last twenty years to be with you".

The 'love' being escorted with me and my wife to the Independence day celebrations at the township I used the car for nearly five years and always felt it as a companion for comfort and status in our corporate world. Incidentally, HMT was the only Government of India Company which had Merc as official vehicle of its Chief.
Living alone in our older years can be a challenge and a risk. There’s no one in the house to call paramedics if you get hurt, and you might not be aware of the dinner table for conversation or companionship. Isolation can lead to a decline in thinking skills and to an increased risk for depression. While there are many tools to help you re-duce the risks of living alone, implementing them may be easier said than done.

"The misconception is that any acceptance of help is somehow the beginning of a slippery slope into dependence and losing control of your life," says Barbara Moscowitz, a geriatric social worker at Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital. "We need to reframe what will help us remain independent and accept the tools to help us. Make a choice to enhance your ability to live alone. See assets and positives, not signs of weakness."

**Safety first**

One of the most important tools when living alone is a safety alert button, a wa-terminally tugging on, and eventually creasing, wrinkles are due to sun damage, smoking, and excessively thin epithelium. Eyebrows are called expression, or animation, as they shift upward and shift downward, so features that were set here and there that plump up the forehead, as hairlines retreat. Dozens of changes take place as the years add life. How the face ages comes with getting older, there are changes that occur in our outward appearance. Changes in our faces are most at the forefront.

**How the face ages**

Although most of these rejuvenating procedures are nonsurgical, they’re not inexpensive especially when you factor in the need for repeat treatments. Here is just a sample of some of the things that you can do — or get done — to give your face a more youthful appearance:

- **Sun Protection.** Protect your face from the sun is the single best way of keeping it youthful. Much of the damage comes from the UVA part of the light spectrum, so you need to put on sunscreen that protects against it and UVB light, which causes sunburn. Wearing a wide-brimmed hat is also a good idea. Creams and lotions. Moisturizers soothe dry skin and may temporarily make wrinkles less noticeable. Moisturizers for the face contain water to make them less greasy, and many have substances — glycerin, for example — that can help bind water to the skin. Exfoliant creams can improve the appearance of older skin by getting rid of dead skin cells that don’t slough off as readily as they did when we were young. Several prescription creams (Avita, Avage, Renova, Retin-A) have been shown to reduce wrinkles and so-called liver spots caused by sun exposure. These FDA-approved creams contain retinoids, compounds related to vita-min A that seem to work by inducing collagen production in the dermis and altering melanin, the pigment that causes liver spots. There are several varieties of retinoids. Tazarotene and tretinoin are the ones used in the FDA-approved products.

Botulinum toxin injections. These injections are used to treat the expression lines of the forehead and between the brows. They work by partially immobilizing the muscles that form expression lines so the skin smoothens out, although some deep expression lines may not go away. Botox is the familiar brand name. Other FDA-approved botulinum toxins are Myobloc and Dysport.

Dermal fillers. Dermal fillers are used to treat lines created by lost collagen and fat. After botulinum toxin injections, dermal filler injections are the most common cosmetic procedure performed in the United States. Prime locations for the injections are two sets of parentheses: the pair of lines that extend down from the nose to the corners of the mouth, known as the nasolabial folds, and another pair that extends down from the corners of the mouth to the chin, known as marionette lines.

Many different materials are used as dermal filler. Collagen has fallen out of favor. Currently, the most popular one is hyaluronic acid, a complex sugar found naturally in many tissues. Hyaluronic acid is more expensive than collagen, but lasts longer — up to six months in the nasolabial folds. Like botulinum toxin injections, the effect of the dermal filler shots wears off after several months — how long depends on the injection site — but with repeat injections it seems to last a little longer.

Laser treatments. Lasers can be used to home on certain pigments: brown, if the goal is to get rid of freckles and liver spots, red if the target is broken capillaries. They’re also used for wholesale resurfacing of facial skin. The uppermost layers are stripped away, and with them, wrinkles from sun damage and scars from acne. The energy from some “nonabla-tive” resurfacing lasers passes through the outer layer of the skin to work at a deeper level, in the dermis, to stimulate inflammation, which leads to collagen formation. Skin needs time to recover after most laser treatments. It can take a couple of weeks to heal, depending on the type and depth of the treatment. These nonabla-tive treatments tend to heal at a faster rate.
IS YOUR AIRBAG DEFECTIVE?

