



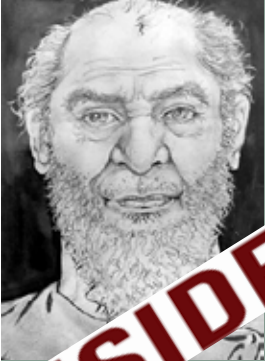
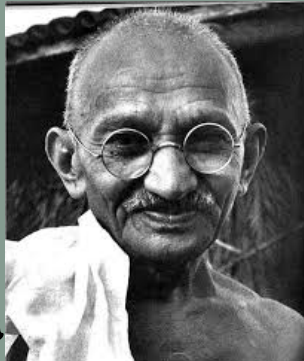
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FEBRUARY 2019 Vol 10, Issue 2

INSIDE

The cook who refused to Poison Mahatma Gandhi in 1917 **P-18**

Priyanka Chopra is all set to play Ma Anand Sheela

Priyanka Chopra might have been making headlines due to her royal marriage with singer Nick Jonas but now that she has resumed work, she is promoting her upcoming Hollywood flick 'Isn't It Romantic'.



During an interaction on a television show, PeeCee revealed that she is all set to essay the character of late spiritual leader Osho's disciple, Ma Anand Sheela, which will be helmed by Oscar-winning director, Barry Levinson.

and she was devious. She created a whole cult in America. He was called Osho. I don't know if you've heard of him. I am developing that next for me to star in and produce."

Talking about the project she said, "I am developing a feature with Barry Levinson. He is an iconic American director. We are developing it (from the perspective of) Sheela who is this guru who originated from India. She was his right-hand woman

Meanwhile, Priyanka will also be featuring in Shonali Bose's 'The Sky is Pink' which also stars Farhan Akhtar and Zaira Wasim in pivotal roles. The film is based on motivational speaker Aisha Chaudhary.



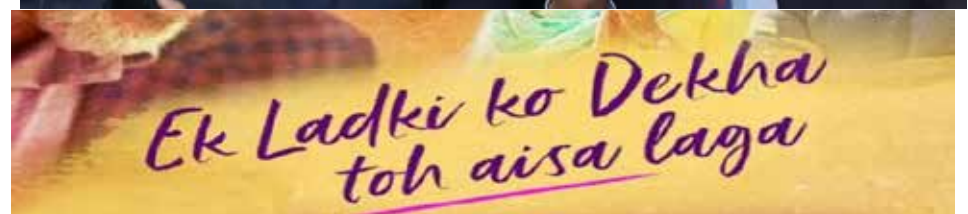
Kader Khan, Prabhu Deva and Manoj Bajpayee among Padmashree awardees

Gallup: The Obamas are America's most admired man and woman (P-20)



INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES REPUBLIC DAY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF NAWAB HAMID ALI KHAN

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U.S. VISA AVAILABILITY IN DECEMBER 2018 For Pakistan, Bangladesh & India Compiled by Hasan Chishti



Page 19

Bollywood film actress Padmini Kolhapure in Chicago on Republic Day along with Nawab Mir Hamid Ali Khan

TWIN HONORS FOR SHER MOHAMMED RAJPUT

In a quick succession, maverick Sher Mohammed Rajput has been honored by the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin (AFMI), and just before that by the Indo American Center (IAC).

Both honored him for his Life-Time Service rendered to benefit Chicago Community and the community-based organizations over past 30 plus years. Both the honors came at organizations' respective Dinner Galas.

Sher Rajput has been the Trustee of the Indo American Center. He has been instrumental in bringing community support to the center at the time when ongoing Governmental sanctions ran IAC' funds dry.

AFMI, while revisiting Chicago, during its recent 25th Year Annual Convention recognized Rajput's immense assistance provided to put the event together. The two awards have made Sher Rajput talk of the town.

Chicago-based Sher Mohammed Rajput, has dedicated his life serving the Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, and Christian community in Chicago. Few years back, he carried the mantra of "Hindu, Sikh, Esai! Hum Sab hai

Bhai Bhai!" to his native city of Bikaner in Rajasthan, India. On his 20th annual visit to Bikaner past year, he was accorded a rousing welcome. City of Bikaner's elite citizens felicitated him. Sarav Dharam Maha Sabha of Greater Rajasthan awarded him for being the promoter of the concept of true brotherhood among all religions. Maharajah Dungar Singh College of Bikaner presented him with the Best NRI Natives Award.

Supporting his Iconic hat, he is routinely seen on Devon Avenue. Sher Rajput has a secular outlook and was bestowed with Outstanding Community Service Award by Chicago's Geetha Mandalam, a Hindu Religious organization.

He is a founding member of the Board of Trustees of East West University and has been recognized by the University Board for his great contributions. He is also a founding member and Board of Trustee of the Indo American Center, Chicago.



Sher Mohammed Rajput, Founder Trustee of Indo American Center, Senior Trustee East West University (Second from left) is seen receiving the Community Service Award from Ms Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India at Chicago. Also seen are Dr Nakerdar, Convener AFMI Chicago Convention, and its incoming President Dr Kutb Uddin Ahmed.

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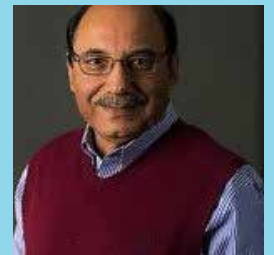
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U.S peace envoy visits Kabul to consult president on talks with Taliban

U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad arrived in Kabul on Sunday to try to secure cooperation from Afghanistan's president after breakthroughs in peace negotiations with Taliban leaders in Qatar.

With Khalilzad and his boss U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, as well Taliban officials, hailing progress toward ending America's longest war, he must now win over President Ashraf Ghani — whose government the Taliban have so far kept out of the process.

Six days of talks ended in Qatar on Saturday with key parts of a draft pact mapped out, including an 18-month timeline for the withdrawal of foreign troops after the completion of a deal, according to Taliban officials. The draft also includes assurances from the hardline Islamic group that it will not allow Afghanistan to be used by al-Qaeda and Islamic State to attack the U.S. and its allies - a core U.S. demand. Similar assurances involving other groups are given to Pakistan in the draft pact.

The Taliban also want to be part of an interim government after any ceasefire, Taliban sources said.

It was not clear whether the draft described by the Taliban sources was acceptable to both sides or when it could be completed and signed. A fresh round of talks between Khalilzad and the Taliban is expected to take place on February 25 in Doha, two senior Taliban sources said.

While he has not been directly involved up until now, Ghani's role is likely to grow as a full deal gets closer and diplomacy intensifies.

Without going into detail on Saturday night, Khalilzad said in tweets that nothing could be agreed without an intra-Afghan dialogue and a full ceasefire.

"He (Khalilzad) will inform Ghani and his officials about all the developments, seek their opinion before traveling back to Washington," a senior Afghan official said on conditions of anonymity. GHANI'S OPTIONS Western diplomats describe Ghani as being in a tight spot, with no authority to decide on the troop departure and the final decision to declare the ceasefire resting with the Taliban.

He, however does enjoy the power to decide to support an interim government rather than push for presidential elections which could prove to be a distraction to the peace effort.



Foreign troops to quit Afghanistan: Taliban So far he has rejected talk of an interim government. "It is time for Ghani to choose between elections or peace process," said a western diplomat based in Kabul.

Despite the progress on a pact, violence is widely expected to continue, with the Taliban mounting daily attacks against the Afghan government and its security forces.

The Taliban now control about half of Afghanistan's territory and Ghani said in Switzerland last week that 45,000 members of the country's security forces had been killed since he took office in 2014.

A former Taliban leader said despite a agreement for an 18-month withdrawal, he predicted intense fighting ahead.

"I think Taliban won't stop their fight until they get 100 percent sure that foreign forces are leaving Afghanistan," said Sayed Mohammad Akbar Agha, who heads Ways to Save Afghanistan, an independent group run by tribal elders and religious scholars working toward securing peace.

Writing by Greg Torode; Editing by Keith Weir

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Indian-Americans celebrate Republic Day across US with pledges to uphold the Constitution and combat hate

The Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), an advocacy group dedicated to safeguarding India's pluralist and tolerant ethos, marked India's 70th Republic Day on Saturday January 26, 2019, with celebrations at chapters across the United States.

This year's Republic Day celebrations continue in a tradition IAMC has established over the last 17 years of celebrating the adoption of India's Constitution and its fundamental emphasis on pluralism and equality before the law for people of all faiths.

At the chapter event in South Brunswick, NJ, board member Mr. Jawad Mohammed remarked, "The Constitution of India was shaped by the diverse nature of India; its diversity of languages, religions, and ethnic communities. Thus, with its adoption, India became a sovereign, secular, democratic Republic and its foundations of liberty, justice and equality became integrated into the fabric of the nation. It is truly an extraordinary document."

Mr. Mohammed also drew attention to the fact that the Constitution of India was under a sustained attack on account of the shrinking space for religious freedom of minorities and human rights violations of minorities, "lower castes" and women.

The commemoration in Dallas was held at Fun Asia in Richardson, TX. IAMC-Dallas President Rahmath Baig said "We hold the constitutions of both the United States and India in high regard as Indian-Americans, and have a duty to preserve the ideals of both." Richardson, TX, Mayor Mark Solomon, and City Councilman Bob Doobay were also in attendance. Councilman Doobay expressed his felicitations on the 70th Republic Day celebrations as well as his appreciation for the Indian American Muslim Council promoting peace, equality and a

commitment to uphold civil liberties.

IAMC-Dallas member Arshad Qawi noted, "We are extremely proud of our Indian heritage. India is blessed to have a constitution which protects basic civil liberties and secular principles. Unfortunately the socio-political environment in India today is marked by an unprecedented level of intolerance and religious bigotry. It's imperative upon all of us as responsible members of the diaspora, to get involved and make a concerted effort to promote peace and social justice for all."

The events included fun activities for children including a Drawing Competition, as well as Fancy Dress and Spot Quiz Contests based on Indian themes. The US national anthem was followed by the national anthem of India.

Speaking on the theme for the occasion "Strength in diversity," IAMC Vice President, Syed Afzal Ali, said "we gather today to recommit ourselves to the founding principles of the Constitution of liberty, equality and justice for all. We want to leave the world better for our children and that requires us to push back against the tide of hate and destruction and continue to build bridge of unity and hope. As Indian Americans dedicated to pluralism and human rights, we have a double reason to celebrate the founding of the Indian Republic. IAMC's Republic Day celebrations are an expression of profound appreciation for the ideals of justice, pluralism and democracy - the shared values of India and the United States."

Pics on the right: Abdur Rahman, Arshd Qawi, Syed Mazhar Hussaini of SEED, Kaleem Momin, Adam Momin, Syed Ali, Rehmat Baig and Azeem A Quadeer, Publisher Asia Times US



Republic Day Celebration at Consulate General of India at Houston

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Shawkat Mohammed
 Agent, New York Life Insurance Company

“I always share with my clients, to begin something we all need to start somewhere and someday. Let it be today.”

Life is unpredictable, and needs change over time – If you are not there, how will your family handle the unexpected loss of income? Will your family be able to make mortgage payments if the unthinkable happens? Who will pay for your child’s education? Will your spouse have enough income to sustain the family’s lifestyle? As difficult as it may seem to think in those terms, but given that many of us are in the financial rebuilding stage, you need to ask yourself, “Would my family be OK financially without me in the picture?” Life insurance is one of the few guarantees your family could rely on to maintain their quality of life.

At some point in our life we think of buying some life insurance, so when is it smart to buy life insurance? The best answer is when you are **HEALTHY**. In order to qualify for life insurance, you go through a process called underwriting where New York Life will assess the risk of carrying your policy. It is beneficial to start early because most people are healthy when they are younger, the older we get, the more health can impact our ability to qualify for life insurance. Life insurance premium is primarily based on age and health condition, it is more likely that you will get a much more competitive rate quote when you start early. For some products, starting early gives you the ability to lock your insurability.

In good and bad economic times, life insurance from New York Life Insurance Company can offer you peace of mind and a lifetime of protection. Buying life insurance is an important decision to make. That decision should not be delayed. In addition to its primary death benefit protection, life insurance will also add security to your financial strategy. As an experienced agent, I can help you determine what your needs are and explain all of the benefits of permanent life insurance. In these unprecedented times, it’s never been more important to take charge of your future. So let’s talk. Please give me a call so we can set up a time to meet and discuss your options. There is no cost or obligation.



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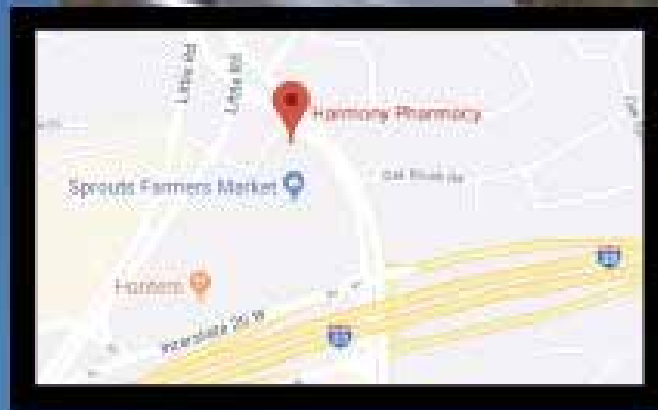


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Dr. Rao Kamran Ali with Congresswoman Ilham Omar!



Oath of office for the new Executive Board of Pakistan Society of North Texas! Congrats to President Abid Malik, Vice President Salman Tabani, General Secretary Anwer Azam, and Treasurer Amna Paryani for your appointments!



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INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

The 70th Republic Day of India was celebrated in the Embassy of India, Riyadh with great joy and enthusiasm. Ambassador Ahmad Javed hoisted the National Flag which was followed by rendition of National Anthem by the students of the International Indian Public School in Riyadh.

Ambassador read out the President's Message to the gathering of over 1500 members of Indian community, friends of India and officials of the Mission. On this occasion, Ambassador also thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Crown Prince HRH Mohammad bin Salman and the Saudi Government for hosting a large Indian community in the Kingdom and ensuring their comfort and welfare.

The girl students of the International Indian School, Riyadh presented a number of colourful performances which were highly appreciated by the audience.

- Dr. Syed N Masood



70th Indian Republican day Reception Ceremony Host by Indian embassy kuwait Chief Guest Mr Kahlid Al Jarar Ministry of foreign affairs Kuwait.

What a fantastic evening to meet dynamic Indian community representatives and other Diplomatic Ambassadors....
M A Subhan Sohel



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MIDDLE EAST - PAGES

MIDDLE EAST - PAGES

IFTEKHAR SHAREEF PAGE



A farm house of friend Jahangir Khan in Kavvaguda , Shamshabad. In a very small area of 6 acres he has grown everything including, fruits, paan, paddy , flowers , vegetables and many , Jahangir Khan , Aslam Quadri and labourers



Annual day celebrations of St Caramel HS , Sangareddy, TS , I am honoured to be present along with Senior brother CT Chako , Rector Shajon Anthony, Brother Joseph of All Saints , Brother Vinay of St Joseph degree college, Mir Zulfikhar Ali former Mayor of Hyderabad and others .



Inaugural of Rajiv Gandhi International under 19 Cricket Tournament conducted by V Hanumanth Rao Ex MP and AICC secretary at Hyderabad Cricket Grounds



Marriages within Masqati family at classic convention Center Shamshabad , Hyderabad. Who's who where present includes Home Minister of TS Janab Mehmood Ali sahab, former home minister Narsimha Reddy , Amir Shakeel MLA Bodhan , Shabbir Ali Sahab opposition leader , Sarib Rasool Khan , Masiullah Khan Hajj Committe chairman , Ali Misri and others



a historical Cricket Match at LB Stadium, Hyderabad between Delhi and Jaipur in STL league where Delhi won comfortably by loss of one wicket. It was an honour to be felicitated by two owners of the teams and Mr Hamid bhai Sahab CEO of the RR Masala (RR group of companies) , Sami his son in law , Ashok Chakravarty , Jayesh Sharma former test players and other leading cricketers , thanks Ehtesham Quadri , Noor Syed and others .



Dinner at Falaknuma Palace with a lovely tour of the palace built by Paigah Vicar Ul Muluk and latter gifted to Nizam's for hosting foreign guests , presently managed by Taj group of hotels as Seven Star Hotel

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CHICAGO PAGES

NAWAB MIR HAMID ALI KHAN PAGE

INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION CELEBRATED REPUBLIC DAY

Bollywood famous actress Padmini Kolhapure visited Chicago at the invitation of Indian American Association (IAA). President Nawab Mir Hamid Ali Khan received the actress at the Chicago's O'Hare airport. She attended IAA's Republic Day event at Meadows Club and also sang a few songs. Earlier in the morning she attended Republic Day celebration at the Indian Consulate in Chicago.

