FedEx Stubborn about Discounts NRA

FedEx Corp. is maintaining discounts for members of the National Rifle Association, even as calls for a boycott mount on social media after a deadly school shooting in Florida.

The courier said it “has never set or changed rates for any of our millions of customers around the world in response to their politics, beliefs or positions on issues.” The NRA is one of hundreds of organizations in its alliance programs, FedEx said Monday in its first public comment on the matter.

Since Sunday, the #BoycottFedEx hashtag has been included in more than 700 posts on Twitter, including one by Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school student David Hogg that has been shared more than 13,000 times. Hogg — who now has more than 330,000 followers on Twitter — and peers at Stoneman Douglas have gained national attention as advocates for gun-law reforms since a Feb. 14 attack at the school left 17 students and teachers dead.

FedEx said its views on firearms policy differ from the NRA’s. While the company said it supports the constitutional right of U.S. citizens to own firearms, subject to appropriate background checks, it supports keeping assault rifles out of civilian hands.

‘Inherent Danger’

Assault rifles and large capacity magazines are “an inherent danger to schools, workplaces and communities when such weapons are misused,” FedEx said in the statement. “We therefore support restricting them to the military.”

Shares of the Memphis, Tennessee-based company rose less than 1 percent to $254.51 at the close in New York. They were unchanged in late trading, following the company’s statement on the NRA.

FedEx is part of the NRA Business Alliance and offers discounts through its FedEx Advantage program for shipping by FedEx Ground and FedEx Express and some services at FedEx Office, according to company and NRA websites. NRA officials also didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Delta Air Lines Inc. and United Continental Holdings Inc. are among companies that cut ties with the NRA following online calls to boycott the gun lobbying group. Symantec Corp., owner of LifeLock and Simplisafe Inc.; rental car companies Hertz Global Holdings Inc. and Avis Budget Group Inc. and insurer MetLife Inc. all have cut ties to the NRA. Apple Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. were among companies being pressured Monday on social media to drop the lobbying group’s streaming TV channel.

For a look at why Delta, Hertz have more to lose from NRA ties, click here

Supporters of the NRA, however, were mounting their own campaigns. Georgia Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle, a Republican who is running for governor, on Monday threatened to kill tax legislation that would benefit Delta unless it reinstates its relationship with the NRA. A bill before the state’s General Assembly would exempt jet fuel from sales tax, benefiting the airline.

“Corporations cannot attack conservatives and expect us not to fight back,” Cagle wrote on Twitter.

Delta said Saturday it would end an NRA contract for discounted rates on flights to the group’s annual meeting. The airline also asked to have its name removed from the NRAs meeting website.

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Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his family visit to India

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his family, who arrived in India are on their first state visit. Trudeau is in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s home state - Gujarat. However, Modi was markedly absent from receiving his Canadian counterpart unlike the visits of other world leaders like Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2014, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2017 and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in January, 2018. Modi also held a grand road show in Gujarat, welcoming the leaders and accompanying them during their stay in his home state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is instead visiting Karnataka, which will go to polls in a few months.

Modi, whose foreign policy is marked by an emphasis on forming a personal bond with world leaders and who is known to have walked (or driven) the extra mile to personally receive them during their visit to India, gave his Canadian counterpart Trudeau a massive snub by sending a junior minister to receive him. When Trudeau landed in New Delhi, he was welcomed by Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The scenario was not good at Agra in Uttar Pradesh where Trudeau and his family went to see the iconic Taj Mahal either. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was not available to receive the visiting prime minister.

It can be recalled that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Canada in 2016, Trudeau was absent from the airport to receive him. Sources justify that Modi did not extend any protocol by refusing to receive the Canadian PM at the Delhi airport this time around.

Narendra Modi who is active on Twitter also did not post any welcome tweet so far, a courtesy he normally reserves for all the visiting dignitaries after he became the Prime Minister of India in 2014. Now all eyes are set on Trudeau’s visit to Punjab. However, there are no clear indications so far whether or not Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh will host the visiting prime minister in the holy city of Amritsar when the dignitaries will go to the Golden Temple.

CM Amarinder Singh’s annoyance with the Canadian government is apparent. Amarinder had publicly refused to meet Canada’s first Sikh Defence Minister, Harjit Singh Sajjan, who was born in Punjab’s Hoshiarpur district, when he visited the state in April 2017. No minister or senior officer of the Punjab government either went to welcome Sajjan or even accompany him during the visit.

Amarinder had accused Sajjan and other ministers of Punjab origin in the Trudeau government of links to radical elements demanding a separate Sikh state of Khalistan. Amarinder made it clear that he would not meet any Khalistani sympathisers.”

The question that arises now is whether, a wary India, is downgrading Justin Trudeau because of his government’s support to pro-Khalistan elements among the Sikhs in the Canadian society. As things stand, India’s uneasiness is not unfounded.

When Justin Trudeau was elected Canada’s Prime Minister in 2015, he inducted four Indian faces - all Sikhs - in his multi-cultural Cabinet. In a first, the plum portfolio of Canada’s Defence Minister was given to a Sikh, Harjit Singh Sajjan. It soon emerged that some of the Trudeau’s colleagues in the Canadian Cabinet allegedly had ties with Khalistan supporters. Trudeau himself attended a Khalsa Day event in Toronto where Khalistan flags and the portrait of former Khalistani militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale were displayed.

The Ontario Assembly, dominated by Trudeau’s Liberal Party, passed a resolution in 2017 condemning the “genocide” of Sikhs in India in 1984. Also in 2017, Canada’s High Commissioner to India had to apologise after India reacted sharply when a former CRPF officer was initially denied entry at Vancouver airport on the grounds that he had served a government that engaged in “terrorism, systematic or gross human rights violations, or genocide”.

However, according to a report by NDTV, top government sources have strongly dismissed speculation, mostly in the Canadian media, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s absence is a snub for Justin Trudeau amid India’s concerns over Sikh radicalism in Canada and support for a separate Khalistan state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi need not accompany a visiting dignitary everywhere, said sources; he was not present even when Iranian President Hassan Rouhani visited Hyderabad. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bilateral talks in New Delhi.
MARCH 2018

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Dr. Basheer Ahmed received appreciation letter from Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

December 27, 2017

Dr. Basheer Ahmed, Chairman Emeritus
Muslim Community Center for Human Services (MCCHS)
7600 Glenview Hills Dr.
Richland Hills, TX 76180

Dear Dr. Ahmed:

It is with great pleasure and high esteem that I congratulate you on receiving the “Diversity Beyond Boundaries” award from the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce for your work with the Muslim Community Center for Human Services (MCCHS).

The MCCHS reflects your commitment to founding and sustaining an organization of physicians and staff members of differing ethnicities and religious backgrounds to provide an array of medical and social services for indigent residents of DFW irrespective of race, religion, and country of origin.

Your dedication to your mission to “develop a community of people who are thriving and striving to maintain a harmonious family structure by offering counseling and education to prevent marriage discord, domestic violence and child abuse” is vital to perpetuating positive mental and physical health of North Texans.

Pioneers like you, who serve the public good and remain at the forefront of promoting diversity, are critical to our city, state, and nation. Take pride in all that you have accomplished, and continue lighting a path for and inspiring others to succeed.

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Dr. Asim Shah, Chief of Psychiatry at Harris health and Executive Vice Chair at Baylor College of Medicine, says some warning signs on social media should not be overlooked.

"Anytime you see somebody writing about hurting themselves, hurting anybody else, anytime somebody is writing about firearms, anytime somebody is writing about taking somebody’s life or their life, even if it’s in a joking way, that has to be taken very seriously," Dr. Shah said.

Dr. Shah says if you see a friend’s tone change drastically for the worse on social media, try approaching them in person about it if you can.

"So you see people who are having these negative signs on posts to completely negative all the time, and what do you do?” asked Shah.

“So if they are your friends and you say, let’s go and see a professional psychiatrist or psychologist, they may not necessarily listen to you,” Dr. Shah says.

But he says if someone posts a specific threat of violence, it’s best to contact law enforcement directly.

Stawkath Mohammed at an Executive Council celebration at Venetian Hotel Las Vegas.
Chai & Chat - Managing Aging

By Nazeera Dawood

Thank you for joining us for the Chai & Just Chat on February 24, 2018. It gave us an opportunity to reiterate that aging is universal and our response to aging is based on traditions, societal structure and culture. The expert panel shared insights that helped shift attitudes, and long held assumptions and understand the trends and improve eldercare.

Some of the themes that echoed that evening included:
- Discussing the complexities of ABCD of age 65 and above; Medicare. Medicare is one of the ways to cover acute medical care needs of elderly and people with severe disabilities. The amount the individual must pay out of pocket for medical care is rising even with Medicare, it is wise to plan sooner for retirement.
- Forge common ground for reinforcing successful, collaborative strategies for seniors and caregivers & insights to help shift attitudes and behaviors to create positive and strong aging population and to be non-judgmental, leverage available resources and make aware of the ongoing positive contributions of our aging population and caregivers.
- While genes and environment play an important role for chronic diseases, delaying the onset of age related health issues can have a positive impact on quality of life. Lifestyle modifications with healthy diet and regular exercise is important along with positive communication and interactions and good sleep.

There are several advocacy organizations such as AARP & Georgia Watch that ensure Americans over age 50 have access to care, information and services they need to lead healthier independent life with dignity. Economic, cultural, medical, health care, and mental health factors can affect aging population in certain ways. Identifying gaps and opportunities for culturally sensitive programs through local, state and federal programs for immigrant senior population was discussed.

Understanding and being aware of differences in mental health issues among seniors can increase the likelihood of seeking help if needed. Ways to fight stigma by improving mental health literacy. Identifying the symptoms and early warning signs of dementia and modifying the environment, caregiver responses or tasks are some ways to tackle.

About 70% of people with dementia have Alzheimer’s disease. Care for person with Alzheimer’s disease and caregivers is a substantial burden. We discussed the term carepartner instead of caregiver. It is important for carepartners to avoid or lessen stress.

Even though end of life is a difficult topic to discuss with older persons and their families, it is better to slowly integrate the topic of life and death during casual conversations. We as society have to accept the concept of death with dignity over life at all costs. These are sensitive topics and important to understand the wishes and values of loved ones. For more information, go to FAQ on - Conversing with Death & living balanced lifestyle.

Being prepared financially and life care planning for the years of retirement will help reduce the burden in the future. Legal help and estate planning, power of attorney, living will and legal authorities play a significant role. Seniors need to be involved in the political process in all levels of government. Advocacy for funding for senior programs is important.

We discussed various resources available for seniors or their caregivers for saving in ways not known earlier.

Georgia Consumer Guide for Medical Billing and Debt
10 Easy Ways to Save Money on Utility Bills
The myth that age eliminated sexual relations was busted. It is normal for people over age 60 to engage in sexual activity on a regular basis which also includes companionship.

Technology has changed the world of seniors significantly. Technology is keeping our seniors fit, informed, maintain themselves in their own home.

Other topics such as need for transportation, aware of seniors’ health literacy, and long term care, coordinated care approach between health and social services agencies, and other aging resources was brought forth.
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Below pics: Enjoying in Dubai

Sami Shah with Thomas Vajda, Deputy Assistant Secretary
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Chicago and Dr. Bharat Barai

3iii 2018 Season-II Launch on Feb 18th, 2018 at Ashyana Banquests, Downers Grove

Bazme Arbab e Sukhan Chicago first meeting was held on Feb 18,
send off to around 100 Hajis proceeding to perform Umrah from Shamshabad International Airport. Flag off by young dynamic Haj Committee Chairman of Telangana State Janab Masiullah Khan. Tour operator Al Mezan Travels owner Hafiz Fayyaz Sahab

at Ravindra Bharati 43rd year of Dedh Matuwale show by Hamid Kamaal and Subhani a team work of comedy show. Also singer from Mumbai Mohammed Arif and Hyderabad's own Versatile singer Vijaya Lakshmi along with Moin Khan. Other guest include Lasa Lamsa owners and Mir Zulfeqar Ali former Mayor of Hyderabad

PPL Cricket tournament launch at LB Stadium, finals will be played after six weeks. Good effort by Ibrahim Patel, Syed Hussain, Khurram Syed, Syed Sadiq and many more. Mr. Iftekhar Shareef was invited to launch it.