Nearly 70 million Takata airbag inflators, in approximately 42 million vehicles, are or will be under recall in the United States by 2020. Even a minor fender bender can cause these airbag inflators to rupture, spraying metal shrapnel into drivers and passengers.

DON’T RISK INJURY OR DEATH, CHECK YOUR VEHICLE TODAY.

Here’s How:

Find it  |  Write down your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) or take a photograph of your license plate.

• Look for your VIN on the driver-side dashboard by the windshield or on your insurance card.

Search it  |  Visit AirbagRecall.com to upload a photo of your license plate or to look up your 17-digit VIN.

Then follow the on-screen instructions to prove you are not a robot.

Fix it  |  If you see text that reads recall incomplete...

YOUR AIRBAG INFLATOR WILL BE REPLACED FOR FREE.

Schedule an appointment at your automaker’s local dealership as soon as possible.

If you see text that reads remedy not available, call a dealer anyway. Make sure your contact information is up to date so they can notify you as soon as parts are available for your repair.

AIRBAGRECALL.COM
Your vehicle MAY be involved in a safety recall and MAY create a safety risk for you or your passengers. If left unrepaired, a potential safety defect could lead to injury or even death. Safety defects must be repaired by a dealer at no cost to you.
NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V837
Manufacturer : Daimler Vans USA, LLC
Subject : Fuel Hose may Leak in Engine Compartment
Make Model Model Years
MERCEDES BENZ METRIS 2016-2017

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V840
Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
Subject : Loss of Electric Power Steering Assist
Make Model Model Years
MERCEDES BENZ GLC300 2019

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V841
Manufacturer : Porsche Cars North America, Inc.
Subject : Brake Line Corrosion may Affect Brake Performance
Make Model Model Years
PORSCHE PANAMERA 2018

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V842
Manufacturer : Champion Bus, Inc.
Subject : Observation Glass can Shatter from Road Debris
Make Model Model Years
FEDERAL COACH SPIRIT 2016-2017

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HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

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Rangeela Raja

Despite receiving some fair reviews coming its way, which was a first for a Govinda starrer in almost decade, the film failed big time due to various reasons, one was said to be the limited release factor. Anyway, the good news for all the fans of Govinda was that the film looked to be based in today's time and had better production value than most of his recent solo starrers.

Fans of Govinda had a sigh of relief that finally, things were starting to look good for their favourite star after all FryDay had the vintage Govinda we all have been missing in recent times. But their happiness was shortlived. Because yesterday the trailer of his next titled Rangeela Raja released.

The trailer starts off with a montage of his older hits and classics like Ilzaam, Shola Aur Shabnam and the blockbuster that was Aankhen. And what followed after the 13-second montage was a 2-minute and 5 seconds of major cringe

A film that looks straight out of the late 80s or early 90s, Rangeela Raja looks stale, shoddy and cringeworthy to say the least. The production value looks straight out of a b-grade sex comedy. Govinda in a dual role of a saint and sinner is a misfit. And I can't wrap my head around the idiotic parody of 54-year-old Govinda and 20-year-old Digangana Suryavanshi. She was miscast in FryDay and she is miscast here.

There are multiple shots in the film that look sexist and it breaks my heart as a fan to see Govinda do all that on-screen. I am not sure what he is trying to achieve by doing films like Rangeela Raja, Aa Gaya Hero and the likes. It looks to me that Govinda is hell-bent on ruining his legacy and goodwill and trying to erase the memories of the older 90s classics he's been a part of. I am sure this is embarrassing for even his die-hard fans.

Fraud Saiyaan Review

Prakash Jha and PLAY Entertainment in association with Drama King Entertainment Present 'Fraud Saiyaan', Produced by Prakash Jha and PLAY Entertainment, Co-Produced by Milind Dabhe, Disha Jha and Kanishk Gangwal.

