



Zakir Naik: What did I do to earn the tags of 'Dr Terror', 'Hate Monger'?

Islamic scholar Dr. Zakir Naik wrote an open letter to Indians called 'Five Questions and an Appeal' where he lamented about being targeted and labeled a 'terror preacher' in India. In the letter, Naik said, "Of 150 countries where I'm respected and my talks are welcomed, I'm being called a terrorist influencer in my own country. What an irony. Why now, when I've been doing the same thing for over 25 years?"

Naik, 51, is an Islamic preacher, who founded the Islamic Research Foundation in 1991 when he started Dawah or religious preaching. His lectures mostly revolve around how Islam is superior to all other faiths. While he claims to be an advocate of interfaith dialogue, his preaching's reinforce all the stereotypes which exist against Muslims. Following reports that one of the militants of Dhaka terror attack was inspired by Naik's misinterpretations of Islam, there are growing demand for strict action against him. In the letter, Naik asks why he has become the enemy number one for the State and Central government. "It has been over two months since the ghastly terror attack in Dhaka, and over one month since I've been asking myself what exactly have I done to become the enemy number one of the media as well as the State and Central Government," wrote Naik.

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He also questioned the repeated investigations on him by government agencies. "Did not they cover every aspect of my talks, every topic, every reply? Or is it because they could not find any wrongdoing? Is this a hunt to get something to indict me?"

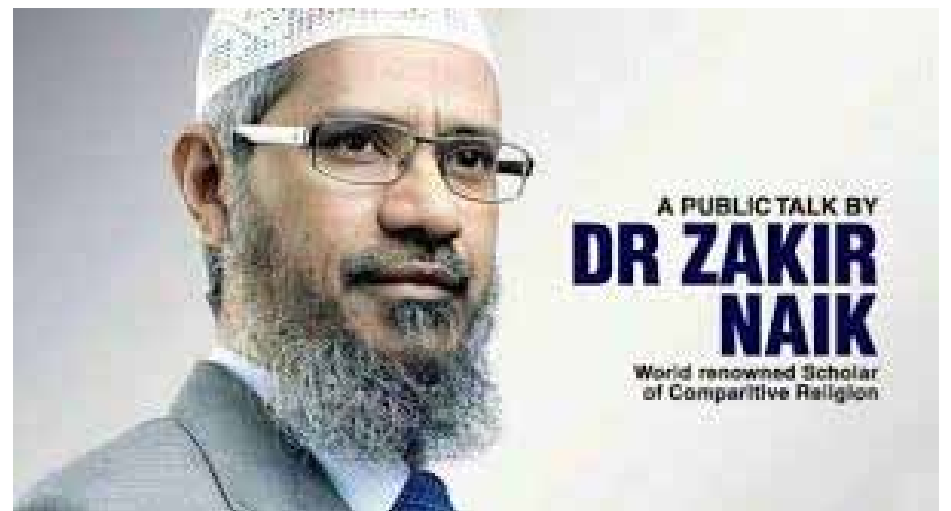
Naik also pleaded ignorance for the allegations leveled against him and questioned the reasons behind the witch hunt. "But I still can't stop asking myself – why am I being targeted? Then I realized some time back that if you've decided to target a community, you've to first target the biggest name and the most popular figure of the community," he said.

Naik, a medical doctor-turned Salafist preacher, said the entire row in the last few months have come as a "shock" to him and termed it as "murder of democracy and strangulation of fundamental rights". "This is not just an attack on me, it is an attack against Indian Muslims. And it is an attack against peace, democracy and justice," Naik wrote in the letter.

Here are the excerpts from the open letter:

It has been over two months since the ghastly terror attack in Dhaka, and over one month since I've been asking myself what exactly have I done to become the enemy number one of the media as well as the State and Central Government. For someone who has spent 25 years in promoting peace, spreading greater awareness of Islam and talking about similarities between religions and condemning injustices, the last two months have been a rude shock to me. A shock of immense proportions. I'm not only disappointed in the way things are being conducted but alarmed at where they are heading.

I'm alarmed at the murder of democracy and strangulation of fundamental rights and the precedence it is setting for times to come. I'm also alarmed at how the system, media and the agencies are being used to suit a pre-meditated end result set by none other than our own governments, governments that have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of India, and a Constitution that allows me the freedom to profess, practice, and propagate any religion I follow. Let's not be gullible enough to assume that there isn't a deeper agenda behind this vicious campaign. This is not just an attack on me, it's an attack against Indian Muslims. And it's an attack against peace, democracy



and justice.

From what I understand, IRF and I have been set up for a ban. Never mind the fact that the legal agencies have found no wrongdoing – financial or otherwise. Never mind the lack of evidence (although I am not guilty of any wrong-doing, much less any offence whatsoever). At least this is what is evident from the media stories being 'planted' since the past several weeks. The message is clear: it's not a question of whether I've committed a crime or not. It's a question of using desperate measures to kill peace and harmony. And a ban is now imminent. It may happen in days or weeks but the writing is clear on the wall. IRF and I have been set up for a ban. Unless of course, better sense prevails and the ban machinery set in motion is stopped.

