Cricket World Cup begins Mar 8
Schedule on page-3

Indian Team: MS Dhoni (capt, wk), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Yuvaraj Singh, Suresh Raina, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Harbhajan Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Pawan Negi, Ashish Nehra, Hardik Pandya.


England: Eoin Morgan (c), Alex Hales, Jason Roy, Joe Root, Jos Buttler, James Vince, Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali, Chris Jordan, Adil Rashid, David Willey, Steven Finn, Reece Topley, Sam Billings, Liam Dawson.


West Indies: Darren Sammy (c), Samuel Badree, Sunil Ambris, Carlos Braithwaite, Dwayne Bravo, Johnson Charles, Andre Fletcher, Chris Gayle, Jason Holder, Ashley Nurse, Denesh Ramdin, Andre Russell, Marlon Samuels, Lendl Simmons, Jerome Taylor.
Indian caste politics: stage set for regional elections!

-Dr. Abdul Ruff

At the outset one crucial issue should be stressed right here. The caste factor among Hindu voters still plays key in Indian politics and this would play out fully in regional polls, more than the national parliamentary election. Indian elections are mind-bogglingly complex. Economic class, ethnicity, regional identity, religion - sometimes even politics - all play a role. But the key factor is still caste.

Each political party, national, regional and local, has over years built up vote banks to rely on for votes during the polls. Traditionally the Congress party holds the major chunks of vote banks, Hindu castes, Muslims, Christian, Sikh, and all other communities. Of late, projecting Hindutva as the only legitimate Indian ideology BJP has captured many vote banks of Congress and other parties at national and regional levels by misusing Hinduism as Hindutva. Earlier, Congress party promoted the Hindutva parties like BJP in order to contain and silence Indian Muslims and also corner their vote banks by using the Hindutva forces as serious threats. BJP made full use of Congress help and alter defeating it and replacing it in many states and winning majority in parliament it made Congress almost irrelevant in Indian politics.

Muslims who used to vote for Congress party enmasse have for the first time in Indian political history, like Hindus voted against both Congress and BJP in Delhi assembly poll which brought the new AAP of Arvind Kejriwal to power with a massive mandate. While the then ruling Congress could not win even one seat in Delhi assembly, the former ruler BJP somehow managed scrap through in three constituencies.

The Modi government at the centre as well as BJP party in the country is not as comfortable as both did last year when the BJP swept the poll taking full advantage of anti-corruption movement spearheaded by Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal that targeted the hopelessly corrupt Congress led UPA government.

The caste-based politicians have learnt that by ruthlessly targeting their message at the narrow slice of the population they represent they can win state elections. The BJP and its national rival the Congress party, meanwhile, have to water its message down to attempt to appeal from select castes to almost everyone.

In Bihar polls held last year, the Grand Alliance of Nitish-Lalu defeated BJP alliance. Lalu or Laloo as he is universally known in India is a very shrewed politician who ruled Bihar for 15 years thanks to the seemingly impregnable electoral alliance he forged between the state's Muslims and the large, traditionally cow-herding, Yadav caste that delivered 30% of the vote at every election. But the appeal to caste identity tends to be linked to appeasement in India: politics becomes almost exclusively about what you can deliver - jobs, housing, subsidies - for your fellow caste members.

Nitish Kumar built his support in Bihar by cleverly picking off disaffected lower caste voters and Muslim voters from Congress vote bank. Like Laloo he styles himself a socialist, but unlike him, also a champion of law and order who would put development first. And Bihar did begin to improve under Kumar. He got rid of the caste-cronyism that marred Laloo's rule and has made the state more law abiding and more prosperous. And, until very recently, Kumar was a strong supporter of the BJP. But he didn't think Modi was fit to be prime minister and cut his ties with the party. Instead Kumar formed with his sworn enemy, Laloo. The idea is that together they can unite lower caste voters against Modi.

Modi has been widely criticised for waiting so long to speak out against the lynching of a Muslim man by a mob of his Hindu neighbours for allegedly slaughtering a cow, a supposed "sacred animal" to Hindutva forces. The issue was exactly what Modi needed to drive a wedge between the lower caste Hindus and the Muslims that are the electoral bedrock of third front like the Grand Alliance.

Now the BJP requires increasing its MPs tally in Upper House in order to pass all bills easily and state elections would give the main parties winning seats would gain MPs in the House. Indian states like Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry (Pondicherry) are getting ready for elections to elect assemblies and the Indian election commission has already notified the dates for these states. However, BJP may not gain much from the elections. Around 17 crore voters will cast their vote in assembly poll which will be held in April and May, Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi announced on Friday. While Assam will have a two-phase election on April 4 and 11, West Bengal will see balloting on seven dates despite a six-phase election on April 4 and 11, West Bengal will see balloting on seven dates despite a six-phase election: April 4, 11, 17, 21, 25 and 30 and May 5. In contrast, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry will see election on a single day: May 16.

Votes polled in all five states will be counted on May 19. Elections will be held in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The results of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, West Bengal and Puducherry Assembly elections will be declared on May 19. Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Assembly Elections will take place in one phase. Kerala Assembly Elections will take place in one phase. The poll- ing will be held on May 16. The West Bengal Assembly Elections will take place in six phases. Notification will be issued on March 11 for the first phase. Polling for the first phase will be on two dates that are 4 April and 11 April. The voting for the fourth phase of WB Assembly election will take place on April 25. Date of fifth phase polling is 30 April. The polling for the last phase will be held on May 5 in WB. The poll- ing for the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly Election will be held on April 17. Date of third phase polling is 21 April. Assam Assembly Election will be held in two phases. First phase will include 65 constituencies. The notification will be issued on March 11. Last date of withdrawal of candidature is March 21. First phase election will be held on 4 April. Second phase of the Assam Assembly Election will be held on April 11.

Indian VP Hamid Ansari in Hyderabad meets CM and Mayor
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DJ or Karaoke in Chicago area  (630) 400-2549

Shahid Lateef
Chicago IL: American Telugu Association [ATA] the 25-year old premier national organization of Telugus in North America is gearing up to unveil its Grand ATA Conference to mark the celebrations of its silver jubilee on an unprecedented scale to showcase the rich enduring Telugu culture in the form of art, music, dance, literary, religious, social, economic, health forums from July 1-3rd 2016 in Chicago at Rosemont Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

In this great monumental effort, ATA’s top tier team from all across the country converged at Westin Hotel in Princeton, New Jersey to take demonstrably significant measures to host an epic silver jubilee convention with each regional teams from various U.S. cities expressing unrestrained passion, energy and commitment to move forward proactively the largest Conference in Chicago to celebrate the 25 year milestone journey. With the formation of over 70 important committees served by 70 chairs and 100 Co-Chairs with over 200 Members /Advisors and over 300 vendors all are geared up to host this mammoth convention. Several busloads of families from many cities are expected to arrive in Chicago this summer to join the unprecedented gathering of Telugus at the convention. Joining this mammoth effort, Telangana government has announced that it will send a 15-member cultural troupe to augment the ATA festivities at the convention.