US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi honored the event by his attendance. Also present were Sher Mohammed Rajput, Poet Taufeeq Ansari, Consul General Neeta Bhushan, Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod,

Padmini Kolhapure started acting in films at an early age of 15. Her most famous child role was playing a child in Raj Kapoor's 1977 film Satyam Shivam Sundaram. Her success led to her most controversial role in Insaaf Ka Tarazu (1980), Padmini was known for her professionalism and diligence. She had more box office hits, such as Vidhaata (1982) and Souten (1983). She had a huge hit with Pyar Jhukta Nahin (1985) with Mithun Chakraborty, and they were paired together in several more films. She agreed to work with Anil Kapoor when he was a newcomer in his first film Woh Saat Din (1983). The movie was a hit and helped cement his name in the Indian film industry.



Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod and Nawab Mir Hamid Ali Khan

Indian American Association, IAA, Host President, Nawab Mir Hamid Ali Khan, to his Right Famous Bollywood Star Ms Padmini Kolhapure, Consul General of India at Chicago, Mrs. Neeta Bhushan, U S Congressman, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Dr. Sanhita Agnihotri, President FIA, Chicago, Keerthi Kumar, Sher Mohammed Rajput, Secretary Shahid Razvi at Lamp Lighting Ceremony for 70th India Republic Day Celebration at Chicago, IL, USA



Famous Bollywood actress Ms Padmini Kolhapure with Bouquet at O'Hare Airport Chicago received by President of IAA (far left)



IAA Vice President Mrs Archana Mitta is seen lighting the Lamp



Nawab Mir Hamid Ali Khan
President
IAA - Indian American Association

A message from the President



Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen:
Greetings, Assalam Alaikum, Namastay, and Sat Sri Kaal

Hi! My name is Nawab Mir Hamid Ali Khan, and I am the president for the Indian American Association.

Today, I am here to welcome you all on behalf of IAA to 26th January - Indian Republic Day celebration. The Indian American Association is a newly formed; Chicago based association which is a Secular, Non-political, not-for-profit, socio-cultural organization that stands for the humanity of Unity. One of the main goals of our Association is to take the relationship of the United States of America and the Republic of India, to a higher level. Our other agenda is to help ethnic South Asian Americans in their cultural affairs. It is also the intention of our Association to help all Americans, who are friends of IAA, to progress in their efforts to pursue the American dream of education, freedom, liberty and pursuit of happiness. This also means that the IAA is based on helping all Americans to get a better life for them and their future generations.

Tonight, as we are celebrating the 26th of January, we have organized a Cultural Program and arranged a fine dinner for all attendees. Let us join hands together and celebrate. Thank you very much.

Nawab Mir Hamid Ali Khan
President IAA



INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (IAA)
Chicago, Illinois



American Telugu Association elected Parmesh Bheemreddy as new President

ATA, American Telugu Association, a 28 year old Telugu Organization serving the interests of ever burgeoning Telugu Community in USA elected Parmesh Bheemreddy as its new President. Mr. Bheemreddy was sworn in as the President on January 19th at the board meeting held in Las Vegas. Born in Pothireddypadu village of Nagarkurnool district of Telangana Mr. Bheemreddy came to US on a student visa to pursue higher education in Computer Science. Being a software professional himself, established a firm and helped many students and professional from India to settle down in US. Married to a cardiologist Sarita, Bheemreddy is a well-known Community Volunteer, co-founder of Palamuru NRI forum and conducted various charity activities across the district. An avid community activist, Mr. Bheemreddy has been an integral part of ATA since Inception and served in various positions like Secretary for the 12th Convention

and as a Convener for the Philadelphia Conference in 2014.

ATA board was sworn in on the occasion as well, raising the Board of Trustees count from 27 to 31. Mr. Bhuvanesh Boojala from DC Metropolitan area was elected unanimously as the President Elect. ATA elected Venu Sankineni as Secretary, Sharath Vemula as Joint Secretary, Ravi Patlola as Treasurer and Arvind Muppidi as Joint Treasurer. ATA Advisory Chair Hanmanth Reddy garu congratulated the new board and wished them luck in its future endeavors.

Presiding over the board meeting, the new president not only vowed to preserve and strengthen the Telugu community across North America but also promised to

further promote the literary, cultural, social, educational and rich cultural values of the community strictly abiding by the constitution of ATA. Unveiling his vision, Mr. Bheemreddy quoted that ATA under his leadership will include focus areas like immigration, SAT Training, exchange student onboarding procedures, Medical and Dental camps for Senior Citizens and Visitors, Matrimonial and Emergency Services. Mr. Bheemreddy was ecstatic to announce that the new ATA Foundation Scholarship program will award 10 scholarships to meritorious students of economically backward classes of \$1000 each. Mr. Bheemreddy thanked the outgoing President Karunakar Asireddy, EC and board for its outstanding contribution to ATA and expanding the organization to new areas like Nashville and Boston areas.



Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS AROUND CHICAGO



Republic Day Flag hoisting at Consul General Chicago with Khaja Moinuddin Sadat Ali Khan, AR Saleem and Syed Ashfaq Hussain



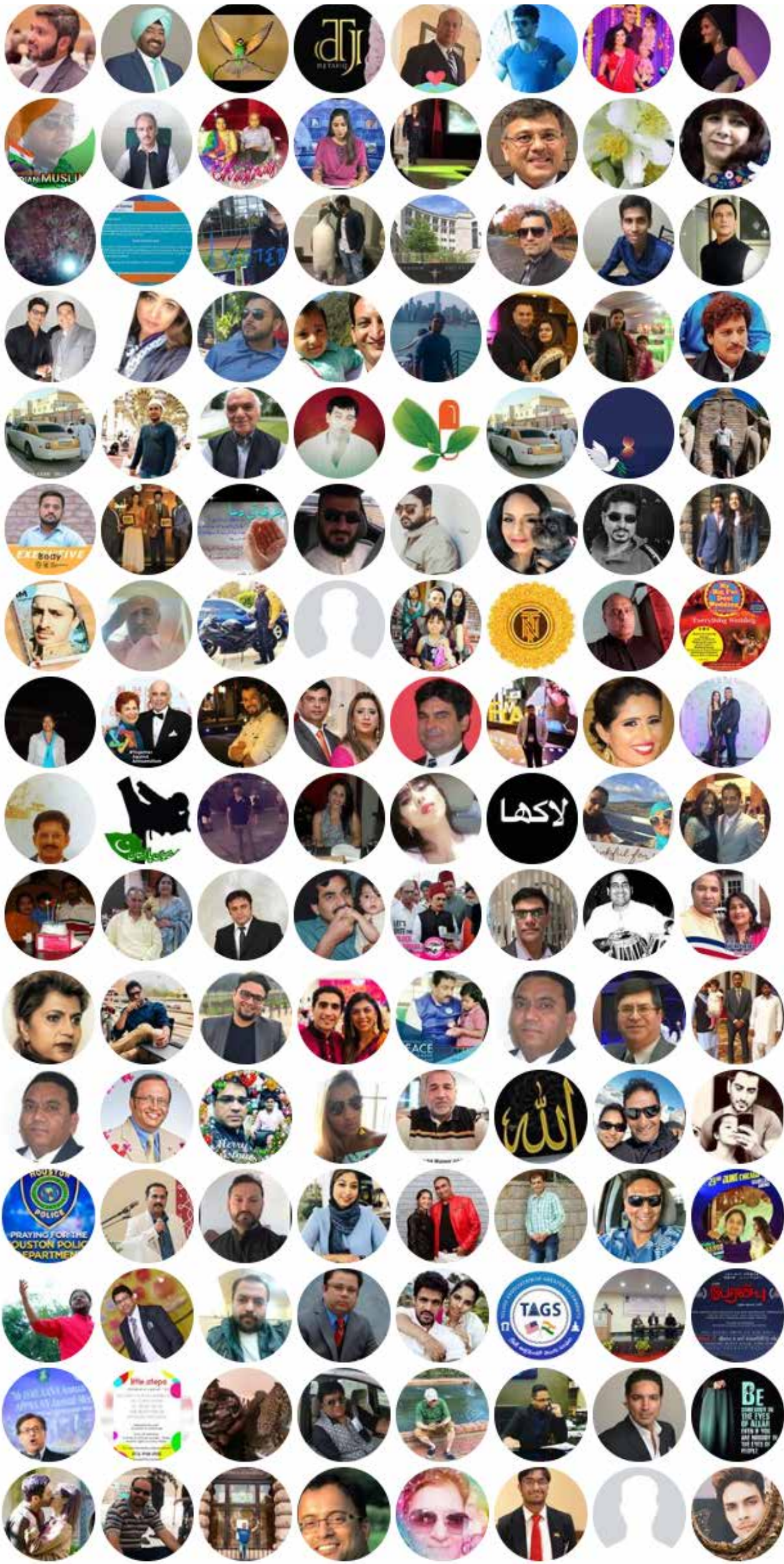
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BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY - CONGRATS

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NATA Convention 2020



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Congratulations to NATA President Dr. Raghava Reddy Ghosala and new Executive Committee.

Executive Committee:
 Dr. Raghava Reddy Ghosala (President), Dr. Sridhar Reddy Korsapati (President-Elect), Bala Indurti (Executive Vice President), Alla Rami Reddy (Secretary), Narayana Reddy Gandra (Treasurer), Srinivasa Reddy Somavarapu (Jt. Secretary), Shiva Meka (Jt. Treasurer), Rajeshwar Reddy Gangasani (Past President), Srinivasa Reddy Kotluru (Executive Director), Uday Kiran Basireddy (Intl. Vice-President), Koti Reddy Burla (Intl. Vice-President), Srinivas Reddy Kanuganti (Intl. Vice-President), Ramana Reddy Kristapati (Intl. Vice-President), Srikanth Penumada (National Convention Adviser).

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NATA Convention 2020:
 Hari Velkur (Convener), Sarath Mandapati (Coordinator), Anna Reddy (Convention National Coordinator).

Drink lots of water.



Drinking water is advantageous in every way. It assists metabolism and digestion, prevents constipation and the accumulation of waste products (ama) in the body, keeps away diseases and even helps in keeping the skin clear of acne and pimples.

Take an Oil Massage

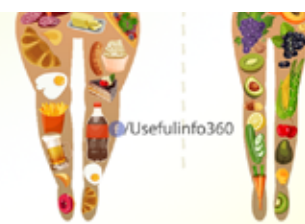


Massage your body with oil before bath which will rejuvenate you, reduce fatigue and prevent dry skin. Massaging the scalp with oil can prevent dandruff, graying and hair fall, enhance mental alertness and so on.

For an undisturbed sleep



Drink a glass of warm milk before going to bed. This will help you sleep peacefully. Also isolate your mind from all stressful and worrisome thoughts before going to bed.



According to Ayurveda, both obesity and emaciation (Under weight) are dangerous. So always follow a healthy diet, exercise regularly and maintain a weight as per your BMI.

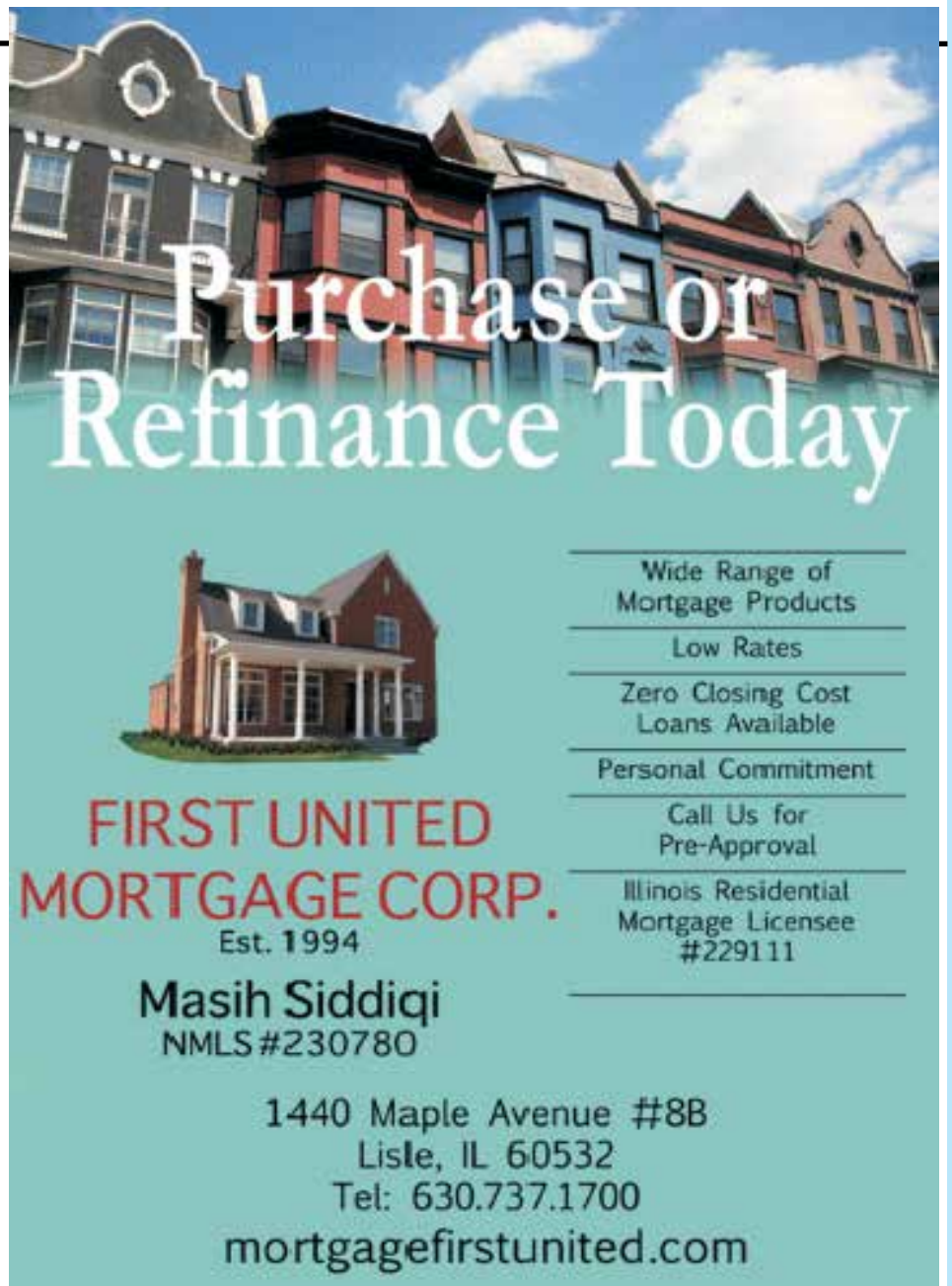
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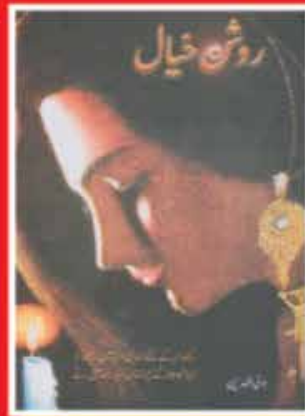
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Batak Mian - The Forgotten Cook Who Paid Heavily For Refusing To Poison Mahatma Gandhi

The year was 1917. On the afternoon of April 15, thousands had gathered at Motihari railway station (in Bihar's East Champaran) to wait for a man who was destined to lift their lives out of misery.

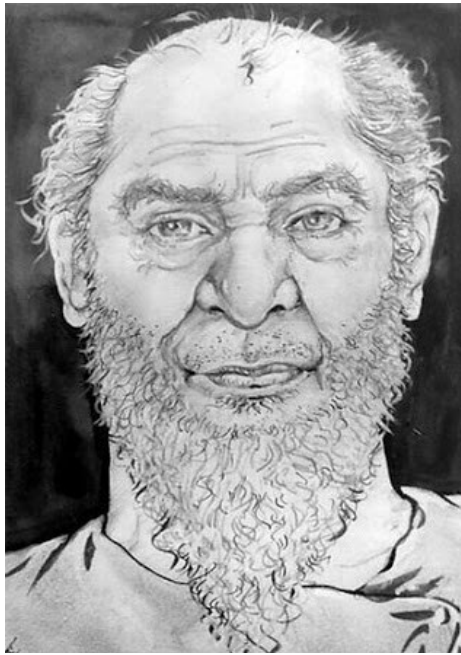
It was 3 pm when Gandhi alighted at the station from a train coming from Muzaffarpur. He had come to probe the appalling conditions under which local farmers were being forced by the landlords to grow indigo.