And if that happens, if IRF and I are banned, it will be the biggest jolt to the country's democracy of recent times. I do not say this just for me but because this ban will set a precedence of unspeakable injustices against the 20 crore Muslims of India. This action will embolden and encourage every fringe element in the country to do as they please. If you thought intolerance increased in the country recently, this action of the government will take it to an all-time high. The Muslim population is already feeling threatened and insecure and I can't even imagine how they will feel after this action. Muslims are bound to think that today it is Zakir Naik, tomorrow it could be any one of them. But I still can't stop asking myself – why am I being targeted? Then I realized some time back that if you've decided to target a community, you've to first target the biggest name and the most popular figure of the community. If you can bring down and demonize this figure of the community, the rest becomes a cakewalk. That, I think, is what is happening. It may sound like a conspiracy theory, but I honestly cannot find any other plausible reason.

I've been preaching for 25 years. Not just in India but across the world. What exactly did I do now to earn the tags of 'terror preacher', 'Dr. Terror' and 'hate monger'? Of 150 countries where I'm respected and my talks are welcomed, I'm being called a terrorist influencer in my own country. What an irony. Why now, when I've been doing the same thing for over 25 years?

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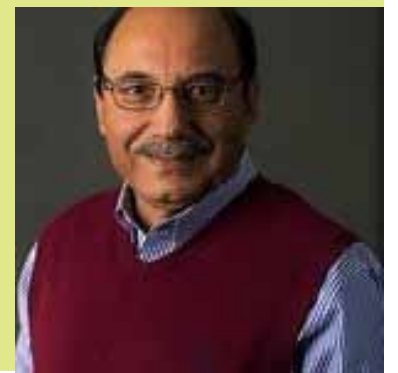
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FIA honors Mr. Khan Lateef Khan Chief Editor, Munsif Daily



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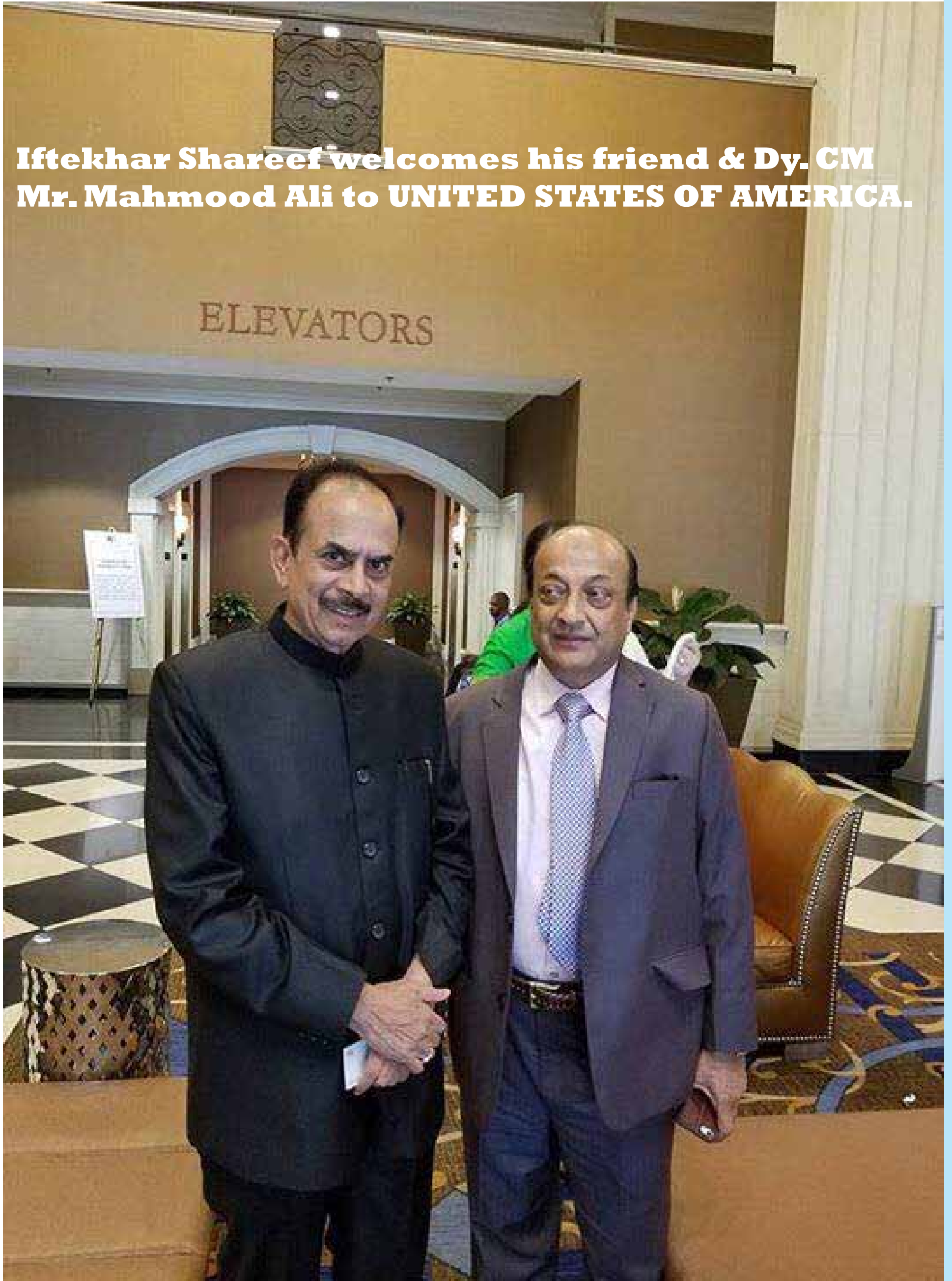