Directed by Sourabh Shrivastava, the film stars Arshad Warsi, Saurabh Shukla and Sara Loren. The music is done by Sohail Sen while lyrics by Kumaar.

Arshad Warsi in and as the 'Fraud Saiyaan' juggles his multiple wives in this light-hearted comedy. Will the 'Fraud Saiyaan' manage to keep all his wives happy or will he get caught in his own web, the eternal male dilemma! 'Fraud Saiyaan' will hit the silver screen on 18th September 2015.

Starring Anupam Kher, Akshaye Khanna, Suzanne Bernert, Arjun Mathur and Aahana Kumra in key roles, The Accidental Prime Minister is slated to release on January 11. And days ahead of its release, the film has created a storm of sorts. While many are in awe of Anupam Kher's portrayal of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, other netizens are claiming that the film is propaganda. And even though the answers to these claims and questions will be unveiled only when the film releases, the fanfare doesn't seem to die down anytime soon.

Adding to the buzz around the film, many fan clubs have made hilarious spoofs of the film's trailer. While one of them is a spoof ft Game of Thrones, another one mashes up Marvel's Avengers trailer with that of The Accidental Prime Minister and the result is beyond hilarious. In the GOT spoof, the makers have changed the characters to that of The Accidental Prime Minister - Ned Stark as Dr. Manmohan Singh, Cersei Lannister as Sonia Gandhi, Joffery as Rahul Gandhi and Tyrion as Sanjay Baru among others. Just like this, the other spoof sees the dialogues of The Accidental Prime Minister trailer replaced in the trailer of Marvel's Avengers and well, the result is a mashup the internet wasn't ready for.
Romance. Revenge. Reverence………the architect of method acting in India, Dilip Kumar (Yousuf Khan) has left an indelible impact on the film industry of the sub-continent. There is hardly an emotion, hardly a character, hardly a dialogue that Dilip has not rendered in his glorious career that stands out as an eloquent testimony to histrionics of the highest order. Dilip’s career was launched in the early 1940’s by Devika Rani in Jwar Bhat. Dilip’s performances are an encyclopaedia for any student of acting. Prince to a pauper his mesmerizing talent left you wondering after you saw his movie whether it was the real Shehzada Salim or the true Tongavalla or the unbelievable dacoit or the tipsy Devdas pining for Paro. Is this acting or are you transform into a pilot in his plot? Which Film Institute did he graduate from? Who was his role model? What was his source of inspiration? Or did he self-instruct from experiments in the laboratory of life? As I sit with pounding my laptop deep in the night, crafting my humble “ageddat” to a giant craftsman, I am lost and overwhelmed with the self-imposed task that dwarfs me before this titan achieve. Dilip Saab is a personification of perfection…………his diction, dialogue delivery or even no-delivery still haunts his admirers. “Sheetal jab main bolta hoon to bheech mein bola mat karo………” from Shakti is a simple line but made memorable by the maestro, for lovers of subtle and hidden communications. He is more subtle than “subtle” itself. Dilip Kumar literally hijacks your life. This was proved by a consumer marketing company which discovered that after the release of Gunga-Jumna a region’s young male population spoke and emulated the hero and addressed their beloved as “Dhanno”…………
In my hometown of Hyderabad………… Hyderabad Deccan as some say, I was fortunate to hear Dilip Saab speak in Urdu for Urdu at the Urdu Academy. A passionate and bold advocate for the language, he let no pretensions or fear of criticisms hold him back. In some political corridors championing the cause of Urdu is perceived as anti-national and parochial. But Dilip bravely auditioned for Urdu at every platform regardless of the repercussions this may have had from the intellectually-deficit politicians that bestowed favors to their sycophants. His autobiography as narrated to Udayatara Nayaran begins with an Urdu shair that is an eulogy to his parents…………
Sukoon-e-dil ke liye kuch to etemaam karoon Zara nazar jo miley phir unhein salaam karoon Mujhe to hosh nahin aap mashhura dijiyey Kahan se chedoon fasana kahan tamaam karon
Even a simple assignment of introducing his adopted little sister Lata Mangeshkar for a performance is a treat for Urdu lovers…………jis tarah ek masoom bache ki musquart ka,koi mazhab ya koi bheed bhav nahi hota, wase hi Lata Mangeshkar ki awaz Khadrat ki taqleeq ka ek katiyana hai………Dilip left his indelible mark on everything he did…………the mark of a genius.

