

March 2016 Vol 7, Issue 3

Cricket World Cup begins Mar 8 Schedule on page-3

Indian Team:

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

Pakistan Team:

Shahid Afridi (c), Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Irfan, Sharjeel Khan, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Nawaz, Muhammad Sami, Khalid Latif, Mohammad Amir, Umar Akmal, Sarfraz Ahmed, Imad Wasim

Anwar Ali, Ahmed Shehzad

Bangladesh Team:

Squad: Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Mohammad Mithun, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Sabbir Rahman, Mashrafe Mortaza (capt), Mahmudullah Riyad, Nasir Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Arafat Sunny, Mustafizur Rahman, Al-Amin Hossain, Taskin Ahmed and Abu Hider.

Australia Team:

Steven Smith (c), David Warner (vc), Ashton Agar, Nathan Coulter-Nile, James Faulkner, Aaron Finch, John Hastings, Josh Hazlewood, Usman Khawaja, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Peter Nevill (wk), Andrew Tye, Shane Watson, Adam Zampa

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

New Zealand Team:

Kane Williamson (c), Corey Anderson, Trent Boult, Grant Elliott, Martin Guptill, Mitchell McClenaghan, Nathan McCullum, Adam Milne, Colin Munro, Henry Nicholls, Luke Ronchi, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor

South Africa: Faf du Plessis (c), Kyle Abbott, Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Imran Tahir, David Miller, Chris Morris, Aaron Phangiso, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Dale Steyn, David Wiese

Sri Lanka: Lasith Malinga (c), Angelo Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal, T M Dilshan, Niroshan Dickwella, Shehan Jayasuriya, Milinda Siriwardena, Dasun Shanaka, Chamara Kapugedara, Nuwan Kulasekera, Dushmantha Chameera, Thisara Perera, Sachithra Senanayake, Rangana Herath, Jeffrey Vandersay

West Indies: Darren Sammy (c), Samuel Badree, Sulieman Benn, Carlos Brathwaite, Dwayne Bravo, Johnson Charles, Andre Fletcher, Chris Gayle, Jason Holder, Ashley Nurse, Denesh Ramdin, Andre Russell, Marlon Samuels, Lendl Simmons, Jerome Taylor

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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 shrewd 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 of parliament 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 elections in the five states. 824 constituencies will go on poll when Assembly Elections will be held in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. Election Commission declares model code of conduct in five states with immediate effects. Central police forces will be deployed in all the five states to ensure fair elections.

Accordingly, assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry 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: 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, Kerala 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 polling 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 polling 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 withdraw 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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8	11 th March 2016, Friday	Bangladesh v Ireland	Dharamsala	EVE INDIAN TIME
9	12 th March 2016, Saturday	Zimbabwe v Afghanistan	Nagpur	PM
10	12 th March 2016, Saturday	Scotland v Hong Kong	Nagpur	EVE
11	13 th March 2016, Sunday	Netherlands v Ireland	Dharamsala	PM
12	13 th March 2016, Sunday	Bangladesh v Oman	Dharamsala	EVE
13	15 th March 2016, Tuesday	New Zealand v India	Nagpur	EVE
14	16 th March 2016, Wednesday	West Indies v England	Mumbai	PM
15	16 th March 2016, Wednesday	Pakistan v Q1A	Kolkata	EVE
16	17 th March 2016, Thursday	Sri Lanka v Q1B	Kolkata	EVE
17	18 th March 2016, Friday	Australia v New Zealand	Dharamsala	PM
18	18 th March 2016, Friday	South Africa v England	Mumbai	EVE
19	19 th March 2016, Saturday	India v Pakistan	Dharamsala	EVE
20	20 th March 2016, Sunday	South Africa v Q1B	Mumbai	PM
21	20 th March 2016, Sunday	Sri Lanka v West Indies	Bengaluru	EVE
22	21 st March 2016,	Australia v Q1A	Bengaluru	EVE
23	22 nd March 2016, Tuesday	New Zealand v Pakistan	Mohali	EVE
24	23 rd March 2016, Wednesday	England v Q1B	New Delhi	PM
25	23 rd March 2016, Wednesday	India v Q1A	Bengaluru	EVE
26	25 th March 2016, Friday	Pakistan v Australia	Mohali	PM
27	25 th March 2016, Friday	South Africa v West Indies	Nagpur	EVE
28	26 th March 2016, Saturday	Q1A v New Zealand	Kolkata	PM
29	26 th March 2016, Saturday	England v Sri Lanka	New Delhi	EVE
30	27 th March 2016, Sunday	India v Australia	Mohali	EVE
31	27 th March 2016, Sunday	Q1B v West Indies	Nagpur	PM
32	28 th March 2016, Monday	South Africa v Sri Lanka	New Delhi	EVE
	29 th March 2016, Tuesday	Rest / Travel Day		
33	30 th March 2016, Wednesday	Men's semi-final (Super 10 Group 1 2 nd v Super 10 Group 2 1 st)	New Delhi	EVE
34	31 st March 2016, Thursday	Men's semi-final (Super 10 Group 1 2 nd v Super 10 Group 2 1 st)	Mumbai	EVE
35	3 rd April 2016, Sunday	Final	Kolkata	EVE