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Mr. Mahmood Ali to UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**



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“Glory of Hyderabad” Launched in the Presence of Mr. Mahmood Ali, Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana State

Ashfaq Syed



Mr. Mohammad Mahmood Ali, Dy Chief Minister, Telangana, Mr. A.K. Khan, Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Telangana, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India in Chicago, Dr. Deepak Kant Vyas, Chairman Redberri Corporation, Mr. Mir Khan, President, Mr. Iqbal Baig, Vice President, Mr. Ashfaq Syed, General Secretary, Glory of Hyderabad, Mr. Iftekhar Shareef, Mr. Syed Hussain, Ms. Gazala Rahman, Ms. Tasneem Osmani and Mr. Khalid Osmani at the Launch of Glory of Hyderabad.

Chicago, IL, September 8, 2016: “Hyderabad has always remained as a point of convergence of many different cultures, traditions, festivals, and religions that gave it its distinct cosmopolitan character. Hyderabad’s lingua franca, ‘Dakhini’, is a unique blend of several languages, typifying the true plural character of the city, where people belonging to different castes, creed, and religions live in peace and harmony and participate in each other’s festivals with enthusiasm”, said Mr. Mohammad Mahmood Ali, Dy Chief Minister of Telangana, in his inaugural address of the “Launch of the Glory of Hyderabad” held in Chicago, on Sunday, September 5th, 2016 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, at Shalimar Banquets, 280 W. North Ave. Addison, IL.

Continuing his address, Mr. Mahmood Ali said that the ‘Glory of Hyderabad’ is aimed at celebrating the famed ‘Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb’ and portraying the “Hyderabadiyat”, rather than merely glorifying Hyderabad’s historical achievements. “The Hyderabad Tehzeeb is the traditional mix of civility, hospitality, courtesy, and grace in social interaction, the hallmark of which is respect and consideration”, added Mr. Mahmood Ali.

“Mr. K Chandrasekhar Rao has been considered as the best Chief Minister in India. He is committed in transforming the old city of Hyderabad into Golden city of Hyderabad”, he added.

Mr. A.K. Khan, Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau of Telangana, who was the Guest of Honor at the event, said that Hyderabad is well known across the globe on account of its rich history and culture, Hindu-Muslim unity, and above all, its unique cuisine. He paid rich tributes to Hyderabad-American for their rich contribution to the socio-economic and educational fabric of the US.

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India in Chicago said that Hyderabad has recently been declared as the most livable city in India and also gained reputation as a home for such global giants as Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Google, Face book. “While Hyderabad has been protecting and preserving its age-old culture and traditions, it has been proactive in welcoming and embracing the contemporary socio-economic changes”, stated Dr. Sayeed.

Dr. Sayeed added, “I met Mr. KTR, Minister in Telangana Government in his recent visit to the US. Thanks to his professional approach and enlightened leadership, Telangana Government and the State of Illinois are going to sign a number of MoUs very shortly”.

Dr. Deepak Kant Vyas, Chairman Redberri Corporation graciously outlined charitable donation from the Redberri Earth foundation that will include: a Scholarship for a student of need to pursue a Master’s level program in the US with a commitment to return to Hyderabad; establishing a Gold Medal Award at a University in Hyderabad, upgrading a Children’s ward at a selected hospital, and surgery for a polio patient with economic need. “We are committed to partnering with the Telangana Government on projects that make a difference and are repeatable”, he added.

Mr. Vyas opined that the four pillars of Charminar represent Character, Community, Courage, and Confidence. We want to set an example for giving back to the community in a way that reflects our commitment to social responsibility”, he emphasized.

Earlier, Mr. Mir Khan, Chairman, Glory of Hyderabad, in his welcome address, said that the children born and brought up in the US are not familiar with the inherent strengths and an array of positivity’s of Hyderabad. He said that efforts will be made, under the banner of the ‘Glory of Hyderabad’ to create awareness among the younger generation about the inspiring history and robust culture of Hyderabad. He paid rich tributes to Dr. Ausaf Sayeed for organizing a number of high profile events in Chicago aimed at showcasing the culture of Hyderabad. He also applauded the generous efforts of Dr. Vyas for his commitment to finding enduring solutions to the problems of weaker sections of society in Hyderabad.