Dilip Kumar launched Omar Sharif

Whether it is love or lust for Hollywood roles, Dilip was happy to be an Indian actor. When David Lean offered him a prominent role in “Lawrence of Arabia”, Dilip politely declined. The rationale to refuse will remain a Hitchcock suspense. The role eventually went to Omar Sharif and rest is history. I remember reading an article when the debutant Navin Nischol landed his first role and sought the then editor’s advice………Dilip Saab said learn to say “No” in the industry. And perhaps it may have been this philosophy that led Dilip Saab to say no to David Lean. His “no” became a big “yes” for Omar Sharif.

Dilip’s dialogue with Mian Sharif Narrating a startling anecdote recounted by Saeed Mehdi, the ex-Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Sharif at the time of the Kargil War in May 1999, foreign minister Khurshid Kasuri says, “According to Saeed, one day he was sitting with PM Sharif when the telephone bell rang and the ADC informed the PM that the Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee wished to speak with him urgently.” After a few comments, Mr. Vajpayee put Dilip Kumar on the phone and this is the dialogue from the Peshawar Pathan………“Mian Sahib, we did not expect this from you since you have always claimed to be a great supporter of peace between India and Pakistan,” Kasuri writes in his new book, “Neither a Hawk Nor a Dove”.

What about this Sheriff? As an advertising practitioner in Madras, I was happy to note that Dilip Saab was honored as the Sheriff of Bombay……… and how could I admire of this living legend could not respond to this unique development. Working at JWT with that creative genius Anwar Ali Khan and a gifted visualizer U.M. Subba Rao, I initiated the thought of conceiving a topical hoarding design for our client Air-India. In a jiffy the team produced a concept that was approved and painted at the Nariman Point location on a huge hoarding……Sorry, pardner, the Sheriffs out shootin’.

And the shootings this great artist endured will always remain a classic tutorial for any student of acting aspiring to carve a niche in the industry.

No Ajay Devgan or SRK for Rohit Shetty this time

Rohit Shetty will be directing an actor who has enjoyed many successes in the year 2018 — Akshay Kumar. Rohit Shetty seems to place a lot of trust in the skills of two actors in the industry — Shah Rukh Khan and Ajay Devgn — since most of his films have had one or the other playing leading roles. Shetty’s Chennai Express and Dilwale were with Shah Rukh, while his other films like Zameen, two installations of Singham, four installations of Golmaal, Sunday, All’The Best and Bol Bachchan have featured Ajay Devgn. Even his next offering, Simmba, will have Ajay playing a prominent role.

However, change seems to be in the air, for in his next, Rohit will be directing an actor who has enjoyed many successes in the year 2018 — Akshay Kumar. A source in the know says, “Rohit’s film with Akshay Kumar is going to be a big entertainer and we are told that Rohit and Akshay will go out of the way to create some spectacular stunts for the film. Akshay may also come on board as a producer for the film, to be sure that the money spent will be on the making of the film and everyone can benefit from the results of the movie.”

Apparently, Akshay has already locked in dates for the film. “The film will mount the floors early next year and Akshay has already allotted his dates for the film. In the midst of this, he will also be promoting his March release Kesari,” the source adds.
Veteran actor-writer Kader Khan passed away due to prolonged illness at the age of 81 on December 31, his son Sarfaraz confirmed. Khan was admitted to a hospital in Canada and his son confirmed that his last rites will be conducted in the country.

"My dad has left us. He passed away on December 31 at 6 pm as per Canadian time due to prolonged illness. He slipped into coma in the afternoon. He was in the hospital for 16-17 weeks. The last rites will be performed here in Canada only. We have our entire family here and we live here so we are doing it," Khan's son Sarfaraz told PTI.

"We are thankful to everyone for their blessings and prayers," he added. The news of the death of the actor-screenwriter, who was at his peak in the 1980s-90s, comes days after his son dismissed media reports of his demise.