The main order of the business in Princeton, New Jersey entailed the election of Chandrasekhar Reddy Palvai as Conference Convener and K.K.Reddy as Conference Director; while Krishna Mushyam and Jagan Bukaraju were elected as Conference Co-Conveners -- all of this front line team was unanimously chosen with acclamation. ATA Board of Trustees also appointed a new Treasurer Vinod Koduru and five new Trustees who were administered oath immediately. Mahidhar Muskula was appointed as Office Coordinator.

Sudhakar Perkari, ATA President in his welcome remarks thanked and congratulated the outstanding ATA team for their hard work and unmatched commitment. Sudhakar Perkari thanked the Telangana government and ATA team for helping host ATA Vedikalu in Hyderabad to show the spirit of ATA. President Perkari emphasized that among ATAs principle goals it remains stoically committed to social and charitable mission.

Chandrasekhar Reddy Palvai, Conference Convener said that there is a new momentum, new energy matched by robust determination among the Telugu families in the United States to be a historical part of the silver jubilee ATA convention. Chandrasekhar Reddy assured that the ATA convention will be hosted on a scale and magnitude never undertaken.

K.K.Reddy, Conference Director eloquently spelled out the dynamics and the scope of the convention and unveiled the giant strides made in putting together a team of most committed people to undertake the enormous tasks for the ATA Convention. K.K.Reddy assured the ATA members that the Chicago ATA Convention will go down in the history as one of the grandest festival ever undertaken to richly showcase the landmark journey of ATA’s 25 years and predicted that every effort will be made to attract over 12,000 attendances from all across the U.S and other countries including India. K.K.Reddy outlined steps undertaken to mobilize funds to defray the enormous costs associated with hosting such a gigantic convention and challenged every ATA team from various cities to remain fiercely competitive in outraising funds keeping in view the convention and the long-term humanitarian mission of ATA.

Kamala Chima, Conference Coordinator said the goal of the convention is to promote literary, cultural, educational, religious, social, economic, health and community activities of the people of Telugu origin.

Iftkhar Shareef, Reception Chair disclosed the plans to rope in VIPs, dignitaries and elected officials both from India and the United States to grace the convention and added that some have already expressed keen interest in attending.

Hanumanth Reddy, ATA Founder in his statement said American Telugu Association will host the ATA Conference in Chicago in a way to show the triumphant journey of ATA which earnestly began in Chicago 25 years ago and today it has grown exponentially.

The ATA meeting concluded with a grand evening banquet held at The Pind Restaurant in Kingston, New Jersey. For more information, please visit ATA website: http://ataworld.org
Chicago IL: Chicago State University student body of 5000 and its faculty is waiting for Mr. Chandrababu Naidu’s visit to its campus to receive an honorary doctorate. CSU first time in its history announced an honorary doctorate to a foreign head of government Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of State of Andhra Pradesh, India.

As university prepares to host him at a mega event, top officials of university requested the Indian media to give more insights about the Chief Minister’s visit and its impact on CSU and South Side of Chicago.

Speaking about the CSU, Dr. Thomas J. Calhoun, Jr, President of Chicago State University said that, the Chicago State University is one of the great universities in Illinois; it was formed 150 years ago. Now it offers bachelor degrees to doctoral degrees. We welcome all students; particularly, those who seek upward mobility, first generation in family go to college; from underserved areas, minorities; who are working students, raising children, returning back to school. We are a university of people, we are proud of our accomplishments, excited about our next 150 years.

Speaking on this awarding honorary doctorate to Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, India, Dr. Calhoun, Jr, said that Chicago State University’s Board of Governors unanimously awarded an honorary doctorate to the Chief Minister. We anticipate that he will be visiting our campus to be awarded the degree. His work is world renowned. The way he utilized high technology to bring a higher standard of living for the people of low or meagre resources, and be very competitive in nationally and internationally in IT areas. He is just a remarkable individual and we are very proud that he accepted our offer. He will become an alumnus of our university. It is far more of an honor for us than for him. He further added that the Chief Minister is a person who believes in people. When he sees the young people whose minds are benefiting from the excellent education they get at Chicago State University and to know that his vision that we share and that we want to expropriate so that we can expand and provide the same kind of opportunities that he gave to his people to our students. I think it will put a smile on his face.

On CSU acting as possible gateway for commerce between Andhra and Illinois, Dr. Calhoun said that, our two states have a lot to offer each other. The CM will have the opportunity to visit with our top leaders. They all will be invited. There will be significant announcements of new kinds of partnerships, not only between Chicago State University and Andhra universities, but also between Illinois and Andhra Pradesh.

Dr. Angela Henderson, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs said that, entire CSU community is very excited and deeply honored that the Chief Minister will be visiting us. His visit will reverberate educationally, economically and having him visit us from India to speak to us and work with us will offer hope and inspiration to all.

On CSU and Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Bernard Rowan in his comments described the Chief Minister as a great leader and a person open to other cultures and societies and in the mission of serving those whom not have been served as properly as they should have been in the past, and building a bridge to the future. Dr. Rowan further said that he is a very impressive person, I love to meet him, I love for the university, May colleagues to meet him, I love to have him the chance to get to know the people in the south of Chicago. Some of the same challenges and opportunities that he faces are faced by other leaders here; I love to engage him in conversation; I love to thank him for supporting Chicago State University with the opportunity to be a part of the Obama Singh grant and to operationalize it with the wonderful people of his province and country.

Dr. David Kanis, Professor and Vice President in his remarks said that, we are anxious waiting for the arrival of the Chief Minister.

“IMF in its World Economic Outlook sees India as the world’s fastest growing economy in 2016-17, with GDP growth of 7.5%. India continues to be the Top Global Destination for FDI with 32% of investors ranking India as Most Attractive Market in 2015 while 69% placing it among the top 3 investment destinations”, said Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India in Chicago while highlighting the robust health of Indian economy. He said that at present India is considered as one of the most open economies in the world allowing 100% FDI in most of the sectors of its economy. He mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s goal is “Reform to Transform” in order to make India the easiest and simplest place to do business by eliminating paperwork and easing out cumbersome procedures.

The Consul General stated that “Make in India” is one of the flagship programs of the Government of India which is aimed at transforming the Indian economy from services-driven to intensive manufacturing-driven growth model not only to increase productivity but also to promote India as an international manufacturing hub. He said that there are at least 30 key economic sectors which international companies can consider for setting up manufacturing bases in India, adding that the manufacturing sector in India offers USD one trillion of economic opportunity. The Consul General mentioned that there is considerable synergy between the States in India and those in the US Midwest which could be effectively utilized to boost the manufacturing sectors in both countries.

A promotional film on “Make in India” was shown as a part of the presentation.

Hardik Bhatt, Chief Information Officer of the State of Illinois, said that Illinois is one of most important business partners of India. He said that as a leader in the field of education, global connections, and innovation ecosystem, the State of Illinois is keen to collaborate with India in developing smart cities, citing his recent useful interactions with the visiting high-level trade missions from the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Amy Hariani, Director and Legal Policy Counsel, US-India Business Council (USIBC), said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Government has made steady progress to deliver on its promise of economic reforms. She stated that initiatives such as lifting of FDI caps in several sectors, reducing red tape, implementing a transparent tax environment, and improving the country’s intellectual property regime have sent a crystal clear message to the global investment community that India is ready and open for serious business. “The results of these efforts are also visible in India’s rise in the World Bank’s ‘Ease of Doing Business Index’. The US enterprises have also displayed their commitment to the ‘Make in India’ program in a number of areas such as defense, health, power generation, media and entertainment, and technology and have the potential to do much more”, she added.