SCHEDULE - CRICKET WORLD CUP T-20

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किसी से माफी मांग ली
किसी को माफ कर दिया

Mujhe shehron se andaaza hua hai
Darindey ab nahin hain junglon main

American Telugu Association gearing up for its grand Silver jubilee 2016 Conference in Chicago

Asian Media USA ©

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 Musukula 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 Veditaku in Hyderabad to show the spirit of ATA. President Perkari emphasized that among ATA's 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 outreasing funds keeping in view the convention and the long-term humanitarian mission of ATA.

Kamala Chimata, 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.

Iftekhhar 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>





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Representative, 8th District



Michael Noland
Democrat

ELECTION DAY: March 15 (Tuesday), 2016

As congressman of Illinois 8th Congressional District you can count on me to add my voice to those of individuals like Rep. Keith Ellison (D - MN) who speak out clearly against the bigotry of those who peddle hate and fear in the Congress or anywhere in public. I recognize that anti-Muslim rhetoric and Islamophobia are real. Through words and deeds, I will represent what I know to be the true values of American Muslims - I will be your representative.

Send Mike Noland to congress to voice against Islamophobia.

اسٹیٹ سینٹر جناب مائیکل نولینڈ کا کہنا ہے کہ:

" بحیثیت رکن کانگریس ڈسٹرکٹ اٹھ ایلیٹس ، آپ مجھ پر بھروسہ کر سکتے ہیں کہ میں ان افراد کے ساتھ اپنی آواز کو شامل کروں گا جیسا کہ منی سویٹا ڈیموکریٹ جماعت کے رکن اسمبلی جناب کیتھ ایلیسن ہیں، جو واضح طور پر ایسے افراد کے خلاف گفتگو کرتے نظر آتے ہیں جو کانگریس اور دیگر مقامات پر تعصب اور خوف کو بوا دیتے ہیں۔ میں اعتراف کرتا ہوں کہ مسلمانوں کے خلاف جزیات اور اسلاموفوبیا حقیقت بن چکے ہیں۔ میں اپنے الفاظ اور اپنے عمل سے بتاؤں گا کہ میں امریکی مسلمانوں کی حقیقی قدر و منزلت سے واقف ہوں۔"

"میں اپنی پوری نمائندگی کروں گا۔"

ہماری آپ سے التماس ہے کہ جناب مائیکل نولینڈ کو ووٹ دیجئے

EARLY VOTING: February 29 (Monday) thru March 14 (Monday)

If you are not registered to vote, don't worry you can Register and vote at the same time during early voting.

Cook County Early Voting Locations	Dupage County Early Voting Locations
Arlington Hts - Village hall**	Addison - Township Office
Elk Grove Village - Village hall	Bartlett - Community center
Hoffman estates - Village hall	Elmhurst - City Hall
Rolling Meadows - Village hall	Glen Ellyn - Civic Center
Streamwood - Village hall	Stratford Mall - Upper level next to Macy's *
Trickster Art Gallery - Schaumburg **	Yorktown Center - Yorktown Shopping center *
Hours : M-F : 9am to 5pm Sat : 9am to 5pm *Sun : 10am to 4pm	
- **Cook county 9am to 3pm	
To find more locations go to your county website	
Kane County Early Voting Locations	
Carpentersville Fire Station No.3-5000 Sleepy Hollow Road, Carpentersville, 60110	
Gail Borden Library - 270 Grove Ave. Elgin, 60120	
Elgin Township - 729 S McLean Blvd. Elgin, 60123	
-----To find more locations go to your Cook, Dupage and Kane County website-----	

TOWNS IN 8TH CONGRESSSIONAL DISTRICT

Addison, Arlington Heights, Barrington Hills, Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Chicago, Des Plaines, East Dundee, Elgin, Elmhurst, Elk, Grove Village, Glendale Heights, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Itasca, Lombard, Mount Prospect, Oakbrook Terrace, Roselle, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, Streamwood, South Barrington and South Elgin.