Nobody knew it then but this fact-finding mission would snowball into the first satyagraha (policy of passive political resistance) that Gandhi would lead in the country and begin a new chapter in India's independence struggle.

According to the book *Champaran ke Swatantatra Senani*, during this visit, Gandhi got a dinner invitation from a British manager of an indigo plantation named Erwin. So Erwin told his cook, Batak Mian, to serve Gandhi a glass of milk laced with poison. To ensure that this was done, he offered substantial inducements as well as issued threats of dire punishment.

When the time came, the deeply patriotic cook did present the glass of milk to Gandhi, but also warned him of its contents and revealed Erwin's sinister intentions behind it. Dr Rajendra Prasad, who would later go on to become India's first president, witnessed the entire episode.

While Gandhi escaped the assassination attempt to successfully lead the Champaran Satyagraha, the man who had saved his life had to pay dearly for it. Dismissed from work, Batak Mian was thrown behind bars and tortured. His house was turned into a crematorium and his family was driven out of their village (Siswa Ajgari, a hamlet near Motihari). To the surprised and curious crowd, the President introduced the man sitting next to him as the person who had saved Mahatma Gandhi's life. He then narrated the story of how the impoverished cook had turned down all kinds of inducements to



poison Gandhi and faced brutal punishment as a result.

Had it not been for Batak Mian, Gandhi would have died, Prasad exclaimed, before wondering aloud what impact such a tragedy might have had on India's independence. On learning about the hardships faced by the cook's family, he also ordered the collector of the region to give 24 acres of land to Batak Mian and his three sons as a token of appreciation from the nation.

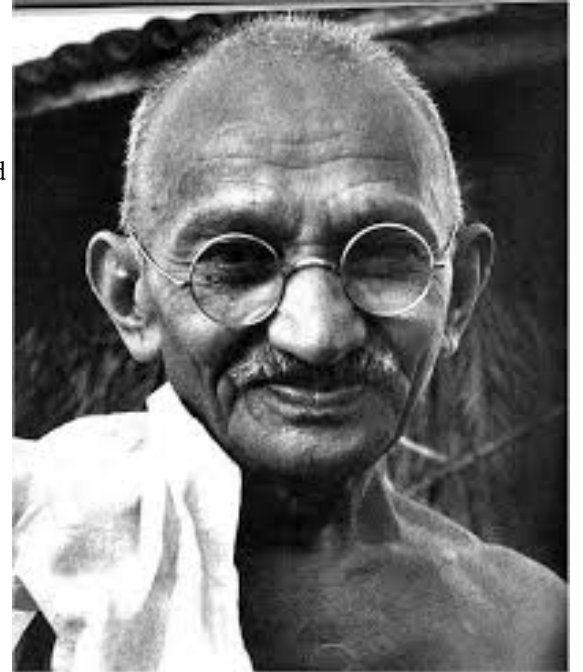
This incident seared Batak Mian's story into the memories of Champaran's residents. However, nearly a century after the Champaran Satyagraha, his grandchildren are still waiting for the government to honour its promise.

In 2010, after reading a report in the *Hindustan Times* on the plight of the family, then president Pratibha Patil had ordered the district magistrates of East and West Champaran to submit a report on action taken to fulfil Rajendra Prasad's promise. But thanks to government apathy, the move did not lead to any action.

Today, the tombs of Batak Mian and his wife lie unattended in the nondescript village of Siswa Ajgari. His grandchildren live on a patch of land near the Valmiki Tiger Reserve forest and make a living as labourers.

It's time India acknowledges the debt it owes to Batak Mian for saving the leader who would play a pivotal role in its hard-won independence. It's time India gives this unsung hero the respect and recognition he deserves. For as actor Farooq Sheikh wrote in a letter to his family in 1996,

by Sanchari Pal
January 30, 2018,



THE
BETTER
INDIA



U.S. VISA AVAILABILITY IN FEBRUARY 2019 For Pakistan, Bangladesh & India

Compiled by Hasan Chishti

FAMILY SPONSORED PREFERENCES	Pakistan/Bangladesh	India
1st Unmarried sons & daughters Of U.S. Citizens	Sept., 22, 2011	Sept., 22, 2011
2-A Spouses and unmarried childrens of permanent residents	Dec., 01, 2016	Dec., 01, 2016
2-B Unmarried sons & daughters (21 yrs. of age or older) of permanent residents	May 01, 2012	May 01, 2012
3rd Married sons & daughters of US citizens	Aug., 22, 2006	Aug., 22, 2006
4th Brothers & sisters of adult U.S. citizens	June 22, 2005	June 22, 2004
EMPLOYMENT BASED CATEGORY		
1st Priority workers	Dec., 01, 2017	Feb., 08, 2017
2nd Members of the professions holding advanced degree or persons of exceptional ability	Current	April 06, 2009
3rd Skilled workers	Current	April 22, 2009
Other workers	Current	April 22, 2009
4th Certain special immigrants	Current	Current
Certain religious workers	U	U
5th Non-regional centers	Current	Current
Regional centers	U	U

U.S. lawmakers again seek to end U.S. support for Saudis in Yemen

Republican and Democratic U.S. lawmakers will try again to pass a resolution ending U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, with a greater chance of success than when a similar measure passed the Senate last month.

Republican Senator Mike Lee, Democratic Senator Chris Murphy and Independent Senator Bernie Sanders, who caucuses with the Democrats, as well as Democratic Representatives Ro Khanna and Mark Pocan, planned a news conference for Wednesday to introduce the legislation.

The Senate passed a Yemen-related war powers resolution by a 56-41 vote in December, as seven Republicans joined Democrats to vote for what was considered a rebuke of Republican President Donald Trump amid anger with Saudi Arabia not just over civilian deaths in Yemen, but also the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at a Saudi consulate in Turkey. Trump had promised a veto.

It was the first time either chamber of Congress had backed a resolution to withdraw U.S. forces from a military engagement under the War Powers Act. That law, passed in 1973, limits the president's ability to commit U.S. forces to potential hostilities without congressional approval.

However, that measure never went further because the Republicans who then controlled the House of Representatives did not allow a vote in that chamber before the end of the year.

Democrats now have a House majority, but Trump's fellow Republicans have increased their edge in the Senate by two seats to hold a 53-47 margin. It would take a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress to overcome a Trump veto.

Opponents of the resolution are reluctant to take any action to disrupt the strategic U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia, seen as an essential counterweight in the Middle East to Iran, arch-enemy of close U.S. ally Israel.

Saudi Arabia winds down 15-month anti-corruption campaign



Saudi Arabia has ended a sprawling crackdown on corruption ordered by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that it said had recovered more than \$106 billion through settlements with scores of senior princes, ministers and top businessmen. A royal court statement said the government had summoned 381 people, some as witnesses, under the campaign launched in November 2017, but it provided no names. It said 87 people confessed to charges against them and reached secret settlements that included the forfeiture of real estate, companies, cash and other assets.

The campaign ended as abruptly as it began, despite speculation within the local business community that a new round of arrests was imminent.

The public prosecutor refused to settle the cases of 56 others due to existing criminal charges against them, and eight more who declined settlement offers stand accused of corruption, the statement said. Detainees who were not indicted were freed.

For the first three months of the campaign, many of the kingdom's economic and political elite were held in Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Some detainees were reportedly tortured, which the authorities have denied.

Critics called it a shakedown and power play by Prince Mohammed. It unsettled some foreign investors that he is courting to diversify the country's economy away from oil.

The October killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents inside the kingdom's Istanbul consulate tarnished the crown prince's reputation in the West and intensified criticism of Riyadh's human rights record and its role in the Yemen war.

Prince Mohammed has defended the anti-corruption campaign as "shock therapy" as he tries to overhaul the economy.

His social reforms, including the easing of such restrictions as bans on cinemas and women driving, have been accompanied by a crackdown on dissent, including the arrests of dozens of clerics, women's rights activists and intellectuals.

Facebook profit beats Wall Street

Facebook Inc reported its slowest quarterly revenue growth in more than six years as a public company but easily beat Wall Street's profit estimates, soothing investor concerns that rising costs would blunt growth. Shares of the world's biggest online social network rose nearly 9 percent to \$163.30 after the bell. They closed up 4.3 percent in regular trading.

Net income rose to \$6.88 billion, or \$2.38 per share, in the fourth quarter, up from \$4.27 billion, or \$1.44 per share, a year earlier. Analysts on average had expected earnings of \$2.19 per share, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

Total fourth-quarter revenue rose 30 percent to \$16.9 billion from \$12.97 billion, compared to analysts' average estimate of \$16.4 billion.

"The worst is over for this social media giant," said Haris Anwar, an analyst at Investing.com: "Its ad business and user engagement haven't been affected despite all the negative blows of the past year."

Facebook has pledged to focus on the privacy and security of the world's largest social network after a series of scandals over improperly shared user data and propaganda hurt its image and made it the target of political scrutiny across the globe.

The company's shares have lost a third of their value since July, when it first warned about slowing growth in revenue and operating margin. The share price remains near its lowest point in two years.

"We've fundamentally changed how we run our company to focus on the biggest social issues, and we're investing more to build new and inspiring ways for people to connect," Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder and chief executive, said in a statement.

Previously, Facebook's weakest quarterly sales growth as a publicly traded company, 32.2 percent, came in each of its first two reporting quarters in 2012.

Total expenses in the fourth quarter surged to \$9.1 billion, up 62 percent compared with a year ago. The operating margin fell to 46 percent in the fourth quarter from 57 percent a year ago.

Gallup: The Obamas are America's most admired man and woman



Michelle Obama unseated Hillary Clinton as the most admired woman in the U.S., claiming the title alongside her husband, former President Barack Obama, who has remained the most admired man for 11 straight years, according to Gallup's annual poll.

The big picture: Clinton held the title of most admired woman for 17 consecutive years, but this year was surpassed by both Obama and Oprah Winfrey. President Trump came in second place for the fourth year in a row, marking only the 13th time — and Trump's second — that a sitting president didn't top the list since its inception in 1946.

Canadian PM fires envoy to China after remarks on Huawei case

In an unprecedented move, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he had fired his ambassador to China, who prompted a political furor with comments about Huawei's high-profile extradition case.

John McCallum had embarrassed Trudeau's Liberal government by saying Huawei Technologies Co Ltd Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou could make a strong argument against being sent to the United States.

Opposition legislators and former ambassadors accused McCallum of unacceptable political interference in an affair which has badly damaged relations between Canada and China. Meng, the daughter of Huawei's founder, was arrested in Vancouver last month over alleged violations of U.S. sanctions on Iran.

China subsequently detained two Canadian citizens on national security grounds. A Chinese court later retried a Canadian man who had been jailed for drugs smuggling and sentenced him to death.

"Last night I asked for and accepted John McCallum's resignation as Canada's ambassador to China," Trudeau said in a statement that did not explain his reasons.

Veteran diplomats and experts told Reuters it was the first time a Canadian ambassador had ever been officially fired.



Trudeau said as recently as Thursday that he had no plans to replace McCallum, who apologized the same day for his remarks earlier in the week.

But the Toronto Star newspaper on Friday quoted the envoy as saying that if Washington dropped the extradition request "that would be great for Canada". McCallum, 68, a long-time former Liberal cabinet minister, is not a trained diplomat.

Brock University professor Charles Burton, a former Canadian diplomat who had served two postings in China, said McCallum's comments on Meng possibly avoiding extradition had signaled to Beijing that its hard line tactics were working.

"He really made it untenable for the prime minister to sustain him (in his post) for any length of time and he



had to go," Burton said by telephone, suggesting Trudeau should quickly appoint a special envoy to handle the dispute.

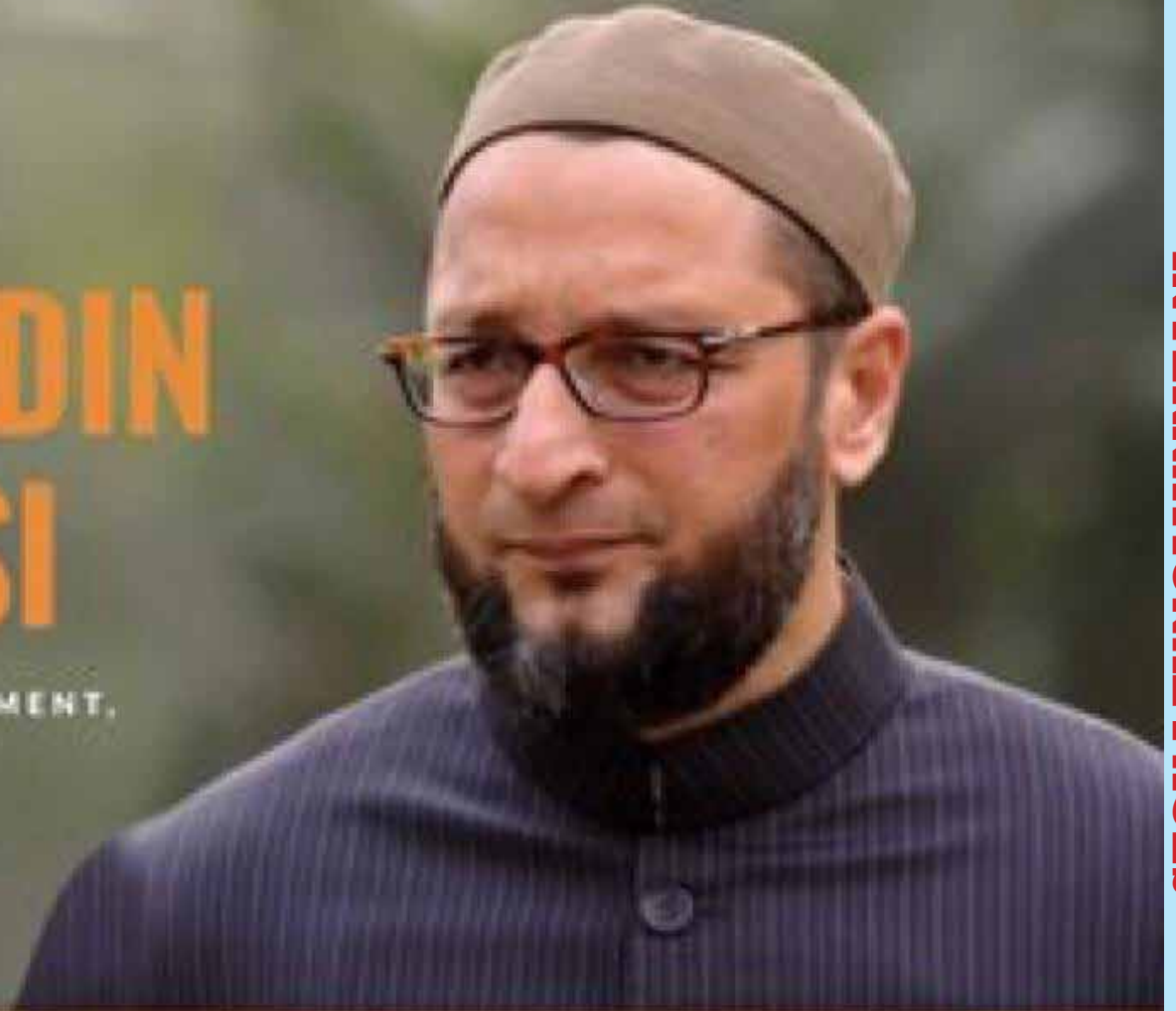
Spokespeople for Trudeau and Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland declined to comment when asked about the dismissal.

Andrew Scheer, leader of the official opposition Conservative Party, said in a tweet that Trudeau "should have fired his ambassador the moment he interfered in this case" and accused the prime minister of weakness and indecision.

Polls show the Liberals have a slender lead over the Conservatives ahead of a federal election this October.

ASADUDDIN OWAISI

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Royal Caribbean starts 2019 with record bookings, sees strong China demand

Uday Sampath Kumar

(Reuters) - Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd said it was heading into 2019 with record bookings for cruises and seeing higher demand from Chinese tourists, sending its shares up as much as 7 percent.

A slowdown in the world's second-biggest economy which has been flagged by several U.S. companies over the past few weeks, did not dampen demand, Royal Caribbean said.

Over half a million Chinese passengers sail with Royal Caribbean every year and the company said it was seeing rapid growth in tourists vacationing in Europe and Alaska.