Brad Perine, Vice President of Marketing of M/S Essaye, gave a presentation on software security applications to protect and secure sensitive data, while expressing their company’s interest to support the ‘Make in India’ initiative.

The seminar concluded with an interactive “Question & Answer” session.

The Consulate General of India, Chicago has since mobilized four major business delegations – one each from the States of Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, and Missouri to participate in “Make in India Week”, scheduled in Mumbai between February 13 and 18, 2016.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA

“India is Fast Emerging as the International Manufacturing Hub”-
Consensus among Global Players at a Seminar on “Make in India Week”, Hosted by Consulate General of India in Chicago

The Shahenshaw Of Prosecutors
by M.A. Waheed

Preetinder Singh Bharara. A name that has ascended the halls of main street and descended on the walls of wall street like a Jhanger-like dispensers of justice. Sending shivers-of-historic settlements and fines. Fan of historic settlements and fines. Fan of

Now the death of Justice Antonin Scalia brings a new discussion on our legal appointees and the battle between Democrats and Republican surrogates. In an election year the public is watching the audacity and simplicity of responses to an open and shut case. And hopefully the ballot box when opened will endorse the “will of the people”. Sri Srinivasan as a potential nominee augurs well for a growing Indian community as a chunk of immigrants branching into diverse powers of duty and responsibility.

M.A. Waheed is a freelance journalist based in Upstate NY and can be contacted at waheed48@yahoo.com.
SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES
We cannot remain invisible in DuPage County politics

VOTE FOR MOON KHAN AS A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

No Countywide Democratic Candidates, Except MOON KHAN for Recorder. Republicans challenged his nomination petition.

To put MOON KHAN back on the ballot, he needs your all votes.

Election
March 15, 2016
Polls are open
6 AM to 7 PM. (March 15)

EARLY VOTING
Early voting starts from February 29, 2016.
(To know the location & time, visit https://www.dupageco.org)

ABSENTEE BALLOT/MAIL IN VOTING:
To obtain an absentee ballot, call
DuPage County Elections Commission
at 630-407-5600 or
visit https://www.dupageco.org

For more information on the candidate, visit
www.moonkhan.com

Paid for by the “Friends of MOON KHAN.”
A copy of our report filed with State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board’s official website: http://elections.ll.gov/
Asian Media USA ©
Chicago IL: Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Consul General of Pakistan received the prestigious “Paul Harris Leadership Award” from John Osterlund, Chief Development Officer, Rotary International, for Global Campaign against Polio in the presence of over 300 eminent persons from different walks of life, at an event titled “Ending Polio in Pakistan.”

The event was organized by Rotary International in collaboration with the Consulate General of Pakistan to discuss the final push to end polio in Pakistan and to celebrate and honor the selfless commitment of the people and the Government of Pakistan for their tireless work to eradicate this disease.

Dr. Sajjid Mehmood, President Illinois Chapter of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (AP-PNA), while appreciating the efforts of the Government of Pakistan, assured AP-PNAs full support and technical assistance to Rotary International in its endeavor to end polio from the world.

Tirmizi stated that Government of Pakistan's National Emergency Action Plan has resulted in tremendous success which is evident from the fact that there was only one case of polio this year and added that it was found out a few days ago, even though the child had been given the drops twice. He hoped that this would be the last case of polio in Pakistan.

“While the achievements in the field of eradicating polio are important in their own right, there is a pressing need for redoubled efforts to further strengthen health standards and systems—nationally, regionally, and internationally,” opined Tirmizi strongly.

Tirmizi paid special tributes to about two lakh vaccinators, mostly female, who fought in the front lines in the global crusade against polio and, at times, even sacrificed their lives in the campaign.

“Polio eradication is our national priority and the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is directly supervising efforts to eliminate this debilitating disease from Pakistan”, said Tirmizi. He added that the strong political commitment and the widespread national consensus, accompanied by informed and supportive medical fraternity, civil society, religious leadership and media, were greatly instrumental in rooting out the disease in Pakistan.

“The country spent $311 million between 2012 and 2015. The cumulative spending from 2012 through 2018 would increase to a whopping $648 million or Rs. 68 billion at the current exchange rate”, Tirmizi said and added that Pakistan’s commitment to polio eradication remains resolute and firm.

Tirmizi stated that the biggest challenge faced by the program was insecurity and the deadly attacks by militant groups on polio workers to derail the polio eradication program; however, he added, on account of the success of operation Zarb-e-Azb and the support provided by the armed forces in implementation of the campaign, Pakistan succeeded in achieving the target of zero transmission of the poliovirus.

Tirmizi said, with a sense of accomplishment, that the top international watchdog of the Global Polio Eradication effort, the independent monitoring board, in its report, appreciated Pakistan’s Polio program saying that the management and governance processes have improved, a functioning Emergency Operations Centre is now in place, shortcomings in data are being addressed, health camps are operational in different parts of the country, front-line workers are more trained, and access has improved substantially reducing the number of children in inaccessible areas. “We believe that Pakistan, with the support of its technical, operational, and development partners Pakistan succeeded in ending polio forever”, Tirmizi stated emphatically. While stating that the Government of Pakistan is funding the program to an extent of 93 percent, he thanked the donors who are making generous contributions to the program, including Japanese International Cooperation Agency, Government of Canada, Government of Germany, Islamic Development Bank, Government of Japan, USAID, World Bank, Government of United Arab Emirates, Government of Saudi Arabia, etc. He especially thanked Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation for matching US $2 to each US $1 raised by Rotary International.

Special video messages on the subject by Saira Afzal Tarar, Minister of State for National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination of Pakistan and Tehmina Janjua, Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva were also played at the event.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA

Philippines seizes North Korean cargo ship to enforce U.N. sanctions

The Philippines said on Saturday it had seized a North Korean freighter that was covered by harsher United Nations’ sanctions against Pyongyang over its nuclear program.

Manila will also deport the vessel’s 21 North Korean crew and will await a U.N. inspection team from the United Nations, foreign ministry spokesman Charles Jose said in a text message.

“ln compliance with the United Nations resolution, the North Korean ship in Subic will be impounded and not allowed to leave port”, he said.

The 6,830 deadweight tonne (dwt) cargo ship Jin Teng was one of the first sanctioned North Korean ships to enter a foreign port since the tightened sanctions were passed unanimously by the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday. Thirty-one North Korean ships are on the list.

“The world is concerned over North Korea’s nuclear weapons program and as a member of the UN, the Philippines has to do its part to enforce the sanctions,” said Manolo Quezon, deputy presidential spokesman told reporters.

The ship, flying a Sierra Leone flag, arrived on Feb. 27 and was unloading palm kernels.

“We have sent teams to guard the ship until we get the formal order from the government,” said Commander Armand Baldo, coast guard spokesman.