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CSU and Chicago Awaits Chief Minister Naidu's Visit
5000 member CSU Community looks at Chief Minister as source of inspiration

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.

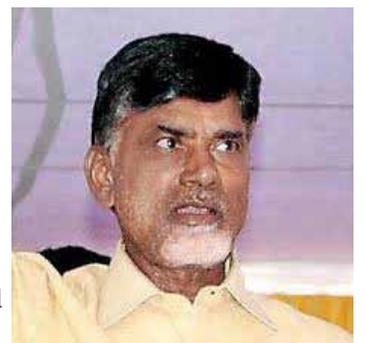
Dr. Angela Henderson, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs said that, entire CSU community is very excited and deeply honored that the Chief Minister will be visiting us. His visit will reverberate educationally, economically and having him visit us from India to speak to us and work with us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

Noted political science Professor 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 anxiously waiting for the arrival of the Chief Minister.



“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

Chicago IL: The Consulate General of India, Chicago, in partnership with International Business Council, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, hosted an Executive Seminar on “Make in India Week” on Wednesday, February 03, 2016 at the premises of the Chamber. The Seminar was attended by nearly hundred leading business persons and entrepreneurs working in different sectors of economy in the US-Midwest, besides senior officials of the State of Illinois, World Business Chicago, Sister City International, Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization (iBIO), the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, US-India Business Council (USIBC), US-India Chamber of Commerce, and the Kellogg School of Management.

“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 60% 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 the 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 seri-



ous 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. Tom Kelly, Director of Government Affairs in Clark Hill’s Washington D.C. office and Kishen Kavikondala, President S.K. International, gave a joint presentation on introducing the American

skilled training model to the Indian students.

Poonam Gupta, Founder and CEO of Iyka Enterprises, Inc., gave a presentation on simplifying technology for the manufacturing industry and customizable data management solutions to a specific, targeted market.

Brad Perine, Vice President of Marketing of M/S Esayfe, 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

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 Jehangir-like dispenser of justice. Sending shivers-of-fear in the corridors of power only a fearless US Attorney with a “can-do” mantra could do it. In a convocation address to would be lawyers, Mr. Bharara said, “It is important to bear in mind, always, that the law is not an end in itself. By itself, the law is really nothing. Because the law is merely an instrument, and without the involvement of human hands, the law is as lifeless and uninspiring as a violin kept in its case.” As he preaches so does he practice. Wearing a robe and wielding a subpoena, Mr. Bharara has exceeded expectations of a public prosecutor

like never before. No man big or small can or could deviate his mission to do the impossible. Mr. Bharara demonstrated his credentials from get-go. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and excelled at Columbia School. Diligent, dedicated and devoted he has brought cases and successfully prosecuted 11 legislators, including former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and ex-Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos. Going after white collar fraud there are no sacred cows for this financial-evangelist. Ethnicity, identity, minority, majority or ferocity are no hurdles for this legal missionary. All shades tainted are painted with a legal brush dyed in constitutional colors. Born in India in 1968 in Firozpur,

India. Raised by a Sikh pediatrician father, Preet graduated from his Monmouth County High School as a valedictorian in 1986. His Hindu mother had migrated from Pakistan. A crusader prosecutor, he brought down nearly 100 Wall Street executives, compelled large banks into historic settlements and fines. Fan of Bruce Springsteen the boss of blue collar workers, may be Preet derives inspiration to collar the white collars who raid and fraud the stock market. He is the voice for the voiceless. A publicly appointed outsider watching insider-trading. Elegantly dressed, stylish and well spoken, Preet could easily be mistaken for a wall street executive till you start perusing his resume.

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.

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Election

March 15, 2016

Polls are open

6 AM to 7 PM. (March 15)

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A copy of our report filed with State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website: <http://elections.il.gov/>

Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Consul General of Pakistan in Chicago Received the Prestigious Paul Harris Leadership Award

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.

John Orsterlund and Osei David Andrews-Hutchinson, District Governor of Rotary International applauded Pakistan's contributions in successfully grappling with the menace of polio as well as the continued sacrifices made by the Government and people of Pakistan.

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 APPNA's 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 Zarbi-Azab 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.

"In 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 Balilo, 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.

IPS officer Harish's mysterious death

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 Ganamma 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 distributing the cards," 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 knew 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 while he was undergoing his IPS training," Mr. Babu said adding that D.K. Ravi, the late IAS officer, too was his roommate in Delhi while they were preparing for the civil services.



