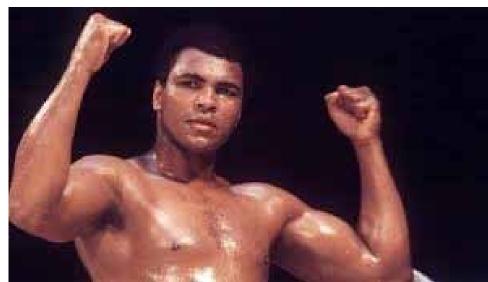


**NRI Global Edition** 

**Email: EditorAsiaTimes@gmail.com** 

#### June 2016 Vol 7, Issue 6



#### Muhammad Ali on why he refused to fight in Vietnam War

"My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people, or some poor hungry people in the mud for big powerful America. And shoot them for what? They never called me nigger, they never lynched me, they didn't put no dogs on me, they didn't rob me of my nationality, rape and kill my mother and father... Shoot them for what? How do I got to go shoot them, poor little black people, little babies, children, and women? How can I shoot them poor people? Just take me to jail."

# The Great is in our hearts



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#### Asia Times US

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Hana Ali is the third-youngest of Muhammad Ali's nine children, and the co-author, with her father, of "The Soul of a Butterfly: Reflections on Life's Journey," his autobiography. She wrote this Father's Day column in 2011. Muhammad Ali, my father, has never been afraid of confronting conflicts outside of the ring. His recent attempt to free two hikers held captive in Iran reinforces his relentless effort to promote peace, tolerance and humanity around the world.

His work as an ambassador for peace extends as far back as 1985, when he flew to Lebanon to try to secure the release of four hostages. Before the first Gulf War, Ali flew to Iraq to help negotiate the release of 15 American hostages. In his most recent plea to Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran, Ali said he would leave in a second for Tehran if it would help bring American hikers Josh Fattal and Shane Bauer safely home. Today, we are in greater need of heroes like my father, especially in a sports culture where athletes seem to be chasing fame merely for the pleasure of making money or breaking records. There is little awareness of the responsibilities that accompany fame. On this Father's Day weekend, I extend my gratitude to my father. Helping strangers in need has always been his insatiable drive. He says: "I've always wanted to be more than just a boxer. More than just the three-time heavyweight champion. I wanted to use my fame, and this face that everyone knows so well, to help uplift and inspire people around the world. I've made my share of mistakes along the way but if I have changed even one life for the better, I haven't lived in vain."

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### www.Asia Times .US PAGE 3 **Muhammad Ali - The Greatest indeed**

Muhammad Ali was a hero to many, for many reasons. He was adored by some because of his wonderful talents as a boxer. At his peak, from 1964 through 1967, there may never have been anyone remotely as good.

He was fast, strong and precise, the very definition of a boxer. He died Friday at 74 in a Phoenix hospital due to a respiratory ailment, but his impact on the world will never be forgotten.

He was a hero to others because of his stand on the Vietnam War. He was a conscientious objector and gave up virtually everything - his career, his title, most of his income - to stand up for what he believed in.

Many called him a draft dodger. Others thought he was crazy. But his beliefs were so deeply held that none of it mattered. Not long after Ali was convicted of draft evasion in 1967, public support for the war began to erode. Originally a pariah, Ali suddenly became the face, the voice, the very heart of the anti-war movement that would shape a generation.

To others, he was a hero for his quick wit and clever ways. He is in many ways the man that introduced trash talk to sports. He and a cornerman/friend, came up with a poem that many young people today know word for word, more than half a century since they first uttered them before his 1964 heavyweight title bout with Sonny Liston.

"I'm going to float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. His hands can't hit what his eyes can't see."

He was a kind and charitable man who for most of his life gave away his fortune. His close friend of more than 50 years, Gene Kilroy, told of the time Ali went to visit a child in a leper colony in Kuala Lumpur in 1975.

"This lady came up to me in the lobby because she had seen me with Ali, and she told me her son was very sick and that he loved Ali," Kilroy said. "I said, 'Well, come on up to the room and let's tell him.' She was a poor woman who didn't have much. She tells Ali, 'My son is very sick and he loves you so much. Do you think you can visit him?' Ali said, 'Well, I do road work tomorrow at 4:30 in the morning. Can you be in the lobby at 7?'

"The next morning, she takes us to him and it's a leper colony. The people were giving them the food and sliding it under and getting away. Ali said, 'Where is he?' and he walks right up to him. He hugged him and sat with him and talked with him and he didn't care anything about the leprosy. He just wanted to make this sick kid happy."

Many people loved Ali for many reasons. I fell in love with boxing in the mid-1960s as a young boy just as Ali was blooming into "The Greatest." He was a larger-thanlife figure who infiltrated so many aspects of society.

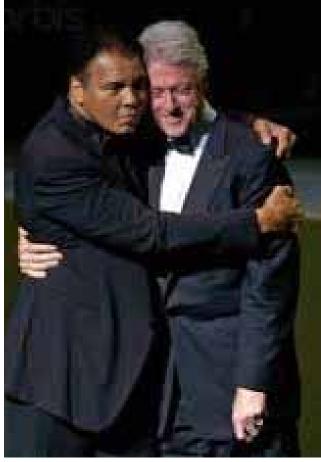
But I loved Ali for many of those reasons, all of them and more. He made you laugh. He awed you. He inspired you. He motivated you.

I didn't start covering boxing until after he'd retired. The first time I met him, Kilroy introduced us. By that point, he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. In those days, he would only occasionally speak.

On this day, he spoke more in a low murmur. He was seated when Kilroy introduced us. I leaned in to hear him, so he reached for my head and pulled it toward his mouth.

"I hear you're the greatest, because you've been nice to my friend here," he said, beaming.

But I think the reason Ali was a hero to me is because of his answer to a little boy's question. He was appearing on a television show in England in the 1970s, and the boy asked, "I'd like to know what you're going to do when you



retire from boxing."

After joking that he was snoring, Ali gave a mesmerizing answer that epitomizes the love that all those who idolized him believe about him.

"The important thing about life is what's going to happen when you die," Ali said. "Are you going to go to Heaven or hell? That's eternity. How long is eternity? Let's imagine. Take the Sahara Desert. There is a lot of sand over in the Sahara Desert, right? Imagine one grain of sand represents a thousand years. When you're in hell burning, when you die and go to hell, it's forever, for ever and ever, no end. How long is that?

"I'll tell you how long eternity is. Take the Sahara Desert. I told you to wait a thousand years. And every thousand years, I want you to pick up a grain of sand until the desert is empty. Wait a thousand years and pick up a grain. Wait another thousand years before you get the next grain. Keep that up until there is no sand in the desert. Do you know how long that is?

"America's not but 200 years old. We got 800 more years to get to a thousand. It scares me to think that I'm going to die one day and go to hell. I'm on an airplane that might blow up. I'm always traveling. I might go to hell and God is going to judge my soul. The police, I might kill people. I might rob people. The authorities might not catch me. The FBI, Scotland Yard might not catch me, but when I die, God is watching me and keeping count, and I can't get away. And I'm going to burn forever and ever. I want to go to Heaven.

"So what am I going to do when I'm through fighting? I only have 16 years to be productive and get ready to meet God and go to the best place."

Whether one is religious or not is beside the point.

Ali stood for something. He was a man of principle, of courage, a man of character. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy's words eulogizing his assassinated brother, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, come to mind upon Ali's passing.

"[He] need not be idealized, or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life; to be remembered simply as a good and decent man who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it.





"Those of us who loved him and who take him to his rest today pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will someday come to pass for all the world."

Those words speak of the life that the son of a painter from Louisville, Ky., lived.

Truly, Muhammad Ali was the greatest.

### www.Asia Times .US

#### **DALLAS-HOUSTON PAGES**

Azhar Azeez receiving award from Hyderabad Cultural Society, Houston. Azhar Azeez currently serves as President of ISNA & National Director-IR USA



Mr. Nouman Ali Khan visited Rahbar Foundation booth at the ICNA Mass Convention center Baltimore.. ICNA is one of the largest Muslims organizations of North America. ICNA organizes mass convention program every year.



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**DALLAS-HOUSTON PAGES** 

Shawkat Mohammed with Legendary singer Yesudas at DFW airport.

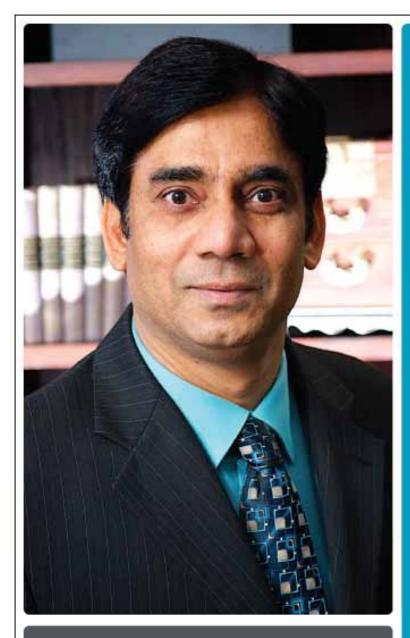


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For more details & Registration visit www.globaltelangana.org **ALLAS-HOUSTON PAGES** 

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Shawkat Mohammed Agent New York Life Insurance Company 12201 Merit Dr Suite 1000 Dallas, TX 75251 (817) 320-9439 mohammeds@ft.newyorklife.com

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GOOD

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#### **DALLAS-HOUSTON PAGES**

DALLAS-HOUSTON PAGES

**RAMADAN APPEA** 

2016





# FEED THE NEEDY CAMPAIGN **IFTAR DINNER / FOOD PACKETS**

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1 Food Box

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Zakat-Al-Fitra / Fidiya / Kaffara generously to Rahbar Foundation to support the needy.

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Ramadan Food box per Family Jumbo Food box big Family Orphan Sponsorship per month Widow & family sponsorship Scholarships annually per student School bag kits for 5 students Self-employment push card per person Free Sewing machines per person Automobile driving training per person

\$50 \$100 \$30 \$100 \$300 \$50 \$500 \$100 \$200

Village Iftar Dinner	\$100
Urban Slum area Iftar Dinner	\$150
Orphan girls Marriages per person	\$1000
Poor student sponsorship per month	\$30
School Uniforms 5 students	\$50
Furniture for village school	\$250
Self-employment Cow for dairy	\$350
Self-employment Tricycle (Rickshaw)	\$500
Free Medical Camp, per Camp	\$500

Rahbar Foundation is 501 (C) (3) Approved Non-Profit Organization With Tax Exempt: Id 47-3151781

### www.Asia Times .US

**ALL PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE** 

#### PAGE 7



#### **EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS**

- © ICC Kairana (UP): There are 120 students and 6 teachers at ICC Kairana and providing education and intensive coaching for Medical and engineering Entrance Examinations. This Center needs Yearly expenses of \$ 20,000
- Al-Huda Orphanage Tiruchirappalli (IN): There are 410 orphans residing at this orphanage and 76 students need immediate sponsorship for their education, boarding, food, clothes, books and healthcare. They need total yearly expenses of \$ 31,000 for these 76 students.
- e Bricks Field Children School Shibdaspur(WB): There are 125 poor students and 6 teachers providing education under the shadow of trees as there are no rooms available in Bricks Fields, this school needs at least 6 classrooms to be built also need expenses towards salaries, books, uniforms and school furniture. The total budget required is \$30,000.

#### DONATE ONLINE www.rahbarfoundation.org

<b>ADOPT A PROJECT</b>		
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Hunger	Training Cente	
Micro-Finance	School Bag	
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Rahbar Foundation is USA based 501 (C) (3) approved non-profit charitable organization with Tax exempt ID: 47-3151781 is dedicated to providing charitable assistance in the field of education, healthcare, hunger, emergency relief and other social welfare services to alleviate the poverty of underprivileged people. Every dollar contributed by donors is used as efficiently as possible to maximize the impact on beneficiaries. Our due diligence process of tracking, monitoring, and allocating donations to our projects on the ground catalyzes the society and uplift the most impoverished

people and communities. Please donate generously to support our projects and all of your donations are tax deductible.



#### EDUCATION

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- Micro-Finance for Business
- Free Sewing Machines

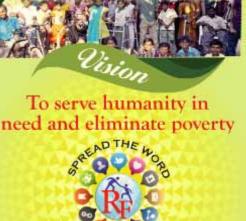


#### SOCIAL WELFARE

- Aquiqah
- Fidiya/Kaffara
- Support to Widows
- Food Packets for Hunger
- **Orphan & Poor Girls Marriages** Zakat/ Sadagah Distribution
- Qurbani / Udhiya Distribution
- Zakat-Al-Fitra Distribution
- Ramadan Iftar/Dinner Program



**ALLAS-HOUSTON PAGES** 





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and Volunteer Grant

Natural Calamity

Ethnic Riots Victims

Winter Relief

Sanitation

**Drinking Water** 

Flood Effected Victims

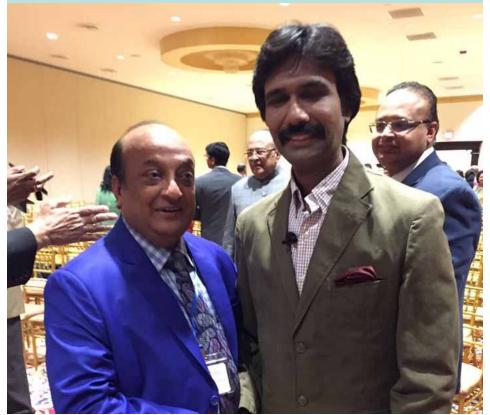
#### Become Member



## www.Asia Times .US Iftekhar Shareef page



Honorable Minister KT R ama Rao of Telangana State, at Airport en-route to Midwest States . Mr. Iftekhar Shareef took the opportunity to introduce ATA team members to KTR Ji for upcoming ATA conference on July 1st. to July 3rd.