The Miami-based company said 75 percent more Chinese guests opted for a non-China itinerary in 2019, compared to three years ago.

Rising demand, especially in the Caribbean, led the company to add four cruise liners to its fleet in 2018, including the world's largest Symphony of the Seas. Demand from wealthier customers also prompted the company to take a majority stake in Silversea Cruises, adding ultra-luxury and expedition cruises to its offerings.

"Consumers are spending more on travel and experiences and the cruise industry is benefiting," Ivan Feinseth, director of research at Tigress Financial Partners said. Tigress owns Royal Caribbean shares on behalf of clients.

"The all-inclusive nature and the broad itineraries ... there's just so much going on that cruises continue to grow in popularity."

Overall, Royal Caribbean said it expects to raise total capacity by 8.6 percent in 2019, deploying just over half of those ships for Caribbean cruises.

The company said it expects adjusted first-quarter earnings of \$1.10 per share, above analysts' estimates of \$1.06,



according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

"This outcome should encourage those who watch on the sidelines concerned about weather politics, trade wars, supplies whatever," Chief Executive Officer Richard Fain said, describing the company's 2018 earnings.

But while demand for cruises on both sides of the Atlantic has been strong from North American passengers, Chief Financial Officer Jason Liberty said uncertainties surrounding Brexit were creating "inconsistencies" in demand in the United Kingdom.

The company's total revenue rose 16.4 percent to \$2.33 billion in the fourth quarter ended Dec. 31, edging past

analysts' average estimate of \$2.31 billion.

On-board spending, an increasingly more important part of Royal Caribbean's overall revenue, rose 16.5 percent as passengers spent more on entertainment activities like laser tag and dance classes.

Apple posts revenue drop but optimistic on China Excluding certain items, the company earned \$1.53 per share, ahead of estimate of \$1.51.

The company's shares were up 6.2 percent at \$119.00 in early afternoon trade

U.S., China launch high-level trade talks amid deep differences

David Lawder, Jeff Mason

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States and China opened a pivotal round of high-level talks on Wednesday aimed at bridging deep differences over China's intellectual property and technology transfer practices and easing a months-long tariff war.

Cabinet-level officials, led by Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, met in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House, with only a month left to reach a deal before a March 2 U.S. deadline to increase tariffs on Chinese goods.

But details of the closed-door talks were scant, with official statements seen as unlikely before they conclude on Thursday. A USTR spokeswoman declined comment on the discussions. The talks began with an awkward silence on both sides of a long negotiating table during a photo opportunity, broken when Lighthizer made joking remarks about table positioning and appearing in photographs of a dinner between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in December.

It was at that meeting in Buenos Aires that leaders of the world's two largest economies called a 90-day truce to try to work out trade differences through negotiations. Wednesday's meeting was the highest-level gathering since then.

Liu, who is Xi's top economic adviser, is expected to meet with Trump. Seated next to Liu was People's Bank of China

Governor Yi Gang, a reform-minded official has advocated further opening of China's financial services markets, with officials from the Finance and Commerce ministries also present.

Trump's top trade, finance and economic officials flanked Lighthizer on the U.S. side, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and White House advisers Larry Kudlow and Peter Navarro. The talks began two days after the United States charged Chinese telecommunications company Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, with conspiring to violate U.S. sanctions on Iran by doing business through a subsidiary it tried to hide.

Meng was arrested in Canada on Dec. 1 at the request of the United States, which is seeking to have her extradited. Mnuchin and Ross have insisted that there is no link between the trade talks and the Huawei case.

The talks in Washington are expected to be tense, with little indication so far that Chinese officials are willing to address core U.S. demands to fully protect American intellectual property rights and end policies that Washington has said force U.S. companies to transfer technology to Chinese firms.

The U.S. complaints, along with accusations of Chinese cyber theft of U.S. trade secrets and a systematic campaign to acquire U.S. technology firms, were used by the Trump administration

to justify punitive U.S. tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports.

Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on \$200 billion of goods to 25 percent from 10 percent on March 2 if an agreement cannot be reached. He has also threatened new tariffs on the remainder of Chinese goods shipped to the United States. China has retaliated with tariffs of its own, but has suspended some and is allowing some purchases of U.S. soybeans during the talks.

Chinese officials deny that their policies coerce technology transfers.

U.S. trade representative Robert Lighthizer, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow and White House trade adviser Peter Navarro participate in a photo-op with China's Vice Premier Liu He, Chinese vice ministers and senior officials in the Diplomatic Room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House campus in Washington, U.S., January 30, 2019. They have emphasized steps already taken, including reduced automotive tariffs and a draft foreign investment law that improves access for foreign firms and promises to outlaw "administrative means to force the transfer of technology."

China is fast-tracking that new law, with the country's largely rubber-stamp parliament likely to approve it in March.

A crucial component of any progress in the talks, according to top Trump administration officials, is agreement on a mechanism to verify and "enforce" China's follow-through on any reform pledges that it makes. This could maintain the threat of U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods for the long term.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, asked whether anecdotal evidence of tariff effects had influenced the Fed's decision not to hike interest rates on Wednesday, said the duties so far have not had a material effect on economic output.

Global oil braces for turmoil from U.S. crack-down on Venezuela
"The concern, for me, is a longer drawn-out set of negotiations back and forth could result in sapping business confidence," Powell told a news conference. "Uncertainty is not the friend of business."

TEMPERED EXPECTATIONS

Some business executives expressed hopes for progress in the talks, including Boeing chief executive Dennis Muilenburg. Aircraft exports have thus far been spared from retaliatory Chinese tariffs.

"We do see some convergence happening, we think both countries are leaning forward and we anticipate some successful conclusions to those trade talks," Muilenburg told CNBC.



NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COLLEGE



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.

PROGRAMS

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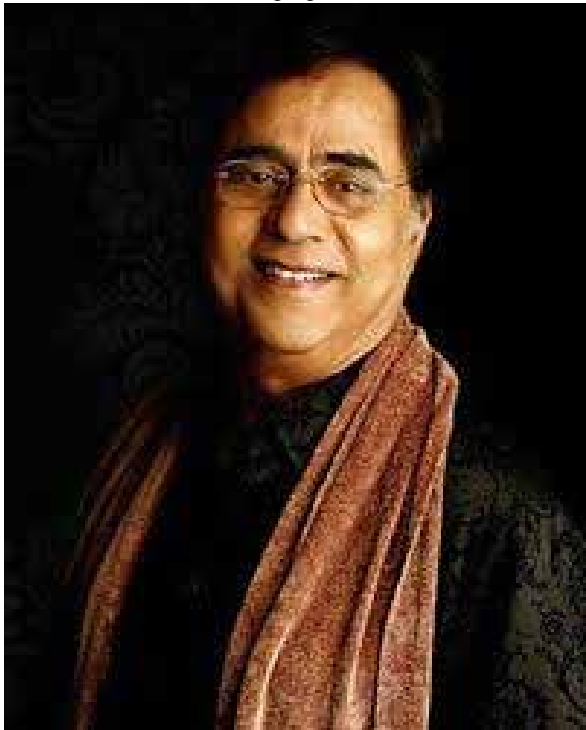
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Jagjit Singh, born Jagmohan Singh Dhiman (8 February 1941 – 10 October 2011), popularly known as “The Ghazal King” or “King of Ghazals”, was an iconic Indian Ghazal singer, composer and musician. He gained acclaim together with his wife, another renowned Indian ghazal singer Chitra Singh in the 1970s and 1980s. Their combination album comprising music from the films, Arth and Saath Saath is the HMV’s largest selling combination album of all time.[citation needed] Sajda (An Offering, 1991), Jagjit Singh’s magnum opus double album with Lata Mangeshkar holds the same record in non-film category. [citation needed] He sang in numerous languages. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the government of India in 2003. In February 2014, Government of India released a set of two postal stamps in his honour. Jagjit Singh is credited for the revival and popularity of ghazal, an Indian classical art form, by choosing poetry that was relevant to the masses and composing them in a way that laid more emphasis on the meaning of words and melody evoked by them. In terms of Indian Classical music, his style of composing and Gayaki (singing) is considered as Bol-pradhan, one that lays emphasis on words. He highlighted this in his music for films such as Prem Geet (1981), Arth (1982), and Saath Saath (1982), and TV serials Mirza Ghalib (1988) and Kahkashan (1991). Jagjit Singh is considered to be the most successful ghazal singer and composer of all time in terms of critical acclaim and commercial success. With a career spanning five decades and a repertoire comprising over 80 albums, the range and breadth of his work has been regarded as genre-defining. He is the only composer and singer to have composed and recorded songs written by former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee – also a poet – in two albums, Nayi Disha (1999) and Samvedna (2002). [citation needed]. According to Google Search Trends, Jagjit Singh is people’s first choice – both in India and abroad, when it came to songs, lyrics and mp3s of ghazals.

Singh’s 1987 album, Beyond Time, was the first digitally recorded release in India. He was regarded as one of India’s most influential artists. With sitar legend Ravi Shankar and other leading figures of



Indian classical music and literature, Singh voiced his concerns over politicisation of arts and culture in India and lack of support experienced by the practitioners of India’s traditional art forms, particularly folk artists and musicians. He lent active support to several philanthropic endeavours such as the library at St. Mary’s School, Mumbai, Bombay Hospital, CRY, Save the Children and ALMA. Jagjit Singh was born in Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, India (then Bikaner State). His father Sardar Amar Singh Dhiman was a surveyor with government’s public works department and hailed from village Dalla, District Ropar in Punjab and mother Sardarni Bachchan Kaur was a housewife who was raised in a deeply religious family in Ottallan village near Samralla. [citation needed]

Educated initially at Khalsa High School and Government College in Sri Ganganagar, Singh obtained an arts degree from DAV College in Jalandhar. There he began his professional career in 1961 by undertaking singing and composing assignments at All India Radio’s (AIR) Jalandhar station. Later, he studied to obtain a post-graduate degree in history from Kurukshetra University in Haryana. Throughout this time, and as a consequence of a natural talent that was spotted by his father, Singh learned music initially from a visually impaired master of Indian classical music, Pandit Chaganlal Sharma and later from Ustad Jamaal Khan of Senia Gharana, who taught and trained him in all the prominent styles of Hindustani Classical vocal tradition such as Khayal, Dhrupad, Thumri and others. Throughout his teenage years, he performed on stage and composed music. Although his father, who was a government employee, had hoped that he would become an engineer Singh pursued his passion for music relentlessly. Like all parents in Indian middle-class families, his father aspired for him to become a bureaucrat. However, he also encouraged Singh and his siblings to learn music.

In March 1965, and without the knowledge of his family Singh moved to Bombay, where there were many opportunities for music artists because of the Bollywood film industry. He obtained work initially as a singer of advertising jingles and later progressed to playback singing. Singh was still struggling to make a living in 1967 when he met the Bangladesh-born Chitra Dutta. She divorced her husband and married Singh in December 1969. Following the birth of their son, Vivek, the couple performed as a singing duo but it was not until the 1976 [clarification needed] release of the album The Unforgettable that they found significant, and surprising, success. In the interval, the primary difficulty for them had been that the ghazal music genre was dominated by Muslim artists. The Unforgettable, which was the couple’s first LP was an unconventional recording and



it turned them into stars. The song “Baat Niklegi” from the album achieved great popularity for the Singhs. The Independent described it in 2011 as “ground-breaking ... it became a transformative, before-and-after milestone in the history of Indian popular and ghazals music. It remains that.” Using modern arrangements, it consists of ten tracks that include two on which they sang as a duo and the remainder equally split between Jagjit and Chitra singing the lead. The Independent further noted that “This format of solo and duet performances from the first commercially successful husband-and-wife team in Indian popular music proved astonishingly successful.” [6] Jagjit explained that “I was determined to polish up the genre and make it more acceptable to modern tastes, so chose simple poems and set them to simple tunes. I also introduced western instrumentation to make them livelier.” Thereafter, the couple worked both on solo and joint musical projects and performed concerts worldwide. There was success from involvement with the film industry and they amassed considerable wealth. Among their subsequent duo recordings of the 1970s were Shiv Kumar Batalvi – Birha da Sultan (1978), Live in Concert at Wembley (1979) and Come Alive (1979). Of those released in the 1980s, “The Latest” by Sudarshan Faakir was the best selling album with his lifetime hit “Woh Kagaz ki Kashti... Woh Baarish ka Paani”. It was the first album by the duo with poetry of only one poet. Ecstasies (1984) has also been described as “one of their finest”. he joint projects ceased in 1990 when their 18-year-old son, Vivek, was killed in a road accident. Chitra felt unable to sing following these events. Monica, Chitra’s daughter from her first marriage, committed suicide in 2009. Although Jagjit continued to work and to have success after Chitra withdrew from public life he, too, was affected by the death of Vivek. The Guardian notes that he “suffered from deep depression and his anguish was often evident in his live performances.” Aside from occupying himself with solo projects, which he performed in several languages he collaborated with Lata Mangeshkar on an album titled Sajda, an Urdu word meaning “prostration”. Singh’s work in film] encompassed play-

back singing for productions such as Arth, Saath Saath and Premgeet. He composed all of the songs for the latter, as well as for the TV serial Mirza Ghalib that was based on the life of the eponymous poet, Mirza Ghalib

On 10 May 2007, in the presence of numerous political and diplomatic luminaries at an event held in the Central Hall of the Parliament of India, Jagjit Singh rendered Bahadur Shah Zafar’s famous ghazal Lagta nahin hai dil mera to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Indian Rebellion of 1857

Personal life

In 1990, Vivek (Jagjit Singh and Chitra’s son) died in a road accident at the age of 20. This came as a profound shock to Jagjit and Chitra Singh. They gave up music for a full year after the death. At the end of that period, Jagjit returned slowly to music, but Chitra announced her retirement and declared that she would not sing or record any more songs.

Death

Singh toured the UK in 2011 and was due to perform with Ghulam Ali in Mumbai but suffered a brain haemorrhage on 23 September 2011. He was in a coma for over two weeks and died on 10 October at Lilavati Hospital, in Mumbai. He was cremated the following day at Chandanwadi Crematorium near Marine Lines in Mumbai. A number of tributes have been paid to Singh after his death, and some tried to cash in on his popularity, which was criticised by his wife.

Legacy

A biography of Singh, entitled Beyond Time based on about 40 hours of interviews with him, was released in 2012. It was transcribed and edited by Ashrani Mathur. A biopic documentary by the name of Kaagaz Ki Kashti has been made on the life journey of Jagjit Singh, who broke through the norms and revolutionised the Ghazal scenario. The film traces the struggle and stardom in his musical career, the love & loss in his personal life and the scope and limitations in the music scenario of the times. The film directed by Brahmanand S Singh is currently available on Amazon Prime video in India. It is expected to see worldwide release soon

Tina Ambani

Tina Ambani (née Munim, born 11 February 1957) is a former Bollywood actress and Chairperson of the Mumbai-based Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Harmony for Silvers Foundation and Harmony Art Foundation. She is also Chairperson of Group CSR, Reliance Group and the Mudra Foundation for Communications Research and Education (MFFCRE), as well as Chief Mentor and Advisor for the Strategic Planning Committee of the Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (DA-IICT). Her husband is Anil Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Group.

Early life and education

Born in Mumbai, Tina Munim is the ninth and youngest child of Nandkumar and Meenakshi Munim, from a Gujarati Jain family. She graduated high school in 1975 from the MM Pupils Own School in Khar, Mumbai. The same year, she was crowned Femina Teen Princess India 1975 and represented India at the Miss Teenage Intercontinental contest in Aruba, where she was crowned second runner-up. She subsequently enrolled in Jai Hind College for a degree in Arts.

Career/Films

Munim made her debut in Hindi films with iconic filmmaker Dev Anand's *Des Parde*. Her other films with Dev Anand include *Lootmaar*, and *Man Pasan*. She was the heroine of Sunjay Dutt in his debut film, *Rocky*. She was cast opposite Amol Palekar in Basu Chatterjee's *Baaton Baaton Mein*. Her notable films with Rishi Kapoor include *Karz*, and *Yeh Vaada Raha*. She starred with actor Rajesh Khanna in many films including *Fifty Fifty*, *Souten*, *Bewafai*, *Suraag*, *Insaaf Main Karoonga*, *Rajput*, *Aakhir Kyun*, *Paapi Pet Ka Sawaal Hai*, *Alag Alag*, *Bhagwaan Dada* and *Adhikar*.