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 there. 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, Chitradurga, 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-mates after his posting. "The last time I spoke to him was almost six months ago. He 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 Scot, Ben Sasse, John Boozman and Steve Daines.

The letter was signed by 24 members from the US House of Representatives including Joseph Pits, 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 mi-

nority 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 Sirciguda.

"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 tensions 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.

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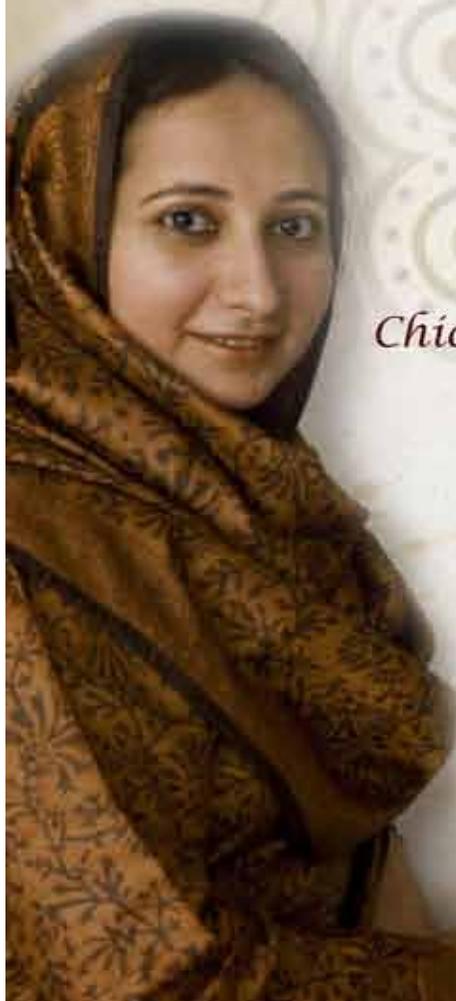
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What happened to the settlers the Japanese army abandoned in China

71 years ago, thousands of Japanese settlers—mostly women and children—found 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 come to pick them up.”

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 Manchurian cities, cut telegraph lines, and blew up bridges, severing settlers—mostly women in children living in remote areas—from rescue.

“Their 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. There is 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 waved flags, and “the villagers let 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:

The pioneers of our great Japan
We divided the village and went to Manchuria
To build the paradise of the imperial 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 area’s other wartime relic 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 2011, 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 says defense spending pace too slow to improve intelligence

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 car-



rying 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.

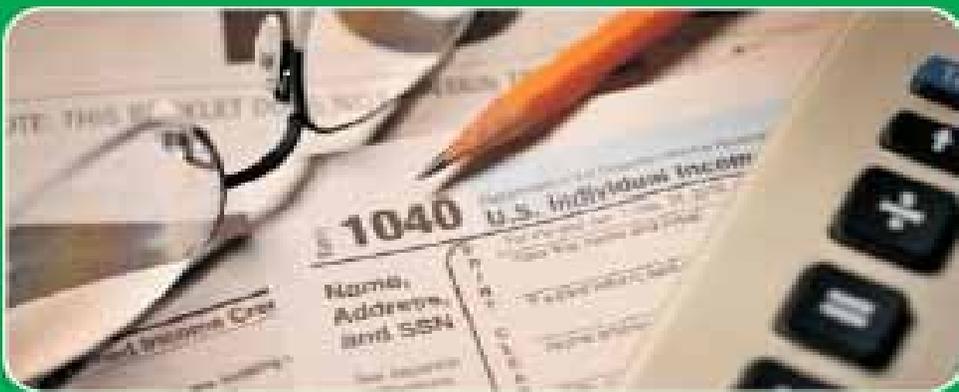
China, the world's second-largest economy, is increasingly exposed to international crises like the Middle East but has little experience at dealing with them, unlike established powers like the United States and Russia.

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."

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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 will begin from 8:30 pm and can

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, Parasailing 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 Jetski 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 Darshan of Lord Balaji apart from other major attractive tourist destinations of

Telangana.