With Padmashri Mohammad Ali Baig founder of Qadir Ali Baig Theatre Foundation in Chicago. In April 2014, Baig was awarded Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India, in 2014 for his contributions in theatre arts. 'Quli : Dilon ka Shahzaada', 'Savaan-e-Hayat' and 'Spaces' (co-written by and also featuring Baig's wife, writer-actor Noor Baig) have been feted at prestigious festivals and venues in India, Canada, France, Turkey, UK and USA



It was wonderful to spend this afternoon with my friend from long time Shri Jayesh Ranjan IAS principle secretary Govt of Telangana , who is here in Chicago to coordinate the three days visit of Honorable Minister of IT, Urban Development and NRI affairs Kalvakuntla Tarakarama Rao" KTR " into Midwest area coordinated locally by our Consul General of India Dr Ausaf Sayeed working hard to promote both Telugu States



PAGE 8

American Telugu Association members along with Jayesh Ranjan IAS Principal Secretary Govt of Telangana gave grand welcome to our beloved leader and Honorable



Minister for IT K.T.Rama Rao (KTR) at O'Hare Airport Chicago.

CHICAGO

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TRS general Secretary of Greater Hyderabad MOHAMMED Khurram Ali S/O Honorable MOHAMMED Mahmood Ali Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana State . He was in Chicago for couple of days , dinner hosted by Mukkaram Sahab



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HICAGO PAGES

**HICAGO PAGES** 

### www.Asia Times .US

#### PAGE 10

Governor Bruce Rauner held his annual Prayer's Breakfast at the Governor's Executive Mansion in Springfield. Mr. Ray Lahood the former Secretary of Transportation was key note speaker

On Thursday May 26th Governor Bruce Rauner held his annual Prayer Breakfast in Springfield. It was attend by over 150 people from many religious organizations. There were readings from the holy Quran, bible and of course, musical performances. The house was completely full.

This year's event was hosted by the Abundant Faith Christian Center, the One Nation Under God Foundation and the Illinois Executive Mansion Association. The entire General Assembly was invited.. Religious leaders say this event gives the community a chance to cast their political beliefs aside and come together in prayer.

"The good Lord did not make us Democrats or Republicans. The good Lord made us in his image to do his work. To help each other and make the world a better place," said Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner.

Former transportation secretary Ray La-Hood who's parents were from Lebanon was the keynote speaker. "We can pass all the laws we want in Washington or Springfield," said the keynote speaker, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. "We can write regulations until our arms are tired. We can make speeches here in Springfield or in Congress, offer amendments to bills and appear on news shows.

"Some of these things might be important.

A few might actually be valuable in our everyday lives. But I am convinced that unless Americans and Illinoisans of every walk of life decide to live their lives by the virtues of hard work, family life, faith in and love of God, community service, love of our state and country, no law passed in Washington, no law passed in Springfield, is going to keep our country great."

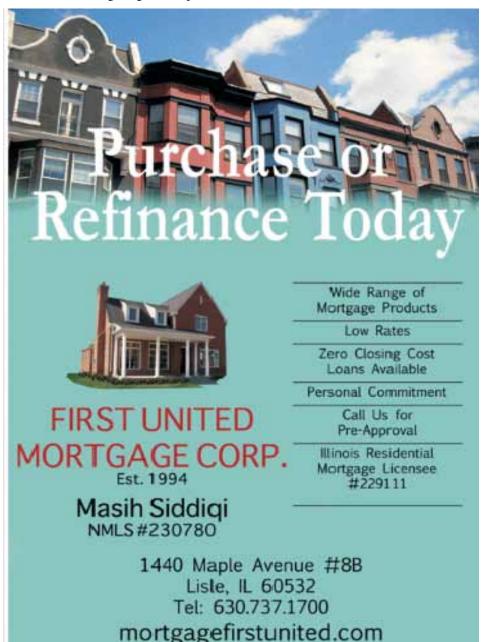
"Americans are coming to realize the foundation of progress and security and innovation and useful change is the American people themselves — not government. Not ideology. Not politics," LaHood added.

CIOGC Executive Director Tabassum Haleem recited the versus from Holy Quran with translations besides the readings from Bible

Mr. Talat Rashid Planning Commissioner Village of Bolingbrook along with the President of Bolingbrook mosque Mr. Anwaar Khan, Chairman of Sunday School board Dr. Tahir Taqi and Principal Mr. Zia Uddin and attended the event. During conversation LT. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti promised to visit Bolingbrook mosque in near future. She said I have been to Bolingbrook several times and love to visit the mosque. Mr. Talat Rashid who is also an advisor to US Senator Mark Kirk introduced Lt. Governor in to the Muslim and Pakistani community during the elections.









### **www.Asia Times .US** PAGE 11 Johny Lever in Chicago





Famous Bollywood actor/comedian Johny Lever with Mujeeb Ahmed of Masti Grill, Babu Varma, Mahijit Virdi, Jamie and others





CHICAGO PAGES

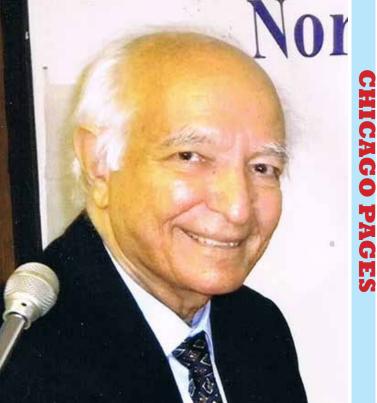
At an event in Chicago: Aijaz Hussain, Parvaiz Ikraam, Hamed Ali Khan, Saif Ali, Aftab Baig, Rajesh Chalam, Mujeeb Osman of Asia Times and others

### HASAN CHISHTI HONORED BY BAZM-E-ITTEHAD JEDDAH FOR HIS LITERARY SERVICES

Bazm- E-Ittehad, Jeddah, has presented its prestigious "SALAR-E-MILLAT ADABI AWARD 2016" to Mr. Hasan Chishti, a proud Osmanian and distinguished literary figure, for supporting and advancing the cause of the Urdu language and tradition throughout his admirable career starting in Hyderabad, India, and spreading in Saudi Arabia and the United States of America, in a largely attended mushayera in Jeddah on 7th April 2016. The award was bestowed on him in absentia as he could not attend the function.

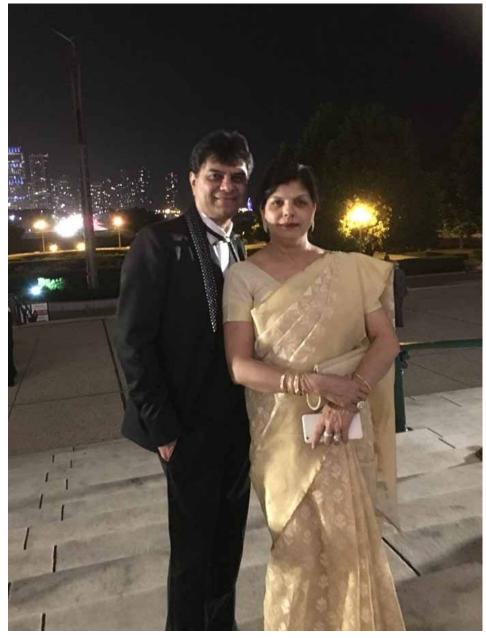
This award to Mr. Hasan Chishti is a continuation of many recognitions and honors he has received. About Urdu language Mr. Hasan Chishti said: "Once upon a time Britishers used to say that the sun never sets in the British empire. Now we can proudly say the same thing about Urdu language. It does not belong to a village, a city, a country, a nation or a religion, but it has become an international language now. Urdu is not only a language but it is the name of a culture and it is our duty to preserve it."

Mr. Hasan Chishti appreciated the efforts of Bazm-e-Ittehad to bring the Urdu lovers on a common platform, forgetting their differences. He also thanked Mr. Ahmaduddin Owaisi, President, and all the members of the Bazm for this award. Born in Hyderabad, India, Hasan Chishti obtained his B.A. degree from Osmania University and served the same university in various capacities for about 27 years. After his retirement in 1978 he was associated with King Abdul Aziz University for one year, after which he held an executive post in a Saudi-owned company for about 8 years. In 1986 he migrated to Chicago and worked for a reputed real estate company, Khan & Associates, and also Pentagon Industries for about 5 years before he started his own business in 1991 with his sons Javeed and Wajid, both computer engineers. He is happily married to Zeenath Hasan for 57 years.



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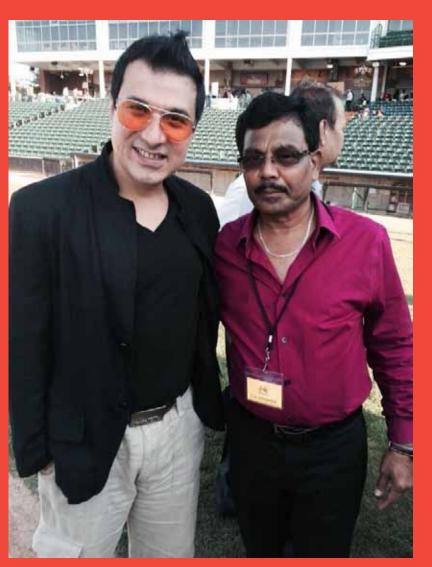
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Sunil Shah Rita Shah at the wedding ceremony of Bharat & Sonal Shukla daughter Nikki.





Sound Engineer Shahid Lateef with Bollywood actor Sarfaraz Khan

## DJ / Karaoke in Chicago area (630) 400-2549

Shahid Lateef

## Magnificent Celebration of "Arrival of Umiya Mataji Jyoti Rath from Macon, Georgia to Chicago"

#### Asían Media USA ©

Chicago IL: In the presence of over 1,000 devotees, dozens of prominent community leaders, generous sponsors, committee members, super donors and volunteers, Umiya Mataji Sanstha Chicago Midwest (UMSCM) celebrated historic event, honoring and celebrating arrival of Umiya Mataji Jyoti Rath (Chariot) arriving from Macon, Georgia to Chicago, at Itasca Temple, 21W Irving Park Rd, Itasca, Illinois.. This striking Rath representing the temple on the wheel, made this momentous voyage from the Umiya Mataji Temple located in Macon, Georgia. Shree Umiya Mataji is a kuldevi of Kadva Patidar Patel.

The event progressed with the exhibit of Jyoti Rath in front of Itasca Temple. Shree Ganesh Stuti was performed followed by Grand Parade (Shobhayatra) of the Rath in perimeter of the Temple. All the devotees followed the Rath with a great gusto by dancing and singing devotional songs.

After this Shubh Yatra, indoor gathering started with welcome speech by M.C. Mr. Devendra Patel with Deep ceremony performed by Lalbhai Babu 'Marsha', Sitarambhai, Bhailalbhai, Kantibhai (KS), Kantibhai (Kapoor), Mafatbhai (Patel Bros.) and others. Khodabhai (Ken) Patel introduced first Home 'Padhramni' host Shree Lalbhai Patel. Dr. Paresh Patel encouraged everyone to join in this project.

KK and Andy Patel successfully managed a fundraising auction program. Members showed their devotedness towards Shree Umiya Mataji by opening



their pockets and making financial pledges. Event was followed by Garba and Lunch.

At the conclusion, The Rath was taken to the house of the Hiraben & Lalbhai Patel, host of the 1 1st Padharamni'. At their house located at 5225 W Fargo Ave, Skokie, IL. As a result of overwhelming devotion, as of May 14 Rath has already performed 'Padharamni' in 41 different homes of the devotees in Chicagoland.

Umiya Mataji Sanstha Chicago or UMSCM is a not

for Profit, 501 3 (c), organization was establish in 2016. With a objective to build a first ever Temple of Mataji along with great Community center. The main purpose of the association is to provide a platform for Cultural, Educational, Social, Religious and spiritual needs of Kadva Patidar Samaj.

Anyone interested in Jyoti Rath Padhramni at their home or place of business should contact Raju Bhai at 773-716-8459 or Piyush 630-290-9891. CHICAGO

PAGES

## TAGC Celebrates 45th Anniversary, Ugadhi & Sri Ramanavami

### Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: TAGC members are proud to be members of First Telugu Association in world and First Indian Association in North America. We have celebrated TAGC 45th Anniversary celebrations along with Ugadhi and Sri Ramanavami festivals on May 7th 2016 at Bartlett High School. Our members have made it a grand success as if never happened before with blessings of his holiness Sri Devanatha Ramanija Jeeyar Swamiji. The best music director S. S. Thaman from Tollywood performed non-stop for three hours live in concert with his best singers on this occasion. Thank you to S.S. Thaman and team for great performance. President, Pradeep Kandimalla on this occasion urged TAGC members to come together by respecting our regional differences in India to build our future in America. He strongly believes that associations are built upon 3 pillars such as Members, Sponsors and Volunteers.