On Friday, the coast guard barred the ship from leaving port, citing safety deficiencies found during an inspection.

The inspection was conducted after the U.N. passed the resolution against Pyongyang.

“The U.N. resolution said the 31 ships were "economic resources controlled or operated by Ocean Maritime Management and therefore subject to the asset freeze”.

The Jin Teng has called at Palembang, Indonesia, and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, since the beginning of this year, ship tracking data available on the Reuters Eikon Terminal showed.
Bengaluru: A reserved man who was determined to get into the civil services and serve the nation - that is how friends of N. Harish describe the 2009 batch IPS officer who was found dead under mysterious circumstances at the Police Officers’ Mess at Egmore.

"The last time he had come to Bengaluru was late last year for his engagement with a daughter of a police officer in Hoskote," recalls Ananth, Harish’s childhood friend for 25 years. "Harish was engaged around two months ago. He didn’t invite any of us (friends), as it was a private affair. The marriage was scheduled to be held at Ganapamma Thimmaiah Convention Hall in Basaveshwaranagar on March 18-19, to a police sub-inspector’s daughter from Hoskote who is also a relative of the family.

The wedding invitations cards have been printed, and a ‘puja’ was scheduled for Friday after which the parents thought of drowning the card, " Mr. Ananth said. Large number of friends and relatives thronged the third floor house of N. Harish on the 13th Main, Manjunath Nagar in Rajajinagar, where his parents have been living for over 20 years.

Harish was born and brought up in the very same locality where his father Nagarajappa and mother Shivamma had owned another house two streets away. They were native of Kannamangala village in Hoskote, Ananth said. Harish has two sisters, Asha and Poornima who are married. The family was informed by the Chennai police around 11:30 am about Harish’s demise and Nagarajappa along with one of his son-in-law left for Chennai immediately. Relatives and friends were seen consoling Harish’s mother and his two sisters who are yet to come to terms with the demise of Harish.

"Harish did his schooling at St. Florence High School in Basaveshwaranagar from standard 1 to 10 and had scored 95% in his SSLC. He later joined KLE PU College in Basaveshwaranagar scoring 96% in his PUC and then joined RVCE for pursuing Mechanic Engineering where he passed out in distinction," Mr. Ananth said. "We know how he was determined to join civil services when he refused a job from Infosys that he got during his campus placement," Mr. Ananth added.

"Harish had taken a separate room in Srinagar to stay away from his house in Rajajinagar in order to focus on his preparations for his civil services. He initially took up IAS, got some good ranking, but was not satisfied, then took up KAS and then IPS in which he got through in flying colours, Harish’s another childhood friend Narendra Babu said. He got through IPS after he had gone for a coaching in Delhi for a year after his engineering course. He had even skipped coming for one of his sister’s marriage in Palace Guttalahalli when his fellow batch-mates were promoted two years before him," Mr. Ananth said adding that the Tamil Nadu government will have to conduct a fair probe and bring justice to Harish’s family here.

Ananth and Narendra Babu said that after Harish’s posting, he was not much in communication with his friend circles in Rajajinagar. "He used to call rarely, but whenever he calls he informs us about everything including the bad weather in Tamil Nadu for which he had purchased an air-conditioner for his room and he had difficulty learning Tamil language.

But many a time, whenever he picked our calls, he used to converse in broken Tamil, Ananth recalled hinting that issue also could also be reason for his side-lining in the police department. I heard that he was denied promotions many times when his fellow batch-mates were promoted two years before him," Mr. Ananth said adding that the Tamil Nadu government will have to conduct a fair probe and bring justice to Harish’s family here.

Besides studies and preparation for civil services, he used to play cricket on weekends with his friends and used to go for trips and outings along with his friends at least twice a year, his friends recollected.

Batchmates express shock Most of Harish’s IPS batch-mates called his death a rude shock, M.N. Anucheth, SP, Chitrardurga, one of his batch-mate as well as his junior at the RV Engineering College, said Harish was a “reserved character”, kept to himself, and had lost touch with his batch-mate after his posting.

"The last time I spoke to him was almost six months ago. I had recently even deleted his Facebook account," Mr. Anucheth said. Another batch-mate said Harish was into depression, and was seeking treatment even during training at the National Police Academy (NPA).

34 US lawmakers write to Modi over violence against minorities in India

Expressing serious concern over violence against religious minorities in India, 34 top American lawmakers have asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate steps to protect their fundamental rights and bring the perpetrators to justice.

"We urge your government to take immediate steps to ensure that the fundamental rights of religious minorities are protected and that the perpetrators of violence are held to account,” the lawmakers, including eight Senators, said in a letter to the Prime Minister.

"Of particular concern is the treatment of India’s Christian, Muslim and Sikh communities,” said the letter dated February 25, which was released to the press today by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Among others the letter was signed by Senators Roy Blunt, Amy Klobuchar, James Lankford, Al Franken, Tim Scott, Ben Sasse, John Boozman and Steve Daines.

The letter was signed by 24 members from the US House of Representatives including Joseph Pitts, Keith Ellison, Brad Wenstrup, Jim Costa, Trent Franks, Ted Poe and Mark Walker.

"We also urge you to take steps to control the activities of groups, such as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and instruct Indian security forces to enforce the rule of law and protect religious minority communities from religiously motivated harassment and violence," the lawmakers said.

"On June 17th, 2014, more than 50 village councils in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh adopted a resolution banning all non-Hindu religious propaganda, prayers, and speeches in their communities," the letter said, adding that the Christian minority community has been dramatically affected.

"The ban effectively has criminalised the practice of Christianity for an estimated 300 Christian families in the region one day after a mob, which included members of the Vishva Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal, seriously injured six Christians in the village of Siricuguda. Since the ban was implemented, Christians in the Bastar District reportedly have been subjected to physical assaults, denial of government services, extortion, threats of forced expulsion, denial of access to food and water, and pressure to convert to Hinduism," they alleged.

Expressing concern over beef ban in India, the lawmakers said this is increasing tension and encouraging vigilante violence against the Muslim community.

They also raised additional concerns about the lack of recognition of Sikhism as a distinct religion, which prevents members of the community from accessing social services and employment and educational preferences available to other religious communities.

Congressmen and Senators applauded Prime Minister Modi about his statement on religious freedom and communal harmony, including his promise in February 2014 that his government would “ensure that there is complete freedom of faith and not allow any religious group, belonging to the majority or the minority, to incite hatred against others.”

"We urge you to turn these words into action by publicly condemning the ban on non-Hindu faiths in the Bastar District of Chhattisgarh, and the violent assaults and other forms of harassment against religious minorities throughout India,” the letter said. PTI
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What happened to the settlers the Japanese army abandoned in China

March 2016

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www.Asia Times .US

71 years ago, thousands of Japanese settlers—mostly women and children—founded themselves trapped in an area then known as Manchuria, or Manchukuo, the name of the puppet state the Japanese military established in 1931.

Abandoned by their army, 80,000 Japanese civilians died in northeast China, roughly equal to the number who perished after the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki.

Now, in a small northeast China town named Fangzheng, their memory lives in a one-of-a-kind, all-but-unknown cemetery that has become Ground Zero in the battle over how China remembers its war with Japan.