With the aim of providing distinct tourism experience catering to all classes of audiences, TSTDC has introduced adventurous Jungle lodges along with a jungle safari at the kawal Wildlife sanctuary in Adilabad. The corporation also operates mesmerizing lakeside cottages at Ramappa and Laknawarm lakes at Warangal, situated a few meters within the serene lake waters. TSTDC also has an exclusive Haritha Heritage hotel at Medak fort and another breath taking resort at Taramati Baradari in the heart of Hyderabad. TSTDC also organizes Sound & Light shows at two historical forts – Golconda Fort and the Warangal Fort. These shows have recorded narrations (English, Hindi & Telugu) along with imaginative use of music, sound and light effects – creating a dramatic history of the forts. While focusing on the forefront of adventure and ecotourism projects, TSTDC is organizing adventure clubs at Bhongir Fort for rock climbing activities and trekking. This is an ideal occasion to visit the State of Telangana which offers its visitors a plethora of places of pristine natural beauty, abundant wildlife, magnificent palaces and forts reflecting architectural blends along with immense opportunities to explore its artistic and cultural enrichment. (NSS)



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 con-

stituency?

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.



HURT ME WITH THE TRUTH
BUT NEVER
COMFORT ME WITH A LIE

Trying to forget
someone you love,
is like trying to
remember someone
you never met

*I moaned because
I had no shoes,
until I met a man
who had no feet.*

Turkey and Saudi Arabia to launch Strategic Cooperation Council!

-Dr. Abdul Ruff



Saudi Arabia, the leader of Arab world and Turkey the only Muslim country in Europe, have conducted quiet diplomacy in recent times on streamlining and strengthening bilateral ties and both agreed weeks ago in Riyadh to form a Strategic Cooperation Council to coordinate and develop relations between the countries in terms of economic, political, defense, security, education and health issues. Before that, the custodian of the two holy mosques, Saudi King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud received Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu at his palace in Riyadh during the prime minister's official visit Jan. 31. During his visit to Riyadh, Davutoglu met with a number of Saudi businessmen, was keen to persuade them to increase the size of their investments in Turkey. Following the meeting between the Saudi king and Davutoglu, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir 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 Development Party (AKP). The AKP has implemented an economic program designed to reduce imports, focusing on producing and exporting local products based on local raw materials and establishing international 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 (Hajj) 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 countries, 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 royal palace in Riyadh welcomed Davutoglu with a luncheon by Prime Minister Salman in the presence of senior Saudi officials, including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef. The lunch also included the Saudi defense minister and chairman of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who later

held a meeting with Davutoglu, given that the deputy crown prince is responsible for the military and economic affairs in Saudi Arabia.

The final signing of the council agreement is scheduled during Salman's visit to Turkey to participate in the 13th session of Islamic summit on April 10-15, which is held every three years. The summit will be held in Istanbul under the auspices of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which was established in September 1969 and includes 57 member states on four continents.

Turkey seeks, through its Strategic Cooperation with Riyadh, to increase Saudi investment in Turkey, which currently amounts to about \$2 billion — namely in real estate and other activities such as industry, tourism and energy — to \$25 billion by 2023. Ankara also seeks to obtain a bigger share of development projects in Saudi Arabia to the benefit of 200 Turkish companies operating in the field of construction and contracting, whose investments reached \$1 billion during 2015. According to sources, a group of Turkish companies would land contracts with the Saudi Housing Ministry for the construction of residential units with an area of 300 million square meters (3.2 billion square feet); while the value could be as much as \$240 billion.

Despite the expected benefits on the political and military levels after the cooperation agreement is enacted, and despite the AKP's positive stance and support of Saudi Arabia and its genuine endeavor to promote cooperation between the two countries, Saudis who are banking on any foreign military and economic alliances should be realistic and cautious in their optimism. This is especially true since the Turkish government might be powerful, but is not very likely to demonstrate the same influence and power abroad as the Saudis wish — given Turkey's economic considerations with Iran, and for military reasons, as it is a member of NATO, not to mention the security reasons in light of the battle with armed Kurdish groups at home. Saudi Arabia has delivered tactical 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, who have 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 exports, which allowed it to restore half of its frozen assets abroad, amounting to \$100 billion. In this context, Riyadh is turning toward Sunni-dominated Turkey, considering 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 behavior with its Arab neighbors during his interview with Al-Arabiya channel Feb. 3, although he described Iran as a friendly and neighboring country to avoid raising Tehran's ire; there is \$14 billion in trade between Turkey and Iran. Escalating sectarian tensions owing to Iranian influences 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 1639 and realize the importance of understanding each other, and somehow getting along. However, this new polarization Ankara officials promote as "partnership 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 Shiite Saudi cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr. This is not to mention the Iranian media accusing Erdogan of previously being aware of Riyadh's decision and of coordinating 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 attracting Egypt and Turkey to his side. Whether 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 President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who toppled the Muslim Brotherhood government by military coup with US backing, and of the Tobruk government in Libya,

The government of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi did not offer the support 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 support 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 kingdom they agree that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad must go, the Turkish-Qatari axis competes with that of Saudi Arabia in Syria. Some suggest that the failure of the Syrian opposition to get its act together was because of this competition. A similar rivalry is now seen in Egypt because of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government's backing of the Muslim Brotherhood there and in Libya because of the AKP's support of the Tripoli government instead of the one in Tobruk.