Nicely captured picture of Janab Mehmood Ali Bhai Deputy chief Minister of Telangana State and Mohammad Azharuddin most popular and successful Cricket captain of India and former Member of parliament at my residence in Shamshabad. Also seen is a dynamic and outspoken former three times member of parliament Shri V. Hanumanth Rao

UNANI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, President, Dr. Shakeeb Mohammed, General Secretary, Dr. Mohammed Abdul Rahman, and Mr. Nizam Usman, Co-Founder / Partner at Hakeem Baqai’s - Unani Wellness Center, personally visited to meet Mr. Iftekhar Shareef, First Dual Citizen Of India and President for National Bankcard Corporation, Chicago, at Residence Shamshabad to invite has a Chief Guest in Programme "UNA RUN" held on 11th Feb at necklace road, and 14th Feb at "UNA AWARD" Function, Grace Function Hall Bandla guda, Hyderabad. - IQNEWS

Chicagoan Keerthi Kumar, Satish Muddamale and Dr Prem Raj at my residence in Shamshabad, Hyderabad

Mohammed Saleem Sahab Member of Legislative Council, TELANGANA State and Chairman TELANGANA Wakf Board at a private hotel
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BY HINDI LOVERS CLUB OF ILLINOIS
Maha Shivarathri celebrations at Hari Om Mandir energizes the city with chants and prayer

As per the Hindu tradition, devotees bathe the Shiva Lingam with Holy Water, Milk, Honey and offer Chandan, Bel Patra amidst chanting of prayers, mantras and the resonating sound of Om Nama Shivaya called the “Rudra Abhishek”. Living up to the tradition, hundreds of devotees came to the Hari Om Mandir to perform the rituals and sing the glory of Lord Shiva.

Due to renovation in progress at the Hari Om Mandir, the regular ‘SHIV DURBAR’ was not ready for the Pooja this year, so the Mandir Management had made special arrangements and set up a temporary Durbar for the Devotees to perform the Pooja & Shiv Abhishek. The marble statues of Shiva & Parvati were seated on a high pedestal, with the Shiv Ling below, so that people could offer Milk, Water, Honey etc and do the Abhishek. The whole ambience of this set up reminded people of the Heavenly Abode of Shiva on the Kailash Parbat!! The Snakes, the Rudraksh mala, the half Chandrama, the Ganga on Shiva’s forehead, the Trishul, the Damrus…all added to the Divine environment of the Mandir.

Pandit Raghubir recited the Holy Mantras and helped Devotees to perform the rituals, as per the Scriptures and the Traditions. People had been visiting the Temple right from the morning when the doors opened at 8am. By the evening, there was an unending que and people were seen waiting patiently in line for their turn.

A special Bhajan Sandhya was organized in the evening. Special Thandai, Kheer and Fruit Prasad was distributed, and the Devotees relished the same!!
During his time as a renowned professor and researcher in academia, Dr.Mohammed T. AliNiazee recognized the increasing tuition rates, increasing student loans and debts, and increasing time periods required for acquiring a college degree. Confronting this imbalance, NWSC is here to make a difference by offering more student guidance, smaller classes, and three full terms per year (rather than two). A culmination of his longtime dream of establishing a world class center of education founded on the principles of service, compassion, and quality, Professor AliNiazee took early retirement after nearly 40 years of a successful career in academia to establish NWSC. Dr. AliNiazee and the NWSC team are dedicated to building a private, non-profit school of higher education that provides affordable and quality education dedicated to science, medicine, and the humanities.

A cultural hub with numerous advanced centers for healthcare and medicine, Chicago was selected as the city to establish NWSC. In 2008, President AliNiazee acquired the property in Rolling Meadows, IL that is now NWSC. After establishing the Corporate Board and the Board of Regents, M.A.Q. Khan (late), a retired professor of biology for the University of Illinois at Chicago joined NWSC as the Chairman of the Board of Regents, and was appointed as the college’s Vice President. Dr. Khan was instrumental in this formative period at NWSC. Additional faculty and staff were hired by Dr. AliNiazee as the school started to grow.

Since its founding in 2008, NWSC has made great progress and continues to diligently work toward providing the very best educational environment. Currently, NWSC is an accredited institution offering accelerated degree seeking and healthcare certification programs. Since NWSC’s first two students in 2009, nearly 500 students have graduated over the past six years. Recent highlights of NWSC’s journey include attaining Title IV funding approval in May 2016 and initial institutional accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) in August 2014. If past performance is any indicator, NWSC has a bright future ahead.

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

**Admissions**
International students seeking admission to NWSC are encouraged to apply at least 3 months in advance of the proposed admission date. NWSC trimester start dates are in the first weeks of September, January, and May.

**Housing**
Housing is readily available in the northwest Chicago area, and as a service to students, NWSC will provide a list of available housing options. NWSC has arrangements with private apartment owners nearby for incoming students.

**Visa Process**
Upon review of your admission application package and acceptance, NWSC will provide you with a Letter of Acceptance and completed Form I-20, which is required for the F-1 Visa.

1.847.290.6425
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Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: When Chandrakant M. Modi was growing up in India, his father suggested a career in medicine because it would enable him to earn a decent living while also helping the needy.

Modi is glad he listened to his father’s advice. Dr. Modi settled in the Chicago area after medical school in India and residency in the Chicago area in Pathology and Internal Medicine. He pursued a successful career in the U.S. that has included pathology and emergency medicine.

Despite his professional success, what has given him the greatest sense of fulfillment is that in the last 20 years Dr. Modi has helped people in distant lands. He has been on numerous missions with Flying Doctors of America, a division of Medical Mercy Missions, Inc.

Under the banner of Flying Doctors, volunteer medical professionals fly to remote villages in countries including Haiti, Madagascar, Amazon, Panama, Jordan and the borders between India and Tibet.

There is no cost to the patient for the expert medical attention these doctors offer, and for the physicians, the heartfelt appreciation of the patients is beyond material value.

“The trips to provide medical care have been very rewarding,” said Dr. Modi, now an energetic septuagenarian living in Skokie, Ill. “The people in underserved areas need care, and they appreciate our presence. Our missions bring hope and healing to the poorest of poor people.”

Gratitude can often be symbolized in a priceless token of appreciation. “I was deep in the Amazon Jungle Basin area on one occasion,” Dr Modi recalled. At the end of our stay the tribal chief came up to me, and gave me a comb he said he had made out of an animal’s bone.”

“I didn’t need it but it was given from the heart. I still have it, and consider it one of my most valuable possessions.”

Flying Doctors is a Not For Profit Organization Founded by Mr. Allan Garth aercoal DD, based at 212 W. Ironwood Drive, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho 83844. Flying Doctor organizes mercy missions about half-dozen times a year to remote areas where residents do not have regular access to medical care. The trips are designed to bring hope and healing to those with limited or no access to medical care. Doctors, nurses, dentists and on-ground support personnel pay their own fares. The medication they dispense is also purchased from private health-care companies based in US.

The sites they visit can be in a remote jungle in the Amazon basin off the coast of Ecuador, or in part of the world, like the war torn Syrian border mission near Jordan. The Doctor has volunteered in other 3rd world countries to include Madagascar, Mexico, Panama, Fiji and 3 different times in India. As per doctor Modi every mission has its unique challenges mainly due to terrain, remoteness and lack of accessibility of the area. In 2001 mission in Himalayan area of border between Tibet and India was in a far off tiny village, called Pso-Murari, situated at about 16,000 feet altitude, or just about 1000 feet below the first base camp of Mt. Everest. We were faced with thin air, cold temperatures, altitude sickness and overwhelming response for medical care. At the end of the mission we met with recently ‘re-incarnated highest ranking Buddhist Monk’, barely 8 yrs. old boy. At the conclusion of the meeting with his holiness, I asked him what he wants from America. He replied “Toy cars for me to play!”

Other unique mission was in 2011 in Haiti, soon following enormous destructive earthquake. Mission was hastily organized by Mr. Allan Garth aercoal, President/founder of Flying Doctors. One of the surviving church buildings was converted to 40 beds makeshift acute care hospital located near the suburb of capital city, called Cabaret. Many survivors extracted from the rubble were initially treated on the field, and transferred to ‘Hospital’. Patients were cared for on clinical judgment only, as routine facility like x-rays, lab, anesthesia, intravenous fluids, or operating room were all destroyed in earthquake. Our work was further complicated by lack of electricity, running water, painkiller, drugs, gas or supplemental oxygen. It was like practicing civil war era 19th century type medicine. Most of the patients had trauma related crush injury including fractures, deep wounds, amputation of limb etc. We worked round the clock with very little rest or sleep. Despite all the adversities, it was very gratifying unsung experience that I will cherish forever, said Dr. Modi.

Future missions by Flying Doctors are planned to countries including Panama, Guyana, Peru, a women’s prison in Bolivia etc.

The missions often come with an element of risk and stress. “We were in Jordan, near the Syrian border, and many refugees needed medical care,” said the soft-spoken Dr. Modi. “The lines were long to see doctors, and there was a lot of stress because the refugees were frustrated and there were few facilities.”

In 2009 Dr Modi, was recipient of President’s Circle Award given by Flying Doctors of America, in recognition of his contribution.

Now semi-retired Dr Modi intends to go on many more such trip, in part to fulfill his father’s dream for his son. During a long career of ongoing learning, Dr. Modi had prepared himself for almost any problem. The possibility of danger to his life or limb has never deterred him. “I am a Hindu by faith and believe in destiny. When your time comes, it comes. I have never been fearful on these trips,” he said.

Doctor Modi is also avid traveler and has explored all seven continents including Antarctica and over 100 countries.

Photographs and Press release by: Chandrakant M. Modi MD
Veteran radio and television personality Qazi Wajid breathed his last in Karachi, succumbing to a cardiac illness. The 87-year-old was admitted to hospital Saturday night, and passed away in the afternoon the following day.

With a career spanning more than five decades, the seasoned artiste made many contributions to radio and TV.

Wajid began his career with TV plays written by Khwaja Moinuddin. Name a PTV classic – be it Khuda Ki Basti of the 70s or Tanhaaiyan and Ankahi of the 80s – and you would find Wajid there.

He also did theatre and worked in radio for 25 years.

For his contributions as an artiste, he was honoured by the government with the Pride of Performance Award in 1988. Renowned film and TV star Javed Sheikh, while talking to The Express Tribune, remembered his former peer, saying, “Qazi Wajid was a great personality, a dedicated artist and a lovable human being. I can’t express how sophisticated a personality he had, and I don’t think someone like him is going to be born in this country again.”

Behroz Sabzwari was speechless on coming to know of Wajid’s death. “Our association goes back about 50 years. He had a big role in my achievements, my character and growth. He taught me how to talk and how to say the dialogues,” he said.

“He had been my teacher, my friend, my elder brother, and even like my father. It’s how to say the dialogues, “ he said.

Reminiscing about his old friend, Maqsood said, “He would always say we were the same age and now after his death, I got to know that he was born in 1930 and I was 10 years younger than him.”

He said whenever they went to the US, Wajid always thought wearing a night suit was a must “because it looked classy.”

Karachi Arts Council President Ahmed Shah remembered Wajid not only as a great artiste but a good human being too.

“He was an active guy and would always be part of our activities. He wasn’t only a showbiz person but was also inclined towards literature and philosophy. He was part of the recent International Urdu Conference and would usually go to scholars and philosophers to discuss literature, philosophy and other topics,” he said.

Nation mourns Qazi Wajid’s death

“Normally, showbiz personalities are said to have an attitude, but he was totally different,” said Shah. “For several decades, he lived in the same flat and there were thousands of people at his funeral and everyone shared same sentiments. He had good relations with everyone and people remembered him for that.”

He said that in 2016, the Arts Council held a tribute show for Wajid and that made him very happy. “Wajid said to me that normally tributes are held for the dead… so it’s good to see that the trend has changed with this ceremony,” he said.

Writer Haseena Moin said Wajid had a great sense of humor and was an actor in the truest sense of the word.

“Artists like him don’t exist anymore. He was extremely dedicated and a great human being. His is a huge loss for us,” she said.

Abdul El-Sayed, Democratic Candidate for Governor of Michigan, has raised over $2 million in individual contributions as of January 30th, 2018, since launching his gubernatorial campaign last February. Seventy eight percent (78%) of all contributions are under $100.

“I became a doctor to solve problems for people. I am running for governor because I care about bold, progressive ideas to help Michiganders. In a political system that favors mega-rich individuals and massive corporations, raising enough money to compete means earning the trust of the people who you hope will support you. We’re absolutely thrilled with what we’ve been able to do: build a true grassroots movement funded by real people, not corporations. This is the kind of movement that will create the kind of change we need in Michigan.” — Abdul El-Sayed, Democratic Candidate for Michigan Governor

Abdul El-Sayed was born and raised in Michigan. His family reflects the diversity of our state, including immigrants who left Egypt in pursuit of greater opportunity in America, and farmers, teachers, and small-business owners who have lived in Gratiot County, Michigan for generations. Abdul is a product of Michigan public schools.

He captained his high-school football, wrestling, and lacrosse teams, and went on to play lacrosse for the University of Michigan. He graduated in 2007, where he was honored to deliver the student commencement speech alongside President Bill Clinton.

Abdul went on to become a Rhodes Scholar, earning a doctorate from Oxford University and a medical degree from Columbia University. As a public health professor, Abdul became an internationally recognized expert in health policy and health inequalities.

At 30, Abdul became the youngest health official of a major American city when he came home to rebuild Detroit’s Health Department after it was privatized during the city’s bankruptcy. As Health Director, he was responsible for the health and safety of over 670,000 Detroiter, working tirelessly to ensure government accountability and transparency, promote health, and reduce cross generational poverty.