Arts and culture

With the aim to offer young artists a platform to exhibit alongside seasoned veterans and acknowledged masters, she organised the first Harmony Art show in 1995. This was the genesis for the forma-



tion of the Harmony Art Foundation, which has become an internationally recognised platform dedicated to building relationships with Indian artists, spreading awareness of art, promoting academic activities, including workshops, and international collaborations. In 2008, Harmony Art Foundation showcased upcoming Indian artists at Christie's in London, drawing attention to the wealth of talent in India. The same year, she was invited to the Board of Trustees of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, which is the oldest continually operating museum in the US and houses rare Indian art treasures from the 1600s.

In addition, she has served on the advisory board of the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai and the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. She was also nominated to the reconstituted General Assembly of the Indian Council for

Cultural Relations (ICCR). She has been actively associated with several welfare activities such as Aseema, an NGO engaged in the rehabilitation of street children and the restoration of Elephanta Island, a World Heritage Site near Mumbai, with the Archaeological Survey of India and UNESCO.

Elder welfare

In 2004, Ambani established Harmony for Silvers Foundation, a Mumbai-based non-government organisation that seeks to enhance the quality of life of the elderly. Its activities have included *Harmony – Celebrate Age*, the magazine, now in its 14th year; the portal www.harmonyindia.org; Harmony Interactive Centre for Silver Citizens, in South Mumbai; the Harmony Research Division; the Harmony Silver Awards; and the Harmony Senior Citizens' Runs at the Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru marathons. Going forward, Harmony for

Silvers Foundation proposes to build a retirement community for elders in Jaipur. Healthcare

In order to bridge the gaps in Indian healthcare, Ambani launched the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital & Medical Research Institute (KDAH) in Mumbai in 2009, a highly advanced quaternary care facility with a unique full-time specialist system and technology and treatment protocols benchmarked to leading global institutes. It is the only hospital in Mumbai to receive accreditation from the JCI (Joint Commission International, USA), NABH (National Accreditation Board for Healthcare, India), CAP (College of American Pathologists, USA) and NABL (National Accreditation Board for Laboratories, India). Other standouts include the first comprehensive centre for liver transplant and the first integrated centre for children's cardiac care in western India; its robotic surgery programme; the centres for rehabilitation and sports medicine; and its initiative to open 18 cancer care centres in rural Maharashtra.

CSR

In her capacity as Chairperson, Group CSR, Reliance Group, Ambani spearheads corporate sustainability initiatives. With her as ambassador, the Group was announced as the first founding partner in India for the Global Goals Campaign, which seeks to promote the Global Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly for sustainable development to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and mitigate climate change by 2030. She is also chairperson of the Mudra Foundation for Communications Research and Education (MFFCRE). One of the main activities of the Foundation is MICA, the only residential institute in India dedicated to creating leadership in strategic marketing and communication with a wide range of academic programmes.

In February 1991, she married Anil Ambani, the son of Dhirubhai Ambani, the founder of Reliance Industries. They have two sons: Anmol, born in December 1991, and Anshul, born in September 1995.



HEALTH

Surgeons are doing fewer knee surgeries

When knee arthroscopy became widely available in the 1980s, it represented a major advance. Today orthopedists evaluating and treating common knee problems often recommend arthroscopy, during which they insert an instrument into the joint and, with a light and camera on its tip, directly inspect the knee from the inside. While there, he or she can diagnose and treat common painful knee problems, such as arthritis or torn cartilage. The risks are much lower and recovery times much shorter than standard “open” knee operations.

As with any technology or other advance in medicine, years of research were required to understand when best to use it. Not surprisingly, arthroscopy turns out to be much more helpful for some conditions than others. For example, if you have a sports injury in which the medial meniscus (a crescent-shaped, shock absorbing wedge of cartilage) is torn and blocking the motion of the knee, arthroscopic surgery can provide dramatic relief in a short period of time.

But studies have demonstrated convincingly that for many other common causes of knee pain, including osteoarthritis and many instances of torn cartilage that do not block joint motion, medications and physical therapy may work just as well as arthroscopic surgery. Despite these recent

data, some orthopedists continued to recommend arthroscopic surgery for these conditions. Now, that seems to be changing.

A new study says the number of knee arthroscopies is falling. Data recently published in JAMA Internal Medicine demonstrate that between 2002 and 2015, the rate of arthroscopic surgery in Florida decreased from 449 to 345 per 100,000 people (a 23% decline)

dropped more among adults under age 65 (24% reduction) than among those over 65 (19% reduction)

fell most dramatically after 2008 (after a second important trial showed no benefit of arthroscopy for osteoarthritis of the knee).

Is this a good thing?

Reducing the number of unnecessary operations is certainly a good thing, especially for one that is so common. However, we don't know if the reduction in arthroscopies occurred for the right reasons: while it's possible that the reduction was because orthopedists are recommending them more selectively (and more appropriately), it's also possible that people are not getting the surgery due to lack of insurance, trouble finding an orthopedist, or because they just prefer not to have surgery. We

don't know about patients' health or outcomes: are some people suffering because they didn't have an arthroscopy they needed? How many had arthroscopies they did not need and had complications, or simply didn't improve?

We also don't know whether rates are falling in other states. Still, it's reasonable to assume that knee arthroscopies are being performed less often because we better understand when they are likely to help and when they are not.

Why does change take so long?

At the risk of gross over generalization, doctors tend to avoid change. That's true of many — but certainly not all — of my colleagues. Who else is still using beepers and fax machines on a daily basis? So, some of the reluctance of orthopedists to change their practice in the face of studies questioning the usefulness of knee arthroscopy may be this tendency to resist change. Another reason might be financial considerations: surgical procedures tend to generate a large income stream for the doctor and the hospital or surgical center. But it's also true that a single study is rarely enough to change medical practice — doctors are, with good reason, a skeptical



bunch. Subsequent research must verify and confirm a new finding. Perhaps that's why the rate of knee arthroscopy dropped most significantly after the publication of a second trial regarding knee osteoarthritis. What's next?

You can expect to hear much more about studies that challenge standard practice, especially when that practice is invasive (including surgery) and expensive. My guess is that the number of knee arthroscopies will continue to fall for some time, until only the most appropriate ones are being done.

When it comes to standard but treatments being called into question, the big question is, indeed, “what's next?” The answers will come once high-quality research is performed by skeptical researchers willing to question the status quo.

Trying to be perfect can cause anxiety

No one is “perfect.” Yet many people struggle to be a perfectionist, which can trigger a cascade of anxieties. Trying to be perfect can cause anxiety perfectionism anxiety

No one is “perfect.” Yet many people struggle to be a perfectionist, which can trigger a cascade of anxieties.

Striving to be a perfectionist may be a strong suit or a stumbling block, depending on how it's channeled, as clinical psychologist Jeff Szymanski explains. Dr. Szymanski is an associate instructor of psychology at Harvard Medical School and executive director of the International OCD Foundation. Get your copy of Anxiety and Stress Disorders

Anxiety and Stress Disorders

Everyone worries or gets scared sometimes. But if you feel extremely worried or afraid much of the time, or if you repeatedly feel panicky, you may have an anxiety disorder. Anxiety disorders are among the most common mental illnesses, affecting roughly 40 million American adults each year. This Special Health Report, Anxiety and Stress Disorders, discuss-

es the latest and most effective treatment approaches, including cognitive behavioral therapies, psychotherapy, and medications. A special section delves into alternative treatments for anxiety, such as relaxation techniques, mindfulness meditation, and biofeedback.

Read More

“The core of all perfectionism is the intention to do something well,” says Dr. Szymanski. “If you can keep your eye on intention and desired outcome, adjusting your strategy when needed, you're fine.... But when you can't tolerate making a mistake, when your strategy is to make no mistakes, that's when perfectionism starts veering off in the wrong direction.” In its most severe form, perfectionism can leave you unable to complete any task for fear of making a mistake.

To help you prioritize the projects and activities that mean the most to you and keep your personal strategy in line, Dr. Szymanski has shared the following exercise:

What do you find valuable in life?

What would you want 50 years of your life to represent? If that seems overwhelming, think about where you want to put your energies for the next five years.

No one can be a perfectionist about everything. Think about your current goals and projects, and assign them priorities. Use the letters “ABCF” to help you decide where you want to excel (A), be above average (B), or be average (C), and what you can let go of (F). For example:

A (100% effort): This is reserved for what's most important to you. For example, if your career is most valuable, your goals might be to impress the boss, make sure clients are happy, put out good products at work.

(above average, maybe 80% effort): Perhaps you like playing golf or tennis or want to learn a new language. You enjoy these activities, but have no plans to go pro.

C (average effort): Perhaps having a clean home is important, too. But how often does your home need to be cleaned? People aren't coming to see



it every day. Could you just clean up on the weekends? Or focus on a few rooms that get the most traffic?

F (no effort): Time-consumers that don't advance your values or bring you pleasure — for example, lining up all your hangers or folding all your clothes in a specific way. Do you have any tasks that, upon reflection, don't really matter — you've just done them one way for so long that you're on autopilot? These deserve to be pruned

J G J L D E V V N Z F Y H V C V G V S M
 S F C J A G H F S E V E W X Z T O A R Y
 S J J A D S T X B B O M A D Q T A L E B
 K E C A R R O R U T J H P B K O W E W J
 P T T H O D U P B Q M M E N F B C N O Y
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 R I E K R C S E I R O M E M E M I I F E
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**CANDY
 KISSES
 ROSES
 FLOWERS
 LOVE
 CHOCOLATE
 CARD**

**VALENTINE
 HUGS
 HEART
 FEBRUARY
 FOURTEENTH
 ARROW
 CUPID**

**DINNER
 MEMORIES
 DATE
 PROPOSAL
 MOVIE
 ROMANCE**

Raising The Minimum Wage Would Save American Lives

By Kunal Sindhu

House Democrats introduced the Raise the Wage Act on Jan. 16, which would raise the hourly federal minimum wage from \$7.25 for most workers to \$15 by 2024. Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), one of the co-sponsors of the bill and the chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, stated, "No person working full-time in America should be living in poverty."

For years, arguments in favor of raising the minimum wage have focused on providing American workers a living wage. A full-time worker making \$7.25 per hour would only earn approximately \$15,000 per year, a figure that is uncomfortably close to the federal poverty level. And nearly 2 million American workers earn the federal minimum wage or less.

But a minimum wage increase would have other benefits as well. Namely, such a hike would vastly improve the health of millions of Americans and as a physician, I am particularly intrigued by its potential to help my patients.

Raising the minimum wage would positively impact our nation's health in a number of ways. For one, it could help curb this country's nicotine addiction. I'm a radiation oncology resident, so I see tobacco's consequences every day in the form of cancer patients. Nearly 40 percent of newly diagnosed cancers and 30 percent of cancer deaths in the United States are linked to tobacco use, and smoking raises the risk of a variety of other serious diseases like coronary artery disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

So how does this threat to public health tie in to a need to raise the minimum wage? Studies link higher minimum wages to lower smoking rates. A 2018 review of 15 studies from the U.S., Canada and Europe found each \$1 increase in the minimum wage was associated with a 1.4 percent drop in the smoking rate. Male and less-educated workers may see the biggest benefit; a 2015 study found that a 10 percent increase in wages was associated with smoking rate decreases of 5.5 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively, among these workers. Why the connection? The 2015 study authors speculated these workers may more closely

associate wages with self-esteem and depression, which may help predict smoking cessation.

The benefits of a minimum wage increase are so great that even President Trump has advocated for one in the past. But the benefits of minimum wage raises are not limited to lowering smoking rates. In 2014, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that increasing the minimum wage to \$9 or \$10.10 per hour would bring 300,000 or 900,000 Americans out of poverty, respectively. A 2017 study by the Institute of Labor Economics found an even greater impact, estimating that raising the minimum wage to \$12 per hour would bring 6.6 million Americans out of poverty. Poverty restricts a person's access to essential commodities like housing, food and health care. It also raises the stress levels of children and adults, which, among other things, has a toxic impact on brain and hormonal development and function. Combined, these factors can have a devastating impact on human health. Research has shown that chronic poverty raises the risk of a variety of maladies, including cancer, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, obesity, substance abuse and stroke. Raising the minimum wage could help lower the incidence of these devastating diseases by bringing Americans out of poverty.

A minimum wage increase would also help improve newborn health. A 2016 study found that a \$1 increase in a state's minimum wage above the federal level was associated with a 4 percent drop in infant mortality and a 1-2 percent drop in the rate of infants born with a low birth weight. All told, the authors found that such an increase in each state's minimum wage would lead to 518 fewer infant deaths and 2,790 fewer infants born with low birth weights nationwide. And since low birth weight infants can face long-lasting neurocognitive effects, the impact of a minimum wage increase on American society would be seen for years to come.

Lastly, raising the minimum wage would help lengthen Americans' life spans. A 2016 study found a linear relationship between income and life expectancy among men and women in the U.S. from 2001 to 2014. And the

difference in life expectancy between the richest 1 percent and poorest 1 percent of Americans was astonishingly large: 14.6 years for men and 10.1 years for women. Given all that researchers know about the relationship between wages, poverty and health, it's not unreasonable to expect that even a modest rise in the minimum wage could result in substantial gains in the life expectancies of affected workers.

House Democrats would be wise to maintain their focus on a minimum wage increase in the face of all the distractions and political obstacles they'll surely encounter dur-



ing the 116th Congress. They won House control by focusing on health care, and increasing the minimum wage could serve as yet another tool in improving America's health. Moreover, 42 percent of American workers make less than the Raise the Wage Act's proposed target of \$15 per hour, underscoring the profound impact a minimum wage increase could have on the finances and health of a large number of Americans.

The benefits of a minimum wage increase are so great that even President Donald Trump has advocated for one in the past. And though the prospects for an agreement with a mercurial president are poor, Democrats cannot abandon their goal of a higher minimum wage for America's workers given the many potential health benefits.

Congress, BJP trade charges over jobs

Rahul Gandhi said that the PM had promised two crore jobs a year, but five years later a "leaked job creation report card" revealed that unemployment is at the highest level in 45 years. Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the jobs situation, saying that the PM had promised two crore jobs a year, but five years later a "leaked job creation report card" revealed that unemployment is at the highest level in 45 years. "NoMo Jobs! The Fuhrer promised us 2 crore jobs a year. 5 years later, his leaked job creation report card reveals a National Disaster. Unemployment is at its highest in 45 years. 6.5 crore youth are jobless in 2017-18 alone. Time for NoMo2Go," he tweeted with the hashtag HowsTheJobs.

The BJP hit back, tweeting: "It's clear that he has inherited Mussolini's short-sightedness and has myopic understanding of issues. EPFO's real data shows sharp increase in jobs, created in just the last 15 months. Only a man who hasn't ever held a proper job and is totally jobless can peddle such #FakeNews!"

Earlier, Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that the unemployment rate was at a 45-year high and this was the reason why the NSSO report on jobs was withheld. This is why the members of NSC resigned, he said.

"Promise of 2 crore jobs turned out to be a cruel joke. India does not want a government that has left the future of our youth in jeopardy," Surjewala said on Twitter.

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said the government failed to create jobs and skill the young, because of which the "demographic dividend is turning into demographic whirlwind". Budget 2019: What has the Modi government done to solve farmers' problems?

"Such a large number of unemployed young people in the country. There is bound to be instability. There is bound to be a crisis situation and a future government will take years to repair the damage that this government has done," he said.

He said the job crisis is serious. "That even in

the IT sector people are losing jobs... which Bharat are you talking about? In the real Bharat, there are no new jobs and people are losing jobs... the NSSO report has made it clear that the economy and people's jobs and livelihood has taken a big hit after demonetisation."



BEST OF EXPRESS

Ousted CBI chief Alok Verma doesn't join new post, may face action

PM Modi clears the air: Interim Budget today

Why is election economics all about handouts and sops?

The CPM said the suppression of data is a clear admission on the part of the Modi government that its policies have resulted in greater misery.

A Lost Opportunity for HMT

By M.S.Zahed ,Ex-CMD, HMT

The four wheels , especially the Jeeps fascinated me from my childhood, my father being in state services was given an official chauffer driven Willy's jeep for his travel while on duty. As a young boy I would watch the driver wash and clean , start and drive out, and park the jeep at the entrance of our house daily . I would take the liberty of sitting at the wheels looking at the simple Dash Board with fascination, while he pulls the jeep in portico after a small round, I would sit next to him and watch the



Author with then Union Minister Subodh Mohite and BJP Leader Nitin Gadkari, presently Union Minister

the complex in some connection or the other. In one such visits, I met Jacque Le Bozec , the Expat chief of Renault team at SNVI. Renault and HMT had a old collaboration for manufacture of machines and this helped me to develop a rapport with Jacque. After a few meetings with him , he gave me an opportunity to avail the services of ten HMT maintenance engineers for a period of two years, which we did very profitability at USD 200 per manday plus local expenses.