The Turkish government's principal aim in Syria is not to fight ISIS, which it has supported with arms and funding, but to prevent the consolidation of a Kurdish enclave on its southern border. The new Saudi-Turkish alliance seems to be an effort by the Sunnis to form a bloc against the Shiite world. Turkey, which succeeded in staying away from sectarian conflicts until the AKP came to power, is now becoming a part of a sectarian polarization for the sake of blocking Iran.

Riyadh is currently engaged in different military operations in Yemen and Bahrain, and potentially in Syria and other countries. Saudi Arabia also ought to take necessary measures in this regard so it will not have to seek help from abroad, especially with 651,000 unemployed people in the kingdom, according to 2014 official statistics. The kingdom also needs a national project to face the Iranian one, as no economic reform can be achieved without real political reforms ensuring the participation of citizens in power and wealth management. Turkey has officially announced that it is ready to move into Syria against the US backed YPG who it deems as a terrorist group. Turkey has yet to attack ISIS and is only fighting Kurds with the exception of the Erbil regional group in Iraq. There is conclusive evidence that both Erbil and Ankara are fully behind ISIS.

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 Sahir's 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 empassioned 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, Shahkaar, 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 a sudden cardiac death (he had been a smoker and drinker). He 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 Pyaasa. In Pyaasa, Guru Dutt played a poet named Vijay. After Pyaasa, 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 Insaaf Ka 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 more than Lata Mangeshkar and this created a rift between them. Sahir promoted his girlfriend, Sudha Malhotra's singing career. He also insisted that All India Radio credit lyricists.

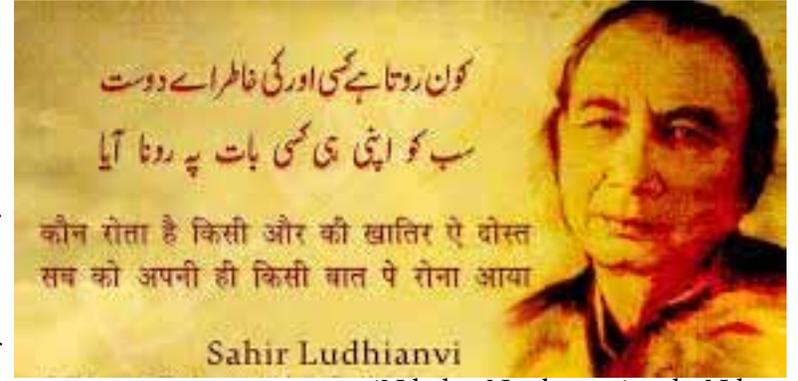
phir naa keeje merii gustaaKh_ nigaahii kaa gilaa
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se dekhaa mujh ko

اشک

انکوں میں جو پلا ہے وہ گیتوں میں دیا ہے
اس پر بھی تانا ہے کہ زمانے کو گلا ہے

جو تار سے نکلی ہے وہ دھن سب نے سنی ہے
جو ساز پہ گزری ہے وہ کس دل کو پتہ ہے

ہم بھولے ہیں، اوروں کے لئے لائے ہیں خوشبو
اپنے لئے لے دے کے بس اک داغ ملا ہے



Sahir Ludhianvi

maiN kahaaN tak na nigaahoN ko
palaTane detii
aap ke dil ne ka_ii baar pukaaraa
mujh ko

is qadar pyaar se dekho naa hamaa-
rii jaanib
dil agar aur machal jaaye to mush-
kil hogii
tum jahaaN merii taraf dekh ke ruk
jaaoge
wahii manzil merii taqadeer kii
manzil hogii
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko
aap ke dil ne ka_ii baar pukaaraa
mujh ko

ek yooN hii sii nazar dil ko jo
chhoo letii hai
kitane aramaan jagaa detii hai tum-
heN kyaa maaloom
rooh bechain hai qadamoN se lipa-
Tane ke liye
tum ko har saaNs bulaatii hai tum-
heN kyaa maaloom
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko
aap ke dil ne ka_ii baar pukaaraa
mujh ko

har nazar aap kii jazbaat ko ukasaa-
tii hai
maiN agar haath pakaR looN to
Khafaa mat honaa
merii duniyaa-e-mohabbat hai
tumhaare dam se
merii duniyaa-e-mohabbat se judaa
mat honaa
dekhiye aap ne phir pyaar se
dekhaa mujh ko
aap ke dil ne ka_ii baar pukaaraa
mujh ko