Uniquely, both the Chinese and Japanese governments would rather forget this far-flung relic—the “Sino-Japanese Friendship Garden”—which feels as haunted as its origin is harrowing.

In 2011, I stood on an abandoned dock along the Songhua River, 110 miles downstream from the Heilongjiang provincial capital, Harbin. There are no plaques, no markers on the site, only rusting skiffs and oil drums. The river here is as wide as a lake, with water that looks deep and dangerous.

An old man carrying a fishing pole appeared from behind a dune and asked what I was staring at. “Today’s the anniversary of the date the Japanese mothers waited here,” I said, “hoping a boat would appear from behind a dune and ask what I was staring at.”

This is the fisherman’s village; he knew the story, even if he hadn’t yet been born. On August 10, 1945, the day after the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, the Japanese army evacuated military families from Manchuria, cut telegraph lines, and blew up bridges, severing settlers—mostly women and children living in remote areas—from rescue.

“They are only alternative,” a Japanese general cabled, “is suicide.”

The Soviet army drew near. Mothers stared upstream and down. No boat came. Hundreds of Japanese women placed their children—some of them just infants—on these docks, stepped off into the current, and disappeared.

A propaganda poster, circa 1935, promoting harmony between Japanese, Chinese, and Manchu. The caption says: “With the help of Japan, China, and Manchukuo, the world can be in peace.” The flags shown are, left to right: Manchukuo, Japan, and the “Five Races Under One Union” flag.

Although they made up only 17 percent of the 1.5 million Japanese living in its puppet state “Manchukuo,” settlers accounted for nearly half its death toll.

“They had been enticed here by the “Millions to Manchuria” campaign begun in 1936, when Japan's farms faced stagnation amid a nationwide recession due, in part, to the American embargo. “Go! Go and colonize the continent!” propaganda posters urged Japanese. “A new land awaits the village youth.”

“The Joy of Becoming a Progenitor,” a colonization manual aimed at men, trumpeted: “What could be better than creating a new country and of becoming the founding fathers to that country!!” Women were given pamphlets titled “The Joy of Breeding.”

A 1941 journal promised, “If you become a Manchurian pioneer, you can be an owner-farmer, and you will see permanent prosperity for your descendants. Then, no way to revive the [home] villages other than developing Manchuria.”

Under the plan, Japanese villages would be replicated in a puppet state it called Manchukuo, with branch family members—second and third sons—sent to pioneer a satellite outpost sharing the same name as their home village.

Unbeknownst to settlers, the majority of these villages were hotbeds of guerrilla warfare, or along the Soviet border, with farming land seized from natives, who came to call them “exploitation regiments.”

Photos show Japanese soldiers teaching newly arrived women, infants lashed to their backs, how to fire the single-bolt rifle each household was issued on landing.

A Japanese writer recorded that when the “pioneer settlers” left for Manchuria, children wryly declared, “the settlers will go of the handkerchiefs and shouted banzai, throwing both hands up in the air” as tears streamed down their cheeks. As their train pulled away from their Japanese home, some of the settlers heard a farewell song that went:

“Pioneer of our great Japan
We divided the village and went to Manchuria
To build the paradise of the ideal way
We will all march together

Many of the settlers who woke on August 10, 1945, would not survive the fall of Manchukuo. Many committed suicide, together.

I stood on the abandoned river docks, watching my shadow flicker over the fast, muddy current. It was August, and the prairie sky stretched blue to the horizon.

If a local retired schoolteacher has his way, one day this sunny spot will be shaded by umbrella-toting tour groups, reading historical markers about the suicides.

“What occurred here reflects the essence of civilian victims of war,” said the retired teacher, who asked to remain anonymous because of the sensitivity of the issue. “Preserving this place can only help the healthy development of Sino-Japanese relations.”

Chinese officials replied to his request: “In present circumstances, the plaques are impossible to approve.” But the teacher noted optimistically, “circumstances change.”

He pointed to the areas other wartime relics as evidence. I followed the one-lane dirt road that winds through a run-down hamlet of redbrick homes and under a new expressway.

Four miles from the riverbank, at the end of a dead-end street, stands a gated grove of birch and pines. It is the only memorial of its kind. The characters on the entrance gate read: Sino-Japanese Friendship Garden.

An estimated 10,000 Japanese settlers had lived in the area around this cemetery, in a county called Fangzheng. Of the 3,420 survivors, 2,300 women—facing no other choice—married local men, and 1,120 children—including those left on the riverbank—were adopted by local families.

Their legacy is still seen on the streets of Fangzheng town, where shop signs display Chinese and Japanese characters, and there are more Japanese-language tutoring centers than ones teaching English. According to the county government, one-fifth of its 230,000 residents have lived or worked in Japan. For years, descendants of Japanese settlers made annual pilgrimages here each August, during Obon, the grave-sweeping festival.

The cemetery’s roots date to 1963, when a Japanese “remaining wife,” as women who married Chinese men were called, struck bones while plowing a field. An excavation unearthed the remains of roughly 4,500 refugees who had died from suicide or starvation.

For three days, on a gasoline-fueled fire, locals cremated their remains. Even though the war caused 14 to 20 million Chinese deaths, in 1963 a monument sanctioned by Premier Zhou Enlai was erected at the tomb containing their ashes.

“The people of Japan and the settlers,” Zhou said, “were also victims of Japanese imperialism.” (Thirty thousand settlers still remained in China when it normalized diplomatic relations with Japan in 1972. Most returned, aged and adrift in a modern Japan eager to forget them.)

Amazingly, given that Red Guards—youth bent on destroying “old customs, culture, habits and ideas”—smashed foreign graves across China, and even the tomb of Confucius, the Japanese cemetery remained intact through the decade-long period of chaos known as the Cultural Revolution.

In order to make way for a reservoir, the graveyard was moved to its present site in the 1980s. In 1984, the remains of 500 settlers who committed suicide before the Soviet army overran them in a nearby town were moved here, as well.

The Sino-Japanese Friendship Garden cemetery also holds the remains of Chinese families who had adopted Japanese orphans. A Japanese officer, expressing guilt for the children left behind, wrote that “the Chinese raised the children of the burglars who had robbed them.” But in interview after interview, the foster mothers said that the babies were just like they had been: powerless.

Their charity is enshrined in pavilions painted with images of the Great Wall and Mount Fuji. Cement walkways lead through the pine grove to two low concrete domes entombing the ashes of the dead. Origami cranes—their silk ribbons wishing, in Japanese and Chinese, for everlasting peace—decorate the pines’ lowest boughs, left by Japanese visitors.

“We have to ask them not to plant any more trees or we’ll have to expand the cemetery,” the live-in caretaker told me.

It is a lovely, peaceful place, silent but for the magpies. The feng shui is sound: sloped cornfields shield the tombs from the malevolent northern wind, and they face water-filled paddies below.

I came to meet a group of descendants traveling from Japan for the grave-sweeping festival. But the war did not end in 1945. In 2015, five Chinese nationalists who met online arrived at the cemetery carrying hammers and a bucket of red paint. Their target: a newly erected monument listing the names of 229 Japanese settlers who died in Fangzheng.