He first thanked members for making this program a grand success as never

#### happened before.

Next conveyed his gratitude and thanks to Sponsors for giving back to community and requested TAGC members to make use of services provided by Sponsors. Also President, Pradeep Kandimalla thanked Donors who came forward to donate for this event.

This is a volunteer organization, without their priceless effort event would not have happened. So on this occasion, President took opportunity to thank every volunteer who helped in organizing and making this event a grand success. Excellent cultural programs were organized by TAGC cultural team under guidance of Sai Gongati, Sujatha Katta, and Bindhu Gongati. Thank you to Uma Avadutha, Swetha Janamanchi, Vani Yetrintala and Team for providing help. First time in history, TAGC has honored classical teachers who have been serving Chicago community. Thank you to Vandana Reddy for coordinating Classical teacher's felicitation. An exceptional hospitality service provided by Praveen Vemulapalli, Subhash Kakkera and team to our guests. Tasty food and exem-



plary service under the leadership of Narender Chemarla, Anji Kandimalla, Avinash Lathupally, Ranga Reddy, Hari Raini and team. Perfect execution of membership/registration desk by Ramu Billakanti, Srinivas Chada, Mamtha Lankala and team. A very well organized for vendors and sponsors by Venkat Gunganti and team.

A special thanks to Veda Prakash, Vaishnavi Designs for special banner design, print and delivery on time. Ram Ade outstanding volunteer and helping president in all areas. Thank you Ram Ade. Thanks to Srinivas Kandru for taking pictures and providing help as needed. Thanks to Satya Kondapalli (KSN) for helping in raising funds.

## www.Asia Times .US PAGE 14 Radar images reveal Mars is coming out of an ice age

An analysis of radar images that peered inside the polar ice caps of Mars shows that Earth's neighbor is coming out of an ice age that is part of an ongoing cycle of climate change, scientists said on Thursday.

The Martian ice began its retreat about 370,000 years ago, marking the end of the last ice age, according to the research published in the journal Science.

Using images taken by satellites orbiting Mars, the researchers determined that about 20,872 cubic miles (87,000 cubic km) of ice has accumulated at its poles since the end of the ice age, mostly in the northern polar cap.

Scientists are keenly interested in piecing together the climate history of Mars, which contains strong evidence that oceans and lakes once pooled on its surface, bolstering the prospects for life.

Scientists can now use the new ice measurements in computer simulations to more accurately model the Martian climate, said planetary scientist Isaac Smith of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, who led the study.

"Previously those models were unconstrained by observations so they started with guesses. Now they have more to run on," Smith said.

The study also was the first to tie a specific layer of Martian ice with a specific period of time. "Eventually we'd like to be able to do this for every layer," Smith said.

From the perspective of an Earthling, every day on Mars



may feel like an ice age. According to NASA, temperatures on Mars may hit a high at noon at the equator in the summer of roughly 70 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Celsius), or a low of about minus-225 degrees Fahrenheit (minus-153 degrees Celsius) at the poles.

Unlike Earth, ice ages on Mars occur when its poles are warmer than average and frozen water is more stable at lower latitudes. Transitions between lengthy climate phases can leave telltale features in the ice, the research showed. For example, Smith and colleagues found dramatic slopes in layers of ice within the Martian northern ice cap. Other layers reveal ice flowing in reverse direction. The climate cycles are triggered by changes in Mars' orbit and tilt, which affect how much sunlight reaches the planet's surface.

The shifts are particularly dramatic on Mars because the planet's tilt changes by as much as 60 degrees, compared to variations in Earth's tilt of about 2 degrees.

### China claims support of several NSG members to block India's bid



Defending its move to block India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group, China has claimed that several members of the 48-nation bloc shared its view that signing of the NPT was an "important" standard for the NSG's expansion.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said that not only China but also a lot of other NSG members are of the view that Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone for safeguarding the international nuclear non-proliferation

#### regime.

Asked about reports that China is pushing Pakistan's entry into NSG linking it to India's admission into the bloc, Lu said the NSG is an important part of NPT, which has been the consensus of the international community for long.

Although India is not part of the NSG , Indian side recognises this consensus, he claimed. "All the multilateral non-proliferation export control

regime including the NSG has regarded NPT as an

important standard for the expansion of the NSG," he said.

Avoiding any references to Pakistan , Lu said "apart from India, lot of other countries expressed their willingness to join. Then it raised the question to the international community - shall the non-NPT members also become part of the NSG?" he said. "The international community believes that there should be a side discussion in the NSG on this issue and decision should be made in accordance with relevant rules. China's position is not directed against any specific country but applies to all the non-NPT members," he said. Top Comment

We have greedy idiots like Nitish, Kejari, Rahul who are against India's entry at NSG forget outsiders. Prem Prakash

SEE ALL COMMENTSADD COMMENT

India, Pakistan, Israel and South Sudan were among four UN member states which have not signed the NPT, the international pact aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

Last month Pakistan prime minister's advisor on foreign affairs Sartaj Aziz said that China has helped Pakistan to stall India's bid to get NSG membership. Bookmark or read stories offline - Download the TOI app

#### Bengaluru youth kills stepmother to avenge mother's suicide

Bengaluru: In a shocking incident a 19-year-old youth fatally hacked his 40-year-old step mother at their residence in Byappanahalli on Tuesday morning. The police have arrested the accused, Ajith, who was reportedly nursing a grudge to avenge his mother's suicide, nearly seven months ago.

Ajith was the third and the youngest son of Shivakumar, a welder by profession, from his first wife Shobha. He was a PUC dropout and residing in Suddaguntepalya along with two brothers.

According to the police, Ajith was not happy with his father's relationship with Chithra, Shivakumar's second wife. Investigations revealed that Shivakumar had an affair with Chitra, while Shobha was alive. When she came to know about her husband's illicit relationship she committed suicide by immolating herself.

The trouble began when Shivakumar married Chitra and brought her home. He already had four children from his previous marriage. There used to be frequent

quarrels between Aiith, his brothers and Chitra. The three brothers felt that Shivakumar was neglecting them and giving all the money to Chitra.

Recently Ajith picked-up a quarrel with Shivakumar, following which Chitra intervened and reprimanded him. Unable to bear the humiliation, Ajith decided to eliminate her.

On Tuesday morning, around 11.30 am, he stabbed Chitra on her neck and fled. A profusely bleeding Chitra came out of the house and raised an alarm. The neighbours rushed for her help and alerted the police. The police reached the spot and rushed Chitra to a nearby hospital, where she succumbed to injuries, police added.

After committing the crime, Ajith took shelter at his relative's place, but the police tracked him down and arrested him. During interrogation, Ajith told the police that Chitra had forced his mother to commit suicide. Byappanahalli police have registered a case.

#### **Policeman dies during attack on** J&K leader in Pulwama

SRINAGAR: A policeman was killed on Wednesday as militants struck at the security guards of a former MLA in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, about 35 km from capital Srinagar. The attack comes two days after three cops were gunned down in twin attacks in Srinagar. The incident took place in Monghama village where the former National Conference MLA Ghulam Mohiuddin had gone to attend a marriage function, police said. His Personal Security Officer (PSO) Shabir Ahmad and another guard were waiting in a private car outside the venue when three pistol-borne militants struck, a police officer said.

The militants tried to snatch the service rifle from the PSO which led to a scuffle, the officer said, adding in the process, Ahmad received minor injuries on the face. Militants then fired a few shots, resulting in injuries to constable Rivaz Ahmad Ganie. He was hit in the throat and succumbed to his injuries later at a hospital, the officer said.

The militants fled from the site along with

the weapon of the PSO taking advantage of the panic which followed the shooting, he said.

A hunt has been launched to nab the militants and recover the weapon, the officer said.

Top Comment

The coliation govt of PDP and BJP should focus its attention to Maintain law and order

Sabiha farook

No militant outfit has so far claimed responsibility for the incident which comes two days after three policemen were shot dead in twin attacks in Srinagar. While two policemen were killed by militants in an attack at Zadibal locality of the summer capital on Monday, another policeman, who was guarding a protected person, was shot dead at Tengpora locality of the city the same day and his service rifle was also snatched.

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### **Union Cabinet gives approval to five new IITs**

NEW DELHI: Five new IIT . will come up at Tirupati, Palakkad, Dharwar, Bhilai, Goa and Jammu while ISM Dhanbad will also be upgraded to an IIT.

The Union Cabinet which met on Wednesday gave its ex post facto approval to amend The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 for incorporation of new IITs at Tirupati (AP), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwar (Karnataka), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Goa, Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir) and conversion of Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad to an IIT under the law.

"The approval will bring six new Indian Institutes of Technology within the ambit of The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 and declaring them as the institutions of

national importance," an official statement said. We recommend this Video for you BABA NETWORK LTD. Recommended By Colombia The amendment will also help convert ISM, Dhanbad into an IIT by bringing it into the ambit of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961. The Cabinet also gave ex post facto approval to set up NIT, Andhra Pradesh which has been registered as a

Society under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001.

Latest Comment

Good news

Saranathan Lakshminarasimhan

The Cabinet also approved introduction of a bill - the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016 - for inclusion of the NIT, Andhra Pradesh in its first schedule, another statement said.

"The proposed amendments to the NITSER Act, 2007 will ensure a high level of public accountability and increased participation of the stakeholders in the administration and academic activities of the Institute," the statement said.

### Rajya Sabha polls: JD(S) picks Farooq to check Zameer

BENGALURU: In a tactical move aimed at silencing rebel MLA Zameer Ahamed Khan, Janata Dal (Secular) patriarch H .D. Deve Gowda has decided to field a Muslim candidate for next month's Rajya Sabha elections.

Entrepreneur and Bengaluru Beary Welfare Association President, B.M. Farooq, is likely to be the Janata Dal (S) candidate for Rajya Sabha elections. To elect a candidate successfully, JD(S) requires 45 first preferential votes from MLAs. The party has 40 MLAs in the Assembly, but with the help of independents, the party would be able to ensure the nominee's victory.

Mr Gowda's move could well tantamount to killing two birds with one stone. By picking a Muslim candidate, he would not only succeed in checkmating rebel MLA Zameer Ahamed Khan, but also an attempt to send a strong message to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who has been projecting himself as messiah of the poor and the downtrodden. Interestingly, Mr. Farooq, former trustee of New Mangalore Port (NMPT), is the brother of Mohiuddin Bava, Congress MLA of Mangalore City North constituency.

On coming to know that JD (S) seems set to finalize the candidature of Farooq, Mr Siddaramaiah reportedly summoned his elder brother Bava and instructed him to prevent his brother from accepting the JD(S) offer. Mr Bava's efforts, however, went in vain though he requested his brother not to accept the offer of D(S), according to sources close to state JD (S) chief H D Kumara Swamy.



to provide resources to the party.

With the party's image sagging for various reasons, and Muslims maintaining a distance after the decision of Mr Kumara Swamy to go with BJP in 2006, the leaders decided on an image make over and therefore picked a Muslim candidate and a Kannadiga.

Now with JD (S) taking a decision to field a Muslim candidate to contest polls to Rajya Sabha, such a move would help the party in the long run. Mr. Farooq not only has organizing skills but has the ability

## www.Asia Times .US PAGE 16 Obama makes historic visit to Hiroshima

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Barack Obama on Friday paid tribute to the "silent cry" of the 140,000 people killed by the world's first atomic bomb attack and sought to renew attention in his unfulfilled vision of a world without nuclear weapons, as he became the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima.

"Death fell from the sky and the world was changed," Obama said, after laying a wreath, closing his eyes and briefly bowing his head before an arched monument in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park that honors those killed on Aug. 6, 1945, when U.S. forces dropped the bomb that ushered in the nuclear age. The bombing, Obama said, "demonstrated that mankind possessed the means to destroy itself."

Obama did not apologize, instead offering, in a carefully choreographed display, a reflection on the horrors of war and his hope that Hiroshima would be remembered as the beginning of a "moral awakening." As he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stood near an iconic bombedout domed building, Obama acknowledged the devastating toll of war and urged the world to do better.

"We stand here in the middle of this city and force ourselves to imagine the moment the bomb fell ... we listen to a silent cry," Obama said.

A second atomic bomb, dropped on Nagasaki three days after Hiroshima, killed 70,000 more.

Obama also sought to look forward to the day when there was less danger of nuclear war. He received a Nobel Peace Prize early on in his presidency for his anti-nuclear agenda but has since seen uneven progress.

"We must have the courage to escape the logic of fear and pursue a world without them," Obama said of nuclear weapons.

Following the remarks, Abe called Obama's visit courageous and long-awaited. He said it would help the suffering of survivors and echoed the anti-nuclear sentiments.