अशक

अशकों में जो पाया है वोह गीतों में दिया है
इस पर भी सुना है के जमाने को गिला है

जो तार से निकली है वोह धुन सब ने सुनी है
जो साज़ पे गुज़री है वोह किस दिल को पता है

हम फूल हैं, औरों के लिये लाये हैं खुशबू
अपने लिये ले देके बस इक दाग मिला है



غزل

☆.....عبد الحنی ساحر لدھیانوی

تنگ آچکے ہیں کشمکشِ زندگی سے ہم
ٹھکرا نہ دیں جہاں کو کہیں بے دلی سے ہم
مایوسی آلِ محبت نہ پوچھئے!!
اپنوں سے پیش آئیں ہیں بیگانگی سے ہم
لو آج ہم نے توڑ دیا رشتہٴ اُمید
لو اب کبھی گلہ نہ کریں گے کسی سے ہم
ابھریں گے ایک بار ابھی دل کے دلوے
گو دب گئے ہیں بارِ غمِ زندگی سے ہم
گر زندگی میں مل گئے ہم اتفاق سے
پوچھیں گے اپنا حالِ حری بے بسی سے ہم
اللہ رے فریبِ مشیت کہ آج تک
دنیا کے ظلم سہتے رہے خامشی سے ہم

HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

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

On the lighter side....

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?"

"Why not?" he replied unkindly

"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 the girl 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!"

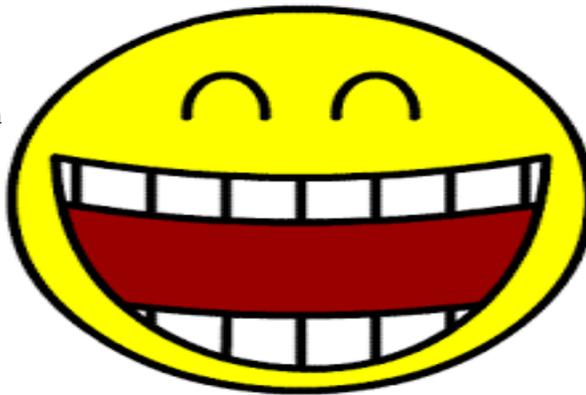
Selling at an auction was halted when the auctioneer announced, "Someone in the room has lost his wallet containing \$2,000. He is offering a reward of \$500.00 for its immediate return." After a moment of silence, there was a call from the back of the room, "\$550.00"

A new business was opening, and one of the owner's friends sent flowers for the occasion. But when the owner read the card with the flowers, it said "Rest in Peace".

The owner was little upset and called the florist to complain. After he had told the florist about the obvious mistake, the florist said, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry, you should imagine this: Somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, "Congratulations on your new location."

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 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!"

The barman places the beer on the counter and watches the man chug down the brew and asks sympathetically, "what have you got?"

The man places the empty glass down and replies "an empty wallet."

Grandma of a boy don't like eating her

medicine. So the boy went to the doctor and asked what he could do. The doctor tells him a trick.

The boy came back home with some sweets and put the medicine inside them and gave it to Grandma to eat. After eating her sweets the Grandson told his Grandma, "I am very happy to see that you have eaten all the sweets."

Grandma replied, "Yes I have eaten all sweets but I didn't like the seeds inside them and removed all seeds from it."

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.

The driver nodded and said, "Well, I'm done with the Wal-Mart parking lot, do you want to follow me over to Best Buy now?"



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تم نے تو کہہ دیا کہ محبت نہیں ملی
مجھ کو تو یہ بھی کہنے کی مہلت نہیں ملی