After witnessing the systematic failures of government only a few miles away in Flint, Abdul worked hard to ensure that children attending Detroit schools and daycares were drinking lead-free water. He has also served expectant mothers and women by creating programs aimed at reducing infant mortality and unplanned pregnancy.

He built a program to give schoolchildren across the city glasses if they needed them. Abdul also stood up for children with asthma by taking on corporations that wanted to pump more harmful pollutants into our air, working with them to reduce emissions and invest in parks.

Though the work continues, under Abdul’s leadership, the Detroit Health Department has become a state and national leader in public health innovation and environmental justice, in one of the fastest municipal public health turnarounds in American history.

Abdul is called to public service by a core belief in people. He believes that all people can thrive when we value each other and our communities, we seek to protect and defend our vulnerable, and when we create the kinds of opportunities that empower people to dream for a better future. Abdul lives in Macomb County with his wife, Sarah, a mental health doctor. He loves working out, good biographies, coffee, and Michigan sports.
Asma Jahangir
a fierce champion of human rights

Arguably one of Pakistan’s fiercest and most outspoken champions of human rights, Asma Jahangir was a polarising but respected and awe-inspiring figure. A pro-democracy activist, Jahangir was vocal about the rights of women and minority communities. She advocated freedom of speech, and often highlighted the plight of missing persons in Pakistan.

She passed away in Lahore on Sunday at the age of 66 after suffering cardiac arrest. Jahangir was a Pakistani human rights lawyer and social activist who co-founded and chaired the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. She was known for playing a prominent role in the Lawyers’ Movement and served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and as a trustee at the International Crisis Group.

Born and raised in Lahore, Jahangir studied at the Convent of Jesus and Mary before receiving her B.A. from Kinnaird and LLB from the Panjab University in 1978. In 1980, she was called to the Lahore High Court, and to the Supreme Court in 1982. In the 1980s, Jahangir became an democracy activist and was imprisoned in 1983 for participating in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy against the military regime of Zia-ul-Haq. In 1986, she moved to Geneva, and became the vice-chair of the Defence for Children International and remained until 1988 when she returned to Pakistan.

In 1987, she co-founded the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and became its Secretary General until 1993 when she was elevated as commission’s chairperson. She was again put under house arrest in November 2007 after the imposition of emergency. After serving as one of the leaders of the Lawyers’ Movement, she became Pakistan’s first woman to serve as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association. She co-chaired South Asia Forum for Human Rights and was the vice president of International Federation for Human Rights. Jahangir served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion from August 2004 to July 2010, including serving on the U.N. panel for inquiry into Sri Lankan human rights violations and on a fact-finding mission on Israeli settlements. In 2016, she was named as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran, remaining till until her death in February 2018.

Jahangir was the recipient of several awards including the 2014 Right Livelihood Award (along with Edward Snowden), 2010 Freedom Award, Hilal-i-Imtiaz in 2010, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Ramon Magsaysay Award, 1995 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders, and the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights. She was awarded an Officier de la Légion d’honneur by France. Her prominent writings include The Hudood Ordinance: A Divine Sanction? and Children of a Lesser God.
Shreya Ghoshal (born 12 March 1984) is an Indian playback singer. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, and several other awards for her contributions to music. Ghoshal grew up in a family of singers, and her mother, Sarmistha Ghoshal, was a well-known classical singer. Shreya was exposed to music from a young age and started learning playing the harmonium from her father, Soumendra Nath Ghoshal.

Early and personal life
Shreya Ghoshal was born on 12 March 1984 in a Bengali family in the North Kolkata area. She started learning music at a very young age and by the age of six, she had already started performing on stage. She was known for her classical training and could sing in various Indian languages.

In 1996, Ghoshal participated in the television show "Jay Jay Leela Bhansali" in Bajirao Mastani. She also performed in the female version of the song "Hasi" along with co-singers Shabbir Ahmed and Aashish Mishra, which was released in 1997.

Her first ever recorded song was "Ganraj Hua" which is a cover version of a Marathi song originally sung by Lata Mangeshkar. Her first solo album was Benchedichi Bena which was released on 1 January 1998, with 14 tracks. Some of her earlier albums are "O Tota Pakhi Re", "Ekta Katha" (1999) and "Mukhtor Porag" (2000).

Ghoshal recorded Bengali album "Rupasi Raate" in 2002. She also recorded some songs in Bangla albums like "Banoome Re" (2002) and "Laal Chate" (2007) by Krishnendu Chak.

In 2015, Ghoshal married her childhood friend Shiladitya Mukhopadhyaya in a traditional Bengali ceremony. The couple has a son named Soumyadeep.

Ghoshal is a literature post-graduate and her mother, Sarmistha Ghoshal, also has a degree in Commerce.

Career
Ghoshal started her career in 1998 with the Marathi song "Lal Chate". She has since become one of the most popular playback singers in India.

In 2018, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Tere Bin" from the film "Kaushal Madhuchhala" which was released in 2018. The song was critically acclaimed and Ghoshal received positive reviews for her performance.

In 2019, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Tera Chale" alongside Arijit Singh. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

In 2020, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Tum Bin" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

In 2021, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Khalnayak" alongside Shreya Ghoshal. The song was critically acclaimed and Ghoshal received positive reviews for her performance.

In 2022, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Aashiq Surrender Hua" alongside Arijit Singh. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

Ghoshal has been awarded several accolades for her contributions to music. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, and several other awards for her contributions to music.

In 2023, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Jab Tum Hote Ho" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

In 2024, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Rang Rang Range" alongside Shreya Ghoshal. The song was critically acclaimed and Ghoshal received positive reviews for her performance.

In 2025, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Tum Bin" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

Ghoshal has been awarded several accolades for her contributions to music. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, and several other awards for her contributions to music.

In 2026, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Aashiq Surrender Hua" alongside Arijit Singh. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

In 2027, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Jab Tum Hote Ho" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

Ghoshal has been awarded several accolades for her contributions to music. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, and several other awards for her contributions to music.

In 2028, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Rang Rang Range" alongside Shreya Ghoshal. The song was critically acclaimed and Ghoshal received positive reviews for her performance.

In 2029, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Tum Bin" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

Ghoshal has been awarded several accolades for her contributions to music. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, and several other awards for her contributions to music.

In 2030, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Aashiq Surrender Hua" alongside Arijit Singh. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

In 2031, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Jab Tum Hote Ho" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

Ghoshal has been awarded several accolades for her contributions to music. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, and several other awards for her contributions to music.

In 2032, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Rang Rang Range" alongside Shreya Ghoshal. The song was critically acclaimed and Ghoshal received positive reviews for her performance.

In 2033, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Tum Bin" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

Ghoshal has been awarded several accolades for her contributions to music. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, and several other awards for her contributions to music.

In 2034, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Aashiq Surrender Hua" alongside Arijit Singh. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

In 2035, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Jab Tum Hote Ho" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.

Ghoshal has been awarded several accolades for her contributions to music. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, and several other awards for her contributions to music.

In 2036, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Rang Rang Range" alongside Shreya Ghoshal. The song was critically acclaimed and Ghoshal received positive reviews for her performance.

In 2037, Ghoshal provided vocals for the film "Tum Bin" alongside K.S. Chitra. The song was well received and praised for Ghoshal's beautiful vocals.
1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, he came to the place of Shechem, 2 which is toward the east of Mount Nebo toward Bethel toward the land of Canaan; when he came to Shechem, 3 he put the tent of his dwelling there and there he built an altar, and he called to the name of the LORD who had appeared to him. Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD had spoken to Abram, saying, “Go to a distant land, 2 far from your country and from your kindred and from your father’s house, and I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse, and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.” 4 So Abram went out, as the LORD had told him, and took Sar’ai his wife and all that he had and went out of his house to go to the land of Canaan; when they came to Haran, 5 they settled down there. 6 Abram was seventy-five years old when he came to the land of Canaan. Genesis 12:1-7

1 Sarah lived a hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. 2 And Sarah died at Kiriath-ar’ba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abram went in mourning for Sarah and bewailed her. 3 And the princes of Pharaoh saw her, and they praised to Pharaoh. 4 So Pharaoh gave orders concerning her, and she was taken into Pharaoh’s house. 5 And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house; and there she remained for Pharaoh. 6 And the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sar’ai, Abram’s wife. 7 So Pharaoh called Abram, and Abram said to Pharaoh, “My wife is my sister.” 8 And Pharaoh said, “How then did you say, ‘She is my sister’?” 9 So Pharaoh called the name of his wife’s sister Hagar. 10 Pharaoh said to Abram, “The voice of your wife is heard; therefore you shall be put out of my sight. 11 Hurry, take your wife and all that you have, and depart from my sight, and depart from Egypt; go to the land of your fathers.” 12 So he departed from the presence of Pharaoh, and departed, and went away toward the wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a concubine, Zilpah, the daughter of Laban, her brother. 13 And she bore him a son, and she called his name Lot. Genesis 13:1-13

1 Then Abraham fell on his face, and said to God, “Behold, my vindication is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.” 2 So he rose up early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. 3 When the sun was going down, and he was hot, under the shade of a wilderness tree. 4 As he was looking toward evening, behold, two men appeared by the road where he had been approaching. 5 And when he saw them, he to rose up and to bow down to them, and to worship, 6 and to ask them, Where are you going? 7 And they answered him, We are on the way to the land of Canaan; and I will show you the place where you may bury your dead. 8 And he said, If you will show me the place where you may bury your dead, I will give you a burying place. 9 And he said, Behold, you are a prince of great beauty; and the man is not able to find a place to bury his dead over against you. 10 And he said, Please, sir, let me have a small place of ground there, that I may bury my dead out of my sight. 11 And he said, Behold, you are a prince of great beauty; in all your steps there is beauty. 12 And he said, Please, sir, let me have a small place of ground there, that I may bury my dead out of my sight. 13 And the man rose up, and bowed to the man of God, and returned home. Genesis 14:1-13

3. On exile his wife Sara was kidnapped by Firaun (Pharaoh), the king of Egypt. In Arabic, if the fa of Firaun is removed, what remains is Ravan. In Bible, however, Pharaoh releases Sara without any war because her captivity brings miseries to Pharaoh and he gets convinced that this is due to Sara. There are some Ramakatas that also do not describe any war between the two. 4. Abraham too had two famous sons: Ismail and Ishaq like Ram’s two sons Luv and Kush. 5. When we study the description of places given in different directions by Sugriva to Vanar Sena, this description does not fit if we try to put it around Ayodhya. But if we put it around Egypt (see the old map in Biblical books) it is very much consistent with that. 6. Bible, the birth place of Abraham is Ur, a place in Iraq, close to which Euphrates River flows. While the direction of the flow of Saryu in Valmiki Ramayana is opposite to that of the Saryu River outside today’s Ayodhya, it is the same in case of Egypt. 7. The Black African race which Ram came into contact with during exile appears to have been described as vanaris in Valmiki Ramayana. 8. After Abraham’s death, some people of his time migrated to India and carried the story of Abraham along with them, and then parts of stories became associated with Indian places. Aryans are historically known to be of Iranian origin (that is, Hebron, in the land of Canaan; and (that) went in mourning for Sarah and bewailed her. 16 Then she went, and sat down over against him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Let me not look upon the death of the child.” 17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. 18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him a great nation.” 19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad drink. 20 And God was with the lad; and he grew up: he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt. Genesis 23:1-21

1 Sarah lived a hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. 2 And Sarah died at Kiriath-ar’ba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abram went in mourning for Sarah and bewailed her. 3 Then the princes of Pharaoh saw her, and they praised to Pharaoh. 4 So Pharaoh gave orders concerning her, and she was taken into Pharaoh’s house. 5 And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house; and there she remained for Pharaoh. 6 And the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sar’ai, Abram’s wife. 7 So Pharaoh called Abram, and Abram said to Pharaoh, “My wife is my sister.” 8 And Pharaoh said, “How then did you say, ‘She is my sister’?” 9 So Pharaoh called the name of his wife’s sister Hagar. 10 Pharaoh said to Abram, “The voice of your wife is heard; therefore you shall be put out of my sight. 11 Hurry, take your wife and all that you have, and depart from my sight, and depart from Egypt; go to the land of your fathers.” 12 So he departed from the presence of Pharaoh, and departed, and went away toward the wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a concubine, Zilpah, the daughter of Laban, her brother. 13 And she bore him a son, and she called his name Lot. Genesis 13:1-13

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Valmikis Uttar Kanda, where these stories are found, is to be a later addition. Hence, change in sequence of modules is pardonable. The sequence of Bible and Valmiki is similar except for Isaac and Ishmael, the order of events in which Abraham is involved and the sequence of birth. Here the following difference in sequence, we now proceed to show their similarities.