Mr. Mohammad Mahmood Ali presented Lifetime Achievement Award, on behalf of Glory of Hyderabad, to Mr. Khan Lateef Khan, Editor-in-Chief, Munsif Urdu daily for his services to community and for Urdu language, to Mr. A.K. Khan for his Meritorious and Dedicated Police Service, and to Dr. Ausaf Sayeed for his Exemplary Service to the Indian Community of Chicagoland.

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed and Mr. A.K. Khan jointly presented an award to Mr. Mohammad Mahmood Ali for his Charismatic Leadership on behalf of The Hyderabad Community in Chicagoland.

Mr. Iqbal Baig, Vice President proposed vote of thanks. He made a special reference to the management and staff of Shalimar Banquet for making the event a great success.

Mr. Ali Faheem, President, Shalimar banquets and a businessman of Chicago, who belongs to Hyderabad, came forward to support this event with free hall and snacks

“Glory of Hyderabad”...Cont'd

for all the guests. He also promised to support 'Glory of Hyderabad' in all its endeavors.

'Glory of Hyderabad' is a registered organization with Mr. Mir Khan as President, Mr. Iqbal Baig as Vice President, and Mr. Ashfaq Syed as General Secretary.

Ms. Gazala Rahman from 'Glory of Hyderabad' was the MC for the event.

Regards
Ashfaq Syed
General Secretary
Glory of Hyderabad, Chicago,
USA



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APA announces to build Pakistan house in Bolingbrook on the occasion of 69th Pakistan Independence Day.

On the 25th anniversary of Flag hoisting ceremony and Taste of Pakistan APA has announced that it will build a Pakistan house in Bolingbrook which will depict the culture and heritage of Pakistan. APA wanted to give present to the Pakistani community on this day. It is time we have to promote Pakistan and educate the local Americans and our future generation about the culture and heritage of Pakistan here in Chicago land area. We have courage, we have visions, we have resources and we have will to undertake this project. These were the words of Mr. Talat Rashid APA member who is a planning Commissioner and advisor to the US Senator Mark Kirk.

The center will fill the cultural gap between both countries. The Pakistan house will be a liaison between tourists of both countries. Bolingbrook which already enjoys a diverse community and is a home of 2 mosques 2 cricket fields and one Full time Islamic school Al-Furqan academy is also know by the international community in various aspects. Mir Ali ha started a very successful Youth Cricket league which is recognized by the ICC. He also plays a significant role in the ICC organization.

Boloingbrook was named 32nd best city to live in the USA by Money Magazine and has a golf course which is 10 best Golf courses in the country. Hon. Roger Claar who is the Mayor for Village the past 30 years, a very popular politician who promotes diversity in the city. Bolingbrook has several name brand stores in its fantastic shopping center called promenade

which is a small downtown with various popular stores. Several Pakistanis served on various board appointed by Mayors. Faisal Rashid was first Pakistani who was elected to Du Page Township Trustee and Mir Ali was appointed as Zoning Commissioner and Ali Zaman currently serves on the board of BCTV Bolingbrook.

Bolingbrook will also enjoy sister city relationship soon with Pakistan's Industrial city Sialkot. The ground work has already completed. Thanks to Consul General Faisal Tirmizi and former Commercial Counselor Zahid Zaman who took initiative in completing this historical venture. Muslim and Pakistani population is increasing rapidly because of affordable housing and job opportunities besides 2 mosques. City is very cooperative with its citizens. The Association of Pakistani Americans hosted its twenty-fifth (25th) Pakistan Day Celebration in Bolingbrook, IL. The organization's Silver Jubilee was a smashing event that brought out thousands of Pakistani Americans. The festival has been experiencing a growth in attendees due to the high caliber of the organization's management, support of local community businesses, and encouragement from numerous elected officials that attend the all-day festivity in late August annually.

On Saturday, August 27, 2016, the Association of Pakistani American (APA) completed its Flag Hoisting Ceremony for the twenty-fifth year. Elected officials in attendance included Deputy Mayor Leroy Brown who presented the proclamation on behalf of Mayor Roger C. Claar. Among the other officials there were

Tonia Khouri, DuPage County Board Member and candidate for the Congress from this district Stephanie Holderfield Illinois State Director for Donald Trump, Bill Mayer DuPage Township supervisor, Steve Quigley School board President, Stan Bond State central committee, Mark Dietzen Sen. Kirks office, Mike from State Comptroller's office, Bolingbrook Chamber of Commerce Director Kevin O'Keefe, Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital CEO Rick Mace, Library Board Dennis Raga and Ruth Newell, Township Trustee Sheldon Watts, Park District President Denise Allen, Bolingbrook Public Safety Director Tom Ross, Mike Lawler, Village Trustee. The APA presented speakers and representatives of the community with decorative marble elephants, made exclusively in Pakistan for the event, in recognition of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration. As the Chief Guest of the ceremony, Consul General of Pakistan Faisal Niaz Tirmizi praised the APA in his speech and encouraged young Pakistani-Americans to aim at becoming active participants in local politics. He requested the crowd to assist organizations such as the APA in bringing positive exposure towards Pakistan. Noting in his speech that the APA has been working tirelessly and the Taste of Pakistan is a small showcase of the positive contributions Pakistani-Americans can make within their local communities. Talat Rashid, founder of the APA and Mir Ali, who was also the emcee of the event have devoted their efforts into bridging the gap between the US and Pakistan. They brought together Pakistan's Consul General Faizal Niaz Tirmizi and Mayor Roger C. Claar of Bolingbrook to sign a sister