نیندوں کے دیس جاتے کوئی خواب دیکھتے
لیکن دیا جلانے سے فرصت نہیں ملی

تجھ کو تو خیر شہر کے لوگوں کا خوف تھا
اور مجھ کو اپنے گھر سے اجازت نہیں ملی

بے زار یوں ہوئے کہ ترے عہد میں ہمیں
سب کچھ ملا سکون کی دولت نہیں ملی

☆☆☆

خواب کر دیں نہ کسی روز یہ منظر سارے

میری راہوں سے نکلے ہوئے پتھر سارے

اک نظر اور نظر بھی وہ تری پاک نظر

وہ جو بے ذر ہیں بناتی ہے ابو ذر سارے

ایک ہوتا ہے جسے رشک سے دیکھیں کلیاں

کون کہتا ہے کہ ہوتے ہیں گل تر سارے

میں نے حالات سے جس وقت بغاوت چاہی

کیوں بدلنے لگے احباب ہیں بکھر سارے

میرے دامن میں فقط درد و الم ہیں ارشاد

ارشاد نیازی اور یہی درد زمانے سے ہیں بہتر سارے

غزل

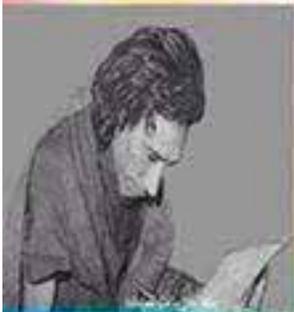
غزل

چھڑا ہے جو اک بار تو ملتے نہیں دیکھا
اس زخم کو ہم نے کبھی سلتے نہیں دیکھا
اک بار جسے چاٹ گئی دُھوپ کی خواہش
پھر شاخ پہ اُس پھول کو کھلتے نہیں دیکھا
یک لخت گرا ہے تو جڑیں تک نکل آئیں
جس پیڑ کو آندھی میں بھی ہلتے نہیں دیکھا
کس طرح مری روح ہری کر گیا آخر
وہ زہر جسے جسم میں کھلتے نہیں دیکھا

غزلوں میں کما گیتوں میں سنا، نظموں میں لکھا سب تیرے نام
غالب سے لیکر غالب تک جو کچھ بھی پڑھا سب تیرے نام
ہاں نیلے گنگن کی اس حد تک جتنے بھی ستارے بستے ہیں
وہ ستارے تارے اور ان کی جتنی ہے ضیا سب تیرے نام



صدر ایوب خان بھارت کے دورے پر گئے تو وہاں انہوں نے دل کی تاروں
کو چھو لینے والا نغمہ سنا۔ اُن کو یہ نغمہ اتنا پسند آیا کہ اس نغمہ نگار شاعر سے ملنے کا
ارادہ ظاہر کر دیا۔ صدر ایوب کو یہ بتا کر حیران کر دیا گیا کہ وہ شاعر ایک
پاکستانی ہیں۔ پاکستان آ کر انہوں نے پھر اسی خواہش کا اظہار کیا تو صدر
صاحب کے حکم کی تعمیل کیلئے ماتحتوں کو لالے پڑ گئے کیونکہ وہ شاعر داتا
صاحب کے دربار کے باہر ایک کسبل میں پلٹا چرس کے نشے میں دھت
زمانے کی ستم ظریفی کا شکار اور رہا تھا۔ لاکھ منتوں سماجتوں کے باوجود شاعر
نے صدر صاحب کے پاس جانے سے انکار کر دیا۔ آخر کار جب اصرار حد
سے بڑھا تو ساتھ ہی پڑی سگریٹ کی خالی ڈبیا اٹھائی۔ اس میں سے ایلومینیم
کی فویل جس کو کھلی بھی کہتے ہیں نکالی، دکان دار سے قلم مانگا اور دو لافانی
سطریں تحریر کر کے اس پولیس اہلکار کے حوالے کر دیں جو اس کو صدر صاحب
کی پاس لے جانے آیا تھا۔ وہ سطریں کچھ یوں تھیں۔۔۔



یہ تھے جناب
ساغر صدیقی صاحب

جس دور میں لٹ جائے غریبوں کی کمائی!!!
اُس دور کے سلطان سے کچھ بھول ہوئی ہے

خورشید اکبر

غزل

رفتہ رفتہ یوں بھی منظر بن جاتا ہے
پھول سا چہرہ کیسے پتھر بن جاتا ہے
جس کے لیے دن بھر سب سے لوہا لیتا ہوں
رات گئے وہ خود ہی خنجر بن جاتا ہے
کیا اتنا آسان ہے اُس پر تکیہ کرنا
آسانی سے کون سا بستر بن جاتا ہے
ریگستانی پیاس لبوں پر آتی ہے کیوں
چلتے چلتے کون سمندر بن جاتا ہے
ساحل کی امید ڈبو جاتی ہے کشتی
بیچ بھنور میں تختہ بھی گھر بن جاتا ہے
نہے پودوں کی روداد سنائی جائے
کیسے کوئی پیڑ تناور بن جاتا ہے
شام کے تیر سے زخمی ہے خورشید کا سینہ
نور سمٹ کر سرخ کبوتر بن جاتا ہے