Separation of Abraham and Lot and latter's death

There was strife between herdsmen of Abraham and Lot after Abraham's return from Egypt. Lot thereupon decides to settle in the plains of Jordan while Abraham remains at Canaan. Subsequent lot becomes the hero of the world. Abraham rescues Lot. Thereafter Lot lives in Sodom which is destroyed by God but Lot escapes to Zoar where his daughters get him drunk and cohabit with him to produce sons. Thereafter Lot is rescued by Abraham. One presumes he dies (Gen 12.7, 14.18 and 20.19). The story in Valmiki Ramayana is very short. Rama was in serious discussion at one time. He appointed Lakshmana to guard him and none other entered. At that very time Sita and sage Durvasa visits and seeks audience with Rama. Lakshmana is caught in a dilemma. He decides to allow Durvasa to meet Rama, who expels him for this deed. Lakshmana controls his breath and dies (Uttara 105-106). The theme of Abraham-Lot conflict is found here.

Valmiki gives the story as follows: Two Angels decide to test the love of Rama and Lakshmana for each other. They come to the home of Rama and Lakshmana. Rama to his love gives a golden statue. Then he makes a golden statue of Lakshmana. Thereupon Lakshmana enters a coma and is not revived despite medical treatment and dies (110). Lakshmana's going into coma resonates with Lot's daughters getting him drunk. Conflict between Abraham and Lot is a result of the Stigma of Sodom the King of the Philistines. The King of Madhurapur is son-in-law of Lakshmana, which is also a seafaring country. However, Sha-trughna, unlike Abraham, kills the king of Madhurapur. This episode does not close with friendship (Uttara 69). Valmiki gives an identical story (87).

The similarity between the Biblical and Indian narrative is admittedly tenous. The common point is another conflict with seafaring people after return from Egypt-Lanka.

Hagar expelled. Son becomes an archer

Sarah did not have a child till this time. Sita, likewise, also did not have a child. Abraham asks Sarah to go into her maid Hagar who bears Ishmael. A few years later, Ishmael grows up. Abraham then receives a call from God asking him to sacrifice his son. Abraham talks to Hagar and offers her to Medinah. Hagar and Ishmael leave Abra-ham and enter Rasatala— the depths which is similar to being buried in the earth (Uttara 97-19.20). Valmiki, however, says Sita became an ascetic (102.46).

Abraham dies soon thereafter and buried with Sarah (25.8-9). Rama dies soon thereafter—the same figure is very high. In Bible, God predicts that all the nations of the world will bless Abraham. But Abraham is as currently understood represents only Christians, Jews and Muslims. If the followers of Ram are included, then Ram-Abraham becomes a revered figure for almost all the nations of the world. This similarity is of course in some descriptions in Quran and Bible too. In Bible, it is Isaac who is put to the test of sacri-ifice while in Islamic literature it is Ismail. There is no mention of Abraham and Ismail building Ka'ba in Bible. The story of Abra-ham smashing idols is there in Islamic and Biblical sources but is missing in Valmiki Ramayana. It commonly thought that Arz was Ibrahim's father. But the Quran uses "ahd" (instead of wadl), which is often used for an uncle or guardian. Bible names his father as Terah. Many Islamic books too including Rozath-Aswamegha Y ajna (Uttara 91-92). There is no story of sacrificing Ismail. In the Bible, Abraham is asked to mention he was his sister so that the Egyptians will not kill him. Sarah was, as expected by Abraham, taken to the Pharaoh. But the Pharaoh was plagued with great plagues. He then returned Sarah to Abraham and sent him away with his possessions. Abraham returns to Bethel (Gen 12.5-13.3).

This story contained in 16 verses in the Bible occupies about 300 pages each in both Valmiki and Valmiki. We give here only the key similarities. Hagar was taken to Medinah and was there for fourteen years by her father. He, Sita and Lakshmana travel a long time in the forests and in the end settle at Panchavi with River Goda-vati and mountains nearby (Aranya 16.13-14). This is similar to Bethel and Panchavi. Then, Lot and his wife are rescued by Abraham. Sita is abducted by Ravana at Panchavi. Rama attacks Ravana's Lanka and rescues Sita and returns with her to Ayodhya. They pass through Panchavi, i.e. Biblical Bethel, where Sita was abducted (Gen 13.34). Here there is a difference. Rama moves on from Panchavi to Ayodhya-Haran and further narrative takes place from Ayodhya while the Bible mentions rest of story with Bethel as the center. Another difference is that the Biblical narrative informs us that Ram's reluctance acquiescence to Sarah being taken to the Pharaoh while the Indian texts mention her abduction. The common thread is that of a sacrifice (Bible and Valmiki).

Another point of difference is that the Biblical narrative mentions the migration of Abraham and Sarah with Terah from Ur. This migration is associated with sons—in Isaac's sacrifice or in the sacrifice of Ishmael. The revenge motive is missing. Abraham undertakes to sacrifice Isaac (Gen 22). Isaac is sacrificed at Mount Moriah and the sacrifice is wrought to please God. In the Biblical narrative the sacrifice is associated with sons—in Isaac's sacrifice or in the union of sons with father. Sarah dies and is buried. Sarah dies at Kirjath Arba (Hebron) and Abraham "came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her" (Gen 23.2). The tone is as if Sarah died away from Abraham and he 'came' to mourn for her. The death of Sita is more dramatic in the Indian tradition. Rama asks her to take oath of chastity in public. She does this and then commits suicide. After the death of Sarah the Bible enters a new era in the narrative and the death of Sarah is not mourned in it. Sarah dies at Kirjath Arba in land bought by Abraham. She is buried in land bought by Abraham. She is buried by Abraham at Kirjath Arba. Sarah dies at Kirjath Arba and Abraham "came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her" (Gen 23.2). The tone is as if Sarah died away from Abraham and he 'came' to mourn for her. The death of Sita is more dramatic in the Indian tradition. Rama asks her to take oath of chastity in public. She does this and then commits suicide. After the death of Sarah the Bible enters a new era in the narrative and the death of Sarah is not mourned in it.
India's GDP growth 7.2 per cent in Oct-Dec

THE COUNTRY'S gross domestic product (GDP) grew at the fastest pace in five quarters at 7.2 per cent in October-December, as against 6.5 per cent in the previous quarter and 6.8 per cent in the same period last year, helped by a sharp pickup in the services sector and a rebound in agriculture and manufacturing.

The second advance estimate, released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Wednesday, showed that the overall GDP growth rate for 2017-18 is estimated to inch up marginally to 6.6 per cent from the first advance estimate of 6.5 per cent released last month, but would be the lowest growth in four years.

GDP growth rate for July-September was revised upwards to 6.5 per cent from the earlier estimate of 6.3 per cent, according to the data released. The country had recorded GDP growth of 7.1 per cent in the previous financial year. Manufacturing, construction, financial services and agriculture were among five of the eight sectors that recorded a pickup in GVA growth in October-December as compared to the previous quarter.

Mining, electricity and trade communication were the sectors that bucked the trend. The GVA growth for the third quarter also benefitted from a favourable base effect, given that October-December 2016 was the first quarter to be hit due to demonetisation.

A perceptible increase in two components of GDP based on expenditure — Gross Fixed Capital Formation (which is a proxy for private investment) and valuables (including gold and precious stones) — was sharply evident in the surge in growth during the third quarter. Gross Fixed Capital Formation was up 12 per cent in the third quarter as against 8.7 per cent in the same period last year. For the full year, it is expected to decelerate to 7.6 per cent from 10.1 per cent last year.

A sharp increase was also seen in valuables, which grew 40.8 per cent in October-December over the same period the previous year. Economists attributed this rise to preference of savings in them in a low interest rate regime. “The rise in share of valuables is an area of concern. A trend of high gold imports could be indicative of the shift in savings towards valuables. Gold imports are now approximately in the range of 950-1,000 tn in a year, a level which was seen earlier when people invested in gold during high inflation period, but the trend seems to be continuing even now,” said India Ratings’ Chief Economists D K Pant.

“A 12 per cent growth in fixed capital formation pulled up GDP growth, the need of the hour is how we can nurture this budding investment revival with conducive policies. However, an area of concern is decline in private consumption growth to 5.6 per cent in Q3 of FY18 from 6.6 per cent in Q2 FY18,” Pant added.

The advance estimate for Gross Value Added (GVA), the more closely watched indicator for growth, is estimated at 6.4 per cent in 2017-18, up from 6.1 per cent in the first advance estimates, but down from 7.1 per cent in the previous financial year. The GVA growth for 2017-18 is marginally lower than the 6.6 per cent growth rate projected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its sixth bi-monthly monetary policy review. The GVA growth rate for April-December, the first nine months of this financial year, slowed to 6.2 per cent from 7.5 per cent in the previous year, the CSO data showed.

In the October-December quarter, financial, real estate and professional services recorded a marked improvement, with the sector’s GVA growing at 6.7 per cent from 2.8 per cent in the same period last year. Construction also showed a sharp uptick with GVA growth of 6.8 per cent in October-December as against 2.8 per cent the previous year. Manufacturing retained the same level of growth of previous year at 8.1 per cent during October-December.

Mining and quarrying slumped into negative territory with GVA growth of (-)0.1 per cent in October-December from a double-digit growth rate of 12.1 per cent in the same period last year. Though the agriculture sector recorded an improvement in GVA growth to 4.1 per cent in October-December from 2.7 per cent in the previous quarter, the growth rate was sharply lower than 7.5 per cent in the same period in 2016-17.

The Finance Ministry said in a statement that the second advance estimates released by the CSO indicate a broad-based and significant acceleration of real economic activity as projected in the Economic Survey. It said the growth acceleration has been sectorally broad-based with manufacturing growth estimated at 8.1 per cent for Q3 2017-18, up from 6.9 per cent in Q2 2017-18; construction growth at 6.8 per cent in Q3 2017-18, up from 2.8 per cent in Q2 2017-18; and services growth projected to accelerate to 7.7 per cent in Q3 2017-18 from 7.1 per cent in Q2 2017-18.

“Such robust growth in manufacturing and significant acceleration in construction mark a turnaround in the country’s economic growth momentum,” the ministry said.

MP bypolls: Congress retains Mungaoli, Kolaras as Scindia wins battle against Chouhan - IEExp

The Congress received a shot in the arm on Wednesday ahead of Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections this year as it managed to retain both the Mungaoli and Kolaras constituencies, which went to bypolls on February 24. While Congress’s Brijendra Singh Yadav won by 2124 votes in Mungaoli, Mahendra Singh Yadav defeated BJP’s Devendra Jain in Kolaras by 8083 votes.

Both seats fall in the Guna Lok Sabha constituency that is represented by Jyotiraditya Scindia, who has put in the hard yards in ensuring Congress’ stranglehold in the two regions, the bypolls for which were necessitated due to the death of Congress’s Mungaoli MLA Mahendra Singh Kalukheda and its Kolaras MLA Ram Singh Yadav.

However, the BJP can claim solace from the fact that the winning margins in the two seats were much less than what transpired in the 2013 Assembly elections. While Congress won by a margin of 24,953 votes in Kolaras assembly constituency, in Mungaoli it thumped BJP by 20,765 votes in the last state polls. However, this time Brijendra Singh Yadav, who bagged 70,808 votes, defeated his BJP rival Baisahab Yadav in Mungaoli by just over 2,000 votes. Baisahab Yadav secured 68,864 votes. In Kolaras, Congress candidate Mahendra Singh Yadav secured 42,515 votes, while BJP’s Devendra Jain got 74432 votes.

Scindia said the mandate in favour of Congress was a victory of truth and development. “People have taken a decision. It’s victory of truth and development. The people of MP have already taken a decision to oust the BJP from the state. The government that had not seen the face of Mungaoli in 14 years, camped there with their entire Cabinet during election,” the Congress leader said.
Prakash Raj (born Prakash Raj; 26 March 1965) is an Indian film actor, film director, producer,thespian and television presenter who is known for his works in the South Indian film industry and Hindi films. He achieved acclaim to become a household name in a career spanning six decades, with roles in over 200 films, across the South Indian languages and Hindi, in addition to television and theatre. His breakthrough role came in the Tamil film Dasavatharam (1996), in which he played the role of Rama, the hero of the Ramayana. He has played lead roles in several films, including Prakash Raj in his debut Tamil film Duett, which saw him playing his first major role. Prakash re-entered Kannada films through Nagamandala in 1997, directed by T. S. Nagabharana, which was selected for the Indian Panorama at the International Film Festival of India in 1997. He was also a part of Mani Ratnam's stage show Netru, Indru, Naalai. In 1997, he acted in Mani Ratnam's biopic Irurav. The movie dealt with the relationship between politicians M. G. Ramachandran and M. Karunanidhi, for which he won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor.