city agreement between Bolingbrook and Sialkot (a major city in Pakistan). In addition, Talat Rashid announced that Bolingbrook will be the first city in the US that will be developing a 'Pakistan House' in Bolingbrook. H.E. Ambassador Jalil A Jilani send a video Message which was shown during the program where ambassador nothing but good words for Mayor Claar. He also said he was very much impressed by the work of APA and its accomplishments especially sister city agreement between Sialkot and Bolingbrook and his meeting with Mayor Claar last may when he visited Bolingbrook. The Grand Sponsors of this event were Dr. Nadim Longi and Dr. Moazzam Saeed of Advanced Pediatric, who have earned a great respect from the association and audiences for making this event a great success and have

been supporting the APA for many years. Mr. Asad Malik, President of Absolute Health Care Systems Inc. had joined the rank as a Premier sponsor this year. The APA's sponsors who joined this year were Mr. Atlas Khan of Tandoori restaurant, Mashallah Restaurant in Plainfield, Jadoo TV, Sling Urdu, Energy Smart, CPSA, Shalimar Banquets, SARA's Grill Naperville, Human Development Organization, IFANCA and Chiro One were also there to support us. Mr. Munir Chaudhry another a long-time supporter could not make to the event because of his prior engagement. The APA's regular sponsors included Dr. Murtaza Arain a longtime supporter, Dr. Sher Ahsan Niazi, Dr. Tahir Rohail, Bismillah Market & Restaurant, Chamber of Commerce, DuPage Township, AMITA Adventist Hospital, and Inspire Multiband for putting on an excellent fashion show which was the center of attraction for everyone. The APA did have a moment of silence due to the sudden death of a longtime friend, community member and supporter Mr. Nabil Choudhry. There were over 45 booths. People from all walks of life were there and travelled from far distance to attend the event. Emcee of the program Mir Ali, the Associations key member did a fantastic job in conducting the entire program at its best. The APA is very thankful to all the media, that includes Javed Rana of Pakistan News, Suresh Bodiwala of Asian media, Tariq Khawaja of Urdu Times and Urdu Times Global an internet based TV program., Nadeem Khan of Pakistan news, Mr. S Khalil of Chicago media, Bolingbrook community TV, Mr. Azeem Quadri of Asia Times, Mr. Nadeem of Sada-e Pakistan, Ansar Rizvi of GEO's Safer Pakistan TV show, Sami from Next TV and Mr. Charandeep Sing of Desi Junction. At the end several awards were given to all the volunteers who worked hard to put this event together. The recipients were, Hamid Bhatti, Aziz Vayani, Zulfi Ahmed, Faisal Rashid, Ali Zaman, Zafar Chaudhry, Faheem Shehzad and Kamran Rashid. A variety of entertainment was provided for the entire family: Clothing bazaar, food booths, toy booths, a plane ride, face painting, a balloon maker, and jumpy houses. with the highlight of the evening comprising of musical performances by Pakistan's young talent, Shujat Ali Khan and Haider Afzal. In addition, renowned comedian Kashif Khan entertained the crowd with his comical performance. At the end several awards were given to all the volunteers who worked hard to put this event together. The recipients were, Hamid Bhatti, Aziz Vayani, Zulfi Ahmed, Faisal Rashid, Ali Zaman, Zafar Chaudhry, Faheem Shehzad and Kamran Rashid. The APA's Raffle gave out exceptional prizes such as TV's, laptops, Ipods, Tablets, and two round trip airline tickets from Pleasant travel and MI travel. At 11pm the thrill came to an end as thousands walked away with memories of a lifetime and looking forward to next year's Taste of Pakistan in Bolingbrook.



Khalid J. Hasan

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The Consulate General of India Chicago Celebrates Third Kala Utsav

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Chicago IL: The Consulate General of India hosted the Annual Cultural Festival “Kala-Utsav-2016” on August 22, 2016, at McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn in collaboration with 23 different Indian Cultural Organizations to promote the rich heritage of Indian Art and Culture in the US Mid-west. The event provided a useful platform for over 250 renowned Indian artists, from across the US Midwest to showcase their inherent talents through top-class performances.

The function started with a stunning performance of “ChendaMelam” by the Chicago Kalashetra which is the best –known and most popular kshetram vadyam (temple percussion) genre.