The men crossed the names out with red brushstrokes and chipped the stone with hammers. Internet chat rooms spread the news; within hours a bulldozer plowed the monument’s rubble into a pit. The Japanese grave sweepers canceled their trip.

“Our economy profits thanks to people who went to Japan from our county,” a local shop owner said, “and I support promoting friendship between China and Japan. But some people criticize residents of our county as if they were traitors.”

In July 2015, the cemetery was temporarily reopened to receive a group of 54 orphans since repatriated to Japan. Chinese media reported that the children paid respects at the tomb holding the cremated ashes of their adoptive parents.

“I thank them and all Chinese for giving me a life,” one Japanese woman said.

There was no mention of the neighboring tomb, the final resting place of their mothers forgotten here, seventy years ago.
China said on Saturday it will raise military spending by 7.6 percent this year, its lowest increase in six years, but vowed to protect its maritime rights amid disputes in the East and South China Seas and improve intelligence gathering.

The 954.35 billion yuan ($146.67 billion) figure is only around a quarter of the U.S. Defense Department budget for 2016 of $573 billion, but comes at a time of rising concern over China’s intentions in territorial disputes.

The increase is the first single-digit rise since 2010, following a nearly unbroken two-decade run of double-digit jumps, and comes as China’s economy slows.

It was announced on Saturday at the start of the annual meeting of parliament, but had been flagged by an official who gave a rough figure the previous day.

President Xi Jinping is seeking to drag the People’s Liberation Army, the world’s largest armed forces, into the modern age, cutting 300,000 jobs and revamping its Cold War-era command structure.

However, the reforms have run into opposition from soldiers and officers worried about job security and few details have been released as to what will happen to those laid off.

Premier Li Keqiang told the opening of China’s largely rubber-stamp parliament that the country will “strengthen in a coordinated way military preparedness on all fronts and for all scenarios”.

“We will work to make the military more revolutionary, modern and well-structured in every respect, and remain committed to safeguarding national security,” he said.

“We will make steady progress in reforming military leadership and command structures and launch reform of the military’s size and structure as well as its policies and institutions.”

“ECONOMIC HEADWINDS”

The official Xinhua news agency attributed the slowdown in the pace of defense spending to “rising economic headwinds and last year’s massive drawdown of service people”.

China’s Defence Ministry, in a commentary on its website, described the slower pace as “appropriate”.

“It certainly doesn’t mean the Chinese people’s dreams of a strong country and military will be impacted upon,” it added.

Beijing is feeling public pressure to show it can protect its claims to the South China Sea after the United States began conducting “freedom of navigation” operations near islands where China has been carrying out controversial reclamation work and stationing advanced weapons.

A draft of the five-year plan, a blueprint for the country’s aspirations from this year through to 2020, said China would strengthen its capabilities in maritime law enforcement and “appropriately handle” infringements of its maritime rights, though it gave no details.

The Global Times, a widely read tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party’s People’s Daily, said that for many Chinese the smaller increase “was a bit of a disappointment”, but called for understanding.

“There is no need to spend hugely to catch up with the U.S., which seeks to keep its global military presence. China’s regional military deterrence aimed at national defense has been taking shape.”

The five-year plan also said China would improve its national security “technology and equipment construction” and raise the country’s intelligence gathering abilities.

China, the world’s second-largest economy, is increasingly exposed to international crises like the Middle East but has little experience at dealing with them, unlike established powers like the United States and Russia.

Underscoring the sensitivity of China’s defense spending, about a dozen senior officers approached by Reuters on the sidelines of parliament declined to comment on the matter.

In a government-arranged interview the previous evening, Chen Zhou, a researcher at the Academy of Military Science, said a more modern army needed better training and this is where defense funds should be spent.

“Investment in troop training needs to increase, as only this way can we allow our military to walk down a path of military professionalism.”
Two new luxury yachts introduced at Hussain Sagar Lake

Hyderabad: Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC), today launched two new catamaran yachts for the Hussain Sagar Lake at Lumbini Park here. The yachts were inaugurated by Sania Mirza, brand ambassador of Telangana State. The new catamaran boats have been procured from the USA and will be available to ferry the public from today at the Hussain Sagar Lake. The boats can accommodate 12 to 15 members per trip. The TSTDC has introduced the luxury ride package with these two new boats, which will be priced at Rs 100 per person. Additionally, the TSTDC also launched party packages priced at Rs 2000 per hour at these luxury boats. The party packages are available to be availed up to 12 am. The boats will not only provide a luxurious ambience to tourists, but also have a lower seating which is closer to the water during the ride. TSTDC owns the largest water fleet in India amongst the state tourism departments, about 95 which comprises small and big boats. The corporation operates leisure based cruises and water sports at different lakes and rivers of the State, Parasinging activity at Hussain Sagar etc, which are very popular amongst the local crowd as well. Currently the state tourism development corporation already operates 1 mechanical large boat as a ferry to the Buddha statue. TSTDC also runs 3 cruises 2 AC and 1 Non AC for parties and rides on the lake. TSTDC has also introduced a jolly ride with these cruises – with a car-nival style folk and cultural song & dance presentation during the ride. It operates a Jet ski and speedboat as well to cater to the tastes of adventure enthusiasts.

Speaking at the inauguration Sania Mirza, Indian Tennis Player and Brand Ambassador for Telangana State said, “I am happy to launch the two new luxury yachts at Hussain Sagar Lake. I had a wonderful experience through the ride which brought back the memories of my childhood. The Telangana Tourism Corporation is very proactive in not only assessing the needs of the tourists but also introducing exciting opportunities for the local crowd. I am sure that the tourists will have a great experience with the new yachts.”

Since the formation of Telangana, the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation has taken significant strides to strengthen Telangana’s position as a world-class tourist destination. The Corporation has recently launched an adventurous Helicopter ride, providing a spectacular aerial view of the majestic twin cities; at affordable prices. TSTDC has introduced new Package Tours to fit the specific needs of tourists and helps them plan the entire itinerary through a seamless online booking experience on http://telanganatourism.gov.in Services offered in package – Transport, Accommodation, Sightseeing and also hassle free spare. A student corporator in Hyderabad

Clad in a burkha and with a scarf covering her head, Shireen Fatima looks like any other woman from the old city. But what distinguishes her from others is that she is a GHMC corporator representing Nawab Sahab Kunta division at the tender age of twenty one.

A D.Pharm student of Mesco College of Pharmacy at Mustaidpura, Shireen attends college and devotes her remaining daytime to ensure overall development of the ward. After nightfall she gets back to her studies. Her father Abdul Hannan, a well-known public figure in the area, guides her in the day-to-day affairs. AIMIM party president Asaduddin Owaisi is her role model. In an interview with The Hindu, she outlines her plans for her ward.

What are the main problems in your constituency?

See I represent an area which has many slums. There are quite many civic problems pertaining to sanitation, water scarcity and sewerage. A few storm water drains need to be widened or remodelled.

How are you going to solve them?

Along with my father I have prepared an action plan. I will be discussing with the Bahadurpura MLA Mohammed Moazam Khan and then meet the GHMC officials concerned to ensure their redressal. My emphasis will be on development of local government educational institutions.