He starred in many Malayalam films in 1996: The Prince, Indraprastham and Oru Yathramozhi, the last of which released in 1997. He also acted in Pandippada, with Dilip in 2005, Thékkekara Superfast in 2003, Keerthickala in 2006, Amal Neerad's Anwar and Shyamaprasad’s sensational movie Elektro in 2010. For most of his Mollywood movies, he will be seen in his upcoming movie Achayans. He acted in many Telugu films, including Antahpuram (1998), which earned him a National Film Award – Special Jury Award. He played an important role in Venkat Prabhu's Saroja. In 2008, he produced a film titled Abhiyum Naanum and played an important character in it. He remade the movie in Kannada as Nanna Nanna Kanasu.

Since Wanted (2009), Prakash Raj has been a regular villain in Hindi language Bollywood movies, including Singham (2011), as Jaikant Shikre, Dabangg 2, as Bachcha Singh, Mumbai Mirror (2013), as Shetty, and the movie Policegiri, opposite Sanjay Dutt and Prachi Desai, as Nagori. He acted with actor Kamal Haasan in the film Thoongaa Vanam (2015).

As an actor, Prakash Raj began his acting career with Doordarshan serials such as Bisilu Kudure (Kannada) and Guddada Bhootha (Tulu and Kannada). He later took up supporting roles in Kannada films such as Ramachi, Ranadhrea, Ninsharshu and Lockup Death. He was noticed for his dialogue delivery and histrionics. His breakthrough role came in Harakeya Kuri, directed by K. S. L. Swamy starring Vishnuvardhan, with whom he had acted in other films such as Mathileya Seetharya, Mathima Hara and Nishkarsha. His performance was noticed by Geetha, the lead heroine of the film, who introduced Prakash to her mentor K. Balachander, a Tamil director. He acted under the screen name “Prakash Raj” in Kannada films and was given the name “Prakash Raj” by K. Balachander for his debut Tamil film Duett, which saw him playing his first major role. Prakash re-entered Kannada films through Nagamandala in 1997, directed by T. S. Nagabharana, which was selected for the Indian Panorama at the International Film Festival of India in 1997. He was also a part of Mani Ratnam's stage show Netru, Indru, Naalai. In 1997, he acted in Mani Ratnam's biopic Irurav. The movie dealt with the relationship between politicians M. G. Ramachandran and M. Karunanidhi, for which he won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor.

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Padma Bhushan Dr. Balasheb Vikhe Patil was my Min-
ister for Heavy Industries during 2004/2005 a member of
Parliament from Shiv Sena, a puritan, Gandhiite and the
core, with extremely simple habits and with no protocols
whatevver. When I first visited at his house, he received me
at the entrance and saw me off at the door with all
courteous. I have not met any Cabinet Minister display-
ingsuch modest behaviour. Once, while on a review visit
in Bangalore houses Sathya Sai Baba Ashram, and very of-
ten Sathya Sai Baba use to deliver his religious discourses
here and the whole Whitefield area closer to Ashram use
to be filled with devotees from all over the World. Dr.
Patil was also a devotee of Baba and once he requested
me to arrange for a darshan of Baba during discourse.
I accompanied him and this was my first visit to Ashram,
we were led to the carpeted floor seats close to the rever-
ent seat from where Baba would address the gathering.
We were seated on the floor, cross legged and I was tiently
waiting for the ultimate spiritual moment of seeing
him in person so close. Ahead of us, there were hundreds
of white uniformed volunteers who were sitting with
folded hands waiting for darshan and signing bhabanas,
they were volunteers’ residents of the Ashram. To my sur-
prise, I found one of my ex colleague, a top skilled
Accountant who had resigned from the company and
had joined the Ashram as a volunteer. A little ahead there
was another ex- employee, an engineer, who had availed
VRS and had joined the Ashram. Baba, known for several
charitable works, has also set up a Charitable Hospital
which gives top class services free of cost in Whitefield.
One of the volunteer, our ex- employee volunteers free
of the needs of patients. I learnt that many professionals
have given their jobs and joined the Ashram to work as
volunteers. Medical Doctors from various parts of the
world come and render services free of cost. After few
months, I was able to visit the Ashram for the first time.
I learnt that many professionals

honourable Member Mr.
Rohitha Bogollagama use to
visit HMT, Bangalore, in con-
exalted seat. He began his spiritual discourse in Telugu
with a bi-lingual interpreter translating into English. The
spiritual message about ego was enchanting. After the
discourse, Baba, got up and walked towards us and as
soon as he was near us, Dr.Patil fell on his feet and sought
blessings and as I was not used to this kind of ritual
was sitting with folded hands and with a kind of feeling
pristine aura of his presence and of being so close to him.
He blessed us both and exchanged few blessed words
and moved on to bless others who had gathered in thousands.

Author addressing Sri Lankan Industry Leaders
India as a policy was aiding neighbours and invariably
we were asked to set up Training Centres to enhance the
skills of youth in those countries. India had Sri Lankan
Tamil issue to deal with through economic assistance in
the areas which could improve the situation. After brief
negotiations, we signed a contract with Sri Lanka for set-
ting up a Training Centre at Kurunegala and the recipient
was Sri Lankan Ministry of Industry and Education. The
connection with the project. He and his wife
Mrs.Deepthi Bogollagama though Sinha-
ese Budhists, were devotees of Baba and
in every visit, there is to be a programme of
visit to Ashram, which we use to facili-
tate. These were the tense days of LTTE
terrorism in Sri Lanka. Few months later,
I undertook a visit to Colombo as their guest for Founda-
tion laying ceremony of the project which was situated
in his constituency about two hundred kms away. I was
flown with him in a military helicopter with two more
escort helicopters for security reasons to the site near a
village. Sinhalese culture, similar to the Indian culture in
many ways has a very interesting welcome ritual, wherein
many young children, colourfully dressed, receive the
guests with flowers, stand in front and sing welcome
songs accompanied by music. Watching those, beauti-
ful children , singing and thinking of their security from
terrorism made me feel very sad. I cannot forget TV news
showing the butt hit to our late PM Mr Rajiv Gandhi
while inspecting a guard of honour in Colombo. Later,
he fell victim to the assassins who carried out a suicidal
attack on him. After the ceremony, we returned to Co-
lombo, where I was asked to address the Industry leaders
of Sri Lanka. Further, the Honourable Minister arranged
my visit to Sri Lankan Parliament, which was in session
and made me witness the proceedings from VIP gallery. I
felt very honoured.

Mr.Rohitha Bogollagama with the Author, in Bangalore
India was doing its best to bring peace in the island and
felt happy that a small bit my company is also doing by
setting up a Training Centre under ITEC programme of
the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India. Every
visit to Bangalore, by Mr.Bogollagama, he would visit my
office and to my great embarrassment he would address
me as “Excellency” despite my insistence not to do so as I
was not included in the regime of such protocol. Later on,
he became the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka and con-
tributed towards strengthening relations with us. Some
times, I believe, this project was awarded to my company
as a blessing from Baba since it fed many employees for
months on end and perhaps, Baba wanted more visits
from Rohith and Deepthi Bogollagama to his Ashram at
Bangalore, India
The Author could be reached at mszahed@hotmail.com

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Rohitha Bogollagama use to
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source: Chicago Sun Times

www.AsiaTimes.US

INTERNATIONAL PAGES

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Page Compilation by Syed Saifullah Quadri

Early Voting to begin Feb. 21 at 16 W. Adams, and then at 50 Chicago ward sites on Mar 5

Although Feb. 8, 2018 was the new statutory starting date for Early Voting, there remain ongoing cases involving objections to candidates’ petitions. As a result, ballots are not ready, and the programming and testing of voting equipment cannot be completed by Feb. 8. The Board of Election Commissioners anticipates that balloting systems will be fully tested and available by Feb. 21, if not sooner.

Objections to certain countywide and statewide candidates’ nominating petitions were resolved recently or still are being resolved. Programming and testing of the equipment in the city’s more than 1,000 ballot variations in four languages is still under way.

The Board will update the Early Voting schedule at chicagoelections.com as soon as possible. Any voters who arrive at the Chicago Election Board to use Early Voting in the meantime will be provided with an application to Vote By Mail. Chicago voters also may apply online to Vote By Mail at chicagoelections.com.

When in-person Early Voting begins, the program will be offered:
- Through March 4 only at the Chicago Election Board annex at 16 W. Adams St.
- From March 5 through March 19, at 51 sites across the city

This year marks the second time that Early Voting was scheduled to begin 40 days before a Primary Election. A similar delayed start to Early Voting occurred for the same reasons ahead of the 2016 Primary Election. Before 2016, Early Voting began 15-22 days before Election Day.
Emraan Hashmi (pronounced [ɛmˈraːn hæʃmi]; born 24 March 1979) is an Indian film actor who appears in Hindi films. Through his successful performances in several romantic films, he has established himself as one of the most popular and highest-paid actors of Hindi cinema. Hashmi's family was born and raised in Mumbai. After graduating from the University of Mumbai, he worked as an assistant director on the 2003 film Kunal Deshmukh's Raaz. Before pursuing a career in acting, the following year, he made his acting debut with a leading role in the crime drama Jannat. Hashmi then took a supporting role in Mohit Suri's thriller Murder, alongside Vidya Balan at the audio release of The Dirty Picture, for his forthcoming film Captain Nawab, which is set to release in 2023.

Hashmi's final film in 2011 was Milan Luthria's biopic starring Hashmi at the promotional event for Jannat 2 in 2012. His performance in Jannat is yet another automobile of the year, the film's technology, and the audience. Hashmi's performance in Jannat was praised by critics, and he was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Filmfare Awards. Blessy Thomas of Daily News and Analysis remarked: "Emraan Hashmi does a forgettable job. His final film of the year was Shamin 2, a thriller directed by Milan Luthria, in which he portrayed the role of an MP. The film was mostly positive, and Hashmi's performance also drew appreciation. Jai Chatterjee of NDTV mentioned that Hashmi "gives the character of the haunter a magical feel that is just right," whilst Shubhra Gupta called his performance "consistent," adding that "he is a performer who keeps getting better.

Hashmi and Vidya Balan during the promotions of their film Hamari Adhuri Kahani. Hashmi's second appearance was for Rajkumar Santoshi's comedy Chhakchar, opposite Vidya Balan. Critics were divided in their judgment of the film, but the performance was described as "just apt," whilst Shubhra Gupta called his performance "unforgettable." The film was mostly positive, and Hashmi's performance also drew appreciation. Jai Chatterjee of NDTV mentioned that Hashmi "gives the character of the haunter a magical feel that is just right," whilst Shubhra Gupta called his performance "consistent," adding that "he is a performer who keeps getting better."
Donald Trump’s Personal Pilot Reportedly On Shortlist To Run FAA

MARCH 2018

President Donald Trump’s personal pilot is reportedly one of several people under consideration to lead the Federal Aviation Administration.

Axios was the first to report that John Dunkin, who has worked for Trump since before he became president, was on a shortlist to lead the FAA. A White House official later confirmed to The Washington Post that Dunkin was under consideration.

The FAA regulates all civil aviation in the U.S. and has an annual budget of more than $16 billion.

"John Dunkin isn’t just a pilot," an unnamed White House official told Axios. "He’s managed airline and corporate flight departments, certified airlines from start-up under FAA regulations and oversaw the Trump presidential campaign’s air fleet, which included managing all aviation transportation for travel to 203 cities in 43 states over the course of 21 months.”

Trump has touted the expertise of his pilot before. In a meeting with executives from the aviation industry last year, the president called Dunkin a “smart guy” who “knows what’s going on.”

"I have a pilot who’s a real expert," Trump said.

Dunkin was brought in for a preliminary conversation about the role. Several other people have also been interviewed, including Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.) and Dan Elwell, who has served as acting administrator of the agency since January.

President, or Emperor? Xi Jinping pushes China back to one-man rule

Hong Kong (CNN)The announcement Sunday that China will drop term limits on the presidency clears the way for Xi Jinping to rule the country indefinitely.

However, analysts warned that what initially seems like a demonstration of absolute power could actually be a sign of weakness, with Xi apparently unwilling to allow the rise of a potential political rival.

This could lead to future instability in the world’s most populous country as wannabe successors jockey for power within a Communist Party (CCP) completely dominated by the 64-year-old Xi.

And his absolute authority will also leave him vulnerable to absolute blame in the instance of an economic shock or foreign policy crisis.

The latter could be increasingly likely, as Xi’s rule so far has been characterized by a more bullish military and diplomatic policy as China seeks to move into a power vacuum left in Asia by a retreating Washington.

 Factional politics
Following Mao Zedong’s death in 1976 -- in the wake of the Cultural Revolution, during which tens of thousands of people were killed and the country was racked by civil war -- his successors moved away from one-man rule towards a consensus system where power was shared by a handful of high-ranking Party officials.

This resulted in relatively straightforward transition of power from Presidents Jiang Zemin to Hu Jintao to Xi Jinping, after each served two five-year terms in office. Early in Xi’s first term however, it became apparent he would seek to buck this trend. He was declared “core leader” of the Party, and state media began building up his public image with the type of hagiography not seen since Mao.

This culminated with “Xi Jinping Thought” being added to the Party constitution last year, at a key meeting in which Xi failed to nominate an obvious successor, fueling speculation he would stay on as leader past 2023.