Khan had developed breathing issues and the doctors had reportedly transferred him from regular ventilator to BiPAP ventilator. As per reports, he was suffering from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, a degenerative disease that causes loss of balance, difficulty in walking and dementia.

Khan acted in over 300 films since his success in the 1973 Rajesh Khanna-Sharmila Tagore-Rakhee-starring Daag, in which he played a lawyer. He went on to act with reigning stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Jeetendra, Feroz Khan, and later Govinda, in myriad capacities ranging from the bad guy to character roles. He was widely feted for his comic timing and won the Best Filmfare Comedian Award for Baap Numbri Beta Dus Numbri in 1991. He was last seen in Tevar in 2015, before mobility issues hindered him from working more.

Khan was born in Kabul, Afghanistan on 11 December 1937. He acquired a civil engineering degree from the Institution of Engineers (India) and even taught the subject in Byculla's MH Saboo Siddick College of Engineering between 1970 and 1975. It was Dilip Kumar who discovered him during the performance of a college play and signed him up for Sagina Mahato and Bairaag.

A rare multi-dimensional talent, Khan was also a prolific screenwriter and penned the dialogues for more than 250 films, most of them Bachchan starrers. His writing career in fact took off much before his acting with the script of Jawani Diwani (1982), for which he earned the meagly sum of Rs 1,500. Some of his immensely successful films as a writer include Shaaraab, Coolie, Desh Premee, Laawaris, Suhaag, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar, Parvarish, Aamir Akbar Anthony, Mr. Natwarlal, Satte Pe Satta, Inquilaab, Girifaar, Hum, Agneepath, Himmatwala, Coolie No. 1, Main Khiladi Tu Anari, and Sarfarosh. He was also one of the rare people who could work successfully with the rival camps of Mannmohan Desai and Prakash Mehra. According to Bolly lore, Khan could not only write pages of dialogues effortlessly, he practised on their delivery at night in graveyards, where he would shout his dialogues to gauge the effect.

He won the Filmfare Award for Best Dialogue in 1982 and 1993 for Meri Awaz Suno and Angaar respectively. He was also honoured with the Sahitya Shiromani Award for his work and contributions to Hindi Film industry and Cinema in 2013.

The only reason to watch Simmba is Ranveer Singh. The actor is fully alive to the moment, knowing that he is working in a template, aware that he has to keep breaking out.

Simmba movie cast: Ranveer Singh, Sonu Sood, Ashutosh Rana, Sara Ali Khan, Nandu Madhav, Ashwini Kalsekar
Simmba movie director: Rohit Shetty
Simmba movie rating: 2 stars

Advertising

In Singham Returns Again, oops, sorry, Simmba, a police officer sloughs off his rough-and-ready skin and emerges as the savior of the poor and meek. Wait, haven't we seen that before? Bad question, because this one could just as well have been called Singham part 3.

Except it's Ranveer Singh, not Ajay Devgn, who plays Sangram Bhalerao aka Simmba, street-smart orphan turned cop, who shows up in a Goa police station to do the following: a) eye pretty lasses b) mouth 'taali-seeti' dialogue c) play around with the baddies before thumping em good d) mouth 'taali-seeti' dialogues. Wait, we said that before.

And we've seen it all before. The set-pieces are familiar. The clashes between the bad guys and the cops coated with the 'vardi-ki-aaan-shaan-haan' lines are the same. The background music which draws out everything is right there. To remind us of 'before', actors who own popular hit songs are rustled up to shake a leg, and to top it all, the original cop-who-walks-slo-mo-like-a-panther comes on to tell the rookie how it's done. The only reason to watch Simmba then, is Ranveer Singh. In his sharp moohchh sticking up at both ends, shiny bronzed face, broad shoulders filing out, eventually, the khakee uniform, Singh is Simmba. Striding into cop stations, wading into 'goondas', losing his heart to the girl across the road Shaguun (Ali Khan), Singh is fully alive to the moment, knowing that he is working in a template, aware that he has to keep breaking out.