I will also be writing to officials of various government agencies to increase the manpower allotted for the area so as to attend regular civic works including health and sanitation. People are also requesting for a library and I will take up the issue with the party leadership as a few thousand students will benefit if it is set up.

How will you help improve the city’s infrastructure?

I will cooperate with officials and other public representatives to ensure overall development of the city infrastructure. My main focus will be developing my ward.
Saudi Arabia, the leader of Arab world and Turkey the only Muslim country in Eu-

-Dr. Abdul Ruff

Turkey and Saudi Arabia to launch
Strategic Cooperation Council!

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu at his palace in Riyadh during the prime minister's official visit Jan. 31. During his visit to Riyadh, the two sides agreed to implement the Strategic Cooperation Council and appoint two joint presidents for the council. The meeting followed up on discussions in December, when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Saudi Arabia. The crown prince had visited Ankara in April 2015 a few hours before Erdogan's visit to Iran, so as to brief Erdogan on Tehran's security interventions in the Gulf and military interference in Yemen.

Turkey is characterized by its strategic location linking Europe and Asia and its growing and diversified economy under the rule of the Islamic Justice and Develop-

ment Party (AKP). The AKP has imple-
mented a number of policies and programs to reduce imports, focusing on producing and exporting local products based on local raw materials and establishing interna-
tional business partnerships with Europe and oil-rich countries in the Middle East. This is not to mention Turkey's military power, as it has the second-largest army in NATO with 670,000 soldiers, following that of the USA.

The relationship between Turkey and Saudi Arabia until now has been treated as almost sacrosanct. Although Turkish and Saudi views on regional issues do not always coincide, both Ankara and Riyadh have kept their bilateral relations away from regional squabbles. Turks, in general, associate Saudi Arabia with pilgrimage (Haji) and oil prices. Aware of the tense rivalry for regional influence between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Turkey has tried to maintain good relations with both coun-
tries, and it was in Syria that Turkish and Saudi interests meshed. NATO member Turkey and a close US ally Saudi Arabia also are focusing on military cooperation, especially with regard to Syria and Egypt. The government of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi recently topped the Muslim Brotherhood government by military coup with US backing, and of the Tobruk government in Libya.

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The government of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi did not offer the sup-
port Riyadh sought in several political and military stances with regard to Syria, Yemen or Iraq; observers said this reflects Egypt's ingratitude for the kingdom's sup-
port of the Egyptian economy in terms of funds and oil. Saudi Arabia provided more than $8 billion worth of aid to Egypt in 2013 and 2014.

Although Turkey and Saudi Arabia always have been training with Saudi Special Forces, who have been trained in Israel to defeat US nuclear weapons to Turkey. Turkey already has 84 nuclear weapons at Incirlik Air Base but under NATO control. Both Saudi Arabia and Turkey have American planes, both F 15 and F 16 modified for nuclear attack. By Israel. America has removed all nuclear attack planes from Turkey under orders of President Obama. Many in Europe want to divide NATO and Turkey. Rumors have it that Turkey has a contingency plan to seize the NATO nuclear arsenal at Incirlik with the help of Saudi Special Forces. It has been trained in Israel to defeat US nuclear weapon security measures. Saudi Arabia is moving planes to the American nuclear base in Turkey. Turkey has not raised its voice against Riyadh while disparaging other countries.

It is worth considering the policy of these two nations towards Shiite Iran. Both were disturbed by Iran's expansionist and sectarian attitude. Iran is spending massive resources on shedding Muslim blood and destabilizing Muslim countries. The Saudi kingdom seems to feel besieged. They are thinking of overcoming that sentiment by forming a Sunni bloc against Iran. Israel will of course be delighted with the idea and the USA may feel it is obtaining another pressure element against Iran in their nuclear talks. The Saudis, well aware of Iran's influence on the Shiites and other non-Sunni Muslims, want to pull in Turkey and Egypt to the bloc they want to form.

Riyadh, uncomfortable with Iran's growing influence over Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, is pulling Turkey to its side. Saudi Arabia is anxiously looking at Iran's growing power and influence in the Arab region following the relief of international sanctions by Europe, the USA and the International Atomic Energy Agency, not to mention lifting the ban on its oil ex-

ports, which allowed it to restore half of its frozen assets abroad, amounting to $100 billion. In the current context, Riyadh's attitude seems to be turning toward Sunni-dominated Turkey, consid-

ering that the close economic, security and military ties have become a strategic need to protect the security of the Gulf and reduce the risk of Iranian influence in the smoldering Arab areas such as Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

Davutoglu's criticism of Iran's behav-

ior with its Arab neighbors during his interview with Al-Arabiya channel Feb. 3, though he described Iran as a friendly and neighboring country to avoid rais-
ing Tehran's ire; there is $14 billion in trade between Turkey and Iran. Escalating sectarian tensions owing to Iranian influ-

eances in the region will have no benefit for Turkey and any other country. It will mean more violence and death.

Despite their regional rivalry, Turkey has never deviated from its stable relations with Iran in the past. The two countries have not been engaged in a border conflict since 1963 and realize the importance of understanding each other, and somehow getting along. However, this new polariza-

tion Ankara officials promote as "partner-

ship against sectarianism" of Iran may well serve only to inflame sectarian conflict and negatively impact that stability.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador to Ankara on Jan. 7 to protest Iranian media outlets that had linked Erdogan's recent visit to Saudi Arabia and Riyadh's death sentence against Shia Sheikh Nimr Al-Nimr. This is not to mention the Iranian media which used the trip of Erdogan's previous visit to Ankara to be aware of Riyadh's decision and of coordi-

nating with Saudi authorities to implement the death sentence against Nimr. These accusations came in response to Erdogan's statements that the death sentence is a Saudi internal affair.

Saudi-Egyptian relations are at low ebb for quite some time. King Salman, faced with the political crisis in Yemen as soon as he took power, is now hoping to change the power balance in the region by attract-

ing Egypt and Turkey to his side. Whether Prince Salman will succeed depends on his ability to end the hostilities between Erdogan and Sisi. Although Saudi Arabia is the most prominent supporter of Egyptian Presi-

dent Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, which toppled the Muslim Brotherhood government by military coup with US backing, and of the Tobruk government in Libya.

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Sahir...

On 8 March 1921, in a red sandstone haveli in Karimpura, Ludhiana, Punjab, India, Sahir was born to a Muslim family. His mother, Sardar Begum, left her estranged husband thus forfeiting any claim to financial assets from the marriage. In 1934, Sahir's father remarried and sued (acrimoniously and unsuccessfully) for custody of his son. Sardar Begum required protection from his father and suffered financial deprivation. Sahir's place of birth is marked with a small plaque on the building's arched entrance. Sahir was educated at the Khalsa High School in Ludhiana. He then enrolled at the Satish Chander Dhawan Government College For Boys, Ludhiana. The auditorium there is named after him. As a college student, Sahir was popular for his ghazals and nazms (poetry in Urdu) and impassioned speeches. In his first year, however, he was expelled for fraternising with a female student on the principal's lawn.