"At any place in world, this tragedy must not be repeated again," Abe said.

The visit presented a diplomatic tightrope for a U.S. president trying to make history without ripping open old wounds.

Critics believe Obama's mere presence in Hiroshima will be viewed as an apology for what they see as a justified attack. But he has also drawn praise from those who see it as a long overdue gesture for two allies ready to bury a troubled past.

Obama's remarks showed a careful awareness of the sensitivities. He included both South Koreans and American prisoners of war in recounting the death toll at Hiro-



shima — a nod to advocates for both groups that publicly warned the president not to forget their dead.

Obama spoke broadly of the brutality of the war that begat the bombing, but did not assign blame.

After his remarks, he met with two survivors, but his remarks to the aging men were out of ear shot of reporters.

At one point, Obama could be seen laughing and smiling with 91-year-old Sunao Tsuboi, and he embraced Shigeaki Mori, 79, in a hug. But mostly, Obama just listened the men as they spoke through an interpreter.

The visit was meant to demonstrate the strength of the U.S.-Japanese alliance, and Obama and Abe took each step together. The men walked along a tree-lined path, past an eternal flame, toward a river that flows by the domed building that many associate with Hiroshima.

They went to the lobby of the peace museum to sign the guest book: "?We have known the agony of war. Let us now find the courage, together, to spread peace, and pursue a world without nuclear weapons," Obama wrote, according to the White House.

The president's call for a nuclear-free world was a far cry from the optimistic rallying cry he delivered as young, newly elected president. Obama did not employ his campaign slogan — "Yes, we can" — as he did in a speech in Prague in 2009. Instead, the president hoped for the "courage to escape the logic of fear" and spoke of diligent, incremental steps.

"We may not realize this goal in my lifetime but persistent effort can roll back the possibility of catastrophe," he said. "We can chart a course that leads to the destruction of

these stockpiles."

Obama touched down in Hiroshima after completing talks with world leaders at an international summit in Shima, Japan.

Those who come to ground zero at Hiroshima speak of its emotional impact, of the searing imagery of the exposed steel beams on the iconic A-bomb dome. The skeletal remains of the exhibition hall have become an international symbol of peace and a place for prayer.

Bomb survivor Kinuyo Ikegami, 82, paid her own respects at the cenotaph on Friday morning, well before Obama arrived, lighting incense and chanting a prayer.

Tears ran down her face as she described the immediate aftermath of the bomb.

"I could hear schoolchildren screaming: 'Help me! Help me!" she said. "It was too pitiful, too horrible. Even now it fills me with emotion."

Han Jeong-soon, the 58-year-old daughter of a Korean survivor, was also at the park Friday.

"The suffering, such as illness, gets carried on over the generations — that is what I want President Obama to know," she said. "I want him to understand our sufferings."

Obama's visit is a moment 71 years in the making. Other American presidents considered coming, but the politics were still too sensitive, the emotions too raw. Jimmy Carter visited as a former president in 1984.

### No Muslim family should engage in birth control

No Muslim family should engage in birth control or family planning, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday, calling again on pious Muslims to have more children.

"We will multiply our descendants. They talk about population planning, birth control. No Muslim family can have such an approach," he said in a speech in Istanbul broadcast live on television. "Nobody can interfere in God's work. The first duty here belongs to mothers," he said.

Women's groups and opposition politicians have criticized Erdogan, a devout Muslim for telling women how many children to have and dismissing the Western idea of gender equality. He has previously equated birth control with treason.



#### www.Asia Times .US PAGE 17

### **Facing unemployment, Indians** forced to leave Gulf

New Delhi: Having quit his low-paid job with a contractor in Qatar, electrician Kurian Joseph scrabbles for work each day in his hometown in Kerala, a state that has one of India's highest unemployment rates.

He's a casualty of the global oil price collapse. Stories like Joseph's explain why remittances from Indians working abroad slumped 27 per cent in the fiscal year through March to \$48 billion - the lowest since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Making \$250 a month, and faced with a pay cut as construction jobs in Qatar became scarcer, Joseph realised he could no longer afford monthly instalments on his house and son's education. In January, after 15 years in the Gulf, he decided to go home.

"Working conditions became bad after the oil crisis hit construction. Our company could not sustain its large work force," Joseph, 56, told Reuters from Changanassery, a ramshackle town strung along Kerala's main northsouth road.

"I am told the company is planning to retrench workers.

Many of my friends are planning to return."

Most of India's remittances come from the oil-rich Gulf, where some seven million Indians have been working, but more and more are being forced to come home. Earlier this year, 1,000 Indian professionals were laid off by Qatar Petroleum [QATPE.UL].

The prospect of further falls in remittances is a hindrance for the Reserve Bank of India, as it seeks to "bullet-proof" the economy against sudden capital outflows. Whereas India's external balances are in a far better shape than three years ago, when a sudden burst of portfolio investment outflows put the rupee in a tailspin, there are still risks of external shocks.

Chances of U.S. interest rates going up, Britain voting to leave the European Union, and China's economy worsening all pose risks for emerging markets like India.

Portfolio investment is typically the most volatile source of inflows, but last year's \$18 billion drop demonstrated how unreliable remittances can be. Taking note, an RBI panel warned last month that the likely impact on



remittances should be factored into any monetary policy decisions.

"Long-Term Adjustment"

Though oil prices have recovered more than 50 percent since late January, the rally could easily peter out before the labour market tightens in the Gulf once again.

Marie Diron of Moody's Investors Service warned there could be worse to come for remittances.

"We have highlighted the risks of a marked fall in remittances as the Gulf economies' long-term adjustment to lower oil prices has only just started," said Diron, a senior vice president in the rating agency's Sovereign Risk Group.

Having covered 50 percent of India's trade deficit in the previous two years, remittances only covered 40 percent in 2015/16 even though the trade gap had shrunk significantly.

"Essentially an improvement in the trade balance is being offset by worsening private transfers," said Pronab Sen, country director for the UK-based International Growth Centre's India programme.

On balance, of course, India has benefited massively from cheap crude over the past two years. It halved the oil import bill, cooled inflation and improved public finances, all of which helped the RBI to cut interest rates.

Economists expect a balance of payments surplus close to \$25-30 billion for 2015/16, as foreign direct investment inflows into the world's fastest growing major economy remain robust, and foreign exchange reserves stood at \$361 billion on May 13.

All of which makes lower remittances a far smaller headache for India than for its neighbours - Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Meantime, down in Kerala, Joseph has sold his house and cleared his debts. He plans to build a smaller home and start a business with what money he's got left.

### **Bengaluru: At 92, this auto driver** rocks!

Mysuru: Wearing a neatly ironed kurta and white dhoti, and a gold chain round his neck, M Parthasarathi is often seen driving an auto round the city. But he has to be the oldest auto driver anywhere as he is 92. Unlike the frail old men of his age, he could put any young man to shame as he works 12 hours a day seven days a week, taking no break even during festivals.

Living in Gokulam, Mr Parthasarathy takes off in his auto at 10 am and returns only at 5 pm. He never says no to a customer no matter what his destination. Far from being put off by his age, a few passengers are so keen on using his services that they phone him to book his auto in advance.

But there's more. The energetic nonegarian sells mouthwatering masala vadas, mixtures and pedas at his shop, Indira

Sweets, that he runs in partnership with a friend, C V Ramakrishna on D Subbaiah Road once he gets off his auto at 5 pm.

Over 30 years old, it is popular for not only its delicious food, but also the personal touch Mr Parthasarathi lends it, greeting many regular customers by name and a ready smile.

Ask him his routine and he says, he goes to bed by midnight and wakes up at 6 am. A Brahmin, he begins his day with a pooja and a visit to the Ramakrishna Ashram. A light breakfast later he is off on his auto, returning home for a quick light

vegetarian lunch with his 83- year- old wife, Rukminamma, their three sons, and eight grand children, who live with him in a huge joint family. He has one other son



and three daughters as well, who are all educated.

Before he began driving autos, of which he owns six today, he worked in a sweet

stall for 36 years. While his family keeps telling him to give up his work, he says its unlikely.

### www.Asia Times .US PAGE 18

## tends to be possessed by ghost

New Delhi: In order to escape being sexually assaulted by two harassers, a 17-year-old girl from Delhi pretended to act like she was possessed by evil spirit.

On May 9, Facebook user Khyati Khandelwal penned down an incident that happened to her close friend, which soon went viral, as per Deccan Chronicle reports.

The incident allegedly took place on 8 May in the Punjabi Bagh West area. She acted as if she was a ghost and started laughing hard and then she would just stare at the men's face. She started speaking in paranormal way. The post within no time went viral on social media. Many people lauded the quick and smart move of the girl shown, while some thought it was a fake story.

Khyati Khandelwal wrote:

"Last night, one of my extremely close friends had gone to the market at around 10pm in Delhi. On her way, two uncouth men began to follow her. By their looks and behavior she knew something is not right. They followed her for about 5 minutes and then they grabbed her by her waist and pulled her away and at that hour, there was nobody around in the street.

Now this is a situation in which most of us would start screaming at the top of our voices for help but instead, she made the smartest move, she did something that probably wouldn't occur to any of our minds specially in such a situation.

She acted as if she was a ghost and started speaking in a paranormal way, she would laugh hard at times, and the next moment just stare at the men's faces. (Very fortunately, she had left her house with open, unkept hair).

Looking at this, one of the two got extremely scared

Three women in one

family murdered

for 'honour' in Pakistan

and resorted to run, while the other one was determined that there is nothing to worry about.

Now in this situation, she really didn't know what to do anymore. Without thinking, she scratched the guy's hand so that it would bleed and began to rub his blood on her face while laughing as loud and evil as she could.

As gross as it sounds, it worked and the second man too, got completely scared and left her, running away, too.

She is a seventeen year old friend of mine who didn't want her name to be revealed. But when I heard about this from her, I was so moved by the witty escape she made, that I couldn't help but post about this.

To everyone out there, be safe. And if you can't be safe, be smart like her."

#### To escape rape attempt, girl pre- UPSC Civil Service result 2015 announced: 37 Muslims selected

New Delhi: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced the results of Civil Service 2015 examinations yesterday. A Kashmiri Muslim, Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan secured second position out of 1,078 successful candidates.

Ms. Tina Dabi of Delhi got the first rank. Athar Khan belongs to Jammu and Kashmir. He comes

from a village Devipora in South Kashmir's Anantnag District. He is the youngest boy, 22, to crack the exam from the valley.

It may be mentioned that Dr. Shah Faisal was the first Kashmiri Muslims who topped the UPSC Civil Service exams in 2010.

In 2014 Civil Service Exam, 38 Muslims candidates were successful

whereas in 2015 exam, 37 could clear.

As per the rank, only on candidate, Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan can get IAS whereas the other candidates may get IFS, IPS, IRS and other civil services.

Following is the list of 37 Muslims candidates who cleared UPSC Civil Service Examination, 2015:

#### Nirankari spiritual leader Baba Hardev Singh dies in road accident in Canada



New Delhi: The Chief Priest of Nirankari sect, Baba Hardev Singh, was killed in a car accident in Canada's Montreal on Friday.

"With profound pain and sorrow, this is to inform all that His Holiness Nirankari Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj has merged into this Almighty God. He was travelling in a car in Canada which met with a serious accident at about 5.00 am (IST)," a statement by the Sant Nirankari mandal in Canada said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among those from the political spectrum to express condolences regarding the spiritual leader's death.

"Baba Hardev Singh's demise is tragic & a great loss to the spiritual world. My thoughts are with his countless followers in this sad time," Narendra Modi said in Twitter.

#### Follow

Narendra Modi @narendramodi Baba Hardev Singh's demise is tragic & a great loss to the spiritual world. My thoughts are with his countless followers in this sad time.

4:32 AM - 13 May 2016

3,042 3,042 Retweets 7,304 7,304 likes BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain said in Twitter, "Nirankari Baba Shri Hardev

Singh passed away in a Road accident in Montreal. Really sad to hear about his demise. Baba Hardev Singh's demise is a loss to the nation. He was doing a lot of service for the people. I have personally seen his 'Samagams."

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Rajnath Singh @BJPRajnathSingh Baba Hardev Singh's demise is a huge loss to the Nirankari Mission. May God give his followers the strength to bear the pain of this tragedy 4:05 AM - 13 May 2016

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Rajnath Singh @BJPRajnathSingh Baba Hardev Singh's demise is a huge loss to the Nirankari Mission. May God give his followers the strength to bear the pain of this tragedy 4:05 AM - 13 May 2016

299 299 Retweets 867 867 likes Home Minister Rajnath Singh said, "Deeply pained to learn of the demise of Baba Hardev Singh ji. He was a not only a spiritual leader but also a social reformer. Baba Hardev Singh's demise is a huge loss to the Nirankari Mission. May God give his followers the strength to bear the pain of this tragedy."

ily were shot dead by male relatives who suspected them of having "illicit relations" with other men, police in eastern Pakistan said Wednesday.

The women, aged 22, 28 and 29, all lived in the same house in the city of Faisalabad.