Author with Mitsubishi Directors in Taiwan

the best product in the market and we had

more than 300 plus dealers all over India. We were even exporting to USA. The market share had dwindled from top to bottom with more players, still we were making profits as our products were very popular and had the best Engine. I knew that the situation is not going to last and would get worse with flight of talent from Public Sector due to low wages and excessive manpower.. An idea struck to me , can we make a "Multi Utility Vehicle" for semi urban and rural market under Rs.5 lakhs ex show room ?? . A team was soon assembled in the R& D unit of the factory at Pinjore and was tasked to produce prototypes of Multi Utility Vehicles I privately discussed and obtained support of our then Union Minister Mr. Subodh Mohite of Shiv Sena from Nagpur.

The R and D team came up with eight prototypes with many fit outs from the local auto market. I was delighted to drive the prototype on the test track at Pinjore. I asked them to drive the vehicle to new Delhi to show to our Minister . He too was excited seeing efforts of our engineers, then I told the team to drive the vehicles up to Bangalore, which was successfully done ,the Press saw and appreciated the efforts. I was marketing the idea that having lost a PSU Auto maker in Maruti, we can create a new auto complex in HMT as a national asset.

Then NDA Govt. too was convinced with my view. I was working very hard to put the plan into action, it was noticed that Mitsubishi had not entered Indian SUV market, they were only assembling cars at Chennai under CK Birla Group, but had a complex at Pithampura, Indore to make Rural Transport Vans. I visited Indore, felt feasibility of working together , I met Mr.CK Birla at Delhi and he offered to supply give all sheet metal components for the venture and also suggested that we look at seriously buying out an entire plant from Indonesia where Mitsubishi was manufacturing MUV under the name of TIGER. I appreciated the suggestion as it met both technology and

vehicle movement and the gear levers he would operate. Somehow, soon I trapped him to teach me how to drive, he obliged. The fascination and the lure always kept me connected with auto industry in many ways including buying second hand old cars with limited savings I could afford those days.

While on deputation to Algeria as Export Manager, my first successful marketing breakthrough was in Commercial Vehicles Complex SNVI which was set up in collaboration with Renault of France. The Complex was huge with several hundreds of acres and was making heavy duty trucks. I use to take every opportunity to visit

HMT ,as we know was manufacturing agricultural tractors from the technology obtained from Zetor of erst-while Czechoslovakia. I had met Mr. Bhargava, then MD of Maruti Ltd and obtained permission to export cars to north Africa way back in 1982. By the time I was heading the company, Maruti- Suzuki was completely privatized, Govt. had no stake in any auto industry with the exception of HMT making tractors, and Scooters India making two and three wheelers. HMT has a unit at Pinjore in Haryana on the way to Shimla , closer to Chandigarh. We had there 900 acres of complex with very good young work force about 3000 strong and we had technically

global label needs in the Indian market. Mr.Bhaskardu ,ex MD of Maruti was appointed as the Consultant to the project, along with him dashed to Tokyo to meet the management of Mitsubishi along with my team of senior officers visited also Mitsubishi factory in Taiwan, to see their fully robots operated plant similar to one in Indonesia. We negotiated and discussed the possibility of technology, JV etc., but the Japanese were ready to give technology but not the Badge "Three Diamonds" in any manner. We returned and assessed the situation and found that it would be difficult, but doable.

I was working on alternate plans, but by that time, elections were announced and NDA lost the elections arguably due to "India Shinning Campaign". After the installation of UPA I again , I tried to re market the project to then UPA Ministry , and by then our Union Minister who was an MP from Assam showed no interest whatsoever, and our dream went up in air of utter frustrations. Had we gone through the project we would have had a complex which we could have been proud that HMT,India would have been shining in Pinjore. These days I learn HMT's Pinjore Complex is closed and employees sent on VRS.

(Author can be contacted at zahed@zeemantech.com)

اب دست دعا پھر سے اٹھانا پڑا مجھے
تیرے لئے خدا کو منانا پڑا مجھے
میں تم سے جب ملا تو محبت سے ہی ملا
جو دل میں نقش تھا وہ مٹانا پڑا مجھے
محفل میں گرچہ لوگ شامانہ تھے بہت
اب اس نے بلایا تھا کہ جانا پڑا مجھے
واعظ تو بنگدے میں مجھے مل گئے تھی
رستہ انہیں حرم کا دکھانا پڑا مجھے
اس کو خبر نہیں ہے کہ طوفان گزر گیا
کیا کچھ نہیں ہوا ہے بتانا پڑا مجھے
مانا کہ مصلحت بھی ضروری تو ہے مگر
ٹوٹے ہوئے گھروں کو بسانا پڑا مجھے

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ہیوسٹن، ٹیکساس

غزب

اس نے جو گادی ہے یہ بازی حیات کی
سب جیت کر بھی خود کو ہرانا پڑا مجھے
گلزار کبھی لوٹ کے آتا تو نہیں تھا
وعدہ نہیں کیا وہ نبھانا پڑا مجھے

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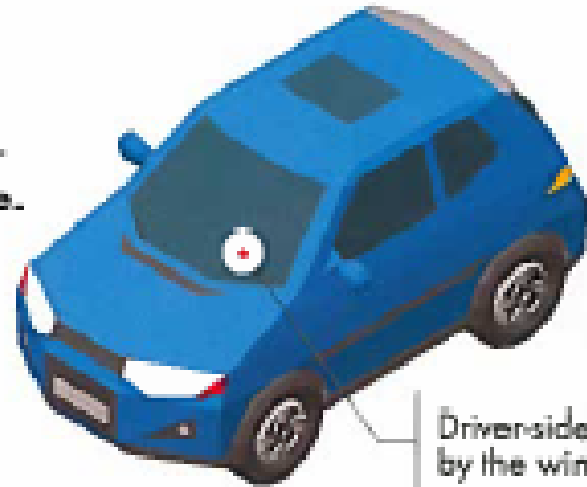
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Shahid Kapoor

Shahid Kapoor was born in New Delhi on 25 February 1981 to actor Pankaj Kapur and actor-dancer Neelima Azeem. His parents divorced when he was three years old; his father shifted to Mumbai (and married the actress Supriya Pathak) and Kapoor continued living in Delhi with his mother and maternal grandparents. His grandparents were journalists for the Russian magazine Sputnik, and Kapoor was particularly fond of his grandfather: "He would walk me to school every single day. He would talk to me about dad, with whom he shared a great relationship, and read out his letters to me." His father, who was then a struggling actor in Mumbai, would visit Kapoor only once a year on his birthday. When Kapoor was 10, his mother, who was working as a dancer, moved to Mumbai to work as an actress. In Mumbai, Azeem went on to marry the actor Rajesh Khattar. Kapoor continued living with his mother and Khattar, until they separated in 2001. Kapoor continues to use the last name Khattar on his passport. He has a maternal half-brother, Ishaan, from his mother's marriage to Khattar. From his father's marriage to Pathak, he has two paternal half-siblings, Sanah and Ruhaan. Kapoor was educated at the Gyan Bharati School in Delhi and Rajhans Vidyalaya in Mumbai. He later attended Mumbai's Mithibai College for three years.

Kapoor was interested in dance from an early age, and at the age of 15, he joined Shiamak Davar's dance institute. As a student there, Kapoor appeared as a background dancer in the films *Dil To Pagal Hai* (1997) and *Taal* (1999), in which Davar served as choreographer. During a stage show at the institute, Kapoor performed in the songs "Vogue" and "GoldenEye" to a positive response from the audience; he described the experience as the first time that he "felt like a star". He later became an instructor at the institute. During this time, Kapoor accompanied a friend to an audition for a Pepsi commercial featuring the stars Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol and Rani Mukerji, but wound up with the part himself. He appeared in television commercials for the brands Kit Kat and Close-Up, among others, and featured in music videos for several performers, including the band Aryans and the singer Kumar Sanu. Kapoor also took on the job of an assistant director to his father on the 1998 television series *Mohand*. **Early work and breakthrough (2003–2006)**

Kapoor in 2004

Having noticed Kapoor in the Aryans' music video "Aankhon Mein", the producer Ramesh Taurani was keen to cast him in a film. However, upon meeting him, Taurani thought Kapoor, who was 20 years old at the time, to be too young and underweight to become an actor, and encouraged him to wait for a few years. Kapoor, meanwhile, turned down a lead role in N. Chandra's sex comedy *Style* in hopes of working with Taurani. Taurani found a suitable project for Kapoor in the teenage romance *Ishq Vishk* (2003), which Ken Ghosh was directing for his company. Kapoor, who trained extensively for a bulkier physical build, was eventually hired before

beginning work on the film, he attended acting workshops with Naseeruddin Shah and Satyadev Dubey.

Ishq Vishk tells the story of Rajiv Mathur (Kapoor), a high-school student who engages in a romantic affair with two classmates of contrasting personalities (played by Amrita Rao and Shenaz Treasurywala). Kapoor was attracted to the idea of playing an unlikable lead since it was a departure from the traditional portrayal of teenage heroes in Indian films. Writing for *The Hindu*, the critic Ziya Us Salam did not find him to be "hero material", adding that "boyhood seems to have overstayed on his face – but he is not necessarily bad in the acting department." The film, however, proved to be a sleeper hit at the box office and won Kapoor the Filmfare Award for Best Male Debut. Following his debut, Kapoor reunited with Ghosh in a film he considered to be drastically different from *Ishq Vishk*. The thriller *Fida* (2004) featured him as a love-struck student who is manipulated by a woman (Kareena Kapoor) and her lover (Fardeen Khan) to rob a bank. Despite criticising the film, Rama Sharma of *The Tribune* wrote that Kapoor "shines in his role. He looks fresh. As an impulsive emotional and innocent guy, who is sucked into crime because of these very qualities, he manages to evoke your sympathies." Later that year, Kapoor appeared in the romantic comedy *Dil Maange More* in which he was paired opposite three women: Soha Ali Khan, Tulip Joshi, and Ayesha Takia. *Patcy N of Rediff.com* praised his dancing skills but was wary of his imitation of Shah Rukh Khan's acting style. Both his 2004 releases were commercially unsuccessful.

The series of poorly received films continued in 2005, when all three of Kapoor's films failed at the box office. His first two releases that year were the comedies *Deewane Huye Paagal* and *Vaah! Life Ho Toh Aisi!*, both of which were largely panned. The former was plagiarised from the Hollywood film *There's Something About Mary* in which Kapoor played one of Rimi Sen's love interests; the critic Khalid Mohamed found Kapoor to be "the only likeable element in this travesty" but Namrata Joshi of *Outlook* labelled him "colourless" and criticised his pairing with Sen. His final role was that of a righteous teenager drawn towards a life of indulgence in John Matthew Matthan's drama *Shikhar*, co-starring Ajay Devgan, Bipasha Basu and Amrita Rao. The critic Sukanya Verma found Kapoor to be miscast as a village boy in the film, but noted that he was "never short of spontaneity and youthful exuberance".

Kareena Kapoor and Shahid Kapoor pose for the camera

Shahid and Kareena Kapoor at the audio launch of *36 China Town* in 2006

In 2006, Kapoor played opposite Kareena Kapoor in two films—the thriller *36 China Town* and the comedy *Chup Chup Ke*. In *36 China Town*, a murder mystery from the director duo Abbas–Mustan, Kapoor starred as one of the seven suspects in the murder of an heiress, and in the Priyadarshan-directed *Chup Chup Ke*, he played a depressed man who pretends to be deaf and mute. The former was his

first commercial success since *Ishq Vishk*. Greater success came to Kapoor later that year when he starred alongside Amrita Rao in Sooraj Barjatya's romantic drama *Vivah*, a film depicting an arranged marriage. Made on a shoestring budget of ₹100 million (US\$1.4 million), the film earned

over ₹530 million (US\$7.4 million) worldwide, and proved to be Kapoor's highest-grossing film to that point. Reviews of the film, however, were negative; Raja Sen termed the film a "nightmare" and wrote that Kapoor "isn't offensively bad, doesn't ham it up like crazy, or speak in a weird accent. Having said that, he isn't an actor at all, standing around working on his boyish grin, simply chewing up the scenery. No screen presence at all. *Jab We Met*, *Kaminey*, and commercial fluctuations (2007–2013)

Kapoor found no success in his first release of 2007—the ensemble comedy *Fool & Final*. However, his second release that year, the Imtiaz Ali-directed romantic comedy *Jab We Met* proved to be one of the top-grossing films of the year. The film tells the story of a troubled businessman (Kapoor) whose life undergoes a series of changes after he encounters a loquacious girl (Kareena Kapoor) on a train ride. Ali thought that Kapoor's previous roles failed to justify his acting potential, and thus approached him to portray a more complex character. The BBC noted on how "endearing" he was in the film and Rajeev Masand of CNN-IBN wrote that he left an "indelible impression with a performance that is understated and mature" in a film he thought primarily belonged to Kareena Kapoor. For his performance, Kapoor received his first nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Actor.

After featuring opposite Vidya Balan in the romantic comedy *Kismet Konnection* (2008), Kapoor played twin brothers, one with a lisp and the other with a stutter, in Vishal Bhardwaj's critically acclaimed caper thriller *Kaminey* (2009). In preparation, Kapoor met speech specialists and researched on the medical and mental aspects of the two conditions. To create a lean physique for one of the brothers, a look he considered to be "radically different" from his personal appearance, Kapoor practised functional training and followed a rigorous diet. Writing for *Variety*, critic Joe Leydon reviewed that Kapoor "impressively displays sufficiently variegated degrees of emotional intensity to sustain the illusion of two distinct characters. Just as important, he provides each sibling an appropriately elevated hunkeness quotient." *Rediff.com* listed Kapoor's performance as the best by a Bollywood actor in 2009 and he received a second Best Actor nomination at Filmfare. *Kaminey* earned over



₹700 million (US\$9.7 million) worldwide. Kapoor's final release of 2009 was as a cricketer in *Dil Bole Hadippa!*, a romantic comedy co-starring Rani Mukerji. It was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, but was a financial failure.

Kapoor and co-star Priyanka Chopra promoting *Teri Meri Kahaani* in 2012. In 2010, Kapoor reteamed with Ken Ghosh in *Chance Pe Dance*, a comedy-drama about a struggling actor, in which Kapoor's performance was described as "uneven" by Aniruddha Guha of *Daily News and Analysis*. He had a supporting role in *Paathshaala*, a drama about the education system in India, starring Nana Patekar, following which he starred in Yash Raj Films' *Badmaash Company*, a comedy-drama about a group of overambitious youngsters who become con men. Rachel Saltz of *The New York Times* praised Kapoor's look in the film, though Tushar Joshi of *Mid Day* thought that he was miscast. Kapoor's fourth and final release that year was Satish Kaushik's romantic comedy *Milenge Milenge*, which marked his fourth collaboration with Kareena Kapoor. Plagiarised from the Hollywood film *Serendipity*, the production was delayed since 2005. During its production in December 2004 at Phuket, Kapoor requested a delay in filming to attend the premiere of *Dil Maange More*. The delay may have saved the lives of the crew, since the hotel booked for them was destroyed during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. With the exception of *Badmaash Company*, none of these films performed well commercially.

Kapoor next appeared in his father's directorial *Mausam* (2011); co-starring Sonam Kapoor, the star-crossed romance set over a decade, took two years to complete. [50] Considering the film to be his "dream project", Kapoor did not take on additional work while filming for it. For his role as an unambitious village boy who becomes an air force pilot, Kapoor trained to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon. Rajeev Masand reviewed that "while he doesn't quite cut it as a convincing IAF pilot, Shahid Kapoor is terrific as the small-town brat. The film was a box office flop and Kapoor was later regretful for spending so much time on the project.