The festival was inaugurated by Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India by lighting of the lamp as per the traditional Indian customs. He was joined by Mrs Farha Sayeed, OP Meena, Head of Chancery at the Consulate, Harish Kolasani and members of participating organization of Kala-Utsav 2016. This was followed by the Indian and the US National Anthems.

Nearly 500 people comprising of the Indian-American Diaspora hailing from different parts

of India, including many US nationals and diplomats attended the event.

In his inaugural address, Consul General Dr Ausaf Sayeed underlined the ancient, deep-rooted and diverse culture of India, dating back to five thousand years. He added that the objective of the annual ‘Kala-Utsav’ festival, which was launched by the consulate in August 2014, is not only to encourage and showcase the extraordinary talents in the Indian-American community but also to reiterate and celebrate the concept of India’s diversity and oneness. The cultural events began with Rhythmic Collaborations presented by Kala Eternal Rhythms, School of Indian Classical Music, Chicago followed by a sequence of captivating dance performances representing the classical, folk and modern dance forms of India from different dance schools.

The classical dance segment included two Bharatnatyam performances presented by the Nritya Geethanjali Dance Academy and Natya Dance Theatre, two Kathak performances presented by Anila Sinha Foundation & Tarana Kathak Dance Academy, two Kuchipudi performance presented by Samyoga School of Dance, Indiana and Eshanjali Dance Academy, IOWA. While the Utkala Center for Odissi Dance pre-

sented an Odissi composition, Ganesha Vandana, the Nritya Bharathi Institute of Dance, Indiana presented Fast paced Classic Dance.

The folk dance segment was quite large. There were 10 folk dance representing nine States of India. The Telangana Folk Dance Group presented the Telangana folk dance, Bathukamma, Shingari’s School of Rhythm presented Kerala Folk Dance, Oppana, Amitha Mushyam presented Andhra folk dance, Andhranatyam & Kolatam, Rhythms & Grace Dance Studio presented Rajasthani folk dance, Ghummar, the Assam Association of Greater Chicago presented Assam’s Folk dance “Sattriya” the Balaji Vidhyapeetham School of Balaji Temple presented North Indian Folk dance “Bappa Morya”, I Radha Group presented high energy Punjabi folk dance “Bhangra”, Maharashtra Mandal presented Marathi folk dance “Ghondhal” and Amrapali Dance group presented Bengali folk dance. The performance of Gidha, Punjabi folk dance, by Hari Om Mandir Dance Group enthralled the audience.

There were four presentations under the Contemporary/Fusion dance category in which over thirty artists participated. These presentations captured the hearts of the audience. The presentation ‘Colors of India’ by Team Ghungru attempted to keep the flame of vibrancy and patriotism alive in our hearts. Kalapriya Center for Indian performing arts presented “Navarasa”, “Bollywood Dhamaka” was presented by Bollywood Rhythm and Rina Rockers presented a semi classical dance performance with remix version of Hanuman Chalisa,

Mr Tarun Mullick ably anchored the event as emcee and kept the audience engaged with his hilarious narration, Balle Balle. Mr OP Meena proposed a vote of thanks.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA



Thousands Celebrate Janmastami, Lord Krishna's Appearance Day and the Hare Krishna Movement's 50th Anniversary



Asian Media USA ©

Chicago, IL: Janmastami, the Appearance Day or birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, will be celebrated in the Chicago area on August 25 from 6 PM to Midnight at the Hare Krishna Temple in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois.

Krishna is respected as the speaker of the famed Bhagavad-gita by scholars, and revered as the Supreme Personality of Godhead by hundreds of millions of worshippers across the world. He has been the center of South Asian temples, art, and music for centuries. Often portrayed as the all-knowing, yet ever-youthful God who plays tricks on his friends, he also lovingly invites all forgetful souls to join his divine pastimes in the spiritual realm.

“The Sanskrit wisdom texts, the Vedas, explain that God is the all-attractive person and most intimate friend of everyone,” says Amrita Hari, ISKCON spokesperson. “That’s why Janmastami, the Appearance Day of Lord Krishna, is one of the most celebrated and joyful events in all of India.”

Today, Janmastami is celebrated by people of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds across the world. However, Krishna’s global fame has only fully developed within the past few decades.

A big reason for his expanding popularity is the Hare Krishna movement, which celebrates its own 50th Anniversary this year. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) began in New York City’s lower east side in 1966, when a 70 year-old swami from India set up a storefront temple there.

ISKCON’s founder, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, taught that the path to happiness was not found in material pursuits but in simple living, high thinking, and in awakening love of God—Lord Krishna. The swami found an audience for his message among the 1960’s youth and his society took root. Over the last 50 years ISKCON has grown into an international community with more than 600 temples, 100 vegetarian restaurants, and 516 million of its books in print in 87 languages. The society’s international food relief programs feed 1.2 million children each day in India alone.

“Swami Prabhupada did not teach anything new,” says Professor Graham M. Schweig, author of *Dance of Divine Love*, a translation of the millennium old Bhagavat Purana, which tells the story of Lord Krishna. “His expertise was in making the wisdom of the bhakti or devotional yoga tradition relevant to the modern world. His achievements are remarkable.”