Lahore: Three young women in one fam-

"The men suspected that the three women had illicit relations with other men and shot them in the chest and face and fled after the murders," police investigator Mohammad Ayub told AFP.

Police have launched a manhunt, he said, added that it appeared to a case of "honour killings".

Officials at the local police station confirmed the account.

Last week a teenage girl in the country's northwest was strangled and her body set ablaze after a village council ruled she must die for helping a friend to elope, sparking anger from rights activists.

Hundreds of women are murdered by their relatives in Pakistan each year on the pretext of defending family "honour".



Pakistan amended its criminal code in 2005 to prevent men who kill female relatives escaping punishment by pardoning themselves as an "heir" of the victim.

But it is left to a judge's discretion to decide whether to impose a prison sentence when other relatives of the victim forgive the killer -- a loophole which critics say is still exploited.

"A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness" -- a film telling the story of a rare survivor of an attempted honour killing -- won the Academy Award for best documentary short in February.

Publicity surrounding the film prompted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to vow to eradicate the "evil" of honour killings, but no fresh legislation has been tabled since then.

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## Muhammad Ali, the greatest athletes of all times -Dr. Abdul Ruff



Muhammad Ali, the silver-tongued boxer and civil rights champion who famously proclaimed himself "The Greatest" and then spent a lifetime living up to the billing, is no more after a 32-year battle with Parkinson's disease. Muhammad Ali, revered as one of the greatest boxers of all time, has died at the age of 74.

Muhammad had suffered for three decades from Parkinson's, a progressive neurological condition that slowly robbed him of both his legendary verbal grace and his physical dexterity. A funeral service was held in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.

The man who could float like a butterfly and sting like a bee, dazzle the world of heavyweight boxing at the height of the sport's golden era, and stand against war and injustice in America, is in our memories. His daughter Rasheda said that the legend was "no longer suffering," describing him as "daddy, my best friend and hero" as well as "the greatest man that ever lived."

While some debate remains over whether he was the greatest heavyweight to ever enter the ring, boxing historians unanimously agree he was the greatest entertainer the sport ever produced.

Born Cassius Marcellus Clay on Jan. 17, 1942 in Louisville, Kentucky, to middle-class parents, Ali started boxing when he was 12, winning Golden Gloves titles before heading to the 1960 Olympics in Rome, where he won a gold medal as a light heavyweight. He changed his name to Muhammad Ali in 1964 after converting to Islam.

He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1984, at the age of 43

Religion and freedom

Inspired by Malcolm X, one of the group's leaders, he converted in 1963. But he kept his new faith a secret until the crown was safely in hand. That came the following year, when heavyweight champion Sonny Liston agreed to fight Ali. The challenger geared up for the bout with a litany of insults and rhymes, including the line, "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." He beat the fearsome Liston in a sixth-round technical knockout before a stunned Miami Beach crowd. In the ring, Ali proclaimed, "I am the greatest! I am the greatest! I'm the king of the world." "My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother, or some dark skinned people, some poor, hungry people in the mud, for big powerful America, and shoot them for what?" Ali said in an interview. His stand culminated with an April appearance at an Army recruiting station, where he refused to step forward when his name was called. The reaction was swift and harsh. He was stripped of his boxing title, convicted of draft evasion and sentenced to five years in prison.

Ali fought for freedom, justice, equality and religious beliefs. Ali's fiery commentary was praised by antiwar activists and black nationalists and vilified by conservatives, including many other athletes and sportswriters. His appeal took four years to reach the US Supreme Court, which in June 1971 reversed the conviction in a unanimous decision that found the Department of Justice had improperly told the draft board that Ali's stance wasn't motivated by religious belief.

Released on appeal but unable to fight or leave the country, Ali turned to the lecture circuit, speaking on college campuses, where he engaged in heated debates, pointing out the hypocrisy of denying rights to blacks even as they were ordered to fight the country's battles abroad. "My enemy is the white people, not Vietcongs or Chinese or Japanese," Ali told one white student who challenged his draft avoidance.

Toward the end of his legal saga, Georgia agreed to issue Ali a boxing license, which allowed him to fight Jerry Quarry, whom he beat. Six months later, at a sold-out Madison Square Garden, he lost to Joe Frazier in a 15-round duel touted as "the fight of the century." It was Ali's first defeat as a pro. That fight led to one of boxing's and sport's greatest rivalries. Ali and Frazier fought again in 1974, after Frazier had lost his crown. This time, Ali won in a unanimous decision, making him the lead challenger for the heavyweight title. Finally, Ali delivered a historic performance in the ring, knocking out Foreman in the eighth round. The maneuver has been copied by many other champions since.

The third fight in the Ali-Frazier trilogy followed in 1975, the "Thrilla in Manila" that is now regarded as one of the best boxing matches of all time. Ali won in a technical knockout in the 15th round. Ali successfully defended his title until 1978, when he was beaten by a young Leon Spinks, and then quickly took it back. He retired in 1979, when he was 37. The following year, Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

#### Health and travel

Even as his health gradually declined, Ali — who switched to more mainstream branches of Islam — threw himself into humanitarian causes, traveling to Lebanon in 1985 and Iraq in 1990 to seek the release of American hostages. In 1996, he lit the Olympic flame in Atlanta, lifting the torch with shaking arms. With each public appearance he seemed more feeble, a stark contrast to his outsized aura. He continued to be one of the most recognizable people in the world.

He traveled incessantly for many years, crisscrossing the globe in appearances in which he made money but also pushed philanthropic causes. He met with presidents, royalty, heads of state, the Pope. He told "People" magazine that his largest regret was not playing a more intimate role in the raising of his children. But he said he did not regret boxing. "If I wasn't a boxer, I wouldn't be famous," he said. "If I wasn't famous, I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing now."

In 2005, President George W. Bush honored Ali with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and his hometown of Louisville opened the Muhammad Ali Center, chronicling his life but also as a forum for promoting tolerance and respect.

Divorced three times and the father of nine children — one of whom, Laila, become a boxer — Ali married his last wife, Yolanda "Lonnie" Williams, in 1986; they lived for a long time in Berrien Springs, Michigan, then moved to Arizona.

In recent years, Ali's health began to suffer dramatically. There was a death scare in 2013, and last year he was rushed to the hospital after being found unresponsive. He recovered and returned to his new home in Arizona. In his final years, Ali was barely able to speak. Asked to share his personal philosophy with NPR in 2009, Ali let his wife read his essay: "I never thought of the possibility of failing, only of the fame and glory I was going to get when I won," Ali wrote. "I could see it. I could almost feel it. When I proclaimed that I was the greatest of all time, I believed in myself, and I still do."

An all-time boxing great and one of sport's most charismatic entertainers, Muhammad Ali leaves behind a legacy of thrilling fights, trash talk poetry and taking a stand against inequality and war.

Tributes have poured in for M

uhammad Ali, the heavyweight champion boxer who riveted the world with his sporting feats, quick-witted commentary and civil rights activism. Fellow athletes were quick to offer their condolences. "God came for his champion. So long great one," boxer Mike Tyson said on Twitter. "RIP to The Greatest Muhammad Ali, you have given something to boxing that will never be forgotten," tweeted Floyd Mayweather. British boxer Amir Khan, meanwhile, offered "prayers and thoughts". Manny Pacquiao, the Filipino former world champion professional boxer, said the boxing world would benefit from Ali's legacy. "We lost a giant today," said Pacquiai. "Boxing benefited from Muhammad Ali's talents but not nearly as much as mankind benefitted from his humanity." "A part of me slipped away," George Foreman said on Twitter, calling the legendary fellow boxer by his "the Greatest" nickname.

Our hearts are deeply saddened yet both appreciative and relieved that the greatest is now resting in the greatest place.

Achievements and controversies

The first boxer to win the world heavyweight title three times, Ali's exemplary skills in the boxing ring, colorful trash-talking and historic fights against some of the toughest fighters of all time ensured his place as an immortal icon of the sport. "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," was one of many phrases Ali used to describe what he could do in the ring, while "I am the greatest" was a common catchcry. His vanquished foes included George Foreman, Joe Frazier and Sonny Liston. His road to immortality began at amateur level, after he was snapped up by a policeman come gym manager to take up boxing to arrest his aggressive behavior. The rising star soon turned professional and won 19 successive bouts — 15 by knockout — before taking on Liston in February, 1964 for the world heavyweight title.

Aged 22, he took on heavyweight champion Sonny Liston in Miami. He won and proclaimed to the world: "I am the greatest!" Ali was the first man to win heavyweight titles three times.

A supremely gifted athlete who excelled in one of the greatest eras of heavyweight boxing, Ali will also be remembered for his quick wit, charismatic turn of phrase and his brave stand against conscription, the Vietnam War and racial inequality. But Ali also proved to be a divisive, polarising figure in America, refusing to be conscripted into the US military in 1967 due to his religious beliefs and opposition to the Vietnam War. His stance against conscription cast him as a left-wing symbol of the anti-establishment movement in America. Ali successfully defended his title six times, including a rematch with Liston. Then, in 1967, at the height of the Vietnam War, Ali was drafted to serve in the US Army.

He'd said previously that the war did not comport with his faith, and that he had "no quarrel" with America's enemy, the Vietcong.

As his profile rose, Ali acted out against American racism. After he was refused services at a soda fountain counter, he said, he threw his Olympic gold medal into a river. The new champion soon renounced Cassius Clay as his "slave name" and said he would be known from then on as Muhammad Ali — bestowed by Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad. He was 22 years old. The move split sports fans and the broader American public: an American sports champion rejecting his birth name and adopting one that sounded 'subversive' to fanatics. Ali attended his first Nation of Islam meeting in 1959 and converted to Sunni Islam in 1975. In 1967, he famously refused to fight in Vietnam, citing religious reasons.

Recoiling from the sport's tightly knit community of agents, mafias and promoters, Ali found guidance instead from the Nation of Islam, an American Muslim sect that advocated racial separation and rejected the pacifism of most civil rights activism. Inspired by Malcolm X, one of the group's leaders, he converted in 1963. But he kept his new faith a secret until the crown was safely in hand. That came the following year, when heavyweight champion Sonny Liston agreed to fight Ali. The challenger geared up for the bout with a litany of insults and rhymes, including the line, "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." He beat the fearsome Liston in a sixth-round technical knockout before a stunned Miami Beach crowd. In the ring, Ali proclaimed, "I am the greatest! I am the greatest! I'm the king of the world."

## 'Step-brother' waits for Amma's largesse in Mysuru

Mysuru: "I am very happy that people have given the mandate to Ms Jayalalithaa in the Assembly election results in Tamil Nadu." This was the reaction of 80-year-old N.J. Vasudevan, who claims to be the step-brother of TN Chief Minister and now resides in Srirangarajapuram in T Narsipur taluk of Mysuru district.

He said, "This result was unexpected because post-poll surveys indicated that she may be relegated to second place. Compared to other elections, this time she had a tough fight on her hands. She had failed to fulfil some promises which she made to people of Tamil Nadu during the previous term. Hope she will fulfil them this time." Vasudevan claims that he is the only son of late R. Jayaram and his first wife, Jayamma. Ms Jayalalithaa, according to him, is the daughter of Jayaram and his second wife Vedamma (Sandhya).

"Jayalalitha's mother shifted from Mysuru to Chennai after our father passed away in 1949, at that time, Jayalalithaa was only four and a half years old. She is unaware of me. But Ms Jayalalithaa's mother was my mother's cousin's sister. So her mother knew about us. My grandfather, Dr N. Rangachar was the personal doctor of late Mysuru Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and he had gifted a few jewels during the wedding of my parents. In 1998, I claimed the jewels and it was at that time that Jayalalitha got to know about me. Though I have studied till BCom, I used to help my maternal grandfather in managing the



fields. Now my wife Jayammal and son Venugopal too passed away," he said.

He added, "I am left with no property, except a small house. I am a BP patient and have undergone angioplasty. I need Rs 40 per day for medicines alone. I only get old

age pension of Rs 500 per month. I have written to her (Jayalalithaa) several times, but she has never responded. She may be Amma for seven crore people of TN, but she does nothing for this ailing soul (smiles). That is ok. I will send a registered post congratulating her," he said.

### Woman abandons hus**band at Delhi airport** after their honeymoon

New Delhi: After returning from honeymoon, a Lucknow-based man got the shock of his life as his wife abandoned him at Delhi airport and eloped with her lover.

The newly-wed halted at the airport to board a flight heading to Lucknow and the wife asked her husband to wait outside the washroom. Things seemed eerie when she didn't come out of the washroom for a long time. Being vexed by the delay, the husband showed her photograph to another woman coming out of the

washroom and requested her to check on his wife, who was wearing a blue saree. The husband was left baffled when the woman couldn't find his wife in the washroom.

Being alarmed by the untoward situation, the husband sought help from security officials at the airport.

According to a CCTV footage of the airport, a burqa clad woman was seen coming out of the washroom, whose gait and height was similar to that of the

woman under question, conceded the man when the footage was shown to him. However, he refused to file a police complaint.

After coming out of the washroom, the woman headed to the VIP parking area where she met another man, said an airport official. Both of them were seen halting a taxi. The duo was later on joined by a third person, who according to the police was an accomplice and was party to the plan.