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NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V850
 Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
 Subject : Steering Rack Locknut May Fail, Affecting Steering

Make	Model	Model Years
MERCEDES BENZ	C300	2015-2019
MERCEDES BENZ	C350E	2018-2019
MERCEDES BENZ	C63 AMG	2017-2019
MERCEDES BENZ	C63S AMG	2015, 2018
MERCEDES BENZ	CLS450	2019
MERCEDES BENZ	E300	2018
MERCEDES BENZ	E400	2018
MERCEDES BENZ	E450	2019

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V852
 Manufacturer : Heartland Recreational Vehicles, LLC
 Subject : Reflectors may not be Installed/FMVSS 108

Make	Model	Model Years
HEARTLAND	ELK RIDGE	2019
HEARTLAND	ELK RIDGE EXPRESS	2019
HEARTLAND	MILESTONE	2019
HEARTLAND	PIONEER	2019
HEARTLAND	SUNDANCE	2019

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V853
 Manufacturer : Keystone RV Company
 Subject : Spindle Weld Failure may cause Wheel Separation

Make	Model	Model Years
KEYSTONE	MONTANA	2019

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V855
 Manufacturer : Winnebago Industries, Inc
 Subject : Missing Edge Protection on Liquid Propane Lines

Make	Model	Model Years
WINNEBAGO	FORZA	2018-2019

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V858
 Manufacturer : McNeilus Truck & Manufacturing, Inc.
 Subject : CNG Tank Valve Stem may Eject from Valve Body

Make	Model	Model Years
MCNEILUS	ATLANTIC FRONT LOADER	2016-2018
MCNEILUS	BRIDGEMASTER V MIXER	2016-2018
MCNEILUS	MERIDIAN FRONT LOADER 78	2016-2018
MCNEILUS	STANDARD MIXER	2016-2018
MCNEILUS	XE REAR LOADER	2016-2018
OSHKOSH	S-SERIES	2016-2018

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V863
 Manufacturer : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
 Subject : Improperly Secured Fuel Line may cause Fuel Leak

Make	Model	Model Years
AUDI	A3	2018
AUDI	TT	2018

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V864
 Manufacturer : Volkswagen Group of

America, Inc.
 Subject : Improperly Secured Fuel Line may cause Fuel Leak

Make	Model	Model Years
VOLKSWAGEN	GOLF R	2018

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V868
 Manufacturer : General Motors LLC
 Subject : Passenger Air Bag Module Damaged During Assembly

Make	Model	Model Years
CHEVROLET	SILVERADO	1500 2019
GMC	SIERRA	1500 2019

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V872
 Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
 Subject : Steering Coupling may not have been Locked

Make	Model	Model Years
MERCEDES BENZ	C300	2018
MERCEDES BENZ	E400	2018

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V883
 Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
 Subject : Passenger Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Explode

Make	Model	Model Years
LEXUS	SC	2002-2005
PONTIAC	VIBE	2003-2007
TOYOTA	COROLLA	2003-2005
TOYOTA	SEQUOIA	2002-2005
TOYOTA	TUNDRA	2003-2005

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V887
 Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
 Subject : Sensor Wire may Break Deactivating Air Bags

Make	Model	Model Years
LEXUS	LX570	2008-2019
TOYOTA	LAND CRUISER	2008-2019

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V888
 Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
 Subject : Brake Master Cylinder Seal may be Damaged

Make	Model	Model Years
TOYOTA	TACOMA	2018-2019

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V891
 Manufacturer : Hyundai Motor America
 Subject : Sunroof may not Auto-Reverse

Make	Model	Model Years
HYUNDAI	ELANTRA GT	2018

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V894
 Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company
 Subject : Block Heater Cable Splice Connector May Corrode

Make	Model	Model Years
FORD	F-150	2015-2019
FORD	F-250	2017-2019
FORD	F-350	2017-2019
FORD	F-450	2017-2019
FORD	F-550	2017-2019

Will the launching of Priyanka help Congress

The Congress launched Priyanka Gandhi Vadra formally in politics by appointing her AICC general secretary for Uttar Pradesh East. It is a region that presents an interesting fulcrum to situate the battle for India and its numerous fault-lines:

The idea of eastern UP has been central to the BJP's politics since 2014. Of all the second seats that then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi could have picked outside Gujarat, he chose Varanasi, one of India's oldest cities and important pilgrim centres, and a flagship in the modern Hindu and Brahminical scheme of things. Here is where Manikarnika Ghat is — according to Hindu philosophy the gateway to salvation where one goes to die — as well as Banaras Hindu University, that bastion of conservative pride and academic tradition. There is the Ganga and, Ayodhya-like, the Gyanvapi mosque, another "disputed" place of worship of tremendous interest to the Sangh.

That the BJP picked Yogi Adityanath, mahant of Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur, east of Varanasi, as Chief Minister after the sweeping mandate in 2017 completed the narrative. And all these are just peripherals. The region includes Ayodhya, where the BJP agenda of building a Ram mandir has been made clear in recent events. If any more examples are needed about the region's importance to the BJP, the Ardh-Kumbh was renamed Kumbh by Yogi, after Allahabad was renamed Prayagraj.

Priyanka's karmabhoomi presents her party with an opportunity as well as a challenge, considering the Congress's older connect with the region. Apart from Rae Bareilly and Amethi, continuously contested by the family since Feroze Gandhi's time, Allahabad is the seat of Jawaharlal Nehru, who comfortably won Phulpur thrice.

As an early cosmopolitan city, this was where the idea of the Congress took shape in northern India, and blossomed with lawyers, doctors and others being first attracted to British ways of life and then to the need for overthrowing the Raj.

Eastern UP was the seat of a peasant revolt that fuelled the national movement, and incubated the powerful All India Kisan Sabha, born out of subtle pressure by the Congress Socialist Party, a forum allowing socialists and communists to work with the Congress. The Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress on April 11, 1936 resulted in AIKS.

The Kisan Manifesto in August 1936 called for the abolition of the zamindari system and cancellation of rural debts, and in October 1937 it adopted the red flag as its banner. It grew distant from the Congress but remained one of the most radical ideas to emerge from the pre-independence struggle, with increased relevance today.



Chauri-Chaura, part of Gorakhpur now, saw peasant anger leading to the burning of a police station and the death of 22 policemen in 1922, a major point of inflection which led to M K Gandhi pulling back the non-cooperation movement.

If 2019 is going to be remembered for defining the future of the two major parties, much of it could be courtesy eastern UP, where so many fortunes will be tested. Modi and Yogi would be looking to imprint UP with their ideas of India and meet the challenge of the latest Gandhi in the fray with new energy and strategies.

Indian Express

HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

Opening	Title	Director	Cast	Genre	
FEB	1	<i>Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga</i>	Shelly Chopra Dhar	Anil Kapoor • Sonam Kapoor • Juhi Chawla • Rajkummar Rao	Romance
	8	<i>Amavas</i>	Bhushan Patel	Sachiin Joshi • Vivan Bhatena • Nargis Fakhri	Horror/Thriller
	14	<i>Gully Boy</i>	Zoya Akhtar	Ranveer Singh • Alia Bhatt	Biopic
	15	<i>Hum Chaar</i>	Abhishek Dixit	Prit Kamani • Simran Sharma • Anshuman Malhotra • Tushar Pandey	Drama
	22	<i>Total Dhamaal</i>	Indra Kumar	Madhuri Dixit • Ajay Devgn • Anil Kapoor • Riteish Deshmukh • Arshad Warsi • Jaaved Jaaferi • Aashish Chaudhary • Esha Gupta	Comedy
	<i>Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar</i>	Dibakar Banerjee	Arjun Kapoor • Parineeti Chopra	Black comedy	


Total Dhamaal

Shah Rukh Khan chills with AbRam Khan on a lazy weekend




Total Dhamaal is an upcoming Hindi movie scheduled to be released on 22 Feb, 2019. The movie is directed by Indra Kumar and will feature ajay devgn, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit and Riteish Deshmukh as lead characters. Other popular actors who were roped in for Total Dhamaal are arshad warsi, Jaaved Jaaferi, Sanjay Mishra, Johnny Lever and Mahesh Manjrekar..


CAST




Ajay Devgn
Actor
As Radhe



Anil Kapoor
Actor
As Avinash Patel




Madhuri Dixit
Actor
As Bindu




Riteish Deshmukh
Actor
As Lallan


CREW




Indra Kumar
Director, Producer



Ashok Thakeria
Producer



Ajay Devgn
Producer



Anand Pandit
Producer

Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga FIRST REVIEW

Starring Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, Anil Kapoor, Rajkummar Rao and Juhi Chawla in the pivotal role, Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga is garnering a lot of attention. Ever since the two trailers of the film have dropped, the fans cannot stop chattering about the lesbian angle in the film. The trailer of the film too hinted at the love brewing between Sonam Kapoor and her female counterpart. From father-daughter relationship to the intriguing storyline, soothing music and everything else is making fans excited for the film's release on February 1.

However, before the film's actual release the celebrity screening was hosted by the cast and crew of ELKDTAL, which was graced by R. Balki, Masaba Gupta & Amit V Masukar. The screening has come as a delight and the celebrities have nothing but praises for the film. After watching a special screening the stars share their reviews as for how the movie has given a tender message without being intrusive or harsh in any way.





Prince Mir Karamat Ali Khan (Muffakham jah) @ Park Continental Hyderabad.. He is the grandson of last Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan and younger brother of Prince Mukarram Jah



Charminar glittering on Republic Day



Republic day flag hosting.& 2nd floor inauguration of A to Z fitness center..by Jaffar Hussain Meraj MLA Nampally and Kabeer Khan.



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 H.E. DR. AISHA ABU BAKR AUDD Fmr First Lady Kogi State Western Africa	 MRS. EPOBA YOROUA MUZHARA International Peace Ambassador UPF International	 H.E. ISMAIL KASSIM Advisor on Religious Affairs to Hon'able Prime Minister of Malaysia	 Shri Shri Sadguru Mahra j World Peace Ambassador UPF International
 MR. ABDUL RASHID Executive Director Al Ra ja Imports & Exports Pvt. Ltd	 MRS. CATHERINE GERMAL International Peace Ambassador UPF International	 Mr. Mohammed Abdul Kaleem Chief Coordinators of the Event	 SMT. CHAYA DEVI Central Advisory Board member, Ministry of Employment - govt. of INDIA

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Note : Second Session Induction Ceremony of Newly Appointed International Peace Ambassadors From Europe, UK And Asia

www.AsiaTimes.US



Amjed Ullah Khan (Spokesman) MBT demands strict action against Managing Committee Members of AIIES (Numaish) for not taking prior safety measures. Mr Khan said to earn more money the AIIES Managing Committee has given permission for 2500 Stalls when it was permitted to install only 1500 Stalls risking the lives of the people. Mr Khan said that due to Negligence of the AIIES nearly 150 Stalls have been burnt due to which nearly 50.0 Crores worth of property has been lost. Mr Khan demanded that criminal cases should be booked against the Managing Committee members of AIIES and the Telangana Govt should ensure that all property lost should be compensated by AIIES.



Mohib Baig congratulated Chaman Farzana Ji Being Appointed As Seceratory #AllIndiaMahilaCongress

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راؤ کا عمران علی، ایم ڈی

سایہوال کا سانحہ اور پولیس گردی

میوہپتال میں ہاؤس جاب کے دنوں میں ایک دوست کے ساتھ ایک پنچائنت میں جانے کا اتفاق ہوا۔ دوست کا تعلق بااثر خاندان سے تھا اور اس کا کزن ایک لڑکی کو بھگا کر لے گیا تھا۔ لڑکی کے والوں کا کہنا تھا کہ دونوں مرضی سے گئے ہیں جبکہ لڑکی والوں کا خیال تھا کہ اسے انہو کیا گیا ہے۔ مجھے لگتا تھا کہ خون خرابہ ہوگا۔ بہر حال انکار نہ کر سکا۔ لیکن وہاں ماحول کچھ اور تھا۔ لڑکی کے والے تن کر بیٹھے تھے۔

میلے کیلے کپڑوں میں ایک بوڑھا آدمی انکی بوڑھی بیوی اور ایک بارہ تیرہ سال لڑکا ڈرے سے بیٹھے تھے۔ بوڑھی ماں نے کپکپاتی ہوئی آواز میں کہا "اوٹو مار یونہی؛ ورت کے واپس کر دیو" (اسے جان سے مت مارنا، استعمال کر کے واپس کر دینا)۔ یہ فقرے سن کر میری ریڑھ کی ہڈی میں سنسناہٹ دوڑ گئی۔ ایک ڈرا اور خوف پورے جسم پر تھوڑی دیر کے لئے چھا گیا۔ انہیں نہ انصاف چاہیے نہ یہ شکایت کہ زیادتی ہوئی ہے؛ بس جان کی امان چاہئے تھی۔ "ورت" کرواپس کرنا؛ بے بسی اور کمزوری کے اظہار کی انتہائی کاپی عزت طاقتور کی صوابدید پر اسکے پاؤں میں رکھ دی۔ ماں کی زبان سے نکلے یہ الفاظ ہر اہل دل کو شرمندہ کر گئے۔ بالآخر لڑکی زندہ سلامت واپس آگئی اور پتا چلا کہ مرضی سے گئی تھی۔

دو دن قبل سایہوال میں پولیس گردی کے شکارڈیشان، کی بوڑھی لیکن انتہائی حوصلہ مند، مدلل اور منطقی گفتگو کرنے والی ماں کو دیکھ کر اس غریب ماں کی یاد آگئی۔ حامد میر کے عثمان بزدار کو تھپڑ مارنے سے لیکر وہیم بادامی کے جذباتی ڈراموں تک سے زیادہ بہتر گفتگو اس ماں نے کی جس کا لخت جگر ایک دن پہلے بے دردی سے مارا گیا اور اس غم کی شدت سے گزرتے ہوئے وہ اس کا بس لڑ رہی تھی کہ ڈیشان کی بیوہ اور بچوں کو دہشت گرد باپ کے کلنگ کے ساتھ نہیں جینا۔ بے بسی کی انتہا یہ تھی کہ اس نے احتجاج بھی نہیں کیا کہ میرے بیٹے کو کیوں مار ڈالا؛ بس اب اسے اپنی بہو اور پوتوں کی معاشرے میں بھانجی پر واو تھی۔ کسی بے انصافی ہے اور کسی بے بسی ہے۔ اس نے عندلیب عباسی کو گواہ مقرر کیا۔ اسکی ٹی بی آر بڑھ گئی لیکن وہ بھی آئیں ہائیں شائیں کرتی نظر آئی اور اس بوڑھی ماں کا کل کر ساتھ نہ دیا۔

دکھ درد اور کرب کو نکھار دیکھنا ہوتا تو اسی پولیس گردی کا شکار ظلیل، اسکی بیوی اور کسن بیٹی کی لاشوں کے ساتھ بچ جانے والی دو ننھی بیٹیوں اور ایک بیٹے کو دیکھ لیں۔ چھوٹا سا چنار دوتا ہوا کہتا ہے کہ پاپا نے پولیس کو کہا، "پیسے لے لو گولی نہ مارو" یہ فقرہ پوری داستان ہے! ایک عام آدمی کی پولیس کے بارے میں رائے! نومی بیان کی طرح! اونٹنی بیٹیاں روتی ہوئی، خون کے چھینٹوں سے لت پت پریشان نظروں سے ادھر ادھر دیکھتیں! یہ دکھ الفاظ میں یہ بیان کرنا مشکل ہے۔ پوری دنیا میں پاکستانی صد سے اور شاک میں ہیں اور زیادہ تر خوف میں کہ کل ہمارا باری ہو سکتی ہے۔

فلطی کس کی ہے؟ اٹھلی جنس کی یا پولیس کی!!! اٹھلی جنس کو کس نے تباہ کیا؟ نواز شریف سے بڑھ کر زرداری نے۔ نواز شریف کی کرپشن زیادہ تر مالی تھی لیکن زرداری اور پیٹھیر اس سسٹم کی رگوں میں کینسر بھر گئے۔ بے نظیر کے دوسرے دور میں اس کینسر کی بنیاد رکھی گئی۔ ہائی کورٹ کے تقدس کو پامال کرتے ہوئے جیلے جج بھرتی کئے گئے؛ جیلے کارکن ایسے ہائی کورٹ میں دندناتے پھرتے تھے جیسے ایم

کیو ایم والے عشرت العباد کے گورنر ہاؤس میں۔ چیلز پارٹی کے تحصیل عہدیداروں کو نواز نے کے لئے 1994 میں اٹھلی جنس، کسٹم، ایکسائز میں انسپکٹر پانچ سے سات لاکھ میں بھرتی کئے گئے۔ آجکل اگر کسی نے پلاٹ خریدنا ہو تو کہتا ہے "یار اچھی ڈیل مل رہی ہے، دس لاکھ کم ہیں اور حاروے دو" ان دنوں یہی حال تھا "یار تیرے بھتیجے نے اٹھلی جنس انسپکٹر لگنا ہے دو لاکھ کم ہیں، دسے دو وہ "کما" کر چند ماہ میں واپس کروے گا"!!! غضب خدا کا! اتنی اہم پولیس، کرپانہ کی دوکانوں پر کیسے گی تو ان میں ایسے ہی کھوتے دماغ آج بچیں سال بعد ڈائریکٹر اٹھلی جنس لگے ہوئے ہوں گے۔ نواز شریف نے آ کر 1997 میں ان سب کو نکالا تو "زرداری نما پارٹی" نے 2007 میں ان سب کو پچھلے دس سال کی تنخواہ کے ساتھ واپس رکھ لیا۔ یہ سانحہ تو اس ناسور کی محض ایک علامت ہے؛ ورنہ پورا جسم جکڑا جا چکا ہے۔

ایک ڈاکٹر، ایک انجینئر، ایک سینڈ لیٹینٹ بارہویں پاس کر کے جتا ہے، اس عمر تک ہم کتنے کہہ پتے ہوتے ہیں؟ فلٹ کر لیا، سگریٹ کی ڈبی اڑالی؛ گھر کے سوئے کے بیسوں میں سے کچھ چپ میں ڈال لئے اور یہ عطلتیں بھی اچھے ماحول میں جا کر دور ہو جاتی ہیں، نجانے کیوں انسپکٹر یا اسے ایس پی بننے کے لئے "کی عمر" کا انتظار کیا جاتا ہے، جب تک معاشرے کی محرومیاں اور لامحدود خواہشیں ایک دم طاقت آنے کے بعد، اپنا منہ کھول کر کھڑا ہو جاتی ہیں۔ بہت سوں کی جب تک شادی ہو چکی ہوتی ہے اور ضرورتیں، کردار بننے سے پہلے ہی نکل جاتی ہیں۔ کیوں نہیں اتنے اہم شعبوں کے لئے چھوٹی عمر سے ہی سلیکشن کی جائے؟ ذہن اور کردار کی تعمیر کی جائے! ہو سکتا ہے اس سے کچھ بہتری آجائے ورنہ آجکل تو صاحب؛ "پولیس سے ڈر لگتا ہے، ڈاکوؤں سے!"