A solid turn by Ashutosh Rana as a cynical weary old cop lifts the film as he shares significant screen space with Singh. Shetty slings in a rape-of-an-innocent as a tipping point, and we have no doubt which way our hero will swing. The fallout of the incident plays out in problematic ways: it is just a device to provide a noble change-of-heart for the hero; the victim is merely to-be-dispensed-with-convenience. The reference to the 2012 Nirbhaya may have been used as sharp social commentary in another kind of film; here it only provides false gravitas. Heavy-handed sentiment only serves to cloy Shetty's universe, closely aligned as it is to macho posturings and cars-tumbling-in-the-air empty rhetoric. Sara Ali Khan's second appearance in the same month (after Kedarnath) proves that she is no fluke. She switches on the sparkle, and gets a few lines and a song or two, which is what female leads have to be content with in these testosterone-heavy muscle-bound movies. Now that she's got her mainstream chops, maybe she will be careful to retreat to films where she has more to do: masala-coated formula has a way of swallowing up freshness.

Finally, it is Singh, bubbling over as the 'bhai-from-another-aai', that you take away from this jaded thing.
Mohammed Najeeb Congratulated Iftekhar Shareef Bhai and Family on thier Eldest son Azfar Shareef’s wedding reception.

Smita Rao Bellur performed at Iftekhar Shareef’s residence in Shamshabad, Hyderabad at Azfar Shareef’s wedding reception.
On the lighter side....

A software manager, a hardware manager, and a marketing manager are driving to a meeting when a tire blows. They get out of the car and look at the problem.

The software manager says, “I can’t do anything about this—it’s a hardware problem.”

The hardware manager says, “Maybe if we turned the car off and on again, it would fix itself.”

The marketing manager says, “Hey, 75% of it is working—let’s ship it!”

The teacher said, “Take a pencil and paper, and write an essay with the title ‘If I Were a Millionaire.’”

Everyone but Joe, who leaned back with arms folded, began to write feverishly.

“What’s the matter,” the teacher asked. “Why don’t you begin?”

“I’m waiting for my secretary,” Joe replied.

Little Hope was practicing the violin in the living room while her father was trying to read in the den.

The family dog was lying in the den, and as the screeching sounds of little Hope’s violin reached his ears, he began to howl loudly.

The father listened to the dog and the violin as long as he could. Then he jumped up and yelled above the noise, “Can’t you play something the dog doesn’t know?”

Two factory workers are talking. The woman says, “I can make the boss give me the day off.”

The man replies, “And how would you do that?”

The woman says, “Just wait and see.” She then hangs upside down from the ceiling.

The boss comes in and says, “What are you doing?”

The woman replies, “I’m a light bulb.”

The boss then says, “You’ve been working so much that you’ve gone crazy. I think you need to take the day off.”

The man starts to follow her and the boss says, “Where are you going?”

The man says, “I’m going home, too. I can’t work in the dark.”

Two women were shopping. When they started to discuss their home lives, one said, “Seems like all my boyfriend and I do anymore is fight. I’ve been so upset I’ve lost 20 pounds in two weeks.”

“What don’t you just leave him then?” asked her friend.

“Not yet,” the first replied, “I like to lose at least another 10 to 15 pounds first.”

The neighborhood I lived in had a storm rapidly pass through.

When I returned home from work I noticed our outbuilding was gone.

Asking my wife about it, her reply was simple, “Gone with the Wind!”

Why are ghosts banned from the liquor stores?

Because they would steal all the BOOS

A lady went into the grocery and asked for fifty gallons of milk. The clerk, amazed, asked her what she was going to do with that much milk.

“I have a skin problem and the doctor prescribed a milk bath.”

The clerk asked, “Pasteurized?”

She replied, “No, just up to my chin.”

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Wife goes to an astrologer to learn more about her husband. The astrologer asks her, “Do you want to know about your husband’s future?”

Without hesitation, the wife responds. I will decide his future, you just tell me about his past.

As little Johnny’s mother was tucking him in after reading a bedtime story, she made the remark that God made eyes to see, ears to hear, noses to smell, and feet to run.

“I think God got mixed up,” said little Johnny.

“What do you think that?” inquired his mother.

“Because it’s the other way around, my nose runs and my feet smell.”

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