### **Guinness world record holder Khurshid Husain** gets master's degree from US

Mohammed Khursheed Husain of Hyderabad who holds double Guinness World record has completed master's degree in Valparaiso University, Indiana, in Information and Technology.

His graduation Day Function was held on May 14, 2016 in which he was presented Master in Sciences Degree. Over 200 students and faculty were present on the occasion.

Khurshid Husain wish es to set more world records. Mohammed Khursheed Husain S/O Akber Husain, R/O Aman Nagar (B), Talab Katta Hyderabad is the double Guinness world record holder in typing. He set the first record on February 2,



2012 in which he had finished typing letters from A to Z in just 3 seconds. He set the second record on February 27, 2014 in which

he typed a sentence using his nose in 47.44 seconds.

Siasat news



### www.Asia Times .US PAGE 21

## When Rajiv Gandhi's talk with in-laws Sew DELHI: In the early 80s, when Indi-NEW DELHI: In the early 80s, when Indi-vessel. They, I could see, understood and

ra Gandhi was the prime minister, her son Rajiv was once so engrossed in explaining to his parents-in-law the features of a new navy ship that he gave some nervous moments to a bureaucrat in the defence ministry who feared he might be late for an official event that night.

Luckily for Ashok Pandey, the then special assistant to minister of state for defence Shivraj Patil, Rajiv's briefing got over and he along with Indira and the minister was able to attend the dinner with naval officers.

Pandey, who served in Assam and Meghalaya as a young IAS officer at the outset of his career before heading to the Centre to handle crucial responsibilities, has written a book 'From Inside the Steel Frame', which is replete with insights into the changing face of India, and many vignettes of life in the districts, state capitals and around the seat of power in Delhi.

"I cherish the memory of a trip to Bombay with the prime minister (Indira Gandhi) on her plane to celebrate the launch of a new ship and the Navy Day. Rajiv Gandhi, her son and a future prime minister, was also with us," he writes in the book, published by Palimpsest.

"After reaching Bombay, my minister (Shivraj) and I were taken to the Mazagon dock where the newly acquired ship was gleaming in power and glory. Rajiv Gandhi, curious, keenly observant, was showing different parts of the ship to his parents-in-law.

"Technically sound, he was explaining to them in Italian, different features of the

appreciated the points he was making. Meanwhile, my minister left me there and went to attend some political meetings with the prime minister. I remained with Rajiv Gandhi all the time," the Bihar-born Pandey recalls.

"When it was taking a bit longer than I expected, I told him to hurry up as he could be late for the next programme. He replied that he had no other engagement. I was in a dilemma as the minister and the prime minister were to attend a dinner with the naval officers.

"I too was required to attend it. I did not tell Rajiv Gandhi all this, but luckily the briefing was over soon. I made it to the dinner on time and though highly formal, it was a very enjoyable evening," he writes. The book focuses on the centrality of the steel frame, its crucial role in the life of India and at the same time, captures its pitfalls and entrenched biases as the author himself experienced them towards the end of his career.

According to the author, Indira's other son Sanjay was "somewhat temperamental, biased and whimsical in his judgement of situations and people" and was instrumental in the sacking of many government officials.

"While working as special assistant to J B Patnaik in the ministry of tourism and civil aviation, I learnt about the minister being pressured by none other than the all-powerful Sanjay Gandhi who took a special interest in the affairs of civil aviation," he writes.

Pandey cites another example to drive



#### home his point.

"Once J B Patnaik received a confidential letter from Air Marshal Zaheer, civil aviations director general, mildly complaining about Sanjay flying an aircraft without caring for security norms and even without informing the far-flung small airports where arranging even minimum emergency provisions like fire-fighting could be possible only after due notice was received well in advance.

"The contents of the letter were conveyed to Sanjay Gandhi to make him aware of the concern of the director general. All this must have irritated Sanjay Gandhi, who had gained tremendous power in

1980 after a landslide victory of the Congress in the mid-term elections," the book says.

Dis is man, who is d 0nly reason behind sonia (still in India). Such a disgusting ..... As predicted, Air Marshal Zaheer was "unceremoniously removed from his job for no fault of his own", Pandey says. Rajiv, on the other hand, was a simple and good-heared man, he says, adding he was perhaps "unsuitable for the culture of crookedness in politics".

### **12-Year-Old Indian American Gets Accepted To 2 CollegesPlans To Become A Doctor By 18!**

Add this to the chronicles of precocious prodigies of Indian-origin. And the way he's going, pencil him in as a putative first Indian-American President of the United States (POTUS) in 2040. Indian-American pre-teen Tanishq Abraham graduated from a California community college at age 11, continuing an astonishing academic career that saw him enroll in high school and college courses when he was only six and seven, after he and his sister Tiara had become the youngest siblings to join the high-IQ society Mensa when they were four.

Tanishq Abraham

BCCL

Now Abraham has been accepted to University of California (UC) Davis and received a regents scholarship to UC Santa Cruz. He is yet to decide in which university he will enroll. "I think I'll be 18 when I get my MD (medical degree)," Abraham was quoted as saying by CBC Sacramento television station yesterday. Tanishq Abraham

nbcnews.com

The Sacromento-born siblings are children of Bijou Abraham, a software engineer, and his wife Dr Taji Abraham, a doctor of veterinary medicine, who matter-of-factly

told a gawking media at the graduation ceremony that Tanishq was "a few years ahead even when he was in kindergarten and it just went from there". Tanishq Abraham

c2.staticflickr.com

Just how much ahead was evident at the commencement ceremony of the 600-strong class at the American River College, where the next youngest graduating student was twice as old as Tanishq. "This isn't much of big thing for me ... some of them were a little intimidated you know," the pint-sized Tanishq told a local TV station.

The Abraham siblings have been making news for several years now, ever since their parents discovered they were advanced beyond their toddler age to the extent they became members of Mensa Society at four. To join Mensa, one needs to score in or above the 98 percentile on a Mensaapproved standardized IQ test. Tanishq scored 99.9 percentile and Tiara — who is nine now and also enrolled in the American River — scored 99 percentile on the test.

Tanishq Abraham theoptimistcitizen



At five years old, the Abraham's enrolled Tanishq into math courses offered by Stanford University's Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY), which he finished in less than six months. At six, he took online high school and college level classes in subjects such as chemistry, paleontology, biology, and geology, and at seven, he enrolled at American River and completed courses in geology & astronomy, earning As in both courses and emerging as the

top student in both classes.

Also Read: Muslim Rickshaw Driver's Son Adopts A Hindu Name To Get Accommodation, Cracks IAS And Changes It Back With Pride

"The assumption is that he's the all-time youngest," American River College spokesman Scott Crow told NBC News. "But we don't have all the archives to completely confirm. He was definitely the youngest this year."

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### Veteran comedian Razak Khan passes away

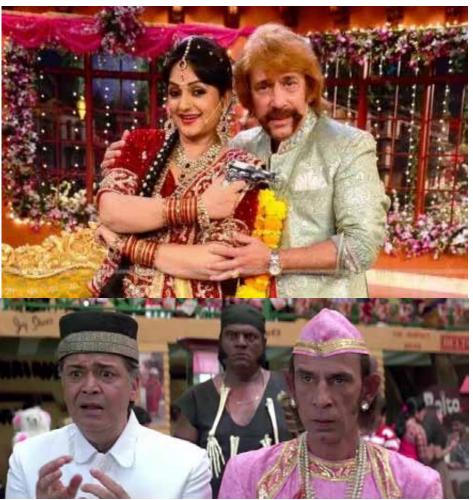
Popular Bollywood comedian and TV actor Razak Khan who was part of showbiz for more than two decades breathed his last after suffering a cardiac arrest, according to reports.

According to reports, the actor was rushed to Holy Family hospital in Bandra, where doctors declared him brought dead. His funeral will be held in Mumbai.

Razak was seen in TV shows like Comedy Nights With Kapil (CNWK) and movies like Hello Brother, Hera Pheri, Baadshah, Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja, Raja Hindustani, Haseena Maan Jaayegi among others.

Razak Khan played Bua's husband Golden Bhai in Kapil Sharma's show CNWK. Apart from playing Makodi Pehlwan in Chamatkar alongside Farooq Shaikh, he was seen in R. K. Laxman Ki Duniya in a cameo role. Khan had also acted in more than 90 films. Khan began his onscreen journey with a small role in the famous television show, Nukkad (1986-87), and made his Bollywood debut with Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja (1993)





### 'Legally, ethically, morally wrong' for Amitabh to host BJP event: Congress

The Congress on Wednesday hit out at the BJP government at the Centre, saying it was 'legally, ethically, morally wrong' to have Amitabh Bachchan as the host for a mega event at India Gate on May 28 to mark the second anniversary of the government.

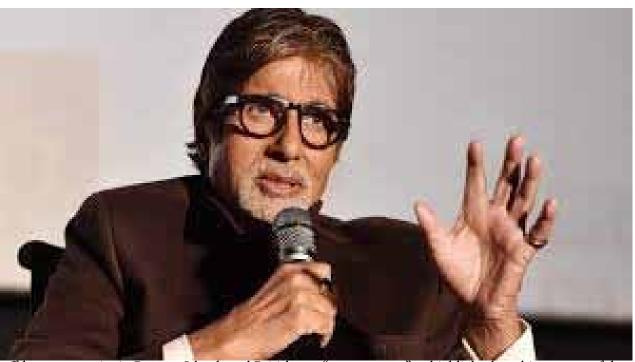
Congress spokesperson Rajdeep Surjewala raked up the Panama Papers scandal, in which the Bollywood megastar's name figures in the list of Indians who have allegedly stashed money abroad. "By having Bachchan as host, what message is the government trying to send?" asked Surjewala. Raising several questions over the issue, he wondered whether the mega star hosting the event which is expected to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not dilute the fight against black money.

He recalled that Prime Minister has time and again vowed to bring back black money stashed abroad and punish those guilty. During the poll campaign, BJP leaders had promised to deposit Rs 15 to Rs 20 lakh in the bank account of every individual once the black money is uncovered.

But Bachchan responded that he was not hosting the show contrary to popular impression. "This is misinformation. not hosting ..only doing a small segment on 'beti bachao, beti padhao", the megastar said on his Twitter handle.

Amitabh's son Abhishek Bachchan also backed his father's clarification. "He (Amitabh Bachchan) is part of a function where he's talking about educating the girl child. That's not a political event," said Abhishek.

Bachchan's name appears as a director of numerous



offshore companies in Panama Islands and British Virgin Islands. Records of Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca showed that Bachchan served as director of four offshore shipping companies between 1993 and 1997. However, Bachchan has issued a statement that he did not know any of the companies, had not been a director of any of them and said that his name might have been misused.

The Narendra Modi government has identified 200 "nerve centres" across the country to highlight their achievements beginning its second anniversary on May 26. BJP will observe a 21-day-long 'vikas parv' from May 26 to June 15, during which 33 teams, each comprising of one Cabinet Minister, one Minister of State (MoS) along with a national and state-level party functionary will visit 6-7 identified

"nerve centres" to highlight the achievements of the government.

As part of the celebrations, the government is organising the event-- 'Zara Muskura Do' (Smile Please) - which will have several performances and programmes highlighting its "achievements". Various schemes and programmes, particularly Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India and Rural Electrification, will be highlighted during the show. The show will be beamed across the country by Doordarshan. It was reported that this show is being hosted by Amitabh Bachchan.

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## Aanand L Rai: Kangana is bound to go much ahead



Aanand L Rai, the director behind successful films like 'Raanjhanaa', 'Tanu Weds Manu' and 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns' came up with a smaller, but critically acclaimed film 'Nil Battey Sannata'. The filmmaker, who is all set to cast Shah Rukh Khan as a dwarf in his next film, spoke to Timesofindia.com about his fu-

ture projects, his Tanu ( Kangana Ranaut ) and much more ... Despite basking in the success of 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns', you opted to make 'Nil Battey Sannata' which was comparatively a smaller film. Why? The excitement is seen. I have not been as happy with my directo-

rial as I am for this one. It's more

than a financial decision; it's like contributing to society and my country through cinema. I was always a director. I became a director-producer so that I can allow myself to make my kind of films and the way I want to and for me to be able to have a free hand to cultivate those films. After 'Tanu Weds Manu', 'Raanjhanaa, 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns', I have somehow understood the economics of filmmaking. I want to expand my production house for all the directors who have passion and want to tell certain stories in a certain way. 'Nil Battey Sannata' falls in that category where I was sure about the concept, the idea and the intention behind the film. Kuch kahaniyaan sunai jani chahiye (some stories need to be told). It takes more of a creative courage than the financial plunge. My company will always support these kinds of films. READ ALSO

Aanand L Rai on SRK's 'Fan': It's a part and parcel of life Kangana won the National Award again for the third time and that's for 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns'. That must have made

you feel all the more proud of her achievement?

She is a brilliant actor; a very hard working girl. The way she has grown in last six-seven years is excellent. She was always a confident person, but the way she has worked on the actor within is unmatchable. I have worked with her in 'Tanu Weds Manu' and 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns'; it's a tremendous growth. She is bound to go much ahead. She is a very focused girl. So I am expecting more magical characters from her.