Dr. Bashir Badr

Golden Sher

کچھ تو مجبوریاں رہی ہونگی
یوں کوئی بے وفا نہیں ہوتا



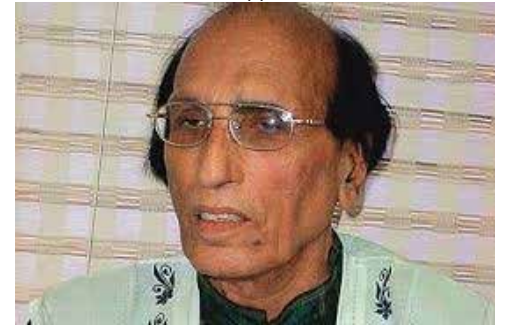
Bashir Badr, born on the February 15th 1935 at Ayodhya, did B.A. M.A. and Ph D. from Aligarh Muslim University. He worked as a lecturer in the Aligarh Muslim University and later as the lecturer and head of the department of Meerut College, Meerut for 17 years. He knows Persian, Hindi and English as well.

Sayyed Mohd. Bashir Badr was born into a Muslim family at Ayodhya, in India. This city is known for its cultural and religious history. Bashir was the fourth child of Sayyed Nazir and Aaliya Begum.

His father was an Assistant Accountant in the Indian Police and highly respected in the community. Bashir as a child was far clearer in thoughts and visions of life than the children of his age.

Dr Bashir Badr did his schooling from Halim College, Kanpur. He completed his high schooling in the yr 1949 from Islamiya College, Itawa.

Thereafter, he had to take a break from his studies owing to the fact that; he had to take care of the family, due to the ill-health of his father, Sayyed Mohd. Nazir.



He has brought out more than seven collections of poems in Urdu and one in Hindi. He has seven collections of Ghazals.

Bashir Badr lost his entire belongings, when his house was set on fire. This event had a great effect on him and he went through an anguish and dejection. He kept himself in desolation for a long time, cut off from the outside world. He gave up writing.

Later owing to constant insisting by friends, he moved to Bhopal. Here he met Dr. Rahat, to be his wife in future. He is an alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University. He is married and has three sons Nusrat Badr, Masum Badr, Taiyeb Badr and a daughter Saba Badr. [3] He lived in Aligarh university area during student time and teaching time. He also lived in Meerut, U.P When his house was burnt in riots. He lived in Delhi for some time and then permanently relocated to Bhopal. He is currently suffering from dementia and doesn't seem to remember his Mushaira years.

Badr has written many Urdu ghazals. He has also worked as a chairman of the Urdu Academy, most of them are written included in this website. <http://www.bashirbadr.com/>

The syllabus of M.A.(Urdu) in Aligarh Muslim University included quite a few of his poems while he was studying in the University.

Badr has received the Padma Shri award in 1999 for contribution towards literature and Sangeet Natak Akademi. He has also received the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu for his poetry collection "Aas" in 1999.

انور جہاں برنی



غزل - ڈاکٹر پنہاں

دنیا کی بھول بھلیوں میں کیا کھویا کیا کچھ پایا ہے
کس کس کا تم سے ذکر کروں کون اپنا کون پرایا ہے
ہے وقت کی آندھی تیز بہت، قابو میں نہیں ہے کوئی قدم
تاریکی ہے، ستا ہے، دیوار نہ کوئی سایا ہے
انسان نما وحشی قاتل کیوں پھیل گئے ہیں دنیا میں
اور ایسے دردوں نے یارب کیوں ظلم یہ ہم پہ ڈھایا ہے
تھم تھم کے یہاں رکھیے گا قدم، یہ دشت ہے دھب کرب و بلا
یاں حرص و ہوس کے بندوں نے ہر گام پہ دام بچھایا ہے
ہے ذکر تراب پر آقا اور صل علی ہر سانس میں ہے
جو لمحہ بھی تیری یاد میں ہے بس وہ ہی مرا سرمایہ ہے
دنیا کی دوروزہ ہستی کو آساں نہ سمجھ لینا اتور
شیطان اور اس کے چیلوں نے اک جال یہاں پھیلایا ہے

اب تری یاد پامناز گر آتی ہے
حسرت قلب شرارت پہ اتر آتی ہے

سر آئینہ دی جو بس آئینہ تھا
غواب، یکساں حقیقت بھی نظر آتی ہے

میرے طرف تو تیرے ہنستے تھے تو
زندگی عرصہ محشر سے گزرتی ہے

لے کے بیٹا مہبت کا اڑی تھی چین
اس کی فائدہ پھر سوخت پر آتی ہے

بھول کر خود کو تھے یاد ذکر پاکیں کے
آگہی لے کے یا مزاج ستر آتی ہے

بتھ رہاں نظر آتی تھیں دروازے پر
دیکھتی تری پردیس سے گزرتی ہے

ایسا لگتا تو نہیں ہے کتنی زندہ باب تک
مرگ شامہ پنہاں یہ بچر آتی ہے



صیغہ سہیل
غزل

تو جب سے بن گیا ہے نگہبان آرزو
صد رہنک گلستاں ہے بیابان آرزو
اے جان انتظار نہ تڑپا مجھے کد اب
گھبرا کے چھوڑ دوں نہ میں دامان آرزو
اے تاجدار شہر تمنا جواب دے
پکوں تک آگے ہیں سفیران آرزو
کھایا تھا دل نے جو کبھی تیری نگاہ سے
اک روگ بن گیا ہے وہ پیکان آرزو
ناکام حسرتوں کا خود اپنی مزار ہوں
روشن ہے جس پہ شمع شبتان آرزو
سہیل لٹا ہے قافل زبیرت اس طرح
اب کوئی آرزو ہے نہ سامان آرزو
☆☆☆

Ghazals compiled by
Janab Hasan Chishti Sb
Chicago



Waliuddin

وزیر تعلیم

آپ کی نظروں نے سمجھا ووٹ کے قابل مجھے
لیڈروں اور لیڈروں کی صف میں کر دیا شامل مجھے
آج کل تو خیر سے میں وزیر تعلیم ہوں
کم از کم اب تو نہ کہئے ان پڑھ جاہل مجھے

☆☆☆

الیکشن

بنے اسمبلی کے ممبر تھا ٹھٹھ بات کا زمانہ
گھر میں تھی بیوی باہر بھی تھا ایک ٹھکانہ
جب سے ہمارے الیکشن ہو گیا ہے ٹیشن
"ملی خاک میں محبت جلا دل کا آشیانہ"

☆☆☆

جانشین

جانشین کا سلسلہ شروع ہو گیا ہے
مغرب سے سورج طلوع ہو گیا ہے
بھٹو خاندان کے مقابل نواز خاندان ہے
پہلی ووڈ نہیں ہے یہ پاکستان ہے



توفیق انصاری
غزل

جواب جس کا نہیں وہ جواب ہے ہم لوگ
زمین پر ہیں مگر آفتاب ہیں ہم لوگ
سنبھل کے دیکھو، ذرا ہم کو، دیکھئے والو!
قلب زخاں ہے، زہر قلب ہیں ہم لوگ
نئی حیات کا، پرچم ہے، ہاتھ میں اپنے
نئی ڈگر کا، نیا انقلاب ہیں ہم لوگ
ہمارے نام سے، زندہ ہے، وقت کی تاریخ
زمانہ جس کو پڑھے، دو کتاب ہیں ہم لوگ
شباب و شعر کی سستی، تباری ہے بچی
کسی کا جام، کسی کی شراب ہیں ہم لوگ
کیا ہے اہل جنس نے، منتخب جس کو
لگا دقت کا، دو انقلاب ہیں ہم لوگ
ہمارے دم سے، غزل کی ہے، آہر توفیق
غزل کی روح، غزل کا شباب ہیں ہم لوگ



جگر آغا
غزل

مشق میں لا جواب ہیں ہم لوگ
ماہتاب آفتاب ہیں ہم لوگ
گرچہ اہل شراب ہیں ہم لوگ
یہ نہ سمجھو شراب ہیں ہم لوگ
شام سے آگے جو پینے پر
صبح تک آفتاب ہیں ہم لوگ
ہم کو دھوئے مشق بازی ہے
مشق عذاب ہیں ہم لوگ
ہر کرتی ہے غانہ ویرانی
ایسے غانہ شراب ہیں ہم لوگ
ہم نہیں جانتے خزاں کیا ہے
کشکان شباب ہیں ہم لوگ
ہم سے پوچھو جگر کی سستی
مزم آں جواب ہیں ہم لوگ



حسن چشتی
غزل

ہمارے نام سے آباد بستیاں ہیں بہت
یہ اور بات کہ غانہ شراب ہیں ہم لوگ
جہاں جہاں بھی اندھیرے قدم بڑھاتے ہیں
وہاں ابھرتے ہوئے آفتاب ہیں ہم لوگ
نہ پر غلوں مہارت نہ نکلیاں بے لوث
نظا امیر ثواب و عذاب ہیں ہم لوگ
اگر لے بھی فرصت تو ہم کو پڑھ لینا
کہ حرف حرف سلف کی کتاب ہیں ہم لوگ
ستم تو یہ ہے وہی ہم کو بھول جینا ہے
وہ جس لگا کا خود انقلاب ہیں ہم لوگ
جو گھر کے آسے ہیں ان بادلوں کو چھینے وہ
چھپا ہے اب میں وہ ماہتاب ہیں ہم لوگ
کہاں نہیں کے حسن ایسے فکر و دل والے
ہماری قدر کرو لا جواب ہیں ہم لوگ



غزل

عشق کی برادریوں کو راپاں سمجھا مت مسین
بستیاں نکلیں جنہیں ویرانیاں سمجھا مت مسین
زندگی نکلی مسلسل امتحان در امتحان
زندگی کو داستان ہی داستان سمجھا مت مسین
یاد ایام کہ جب ذوق طلب کا مسل نہ تھا
ہر غبار کاروان کو کاروان سمجھا مت مسین
اس گھسٹری کی شرم رکھ لے اے نگاہ ناز دوست
ہر نفس کو جب حیات حبا و اں سمجھا مت مسین
کیا بتاؤں کس مستدر زنجیر پا ثابت ہوے
چند تھکنے جن کو اپنا آشیانہ سمجھا مت مسین



غزل

عشق کی برادریوں کو راپاں سمجھا مت مسین
بستیاں نکلیں جنہیں ویرانیاں سمجھا مت مسین
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کیا بتاؤں کس مستدر زنجیر پا ثابت ہوے
چند تھکنے جن کو اپنا آشیانہ سمجھا مت مسین



غزل

تیرے دم کو حاصل کن وہاں سمجھا مت مسین
لے خوری مسین - کوئی کو کہاں سمجھا مت مسین
بڑی کی چٹھہ کو سنی راپاں سمجھا مت مسین
مبار شکوں پر بسا آشیانہ سمجھا مت مسین
اے یہ مڑھی کہ سنسن لے اے اکوں مستریب
گر ماہ کاروان کو کاروان سمجھا مت مسین
زندگانی اور بھی پامان قسم ہوتی گئی
وائے نادانی کہ ان کو مسرہاں سمجھا مت مسین
کاشیں وہ آئے سکون قلب منظر سے لے
جن کو اپنی زندگی کا بازار سمجھا مت مسین
ایسے دوستی بھی دشمنی نکلی مستی
ابتدا مسین اس حقیقت کو کہاں سمجھا مت مسین

غزل

عشق جہاں کو گئی ہے... روز بگتی ہے... روز بگتی ہے...
مذہق! مجھی کیا جنت... روز سے ہی مجھی گئی ہے!
زندگی اور کچھ ہے... سوچا ہی سہا سہا کتنی ہے
آن کا مال کتنی ہوگا... رات دن ہر وقت ہوتی ہے
جو کہیں تو قرآن پڑھا... دل میں یہ سوز کتنی ہے
مردوں کے ہیں وعدے سہا سہا...
پالتے کہاں قوم یہ کہتی ہے
اپنے ہاتھ سے مگیاں ہوتے... اس کی بات نہیں چکھتی ہے
رہتا ہمارا... انہیں ۱۰۰... ہاں کتنی بھی آگہی ہے
کہ نہ لگے کوئی ہانی... چاہتے ہوئے پہ پہاڑی ہے
ایسا زندگی ہم ہوتی... ہر جگہ ہیں جنم
بہر ہنستے، دانی ہو ہر
پہاڑی، خواہیں ہیں ہاتھ ہے
☆ ترویج پھول (مرتبہ)



URDU PAGES

On the lighter side....

One morning a local highway department crew reaches their job site and realizes they have forgotten all their shovels.

The crew's foreman calls the office and tells his supervisor the situation.

The supervisor says, "Don't worry, we'll send some shovels... just lean on each other until they arrive."

Figuring that her 4 year old son Kevin was listening in the next room, Janet decided to tell her husband Don the latest Christmas gift she had bought the boy by spelling out the words "fire truck".

Don nodded and said, "I think it would be a great Christmas gift."

From the other side of the wall, they heard Kevin yell, "I don't want letters for Christmas

Be TRUE to your teeth...

Or they will be FALSE to you!

A guy goes to the doctor.

Guy: "Doc, I think I broke my arm in three places."

Doctor: "Well, don't go to those places

To show my wife how much I love her I bought her a beautiful diamond ring...



I had it engraved with the cost.

Eighty-year-old Bessie bursts into the recreation room of the retirement home.

She holds her clenched fist in the air and announces, "Anyone who can guess what's in my hand, can take me out to dinner tonight!"

A witty, elderly gentleman in the rear shouts out, "An elephant?"

Bessie thinks a minute and replies, "Close enough!"

As in many homes on New Year's Day, my wife and I faced the annual conflict of which was more important, the football games on television or the dinner itself. To keep peace, I ate dinner with the rest of the family and even lingered for some pleasant after dinner conversation before retiring to the family room to turn on the game.

Several minutes later, my wife came downstairs and graciously even bought a cold drink for me. She smiled, kissed me on the cheek, and asked what the score was. I told her it was the end of the third quarter and that the score was still nothing to nothing.

"See?" she said, continuing to smile. "You didn't miss a thing!"

My wife had mentioned several times that she hoped I could get our grass mowed this weekend. Well, I procrastinated a bit too long and while I was watching football on TV, there was a 37 yard pass with a spectacular catch for a go ahead touchdown.

I jumped up and shouted, "Oh my GOSH! Did you see that?!?"

And my wife said, "Yes, I see... what a lovely lawn they have."

A man pulls up to the curb and asks the policeman, "Can I park here?"

"No, sorry." says the cop.

"What about all these other cars?"

"Well, they didn't ask."

Why are chemists bad at playing pranks?

They lack the element of surprise.

Two dogs pass a parking meter...

One says to the other, "How do you like that, a pay toilet!"

If snowmen can't ride bicycles, tricycles, or unicycles, what can they ride?

Icicles!



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