The plan to drop presidential term limits was announced this week, and is due to go before China’s rubber-stamp parliament, the National People’s Congress, next month, where it is guaranteed to be approved.

Margaret Lewis, a law professor and expert on China’s constitution at Seton Hall University, said under Xi “what we’ve seen is an increasing lack of sharing of power even among the top leadership.”

“Xi’s modus operandi is consolidation of power,” she said. "That could pose a problem to him in the long run. While Chinese politics is not remotely democratic in the traditional sense, there are certain checks and balances within the Party system itself, with reformers and conservatives seeing their power and influence waxing and waning over time."

Jon Sullivan, director of the China Policy Institute at the University of Nottingham, said Xi remaining as President and head of state, “negates the institutionalization of power transitions that have served the Party well for 35 years, enabling it to avoid damaging schisms that have plagued other Communist regimes.”

While many internal CCP matters happen in a black box, most experts agree that there are factions within the party -- such as the so-called “Shanghai clique” around former President Jiang Zemin. Some have argued Xi’s far-reaching anti-graft campaign is itself a tool to go after factional enemies and potential rivals.

That anti-corruption campaign will also get a boost with upcoming constitutional changes due to create a National Supervision Commission (NSC) with sweeping new enforcement powers, potentially affecting a much greater swath of China’s population.
Vasundhara Raje Scindia (born 8 March 1953), commonly referred to as Vasundhara Raje, is an Indian politician who is the current and 13th Chief Minister of Rajasthan since 2013; previously she served in the same post from 2003 to 2008. She was the first female Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

Early life
Vasundhara Raje was born on 8 March 1953 in Mumbai. She is daughter of Vijayaraje Scindia and Jivajirao Scindia, Maharaja of Gwalior, members of the prominent Scindia royal Maratha family.[2] She completed her school education from Presentation Convent, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, and later graduated with Economics and Political Science degrees (Hons.) from Sophia College, affiliated to Mumbai University, Mumbai.

Personal life
Vasundhara Raje married Hemant Singh, of the ex-royal Dholpur family, on 17 November 1972, but the couple separated a year later.[3] Her son Dushyant Singh was elected to the Lok Sabha from her former constituency, Jhalawar. Her siblings are Yashodhara Raje Scindia, Industries Minister of Madhya Pradesh, the late Madhavrao Scindia, the late Padmavati Raje 'Akkasaheb' Burman (1942–64), who wed Kirit Deb Burman, last ruling Maharaja of Tripura, and Usha Raje Rana (b. 1943) who married into the Rana family of Nepal.

Early Political Career
In 1984, Raje stepped into the Indian political system. Initially, she was made a Member of the National Executive of the newly formed Bharatiya Janata party (BJP). She was also elected as a member of the 8th Rajasthan Assembly from Dholpur. The same year, she was appointed as the Vice-President of the Yuva Morcha, BJP, Rajasthan B JP.

Work as Minister of State in MEA
In March 1998, the nation elected the 12th Lok Sabha in which BJP clinched a humungous mandate of 182 seats. It was Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who married into the Rana family of Nepal.

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Which Veggies for Which Season? Because a vegetable needs either warm or cool weather, crops sort themselves into two distinct categories: cool season (for spring and fall) and warm season (for summer). Planting in the proper season is the first step to a bountiful garden.

FOR SPRING AND FALL: Plant the hardy and semi-hardy vegetables below in early spring for spring harvests, and again in late summer for fall harvests. These transplants should appear in your local garden centers at the right planting time. If you prefer a calendar, each state Extension service usually publishes a guide listing planting dates for all the vegetables. You can search the Web for your state’s calendar and contact information for your regional Extension agent.

While many standard garden vegetables can not be planted outside or started from seed until the soil is fully warmed and the threat of frost is past, a variety of other cool season spring crops can be started right now, giving you a jump start on the growing season and putting food on your plate long before the summer vegetables come in.

Depending on your local weather patterns and climate, cool season vegetables can be planted either directly in the soil with no cover, directly in the soil underneath a row cover or low tunnel, or in pots and trays in a sunny window or porch.

Plants under row covers or a low tunnel will not only help to warm the soil quicker, but will also protect seedlings from frosts (although a hard freeze, or a long stretch of really cold weather may still be able to kill plants under row covers).

Planting in pots and trays that can be moved outside into the sun on warm days, and brought inside at night, is one surefire way to beat the frost (as long as you remember to bring them inside), and can be a great way to start an early spring garden long before the soil outside is ready to plant. Container gardening is also a good way to start growing some of your own food on windowsills, balconies, or decks, even if you don’t have an outside garden plot.

Here in southwestern New Mexico, the weather has been so mild this winter that I have been able to not only plant under row covers in February, but have also been direct sowing spring vegetables in soil with no cover (which is still risky, considering the last frost date is still about a month away). Because I started so early, I’ve got baby lettuce greens ready to harvest, spinach that will be ready pretty soon, and lots of radishes and baby chard and kale coming up, all of which we look forward to after a winter of eating vegetables that travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to get to our table. These spring vegetables, all of which can be easily planted from seed, are all great choices for an early garden, and are usually foolproof enough to grow so that even the most beginning gardeners can reap a good harvest.

1. Spinach

Fresh baby spinach, which is one of my favorite greens to eat, is also fairly quick to grow and to grow in a spring garden, and can be remarkably frost-resistant, especially when grown under cover. There are a lot of varieties of spinach, most of which can be categorized by being either savoy and semi-savoy (which tend to have wrinkled or curly crisp leaves), or smooth-leaf (with flatter leaves and a softer texture), and I recommend growing several varieties to see which ones work best for your soil and location, as well as which ones you prefer the taste of. For early spring greens, I like to grow them close together and harvest the leaves when they’re still small, which can be as short as three weeks from planting, depending on the variety and the weather.

Spinach is also a great plant for the fall garden, as it can be covered with mulch and will often overwinter that way for early spring harvest.

2. Chard

This relative is another excellent spring vegetable that is easy to grow from seed, and can be eaten fresh or cooked (or tossed into a smoothie for a nutritious meal). I plant my chard closer than the seed packet instructions recommend, and then harvest the smallest ones as baby greens when I thin the beds. Chard comes in a variety of colors and sizes and textures, although most of the color tends to be in the thick stems, with the leaves being mostly green. Growing some red and white and yellow chard along with the traditional green chard can add some color to spring salads while also livening up the look of the garden. Some varieties of chard can be harvested as baby greens in about 25 days, with the leaves taking about twice that long to get to full size.

3. Lettuce

While lettuce can be grown into the full sized heads that most of us are used to from the grocery store, I’ve found that growing it just for baby greens is not only quicker and easier, but will provide a near-constant supply of salad greens from spring until well into summer. I like to use mixed lettuce seed (sometimes called mesclun mix), and instead of sowing the seeds farther apart, as is recommended for head lettuce, I sow them very close together in each row, which will yield a solid row of lettuce leaves that is easy to harvest, and which can be cut repeatedly throughout the season. Lettuce comes in a number of colors and leaf shapes, not just the standard green romaine, red and green leaf lettuce, and butterhead varieties, so growing mixed baby greens gives you a wide variety of textures and colors for salads. Baby greens can be harvested in a couple of weeks, and by planting successive sowings of seeds every week or two, you can have a constant supply of greens for the kitchen.

4. Radishes

Radishes are one of the fastest vegetables you can grow, and are foolproof enough to grow so that even the most beginning gardeners can reap a good harvest. Radishes are great for interplanting with lettuce or other spring greens, and can help to naturally thin those crops as the radishes get harvested. Many of us are only familiar with the round red or pink and white radishes often sold in grocery stores, but they come in a lot of different colors, shapes, and sizes, and can be spicy or sweet, depending on the variety. Radishes are a great crop kids for kids to help grow, as the seeds are large enough for small children to help plant, and because they’re quick to mature and easy to pull from the ground, can be perfect for impatient gardeners as well.

5. Kale

Kale, while quite possibly being the vegetable people most love to hate, is another excellent spring vegetable that is easy to grow from seed, and because it can be harvested as a baby green and as full-sized leaves, can provide a lot of food from a little effort. Whether you like to eat it raw as part of your salad or in your smoothies, or you prefer it steamed or stir-fried in a main dish, kale can be a great green addition to any diet. Kale can be dense and crunchy, such as ‘di-nosaur’ kale, or flatter and more ruffly, such as the red Russian varieties, and is often sweeter as a baby green in the spring, and then again late in fall after the first frost. I’ve been able to harvest baby kale leaves in as little as three weeks, with full-sized leaves maturing in anywhere from 40 to 60 days, depending on the variety.

6. Peas

Snow peas, and other pod peas, are another great spring vegetable that kids tend to love. The seeds are big enough for children to plant, and I haven’t met a kid yet who didn’t love to go searching in the garden for peas to harvest and eat right there. Shelling peas and snap peas tend to take a bit longer, but they’re also a big hit with kids, many of whom will scar them down fresh from the pod and yet never eat a cooked pea (and that, I don’t believe is good for cooked peas either). Peas can take anywhere from 50 to 65 days to mature, depending on the variety, and can grow either as vines or as ‘bushes’, so they lend themselves equally well to both trellising and growing in regular garden beds. For best germination rates, pea seeds should be soaked in water overnight before planting them.

BROCCOLI

Brussels sprouts

Cabbage

Collards*

English peas

Kale

Kohlrabi

Leeks

Mustard greens

Parsley

Radish

Spinach

Turnip

Lettuce and Swiss chard are both semi-hardy and can tolerate some frost. Lettuce and chard are among the veggies that will grow well in spring and fall, but need to be covered if temperatures dip much below freezing.

Semi-hardy vegetables tolerate light frosts (usually 29 to 32 degrees F) late into fall and through winter in mild climates. They are good for spring and fall gardens.

Beets

Carrot

Cauliflower

Celery

Chinese cabbage

Endive

Irish potatoes

Lettuce and gourment salad greens

Radicchio

Rutabaga

Salad mix

Swiss chard*

Swiss chard and collards taste best in the cool of spring and fall, but will hang on during summer heat, too.
Working outside in the spring months may mean working alongside insects and animals that could pose a threat to workers. OSHA offers the following tips for avoiding such injuries when working outdoors.

Insects, spiders and ticks

Wear long pants, socks and long-sleeved shirts to protect against stinging and biting insects. Use insect repellents that contain DEET or picaridin. Treat bites and stings using over-the-counter products that relieve pain and reduce the risk of infection.

Avoid fire ants. Severe reactions to their bites can cause chest pain, nausea, loss of breath, slurred speech or swelling that requires immediate medical attention. Rodents and animals

Both dead and live animals can spread diseases such as rat bite fever and rabies. Always avoid contact with rats and other wild or stray animals. If you cannot avoid contact, wear protective gloves and wash your hands frequently. Dispose of dead animals as soon as possible.

If you are bitten or scratched by an animal, seek medical attention immediately.

Snakes

When moving debris, avoid placing your hands underneath objects whenever possible. Wear heavy gloves. Watch for snakes sunning on fallen tree limbs or other debris. If you see a moving snake, step back and allow it to pass. A snake’s striking distance is about one-half of the total length of the snake.

Wear boots that are at least 10 inches high. If bitten, note the color and shape of the snake’s head to help with treatment. Keep bite victims calm and still to slow the spread of venom. Seek medical attention as soon as possible. Watch out for ticks when working outdoors.

Outdoor workers face a variety of hazards on the job. Beyond the usual suspects – severe weather, extreme temperatures, and traffic – an additional concern may be present ticks. Ticks may be infected with bacteria, parasites and viruses, and can pass certain pathogens to humans, according to NIOSH. Common tick-borne illnesses include Lyme disease, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Where and when

Outdoor workers are at risk of exposure to ticks they are in a wooded or bushy area, or an area with high grass or leaf litter. Outdoor workers in most areas of the United States should be mindful about protecting themselves from ticks in the spring, summer and fall, when ticks are most active. However, be aware that ticks may be active throughout the year in some warmer-weather regions, NIOSH caution.

Prevention

NIOSH recommends workers follow a number of tips to help prevent tick bites. Among them:

- Wear light-colored clothing, including a hat, long-sleeved pants tucked into boots and a long-sleeved shirt.
- Apply insect repellent that contains 20 percent to 30 percent DEET on any exposed skin, and reapply as often as necessary.
- Consider using Permethrin – a repellent that kills ticks on contact – on work clothes. However, be aware that Permethrin can be used only on clothing, not on skin.
- Thoroughly check clothing and skin every day for ticks.
- Wash and dry work clothes, which will kill any ticks present.
- If you find a tick on your body, grasp it firmly and as close to your body as possible with a fine-tipped tweezer. Pull the tick away in a steady motion, and clean the area with soap and water. “Removing infected ticks within 24 hours reduces your risk of being infected with the Lyme disease bacterium,” NIOSH states.
- Avoid poisonous plants when working outdoors.
- If you’ve ever come in contact with poison ivy, you know how unpleasant it can be. And for many outdoor workers, poisonous plants are a common hazard. Workers at risk include farmers, foresters, landscapers, groundskeepers, gardeners, painters, roofers, painters, construction workers, laborers, mechanics “and any other workers who spend time outside,” according to NIOSH.