ISKCON is rooted in the Gaudiya Vaishnava sampradaya, a monotheistic tradition, within Hindu culture. Its tenets include that the soul is eternal and different from the body; that chanting God’s names, or mantra meditation, can awaken knowledge of the self; and that healthy life comes through the practice of cleanliness, self-discipline, mercy, and truthfulness, and avoiding intoxication, illicit sex, meat-eating and gambling. Janmastami will be celebrated at ISKCON temples around the world—and in Chicago at the ISKCON Temple in Chicago, IL—with a variety of drama performances, live music, sacred chants, adoration or darshan of sacred images in the temples, reading sacred texts, and a vegetarian feast. All are welcome. The event, including vegetarian

feast, is free.

Backgrounder

The festival of Krishna Janmastami—the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna—has been celebrated since ancient times. Vaishnavism, the worship of Lord Krishna, is one of the principle branches within the broad Hindu tradition. Vaishnavas are monotheists, and believe Lord Krishna to be the same God worshiped by Christians, Jews and Muslims.

The scriptures of India teach that Lord Krishna personally descends to Earth to reestablish religious principles and to save human society from forgetfulness of God. Janmastami celebrates the day that Krishna appeared on Earth, over 5,000 years ago. For devotees of Krishna, it is a joyous occasion, replete with the singing of devotional songs, dance, worship services, and partaking in a sanctified vegetarian feast.

The Hare Krishna movement, formally known as the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), was founded in 1966 by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who brought the ancient Vaishnava tradition to the West.

Since then, it has grown into a worldwide confederation of more than 600 temples, farms and eco-villages, and 100 vegetarian restaurants across six continents. Its practitioners come from a variety of backgrounds. While some members live in temples and ashrams (monasteries) as monks and nuns, most Hare Krishna devotees live and work in the general community, practicing Krishna consciousness in their homes and attending their temple on a regular basis.



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Hasan Chishti with Dy. Chief Minister of Telangana State in Chicago

Serena loses No. 1 position in tennis



For the second straight year, Serena Williams was upset in the US Open semifinals.

Whereas the American was defeated by crafty veteran Roberta Vinci 12 months ago to end hopes of a rare calendar-year slam, an ailing Williams lost to big-hitting Karolina Pliskova 6-2 7-6 (7-5) on Thursday in New York.

She'll thus have to wait to become the first player in the Open Era to win 23 majors -- Williams is currently tied with Steffi Graf on 22.

And in a double blow, when the new rankings are released Monday, the 34-year-old will lose top spot to Angelique Kerber, ending Williams' record-tying -- with Graf -- 186th straight week at No. 1.

It certainly wasn't vintage Williams about 24 hours after she outlasted Simona Halep in a slugfest and she told reporters post match Thursday she was dealing with a left-knee injury.

It would explain some of her unusual statistics against Pliskova, who plays Kerber in Saturday's finale. Knowing she locked down the No. 1 ranking even before her match started against Caroline Wozniacki, the German appeared bolstered and downed Williams' good friend 6-4 6-3.

"It's just incredible," the Australian Open winner and Olympic silver medalist told the crowd on Arthur Ashe stadium. "To be here in the final for the first time means a lot. And to be No. 1 in the world, it sounds amazing." Serving impeccably through the quarters, Williams, meanwhile, slumped to five aces and six double faults. Williams had averaged 12 aces per match in the tournament prior to the last four and struck 18 against Halep. Williams, too, committed 31 unforced errors, erring on routine looking forehands and second serve returns.

"Yeah, I have been having some serious left knee problems," said Williams. "I wasn't tired. Fatigue had absolutely nothing to do with it. If I was tired I should definitely get into a new career.

"I wasn't able to move the way I wanted to move. When you're injured you're thinking of other things when you should be just playing and thinking of your shots. My mind was just a little bit everywhere. But it was what it was."

She suspected the injury surfaced in the second round. The nature of the contest against Halep might have made

things considerably worse.

"I was making errors that I never make, and definitely I didn't make in this tournament in particular," said Williams. "So many simple, simple shots that I easily could have made."

Williams, however, praised Pliskova, who played a flawless first set and ultimately held her nerve. Pliskova's booming serve shone, particularly in the first set.

"Karolina played great today," said Williams. "I think if she had played any less then maybe I would have had a chance.

"So I think I wasn't at 100%, but I also think she played well. She deserved to win today."

Having ousted Williams' older sister Venus in the fourth round to land in a maiden grand slam quarterfinal -- surviving a match point -- world No. 11 Pliskova became the first player in six years to beat the siblings at the same edition of a tournament. Her winning streak -- which includes a triumph over Kerber last month in the final in Cincinnati -- rose to 11 matches.

Pliskova relinquished a break advantage midway in the second but prevailed in a tense tiebreak, sealing the affair on Williams' double fault long. Like Williams, she has a sister who plays tennis.