In 1943, Sahir settled in Lahore. There, he completed Talkhiyaan (Bitterness) (1945), his first published work in Urdu. Sahir edited Urdu magazines such as Adab-e-Lateef, Shakhkaar, Prithlari, and Savera and became a member of the Progressive Writers' Association. However, when he made controversial statements promoting communism, a warrant for his arrest was issued by the Government of Pakistan.

In 1949, after partition, Sahir fled from Lahore to Delhi. He moved to India as he missed his Hindu and Sikh friends who had fled from Pakistan and he preferred to live in secular India over an Islamic Pakistan. After eight weeks, Sahir moved to Bombay.[10] He later lived in Andheri, a suburb of Mumbai. There, his neighbours included Gulzar, a poet and lyricist and Krishan Chander, an Urdu litterateur. In the 1970s, Sahir built a bungalow which he called Parchaiyaan (Shadows), after one of his works, and lived there till his death. Sahir's partners were Amrita Pritam, a poetess, novelist and essayist and later Sudha Malhotra, a singer and actress. Although there were also other women in his life, he did not marry.

On 25 October 1980, at the age of fifty-nine, Sahir died in the presence of his friend, Rishi Kapoor. Sahir was buried at the Juhu Muslim cemetery. In 2010, his tomb was demolished to make room for new interments.

Sahir's work as a lyricist in the film industry gave him financial stability beyond his earnings as a poet. He made his debut with four songs performed in the film Azadi Ki Raah Par (1949). One of the songs was Badal Rahi Hai Zindagi. Both the film and its songs went unnoticed. However, after Naujawaan (1951), with music by S.D. Burman, Sahir gained recognition. Sahir's major success was Baazi (1951). Again, the composer was Burman. Sahir was then considered part of Guru Dutt's team. The last film Sahir made with Burman was Pyasa. In Pyasa, Guru Dutt played a poet named Vijay. After Pyasa, Sahir and Burman went separate ways due to artistic and contractual differences. Sahir did work with other composers including Ravi, Roshan, Khayyam and Datta Naik. Naik, a Goan, admired Sahir's poetry and their collaboration produced the score for Milaap (1955). Sahir also worked with music director Laxmikant-Pyarelal in the films like "Man Ki Aankhe", "Izzat", "Dustan" and Yash Chopra's "Daag" all have fabulous songs. From about 1950 until his death, Sahir collaborated with Baldev Raj Chopra (1914 - 2008), a film producer and director. Sahir's last work for Chopra was for Insas Ke Tarazu. Yash Chopra, an independent director and producer, also engaged Sahir. In 1958, Sahir wrote the lyrics for Ramesh Saigal's film Phir Subah Hogi, which was based on Fyodor Dostoevsky's novel Crime and Punishment. The male lead was played by Raj Kapoor. It was presumed that Shankar-Jaikishan would be the composer but Sahir demanded a composer with a more intimate knowledge of the novel. Khayyam composed the film score. The song Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi with its minimal background music remains popular. Khayyam collaborated with Sahir in many films including Kabhie Kabhie and Trishul.

Sahir was a controversial figure in that he was artistically temperamental. He insisted that the film score should be composed for his lyrics and not the other way around. He also insisted on being paid one rupee for his lyrics in any song. It was presumed that Shankar-Jaikishan would be the composer but Sahir demanded a composer with a more intimate knowledge of the novel. Khayyam composed the film score. The song Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi with its minimal background music remains popular. Khayyam collaborated with Sahir in many films including Kabhie Kabhie and Trishul.

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P AGE 17

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phir naa keeje merii gustaKh_nigaahii kaa gilaa
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko

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phir naa keeje merii gustaKh_nigaahii kaa gilaa
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko

is qadar pyaar se dekho naa hamaarri jaaniib
dil agar aar machal jaaye to mushk-kil hogii
tumi jahaaN merii taraf dekhi dekhi dekhi
wahii manzil hogii
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko

ek yooN hii sii nazar dil ko jo
cchhoo letii hai
tikane aramaan jagaa detii hai tum-hen'N kyaa maaloom
roob bechhan hai qadamoN se lipa-Tane
tum ko haar saaNs bulaati hai tum-hen'N kyaa maaloom
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko

cv yooN hii sii nazar dil ko jo
cchhoo letii hai
tikane aramaan jagaa detii hai tum-hen'N kyaa maaloom
roob bechhan hai qadamoN se lipa-Tane
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tum ko haar saaNs bulaati hai tum-hen'N kyaa maaloom
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko

har nazar aap kii jazbaat ko ukasa-
tii hai
maiN agar haath pakaR looN to
to Khaafaa mat honaa
merii duniya-e-mohabbat hai
tumhahaar dam se
tum-hen'N kyaa maaloom
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko

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# HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

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<td>Syed Ahmed Azfal</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Shahid Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut, Saff Ali Khan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A man entered his doctor’s office with a cucumber up his nose, a carrot in his left ear, and a banana stuck in his right ear. “Doc,” he asked, “What’s wrong with me?” “Simple,” replied the doctor, “You aren’t eating right!”

Why shouldn’t you date a tennis player? Because love means nothing to them.

An airplane encountered some turbulence, it started juddering and rocking noticeably from side to side. The flight crew wheeled out the drinks cart to keep the passengers calm. The attendant asked a business man: “Would you like a drink?”

“I’ll have whatever the pilot’s been having.”

A Grammar freak arrogant wife texts to her husband... You are as useless as “ueue” in the word Queue.

A Doctor and an Advocate loved the same girl. The Doctor gave her a rose daily and the advocate gave her an apple. The girl got confused and asked the Advocate, “There is a meaning in giving rose in love. Why are you giving me an apple?”

Advocate answered: Because, “An Apple a day keeps the doctor away!”

Selling at an auction was halted when the auctioneer announced, “Someone in the room has lost his wallet containing $2,000. He is offering a reward of $500.00 for its immediate return.” After a moment of silence, there was a call from the back of the room, “$550.00”

A man crosses the road from a hospital and enters a bar and immediately asks for three treble whiskeys and a beer. The barman pours the drinks and the man swallows each whiskey in one swallow.

The barman is alarmed by this and expresses his concern only for the man to reply, “IF YOU HAD WHAT I HAVE THEN YOU WOULD BE KNOCKING THE DRINKS BACK TOO!”

A cop pulls over a guy and says, “Your eyes are awfully red. Have you been drinking?”

“Gee, officer,” the man replies, “Your eyes are awfully glazed – have you been eating doughnuts?”

Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

A blonde driving a car became lost in a snowstorm. She didn’t panic however, because she remembered what her dad had once told her: “If you ever get stuck in a snowstorm, just wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it.” Sure enough, pretty soon a snow plow came by, and she started to follow it. She followed the plow for about forty-five minutes. Finally the driver of the truck got out and asked her what she was doing. And she explained that her dad had told her if she ever got stuck in a snow storm, to follow a plow.

A cop, Arshad Mateen
غزل

غزل

غریزه آتیک
روفی روز چونی کی چرچا کی جناب ہیں،
پھر ہیں ہر کوئی نیافتنی کے ساتھ ہے。
جب ہماری ہدایت کی ہوئی ہے تو ہیں,
جب کوئی پہلوی کے ہتکانے کے ساتھ ہے۔

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