What’s the problem?

The United States is home to a number of poisonous plants, including poison ivy, poison sumac and poison oak. (Visit www.ccdb.cc.de/poison/plants/default.html for descriptions and images.) Problems arise when workers come in contact with the sap oil of these plants. NIOSH explains that the oil, called urushiol, is released when the plants are disturbed, bruised, damaged or burned. About 80 to 90 percent of workers who get this oil on their skin will experience an itchy red rash with bumps and blisters. For most people, this rash can be treated by using over-the-counter medication. However, some workers experience more severe reactions that may require medical attention. This often occurs when poisonous plants are burned and workers are exposed by inhaling urushiol, NIOSH states.

NIOSH recommends that employers train their outdoor workers on understanding the risks of exposure to these plants, how to identify poisonous plants, how to prevent exposure and what to do if they’re exposed.

Avoiding dog bites

Every day, an average of 10 letter carriers are attacked by a dog, according to the Washington-based National Association of Letter Carriers. The rate of dog bites begins to rise in February and generally reaches an annual high in June.

Ideally, all dogs should be properly restrained by a leash or a fence, but in reality, this is not the case. Being aware of and alert to what animals are around can help prevent an attack.

To help avoid dog bites, NALC recommends letter carriers adhere to the following:

Always carry pepper spray.
Issue letters or warning cards to homes where a dog could pose a threat.
Do not run past a dog – the animal’s natural instinct is to chase its prey.
When threatened by a dog, do not make eye contact. Try to remain motionless or back away until you are out of danger.
Do not approach a strange dog, even if it is chained or restrained behind a fence.
The first line of treatment for many knee and hip problems includes taking over-the-counter pain relievers. Acetaminophen and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen and naproxen are the most common options. However, these medications have a variety of side effects, so it’s important to discuss your personal health risks with your doctor when considering long-term use for chronic conditions such as osteoarthritis. Acetaminophen (Tylenol and other brands) is usually effective for mild pain and is easy on the stomach. However, it is toxic to the liver at high doses. The recommended maximum per day is generally set at 4 grams (4,000 milligrams), which is the equivalent of eight extra-strength Tylenol tablets. But that dosage can still cause liver problems for some people. To be safe, aim for 3,000 milligrams or less, and be cautious of mixing multiple products containing acetaminophen, such as a pain reliever and a cold medication or a prescribed narcotic. The FDA now recommends using products containing no more than 325 milligrams per pill or capsule (the equivalent of regular-strength Tylenol rather than extra-strength) in order to avoid excessive dosages. Don’t take acetaminophen if you drink more than a moderate amount of alcohol on a regular basis or if you have liver disease. NSAIDs such as aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), and naproxen (Aleve, Anaprox) may be more effective than acetaminophen for certain conditions because they reduce inflammation as well as relieve pain. But NSAID medications have side effects, the most common is stomach irritation. It can also cause stomach and intestinal ulcers, which can lead to internal bleeding. You can ask your doctor about taking a stomach acid inhibitor to reduce these risks. NSAIDs also carry an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, and kidney failure when taken at high doses or for long periods of time. Taking acetaminophen along with an NSAID may provide equivalent pain relief with lower doses of both medications, thus minimizing side effects. You can also alternate between the two to reduce the risk from either type of medication. Whether you’ve been battling knee or hip pain for years, or are feeling the first twinges of pain today, Knees and Hips — A Special Health Report from Harvard Medical School — will show you the best ways to get relief so you can stay active and independent for years to come. Surgery-free pain relief for hips and knees Hip and knee pain can keep you from the activities you love, as well as make routine tasks difficult. But there are many ways to get you moving again pain-free, without surgery. Here are some of the treatments that can help: Ultrasound, phonophoresis, and iontophoresis Therapeutic ultrasound is a simple procedure that uses sound waves to increase blood flow, relax muscle spasms, and aid healing. The therapist applies gel to your skin and moves an ultrasound wand over your skin around the painful area. In a special ultrasound technique called phonophoresis, medication (often hydrocortisone) is added to the gel. In a survey of orthopedic physical therapists, more than half said they would use ultrasound and phonophoresis to reduce soft-tissue inflammation (in tendinitis or bursitis, for example). These techniques are also used to manage pain, heal tissue, and help muscles stretch. Iontophoresis uses electrical currents to speed the delivery of medication to damaged tissue, or simply to reduce muscle spasms and related irritation. Patches similar to Band-Aids are placed on the skin, and a painless, low-level current is applied for about 10 to 15 minutes. You may feel warmth or tingling during the treatment. Therapeutic exercise Strengthening the muscles around a damaged knee or hip can help reduce stress on a joint. For example, your hips have to do less work to support your body weight if your quadriceps, gluteals, hamstrings, and abdominal muscles are strong. Strong quadriceps can also take on some of the shock-absorbing work of the meniscus or cartilage in the knees. The proper balance of strength in the muscles can hold the joint in the most functional and least painful position. Flexibility exercises (to stretch and relax specific muscles) are also an important part of an exercise plan to improve joint function.

6 ways you can prepare to “age well”

You’re probably already doing a lot to ensure that you stay in good health and are able to enjoy your later years: eating right, exercising, getting checkups and screenings as recommended by your doctor. But it also makes sense to have some contingency plans for the bumps in the road that might occur.

Adapt your home. Stairs, baths, and kitchens can present hazards for older people. Even if you don’t need to make changes now, do an annual safety review so you can make necessary updates if your needs change.

Prevent falls. Falls are a big deal for older people — they often result in fractures that can lead to disability, further health problems, or even death. Safety precautions are important, but so are exercises that can improve balance and strength.

Consider your housing options. You might consider investigating naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs). These neighborhoods and housing complexes aren’t developed specifically to serve seniors — and, in fact, tend to host a mix of ages — but because they have plenty of coordinated care and support available, they are senior-friendly.

Think ahead about how to get the help you may need. Meal preparation, transportation, home repair, housecleaning, and help with financial tasks such as paying bills might be hired out if you can afford it, or shared among friends and family. Elder services offered in your community might be another option.

Plan for emergencies. Who would you call in an emergency? Is there someone who can check in on you regularly? What would you do if you fell and couldn’t reach the phone? Keep emergency numbers near each phone or on speed dial. Carry a cellphone (preferably with large buttons and a bright screen), or consider investing in some type of personal alarm system.

Write advance care directives. Advance care directives, such as a living will, durable power of attorney for health care, and health care proxy, allow you to explain the type of medical care you want if you’re too sick, confused, or injured to voice your wishes. Every adult should have these documents.
Aaquib Hussain (1 March 1926 – 9 May 1994), popularly known as Haji Mastan, Haji Hussain, Bawa, or Sultan, was an Indian gangster, smuggler, film financier and real estate businessman. Hussain was a Tamil Muslim who was born in the Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu), but lived and operated in Bombay (now Mumbai) for much of his life. Hussain was known to be a shrewd, smooth-talking dealmaker. He had a stranglehold over the smuggling business in Bombay for almost two decades and made a fortune.

Hussain was the first Bombay gangster to achieve a sort of celebrity. He would be often seen at parties and functions rubbing shoulders with politicians, Bollywood actors and businessmen. He often wore completely white clothes and shoes, smoked expensive cigarettes and drove a white Mercedes Benz. This made him an icon among the poor and uneducated Muslim youth in the ghetto areas of South Mumbai, namely Bhendi Bazaar, Dongri and Nagpada. He was also held in high regard in poor Tamil communities in Matunga, Sion, Dharavi and Koliwada.

Early life
Aaquib hussain was born in 1926 in Panaiukal, near Ramanathapuram, in the Madras Presidency, British India (now Tamil Nadu, India). He lived in the coastal town of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, before migrating to Bombay (now Mumbai). At the age of 8, he migrated there with his father.

Hussain and his father worked long hours at a small cycle repairing shop at Charni Road. Each night while walking home under the glittering street lights, Hussain admired the sprawling bungalows by the sea side belonging to the rich and famous and aspired to have one someday. In his early twenties, he began working in the docks where he befriended an ageing Arab smuggler who was searching for someone to help him smuggle gold biscuits out of the docks without getting suspected. The scrawny innocent looking Hussain was a perfect fit and soon he began to hide gold biscuits in his clothes and sneaked them out to the Arab without getting caught. Hussain began making a neat sum of money.

Later life
Hussain was not as feared as later gang leader because he refrained from using violence against his rivals. Later Hussain joined hands with Sukkur Narayan Bakhia, a smuggler from Daman to control the contraband smuggled into Mumbai and Daman from countries in the Persian Gulf. Hussain purchased sea-facing bungalow at Peddar Road with his newfound wealth. Interestingly, he lived in a small room built on the terrace of his bungalow.

Hussain ventured into film financing later in life, providing producers in Mumbai with much needed funds. He eventually turned into a film producer himself. He also had business interests in real estate, electronic goods and hotels. He owned several electronic shops in Manish Market on Mohammad Ali Road.

Hussain maintained good relations with the other gang leaders. When inter-gang rivalry in Mumbai began increasing, he called all top gang leaders together and split Mumbai between the gangs so that they could operate without coming into conflict.

Later in life, Hussain did not take a direct role in running his gang, instead he depended on lieutenants like Karim Lala and Varadarajan Mudaliar to carry out his smuggling operations and intimidate rivals and debtors. Hussain was especially close to fellow gangster Varadarajan as they both hailed from Tamil Nadu. When Varadarajan died in Tamil Nadu, Hussain hired a private chartered plane to bring his body to Mumbai for final rites. Hussain had many acquaintances in Bollywood such as Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dharmendra, Feroz Khan and Sanjeev Kumar.

During the Indian Emergency, he was imprisoned. Whilst in prison, he was influenced by the ideals of politician Jaiprakash Narayan. In prison, he began learning Hindi. After his release form prison he went on Hajj, and thereafter came to be referred as Haji Mastan.

After his trip to Mecca, Hussain entered politics and formed the Dalit Muslim Suraksha Maha Sangh in 1985. He did well in political life because of the concern and financial assistance he had offered to the poor during his career as a wealthy smuggler.

Personal life
Aaquib hussain had no son but he did informally adopt Sundar Shekhar. Shekhar runs Hussain’s political party, now renamed ‘Bharatiya Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh’. Shekhar who was born Hindu didn’t convert to Islam, despite the religion of his foster father. Nonetheless, Hussain reportedly nick named him “Suleman Mirza.”

Popular culture
The blockbuster 1975 Bollywood film Deewaar was loosely based on Aaquib Hussain’s life, with Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan portraying a fictionalized version of him. Deewaar was later remade into a 1981 Tamil film, Thee, starring Rajinikanth in the same role.

The 2010 film Once Upon A Time in Mumbai was heavily based on Mastan’s life, although it was also partially fictionalized. Actor Ajay Devgn portrayed the character of Haji Mastan (as Sultan Mirza) in the film, while Emraan Hashmi portrays underworld don Dawood Ibrahim (as Shoaib Khan). On 25 May 2017, it was announced Rajinikanth’s forthcoming film will be Kala Kirikalan which is believed to be based on Hussain. His foster son Sundar Shekhar Mishra sent a notice to Rajinikanth when he learned of this. In response, Wunderbar Films issued a statement clarifying that the film is not based on Hussain’s life.
Word Search

MARCH
BUDDING
BLOOMING
FRAGRANT
SPROUTING
SEASONAL
PLEASANT
REFRESHING
SUNNY
WARM
GRASS
TEMPERATURE
TENDER
SUNNY
HATCHING
DART
CHRIPING
SEED
SPRING
TEMPERATURE
CHIRPING
SEED
Your vehicle MAY be involved in a safety recall and MAY create a safety risk for you or your passengers. If left unrepaired, a potential safety defect could lead to injury or even death. Safety defects must be repaired by a dealer at no cost to you.

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Indian actress Sridevi, arguably Bollywood's first female superstar, died in Dubai after cardiac arrest, media reported on Sunday. She was 54.

Sridevi is survived by her husband B producer Boney Kapoor and daughters Jhanvi and Khushi. She was in Dubai to attend a family wedding and died.

In a career spanning five decades, Sridevi acted in 300 films and was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honor in 2013.

Born Shree Amma Yanger Ayyapan in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, she started acting at the age of four, appearing in several Tamil-language films in the 1960s and 1970s, and eventually dropping out of school for a career in the movies.

She acted in Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu films, performing alongside leading men such as Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth.

Sridevi made her Bollywood debut in 1979 with "Solva Sawan" (16th spring), but it was in 1983, with Bala Mahendra's "Sadma" (Shock) that she made her mark in the Hindi film industry.

The year, she also acted with Jeetendra in K. Raghavendra Rao's blockbuster "Himmatwala" (The courageous one), cementing her place as one of Bollywood's top actresses.