Having worked with Kangana twice, you know her better as a person too. Personally, she is going through tougher times. Any advice for her?

Who doesn't go through tough times? She is a highly mature girl who has fought all her battles brilliantly and she will fight this also.

The portrayal of women in your films is that of a strong one - the one who is not a sufferer. Is it a deliberate choice.

It's not a deliberate choice. This is what I see around. This is how our society is growing. Even Datto (Kangana Ranaut's character

in 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns') is from similar real space. You go to Haryana and you will find so many Dattos around. A very confident and a very forward thinking girl. Whether it is Tanu (TWMR) or Zoya in 'Raanjhanaa, I have seen them around. Listen to songs of Tanu Weds Manu Returns on Gaana.com Latest Comment

#### Love kangana

Akanksha Vohra

You are a computer engineer. So, what compelled you to leave your engineering background behind to come to Mumbai, make TV shows and now, films? It's very uncomplicated. I just followed my heart. I believe in a very organic life. I don't push myself for so many things, I just let them happen to me. Even as a filmmaker, I never took the director within me so seriously. I enjoy telling stories and hence, chose this path. I am not expecting much from myself. I am honest to my craft. Just be honest, follow the instinct and be loyal to the crux which is the script that's how I function.

#### **'NAUREEN HAS BEEN A BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY**

Prachi Desai who plays Azhar's first wife in an upcoming biopic, says that the latter is fiercely private but a very modern woman.

By her own admission, portraying Naureen Mohammad, former Indian cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin's first wife, has been the toughest and most unconventional role in Prachi Desai's decade-long career. Not only because she was playing a real-life person, but also since Naureen mostly led a silent life, in the shadows of her famous husband.

While, onscreen Azhar (Emraan Hashmi) and his glamorous second wife, Sangeeta Bijlani (Nargis Fakhri) had plenty of referential material at their disposal, Prachi found herself scraping the bottom of the barrel when it came to playing Naureen. "It was not like playing a public figure. There was nothing to Google, or to research with," Prachi explains.

"Naureen is a beautiful mystery. She has guarded her personal life, choosing to never comment on controversies but is an extremely modern woman," informs the actress who met the real Naureen at her home in Hyderabad dur-



ing the course of the film's shooting.

Initially disappointed to learn that meeting Naureen would be impossible since she's an extremely private person, Prachi got her wish when she got to interact with her for a day in Hyderabad. "I had so many questions about how she dealt with certain incidents in her life. She told me that she got married at 16 in an arranged match. She had just given her board exams and didn't know what to think or understand about everything that was going on. She described the event as unnerving, exciting and herself as naive, innocent," the 27-year-old actress reminisces with a smile.

While in Hyderabad, Prachi also shot for a dining sequence with Emraan. "It is the dramatisation of a beautiful moment that came a few years after Azhar and Naureen got married, in 1987. Their marriage lasted nine years and was the golden phase of Naureen's life. At one point, Azhar took Naureen out for a date. Emraan and I recreated that moment," reveals Prachi, urging fans to not judge the events in the former couple's life.

There's a sequence in the trailer where Azhar is seen thanking people for a win, and while Naureen yearns for him to mention her, he proceeds to take Sangeeta's name "There is a certain amount of sympathy at play, but there is also a silent love story that anchors Azhar's life and that is the central story of the film. Naureen lived with Azhar through his highs and lows and the film proves to be a reality check to everyone who has judged Azhar's life. Just like Naureen matured over the years and was no longer the young girl who married Azhar, I will forever cherish the lovely personality I emulated through this film's journey."

### June 2016 www.Asia Times .US PAGE 24 Fardeen Khan struggling with weight issues

Fardeen Khan, who has been away from the lime light for the past few years recently shocked fans when he stepped out looking rather obese. The former star, who once wooed the ladies with his chiselled physique, was unrecognisable with his double chin and pot belly.

The actor has been struggling with weight issues for the past few years. He had even joined a gym in London and hired a celebrity trainer to lose the extra kilos. Back in 2014, he did manage to shed 12kgs in 3 months. However, by the looks of it, he is back to square one.

The online world went berserk with memes related to Fardeen's weight gain. Adnan Sami had tweeted in support of the actor, "Pls stop judging ppl by their #physiques. It's akin 2 #racism! A person is gud or bad thru d soul & not by d weighing scales! #FardeenKhan."

After thanking Adnan Sami, Fardeen went on to lash out at trollers and posted a long note on his social media handle. Here's what he has to say.

#### DEAR ALL,

NOT ASHAMED NEITHER SHAMED. NOT OF-FENDED. NOT DEPRESSED. NOT BLIND EITHER. AM I HAPPY?? EMPHATICALLY!!!! INFACT, LIVING THE HAPPIEST CHAPTER THUS FAR WITH LBS TO SHOW FOR IT.

HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN THE WEEKENDS ENTER-TAINMENT FOR ALL YOU TROLLERS. IF YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH FUN PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO LOOK AT YOUR OWN REFLECTION. IF TROLLING IS WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL BETETR ABOUT YOUR-SELF, YOU HAVE TO SERIOUSLY THINK ANOUT YOU FUTURE PROSPECTS. MY BEST WISHES.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO SPOKE AGAINST MIND-LESS TROLLING PLEASE RAISE YOUR VOICES. THIS WORLDWIDE BEHAVIORAL PATTERN ON THE IN-TERNET IS DISTURBING EVEN THOUGH I BELIEVE IN ABSOLUTELY FREE SPEECH AND OPINIONS. BEING A REALIST, I WILL CAUTION THAT ALL WE CAN HOPE TO ACHIEVE BY SPEAKING OUT...IS THAT THE NEXT TIME A PERSON TROLLS PURELY FOR THEIR OWN AMUSEMENT, HE OR SHE PAUSES TO CONSIDER THEIR OWN MORAL AND ETHICAL CODE. I ALSO WANT THEM TO HONESTLY AN-SWER TO THEMSELVES A VERY RELEVANT QUES-TION. "WOULD THEY STILL FEEL EMPOWERED TO TROLL IF THE ANONYMITY OFFERED BY SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS ON THE INTERNET DID NOT EXIST???? I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT 99 % WOULD NOT HAVE THE GUTS TO......IT PROVES THAT THEY ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A BUNCH OF COWARDS. I HOPE THEY THINK ABOUT THAT THE NEXT TIME.....

ENOUGH SAID FOR NOW.....I AM SURE YOU ALL HAD A FEW LAUGHS AT MY EXPENSE TOO....I MUST CONFESS I DID TOO....THERE IS A SAYING " BLESSED IS HE WHO CAN LAUGH AT HIMSELF FOR HE SHALL NEVER CEASED TO BE AMUSED" MORE IMPORTANTLY, I BELIEVE THE RIGHT TO LAUGH AT ANOTHER IS EARNED BY HAVING THE COUR-AGE TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF. BESIDES LIFE IS TOO SHORT AND WOULD MAKE OUR EXISTENCE UNBEARABLY DULL AND SERIOUS IF WE DIDNT..

LASTLY, TO ALL MY DEAREST FANS AND WELL WISHERS, YOUR SENSITIVITY, KINDNESS, AND LOVE EXPRESSED THROUGH YOUR POSTS AND TWEETS WERE MOST TOUCHING. I CANT THANK YOU ENOUGH BUT IT WAS UNNECCESARY AS I AM SURE YOU ARE EQUALLY SHOCKED AND DISAPPOINTED. I JUST WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT AFTER A VERY LONG TIME I AM IN A GREAT SPACE IN MY LIFE. ALL I ASK IS FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY FOR ME AND EXPECT NOT TO BE DISAP-POINTED FOR LONG

AS ALWAYS MY BEST WISHES ARE WITH YOU AND THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE.

LOTS OF LOVE, FARDEEN





#### Arijit Singh posts public apology to Salman Khan, pleads to retain his song in Sultan

Mumbai: Speculations have been rife that Arijit Singh, who has sung a song for 'Sultan', has rubbed Salman Khan in the wrong way. Now, confirming the rumours, Arijit posted a heartfelt post on his social media handle, apologising and pleading with Salman to retain his song sung by him in the film.

Going by the post, things took a wrong turn at a recent event. Arijit tried to personally apologise several times, but to no avail.

This short clip form the award ceremony, is believed to have been the root cause of the rift between the two.

It seems that the singer had second thoughts after posting the letter as he deleted the post within an hour. Here's what he has to say.

The post reads,

#### "Dear Mr Salman Khan,

This is the last way I thought I would speak to you. I have been trying to text you call you and do everything possible to tell you that you are mistaken about the fact that I insulted you. I never did. That night in the show It was the wrong time and wrong aura. Nevertheless you felt insulted And I understood and I felt extremely sorry about it as me and my family have been your fan since long. I tried to explain so many times but you never got it. I apologized but you never got it. How many times I sent you apology texts you also know.

At Nita Ji's place I only came back to apologize to you but you dint get it. No problem I apologize here In front of everyone but please it is a request Please

do not remove the song that I sang for you in Sultan. You want anyone else to sing this song, absolutely fine but keep a version at least. I have sung enough songs sir. But I want to retire with at least one song of you keeping in my library. Please do not take away this feeling.

I don't know why am I doing this. I know the consequences. People are going to write their heart and mind and everything. I also know you won't be bothered Mr Salman Khan. Still I think I need to take it out. After all I have to live with this fact that you made sure that I don't sing for you even though so



many of us requested.

But I will be a fan bhaijaan.. Jagg ghumeya thare jaisa na koi..

Regards Yours truly Arijit singh Let there be light"

After deleting his post, he wrote, "I hope he gets my letter through someway. Ps. This whole thing will backfire at me I know. Prayers."

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Hyderabad fashion designer sold by recruiter, tortured in Gulf

Hyderabad: Like many people who in a bid to earn money get carried away by lucrative offers in Gulf nations and end up getting duped, a 30-year-old girl's dream of earning a good salary was shattered as she was duped and viciously put to slavery at Hafar Al Batin, about 490 km from Dammam.

A fashion designer by profession, Husna, was offered job at a hospital in Riyadh and was asked to design clothes for the staff. To support her family residing in Hyderabad's Rajendranagar, she accepted the offer.

Though Husna was supposed to go to Riyadh, she was provided a ticket to Dammam. After a week, the girl grew suspicious of her employer Abu Saif. Later, she was asked to clean the house where she is putting up and then she discovered that she has been sold to Saif. Husna posted few pictures on WhatsApp, which clearly showed that she is not only being made to do household chores at Saif's place but also being tortured.

Her parents filed a complaint with the Mumbai police as the recruiter is from the city. They also made efforts to speak to the recruiter, but in vain. The police have assured speedy justice, but nothing much has been done to free Husna.

This is not an isolated incident. A number of complaints have been filed with the police wherein people have been duped and trapped as slaves in Gulf countries. The Telangana government is working hard to stop such hoax recruitments. The state government has also sought Centre's intervention in the case. Hyderabad landing was the best so far, says AN-225 pilot



Hyderabad: The AN-225 Mriya, the world's largest aircraft, took off from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport shortly after 1.30am early Saturday, after a historic 24-hour technical halt here.

It was a smooth landing when the big bird - carrying 130 tonnes of cargo — arrived on Thursday, using over 3,600 metres of RGIA runway. Hyderabad was picked for its ability to accomodate the aircraft and chief pilot Antonov Dmytro was mighty pleased. In fact, he said it was one of the best landings he has made so far in the 14 years he has been flying the heavyweight.

Mr Dmytro, was also disappointed that Hyderabadis couldn't get a glimpse of the AN-225. "It is highly unlikely that such a large transport aircraft will ever be built again. It is not commercially viable and its operating costs are very high," he said.

But the airplane's gargantuan size was still the talk of the town. "It's high as a six-storeyed building. You don't get many opportunities to see such an aircraft," said Mr Rishabh Birla, Managing Director of M/s Air Shagoon Pvt Ltd, who brought the plane to Hyderabad.

Captain Dmytro was full of interesting facts. "It's 28 years old but it's a very reliable piece of machinery. We — 19 crew members including a co-pilot, eight flight crew and technicians - have never had an incident. The longest we have ever flown was a 16-hour trip from Japan to Toronto and despite not much modernisation, it remains absolutely fit."

### I am a living corpse, says Nisar Ahmad who released after 23 years

New Delhi: 23 years ago, Nisar-ud-din Ahmad was not even 20 when the police implicated him for train blasts in Kota, Hyderabad, Surat, Kanpur and Mumbai — on the first anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition.

And now after 23 years in jail, Nisar walked out from Jaipur jail but what you see now is a living corpse, says Nisar as his entire life got uprooted.

"I have clocked 8,150 days of the prime of my life inside the jail. For me, life is over. What you are seeing is a living corpse."

Nisar was among three who walked free this month after the Supreme Court finally acquitted them of all charges.

Nisar, a second year pharmacy student then in Gulbarga, Karnataka remembers how men in khaki on flimsy charges arrested him by threatening him with 'revolver' and had made him to spend the next 23 years in jail.