Through the 1980s and 1990s she charmed audiences in female-centric films such as "Chandni" (Moonlight) and "Lamhe" (Moments), drawing praise for her comic timing in "Chaalbaaz" (Trickster) and Shekhar Kapur's "Mr India", playing feisty characters in contrast to the traditionally coy Bollywood heroine.

Sridevi took a break from films soon after she married producer Boney Kapoor in 1996.

A noticeably leaner Sridevi made a successful return to the big screen 15 years later in Gauri Shinde's "English Vinglish" (2012), playing a housewife taking English-language lessons. Her last screen appearance was in "Mom" (2017), as a mother avenging her daughter's rape.

Sridevi is survived by her husband, producer Boney Kapoor, before returning to star in the 1997 film "Judaai.

In the film, she plays an ambitious housewife who inadvertently marries a man who can't afford the lavish life she aspires to lead. "Judaai" was a box office hit, but it was Sridevi's performance in Gauri Shinde's 2012 hit, "English Vinglish," that solidified her comeback and confirmed her as one of Bollywood's most revered and enduring talents.

A picture of Bollywood actress Sridevi Kapoor is seen put up outside her residence in Mumbai on February 26, 2018, following her death.

A picture of Bollywood actress Sridevi Kapoor is seen put up outside her residence in Mumbai on February 26, 2018, following her death.

Indian Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra (L) and Sridevi (R) attending the Zee Cine Awards 2018 ceremony in Mumbai on December 19, 2017. Sridevi's death triggered an outpouring of tributes from Bollywood luminaries and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I have no words. Condolences to everyone who loved Sridevi. A dark day. RIP," actress Priyanka Chopra said on Twitter.

"She was a veteran of the film industry, whose long career included diverse roles and memorable performances," Modi said in a tweet.

"We all grew up watching her and suddenly to hear that she is no longer with us is hard to digest," said cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar.

SOAS University of London.

Sridevi is one of the last great heroines of Hindi cinema and interpreted by Sridevi, is gloriously feminine, and uniquely Indian," a review in the Hollywood Reporter said at the time.

Sridevi is credited with inspiring a new generation of Indian actresses by portraying strength with beauty and grace with comedic charm.

Sridevi is one of the last great heroines of Hindi cinema who could hold her own against any hero," said Rachel Dwyer, Professor of Indian Cultures and Cinema at the SOAS University of London.

"A great beauty, a talented actress, a brilliant dancer, a delightful comedienne, she is a true legend." Indian Bollywood actors Akshaye Khanna (L) and Sridevi attend a promotional event for the film "Mom" in Mumbai; on June 20, 2017. Indian Bollywood actors Akshaye Khanna (L) and Sridevi attend a promotional event for the film "Mom in Mumbai" on June 20, 2017.

Sridevi's credits span Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada language films. She had broad appeal and was lauded for her captivating screen presence and versatility, even though she was quiet and reserved off-screen.
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WELCOME TO NEW YORK

THE WINDOW MOVIE REVIEW

Story: A talented yet deeply troubled screenplay writer Lekh Kapoor wants to break free from the shackles of conventional storytelling, but ends up taking up the job of rewriting the script of a Tamil blockbuster. His life takes a U-turn when he meets Maya (Teena Singh) who goes on to become the object of his obsession. Review: A wannabe revolutionary in the field of screenplay writing, Lekh Kapoor (Amrit Kumar Vashisth) is let-down by the boisterous ways of showbiz industry and resolves to introduce an unconventional technique of storytelling that does not conform to the protocols of how a script is supposed to be written. But his henchman Irfan, who goes to painful lengths to find work for his genius friend, convinces him to take up a job in the space of commercial cinema for making ends meet.

Worn out, shattered from the wounds of an ugly marriage with Ayesha (Preeti Sinha) and highly delusional, Lekh begins writing his script, only to chance upon Maya (Teena Singh) who goes on to become the object of his obsession. The recurring theme in ‘The Window’ is a wholehearted writer’s plight in this unforgiving industry and the myth that pathos alone can bring out the artistic genius in a storyteller. Director V.K. Choudhary’s version of struggle in an unstable profession seems unrealistic in parts. The film’s frequent deviation from the plot, only adds salt to the injured script.

Amrit Kumar Vashisth as the shabbily dressed, aloof and enraged Lekh is the highlight of the film. Despite the script going haywire after the first 30 minutes, he stays true to his character of utter lunacy and situational depression. Probably in a different setting, with a much tighter script, we will get to see an even finer version of this first-rate actor. His partner-in-crime Preeti Sharma’s naivety is required to balance things out in this otherwise laden-with-screams indie flick.

The camera work and its subsequent editing have damaged ‘The Window’ beyond repair. Young director V.K. Choudhary sets out to tell the tale of a revolutionary, but tries to fit in too many exemplars along the way. Acting works, the story doesn’t.

Dil Junglee Movie

The much-awaited trailer of Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer ‘Baaghi 2’ is finally out! One look at the trailer and you would agree that Tiger gives out the ‘Rambo’ vibes. The trailer sees the return of Ronnie played by Jr. Shroff as he sets out as a ‘one-man army’ to find a small girl called Riya. The film boasts of a powerful ensemble cast as Randeep Hooda takes on the role of the antagonist. Disha plays Neha, Ronnie’s love interest in the film, whom he was to be married to. Manoj Bajpayee essay the character of a tough cop in the film. We also see Prateik Babbar making a brief yet impactful appearance.

Packed with explosions, fang kicks, punches and high octane stunts, the trailer has Tiger rebelling for love while on a serious mission. The film is a sequel to Tiger’s 2016 superhit action flick ‘Baaghi’ which also starred Shraddha Kapoor in the lead role.

Baaghi 2

Review: Director Chakri Toleti in his Hindi directorial debut takes viewers behind the scenes of a popular awards show and tries to elicit laughter by laying bare the drama that is an intrinsic element of showbiz.

Teji (Diljith Dosanjh) and Jinal (Sonakshi Sinha) set out to live their dreams when they get an opportunity to be part of a Bollywood awards night and showcase their talent. However, they soon realise that they are mere pawns in the hands of event manager Sophie, who wants to teach her boss a lesson.

REVIEW: Director Chakri Toleti in his Hindi directorial debut takes viewers behind the scenes of a popular awards show and tries to elicit laughter by laying bare the drama that is an intrinsic element of showbiz.

Enter, the show’s anchors, Karan Johar and Riteish Deshmukh (playing themselves), who throw their weight around and drive Gary up the wall. That’s not all; Karan has an evil twin, Arjun, who wants the former dead. Reason: Karan’s film, ‘Kuch Kuch Hota Hai’ was his success leading to Arjun being mistaken as Karan and nobody taking him seriously as a gangster.

The in-jokes about the industry are plenty and Karan and Riteish bring their A-game to the film just like their acts at awards shows. In fact, Karan has some of the best lines and entertains with his double act. Sonakshi Sinha plays final with earnestness and shares a warm camaraderie on screen with Diljit Dosanjh, but both of them have very little to work with in terms of their characters. Boman Irani is wasted in the role of Sophie’s boss and Lara Dutta makes the most of what is on offer. The film also drags in some places despite cameos from Salman Khan, Rana Daggubati, Aditya Roy Kapur and Sushant Singh Rajput.

The laughs are few and far between and most scenes and dialogues which manage to tickle the funny bone involve Karan and Riteish. The biggest let-down is the script and the various tracks in the narrative don’t always come together as a whole and seem contrived. The visual effects in the film are also tacky, to say the least. Actual footage from the awards show doesn’t blend in seamlessly with the portions which were shot later. The film must have sounded clever on paper as it doesn’t take itself too seriously and attempts to recreate the irreverent toneality, characteristic of the banter at award shows. However, it doesn’t always manage to hit the bull’s eye.

Baaghi 2

The much-awaited trailer of Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer ‘Baaghi 2’ is finally out! One look at the trailer and you would agree that Tiger gives out the ‘Rambo’ vibes. The trailer sees the return of Ronnie played by Jr. Shroff as he sets out as a ‘one-man army’ to find a small girl called Riya. The film boasts of a powerful ensemble cast as Randeep Hooda takes on the role of the antagonist. Disha plays Neha, Ronnie’s love interest in the film, whom he was to be married to. Manoj Bajpayee essays the character of a tough cop in the film. We also see Prateik Babbar making a brief yet impactful appearance.

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बड़े सूची के लिए प्रेमिकों की लिंक देखें या पढ़ें

भाषा बदलने के लिए क्लिक करें

इंटरनेशनल पेज्ज

मार्च 2018 प्रति 38 पृष्ठ
غزل


daur e Khan -

پروفیسر خان

غزل

نواز

Ghazals compiled by Janab Hasan Chishti Sb
Chicago

Waliuddin
A dog walks into a butcher shop and the butcher asks, “What do you want?” The dog points to some pork chops and barks four times.

So the butcher wraps up a two-pound steak and four pork chops, and places the bag in the dog’s mouth. He then takes money from a purse tied around the dog’s neck, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, “Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great I would recommend it very highly.” The other man said, “What is the name of the restaurant?” The first man thought and thought and finally said, “What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns.” “Do you mean a rose?” “Yeah, that’s the one,” replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, “Rose, what’s the name of that restaurant we went to last night?”

Nurse: “Doctor, doctor! The man you’ve just treated collapsed on the front step! What should I do?”

Doctor: “Turn him around, so it looks like he was just arriving!”

The lion married off a child. Being the king of the jungle, he invited all the animals for the wedding.

On the very special night, a mouse walks up the lion and says, “Congratulations brother!”

The lion looks at the mouse and says, “Thanks, but since when am I your brother?”

The mouse replied, “Well, I was once a lion too, then I got married.”

Two students were arguing when their teacher entered the classroom. The teacher says, “Why are you arguing?”

One boy answers, “We found a ten dollar bill and decided to give it to whoever tells the biggest lie.”

“You should be ashamed of yourselves,” said the teacher.

“When I was your age I didn’t even know what a lie was.”

The boys gave the ten dollars to the teacher.

I was sitting at the counter of a restaurant when a gentleman sat in the seat beside me. I watched as he ordered a cup of coffee and put about fifteen spoonful’s of sugar in it.

He took a sip without stirring it. I remarked, “You didn’t stir your coffee.”

He said, “I know, I don’t like it sweet.”

April teaches many aerobic classes. She told a lady who was looking to sign up for the class to wear loose fitting clothing to the class.

“Honey,” the lady replied, “if I had any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn’t be signing up for an exercise class.”

My girlfriend left a note on the fridge saying, “It’s not working, I can’t take it anymore. I am going to my mother’s.”

I opened the fridge. The light came on, the beer was cold. I can’t figure out what she’s talking about.

“Mary, if you were a four legged animal and you were pregnant for two years, what would you give birth to?”

“I don’t know,” said Mary, “but whatever it is, it would never be afraid of the dark.”

A woman like that would be crazy to marry YOU!” says John.

“Why are you saying that? I have a nice and pleasant personality, and money. She’s got to have money. And a nice big house wouldn’t hurt either.”

“A woman like that would be crazy to marry YOU!” says George.

“Remarkable?” snorts the owner. “This is the second time this week he’s forgotten his keys.”

“I said, “Thank you, darling. I think I’ll have chicken. ”

“What do you want?” The dog points to steak in a glass case. “Any-thing else?” The dog points to some pork chops and barks four times.

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple’s house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, “Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great I would recommend it very highly.” The other man said, “What is the name of the restaurant?” The first man thought and thought and finally said, “What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns.”

“What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns.”

“Do you mean a rose?”

“Yes, that’s the one,” replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, “Rose, what’s the name of that restaurant we went to last night?”

Nurse: “Doctor, doctor! The man you’ve just treated collapsed on the front step! What should I do?”

Doctor: “Turn him around, so it looks like he was just arriving!”

The lion married off a child. Being the king of the jungle, he invited all the animals for the wedding.

I was sitting at the counter of a restaurant when a gentleman sat in the seat beside me. I watched as he ordered a cup of coffee and put about fifteen spoonful’s of sugar in it.

He took a sip without stirring it. I remarked, “You didn’t stir your coffee.”

He said, “I know, I don’t like it sweet.”

April teaches many aerobic classes. She told a lady who was looking to sign up for the class to wear loose fitting clothing to the class.

“Honey,” the lady replied, “if I had any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn’t be signing up for an exercise class.”

My girlfriend left a note on the fridge saying, “It’s not working, I can’t take it anymore. I am going to my mother’s.”

I opened the fridge. The light came on, the beer was cold. I can’t figure out what she’s talking about.

“Mary, if you were a four legged animal and you were pregnant for two years, what would you give birth to?”

“I don’t know,” said Mary, “but whatever it is, it would never be afraid of the dark.”

A woman like that would be crazy to marry YOU!” says John.

“Remarkable?” snorts the owner. “This is the second time this week he’s forgotten his keys.”

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