Speaking to Indian Express, Nisar narrated his gut-wrenching story, "I was yet to be 20 years old when they threw me in jail. I am 43 today. My younger sister was 12 when I saw her last. Her daughter is 12 now. My niece was a year old. She is already married. My cousin was two years younger than me, she is now a grandmother. A generation has completely skipped from my life .

"Our father Noor-ud-din Ahmad left everything to fight a lonely battle to prove our innocence. He didn't see any hope until he died in 2006. Now there is nothing left. Nobody can imagine what it means to a family whose two young sons are jailed."

His older brother, Zaheer-ud-din Ahmad, who was working in Mumbai as a civil engineer too, was handed out life imprisonment but was released on bail on 9 May, 2008 by the Apex Court on health grounds as he was diagnosed with lung cancer in jail.

According to the report, the only evidence cop produced was their alleged custodial confessions.

The police invoked the provisions of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA) to make these admissible and fabricated them in each of these blasts cases.

They approached Supreme Court and challenged the TADA Court's order. The bench of Justice Fakkir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla and Justice Uday Umesh Lalit felt that the confessions were without any "legal sanction and cannot be relied upon."

As per the judgment, Nisar's "role is neither referred to in the confessions.. nor is there any material other than the confession of (Nisar) himself on record. The conviction and sentence of (Nisar) is therefore completely unsustainable".

Nisar said that he and others were framed adding that "I am thankful to Supreme Court to give my freedom back. But who will give my life back?"

The conviction of ten others, including one who is now 85, another is 79 and a third is a 74-year-old were upheld by SC. "They are going to die inside jail," said Nisar.



### KTR meets leaders of IT, Healthcare Companies



Telangana Industries, IT and MAUD Minister KT Rama Rao today interacted with Mayors of Carmel and Indianapolis – cities that made their mark with best practices in local governance. During the interaction with KT Rama Rao at Carmel City Hall, Mayor James Brainard explained how they carry out the functions of drinking water supply, electricity distribution, public transport and sewage management. The two also discussed the public private partnership and other models to raise funds for fuelling the infrastructure projects.

Brainard said citizens extend full cooperation for the development of Carmel City by paying taxes in time and in full. KT Rama Rao then was taken on a tour of City Hall building where the Minister sought to know how the local body's meetings are held and how citizens are made part of them. He asked IT Secretary Jayesh Ranjan to get complete details of City Management Software through which Vehicular Traffic, Water and Electricity Supply are being tracked live in Carmel and to implement smart technologies in the administration. The Minister also examined the mobile app used by Carmel citizens for registering the grievances.

KTR discussed with Joe Hogsett, Mayor of Indianapolis on city planning and administration and the latter elaborated on the Bus Rapid Transit System built to support the expanding city and growing population. The city is raising funds for creating basic infrastructure through Municipal Bonds, Joe said. Later, KTR evinced keen interest in replicating the best practices of the two cities in Hyderabad.

On the second day of the USA visit, Minister KT Rama Rao met leaders of reputed IT, Healthcare companies in Indianapolis. He met CEO of Envista Corporation –a supply chain consulting and IT services company, based out of Indianapolis and offered all support to its expansion plans in Hyderabad. The Minister then met the leadership team of Interactive Intelligence, a global leader of cloud services for customer engagement, communications and collaboration.

The senior functionaries of Interactive Intelligence appreciated the Telangana Government's proactive approach in solving the power shortage issue in the State. They remarked that Hyderabad's culture is very warm and welcoming. The company officials also said that people from other cities in the country love to work in Hyderabad. After discussions with the Minister the Interactive Intelligence leadership assured that they would soon be expanding their operations in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Later in the day, Minister met Steve Akard, Chief of Staff, Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) at its office. The IEDC is State of Indiana's lead economic development agency. KTR and Steve Akard agreed to continue and strengthen the sister city relationship that Hyderabad and Indianapolis currently share. Earlier, Steve gave a high level overview about the various sectors that Indiana is popular for and on how the agency promotes Indiana as an ideal State for investors. The IEDC team explained about how the agency collaborates with various stakeholders and promotes the State. He had an in-depth discussion to understand the various initiatives of IEDC to promote Indiana. Minister was keen to explore possibilities of investments in the Medical Devices sector and explained threadbare about the various initiatives Telangana government is taking to improve the ease of doing business ranking of the State. (NSS)

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## **HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES**

				_		
11 March	Global Baba	Satire	Manoj Sidheshwari Tewari	Abhimanyu Singh, Sandeepa Dhar, Ravi Kishan, Pankaj Tripathi, Sanjay Mishra (actor), Akhilendra Mishra		
11 March	JD	Drama/Thriller	Shailendra Pandey	Govind Namdev, Aman Verma, Vedita Pratap Singh, Lalit Bisht, Amit Pathak, Arvind Gaur		
11 March	Teraa Surroor	Romance/Comedy	Shawn Arranha	Himesh Reshammiya, Farah Karimi, Monica Dogra, Naseeruddin Shah, Shekhar Kapur		
11 March	Ok Mein Dhokhe	Drama/Thriller	Utpal S. Chaudhary Zoya F		Zoya Rathore, Sapan Krishna, Vaidhei Singh, Megha Verma, Ravi Thakur, Milan Singh	
18 March	Kapoor & Sons	Romance/Comedy	Shakun Batra	Sidharth Malhotra, Alia Bhatt, Fawad Khan, Rishi Kapoor		
24 March	Great Grand Masti	Adult/Comedy	Indra Kumar	Ritesh Deshmukh, Vivek Oberoi, Aftab Shivdasani, Urvashi Rautela, Shraddha Das, Puja Bannerjee, Sana Khan, Sonali Raut, Ishita Dutta, Mishti, Kangna Sharma		
25 March	Rocky Handsome	Action	Nishikant Kamat	John Abraham, Shruti Haasan, Nathalia Kaur		
1 April	Ki and Ka	Romance/Comed	y R. Balki		Kareena Kapoor Khan, Arjun Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan	
1 April	Love Games	Thriller	Vikram Bhatt	Bhatt Patralekha, Tara Alisha Berry, Gaurav Arora		
8 April	Yeh Laal Rang	Drama	Syed Ahmad A	fzal	Randeep Hooda, Akshay Oberoi, Rajniesh Duggall, Piaa Bajpai	
6 May	COD	Comedy/Thriller	Robert Megha		Jatin Negi, Preeti Choudhury, Vikrant Khaire	
15 April	Fan	Drama/Thriller	Maneesh Shar	ma	Shah Rukh Khan, Waluscha De Sousa, Shriya Pilgaonkar	
22 April	Nil Battey Sannata	Action	Ashwini Iyer Ti	iwari	Swara Bhaskar, Ratna Pathak, Pankaj Tripathi	
29 April	Baaghi: A Rebel fo Love	r Action	Sabbir Khan		Tiger Shroff, Shraddha Kapoor, Sudheer Babu, Paras Arora	
29 April	Waiting	Drama	Anu Menon		Naseeruddin Shah, Kalki Koechlin, Arjun Mathur, Rajat Kapoor, Suhasini Maniratnam	
6 May	Kaptaan	Comedy	Mandeep Kum	ar	Gippy Grewal, Karishma Kotak, Rishaan Dutta	
13 May	Mirzya	Romance/Drama	Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra		Harshvardhan Kapoor, Saiyami Kher, Om Puri, Art Malik, K.K. Raina	
13 May	Azhar	Biopic	Tony D'Souza		Emraan Hashmi, Nargis Fakhri, Prachi Desai, Gautam Gulati, Huma Qureshi, Lara Dutta	
20 May	Saat Kadam	Drama	Mohit Kumar Jha		Amit Sadh, Ronit Roy, Deeksha Seth	
20 May	Sarabjit	Biopic	Omung Kumar		Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Randeep Hooda, Richa Chaddha	
20 May	Te3n	Thriller	Ribhu Dasgupta		Amitabh Bachchan, Vidya Balan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui	
27 May	Phobia	Thriller	Pawan Kriplani		Radhika Apte	
3 June	Housefull 3	Comedy	Sajid-Farhad		Akshay Kumar, Ritesh Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakh Haydon, Boman Irani	
3 June	Jagga Jasoos	Drama	Anurag Basu		Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Govinda, Adah Sharma	
3 June	Raaz Rebooted	Horror	Vikram Bhatt		Emraan Hashmi, Kriti Kharbanda, Gaurav Arora, Rahul Verma	
10 June	Do Lafzon Ki Kaha	ni Romantic	Deepak Tijori		Randeep Hooda, Kajal Aggarwal	
17 June	Udta Punjab	Thriller	Abhishek Chau	ubey	Kareena Kapoor Khan, Shahid Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Diljit Dosanjh	
3 July	Raees	Crime/Thriller	Rahul Dholakia	Shah F	Rukh Khan, Mahira Khan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Arya Babbar	
3 July	Sultan	Sports/Drama	Ali Abbas Zafar	Salma	n Khan, Anushka Sharma, Randeep Hooda	
15 July	Happy Bhaag Jayeg	Comedy	Mudassar Aziz	Abhay	Deol, Diana Penty, Momal Sheikh, Ali Fazal	
29 July	Dishoom	Action	Rohit Dhawan	John Abraham, Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Saqib Saleem, Ram Kapoor, Nargis Fakhri, Khanna		
29 July	Nonsense	Comedy	Sangeeth Sivan	Sharman Joshi, Vir Das, Zarine Khan		
12 August	Mohenjo Daro	Drama	Ashutosh Gowariker	Hrithik Roshan, Pooja Hegde, Kabir Bedi, Arunoday Singh		
12 August	Phir Hera Pheri 3	Comedy	Neeraj Vora	John Abraham, Abhishek Bachchan, Paresh Rawal		
12 August	Rustom	Romance/Thriller	Neeraj Pandey	Akshay Kumar, Illeana D'Cruz, Esha Gupta		
19 August	Banjo	Drama	Ravi Jadhav	Riteish Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri		
25 August	A Flying Jatt	Action	Remo D'Souza	Tiger Shroff, Jacqueline Fernandez, Salman Yusuff Khan, Shraddha Kapoor		
2 September	Dhoni: The Untold Story	Sports/Biopic	Neeraj Pandey	Sushant Singh Rajput, Ram Charan, Anupam Kher, Fawad Khan, Kiara Advani, John Abraham, Za Manjot Singh		
9 September	Baar Baar Dekho	Romance/Drama	Nitya Mehra	Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif, Ram Kapoor, Annu Kapoor		
23 September	Manmarziyan	Romance	Sameer Sharma	Ayushr	mann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar	

#### June 2016 On the lighter side....

One Spring afternoon, I came home to find two little girls on the steps of my building. Both were crying hard, shedding big tears. Thinking they might be hurt, I dropped my briefcase and quickly went over to them. "Are you all right?" I asked.

Still sobbing, one held up her doll. "My baby's arm came off," she said.

I took the doll and its disjointed arm. After a little effort and luck, the doll was again whole. "Thank you," came a whisper from the girl as I handed her the doll back. Next, looking into the tearful eyes of her friend, I asked, "And what's the matter with you, young lady?"

She wiped her cheeks and said, "Oh I'm okay, I was just helping her cry."

As I was going to visit a friend, I saw my neighbor's little child at the street corner holding two dollars and crying. I asked him, "Junior, what is the matter?"

He replied, "My mummy gave me one dollar to buy sugar and one dollar to buy soy milk, and now I can't remember which dollar is for sugar and which dollar is for the milk."

I was on the subway, sitting on a newspaper when a guy comes over and asks, "Are you reading that?"

I didn't know what to say. So I said, "Yes."

I then stood up, turned the page, and sat down again.

In a software design meeting, we were using typical technical jargon to discuss a data exchange interface with a vendor.



One co-worker said the programming we had ordered was delayed because the vendor was suffering from a "severe non-linear waterfowl issue."

Curious, the team leader raised his eyebrows and asked, "What exactly is that?"

The programmer replied, "They don't have all their ducks in a row."

A man parks his bicycle nearby the Parliament house and walks on.

A police constable stops him and asks, "Why did you park your bicycle here? Don't you know it is a VIP road and all parliamentarians and senators pass from here?"

Man replied, "Don't you worry about it, I locked my bicycle!"

A widow recently married a widower. Soon after the marriage she was approached by a friend who laughingly remarked, "I suppose, like all men who have been married before, your husband sometimes talks about his first wife?"

#### **PAGE 28**

"Oh, not any more, he doesn't," the widow replied.

"What stopped him?"

"I started talking about my next husband."

This was a recent conversation that I had with my girlfriend's father, who knows I do web design.

Father: I have a business idea. How hard is it to make a Facebook?

Me: Oh, that's simple, not hard at all.

Girlfriend: No, he doesn't mean to make a Facebook profile. He means to redo ALL of Facebook.

Me: Oh. In that case, that's very hard.

Father: Oh, okay. (Pause) What are we talking then, maybe just 3 to 5 hours?

A cop pulls a guy over for speeding. The guy tries to defend himself by saying, "I was just going with the flow of traffic."

The Cop replies, "Ever go fishing?"

"Yeah."

"Ever catch ALL the fish?"

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