Pliskova, 24, became the first Czech woman to make the US Open final since 1993.

She told on-court interviewer Pam Shriver she didn't "believe" what she had accomplished but then added: "Actually I do believe it.

"I always have a chance to beat anyone if I am playing my game but this is something amazing. I'm really excited to be in the final, especially to beat a player like this.

"Serena is a champion. It's never easy to play her. Even if she was down a set and a break she was still fighting, so it was very hard. But I was really happy I stayed there and got the win."

Serena Williams: "I let my racket do the talking";

Serena Williams: 'I let my racket do the talking' 00:51 Pliskova raced out to a 3-0 lead in the tiebreak though Williams won the ensuing three points. The next point felt like a momentum changer.

With a short forehand and plenty of court space, Williams anticipated where Pliskova would place her fore-

hand and sent her reply to the baseline. The tall Pliskova scurried back to retrieve the ball but lost the point.

The New York crowd approved.

Visit CNN.com's tennis page for more tennis stories But then Williams hit a costly double fault for 4-4. Williams engineered a winning backhand down the line for 5-4, only to lose the final three points. There would be no comeback, the kind witnessed over the years at majors. Pliskova had broken for 2-1 in the first and ended the opener by winning 10 of the final 11 points.

When she secured a further break for 3-2 in the second, Williams was in trouble. Maybe seeing the finish line, Pliskova blinked and was broken back to love.

They proceeded to hold serve until the tiebreak, when Pliskova completed the upset.

Williams didn't want to talk about losing the No. 1 ranking but if she wants it back, she will be buoyed by knowing she has no points to defend until the season concludes.

Kerber became the first German woman to reach No. 1 since Graf, her idol, in 1997. Wozniacki, a former No. 1, was always behind against Kerber, trailing 4-0 in the first and 5-1 in the second.

So instead of a one-match showdown for No. 1 between Kerber and Williams on Saturday, the former hopes for revenge against Pliskova.



Vatican declares Mother Teresa as Saint Teresa!

-Dr. Abdul Ruff

As a historic day for Christianity, Pope Francis on September 04 Sunday declared Mother Teresa of Kolkata, revered for her work among the poor, a Saint of the Catholic Church. "We declare and define Blessed Teresa of Calcutta to be a Saint," the Pope said, to a roar from the thousands gathered at St. Peter's Square here, including many Indians who held or waved the Indian flag. "We enroll her among the Saints, decreeing that she is to be venerated as such by the whole Church. The Pope invoked the trinity: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

In 2002, the Vatican ruled that an Indian woman's stomach tumor had been miraculously cured after prayers to Mother Teresa. Pope Francis cleared the way for sainthood last year when he recognised a second miracle attributed to her. She died in 1997 - aged 87 - and was beatified in 2003, the first step to sainthood. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. The sisterhood now has 4,500 nuns worldwide.

A mass of pilgrims flooded the Vatican on Sunday to celebrate the highly anticipated canonization of Mother Teresa, an event that Catholics and non-Catholics alike had looked forward to since the nun's death in 1997. Saint Teresa, known as Mother, has been an inspiration for millions of humans who seek spiritual guidance for better religious selfless living, serving the cause of humanity. Mother Teresa was famed for her foundation of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a group of Roman Catholic women dedicated to the destitute, particularly in India. The Vatican granted her permission to leave the Sisters of Loreto and to live her new call under the guidance of the Archbishop of Calcutta. Catholic News Agency said Mother Teresa's canonization was significant not only because it took place during the Jubilee of Mercy but also because it fell during a special September 2-4 Jubilee celebration for workers and volunteers of mercy, of whom Mother Teresa is widely considered one of the greatest. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. After doing iconic work in the slums of Calcutta (now Kolkata) that won universal acclaim, she died in 1997 at the age of 87. She was beatified in 2003, the first step to sainthood. Two miraculous cures of the sick after Mother Teresa's death have been attributed to her intercession. The youngest of three children, she attended a youth group run by a Jesuit priest called Sodality, which eventually led her to becoming a nun. She joined the Sisters of Loreto at age 17 and was sent to Calcutta, where she taught at a high school. After contracting tuberculosis, she was sent to rest in Darjeeling. It was on the way that she felt what she called "an order" from God to leave the convent and live among the poor.

At the time of her passing in 1997, Mother Teresa's order consisted of hundreds of centers in more than 90 countries, with 4,000 nuns and hundreds of thousands of lay workers, and in her lifetime she was awarded numerous awards, none more famous than the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1979.

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhia, better known as Mother Teresa, was born on August 26, 1910, in Skopje in Macedonia.



She was the youngest of three children of an Albanian family. As she was pink and plump, her brothers and sisters fondly called her 'Gonxha' (flower bud). From childhood, the children were taught lessons of charity. Agnes liked to be in church and spend most of her free time reading, praying and singing.

About 1,500 homeless people from across Italy were brought to Rome in buses to attend the celebration and then a pizza lunch served by 250 nuns and priests of the Sisters of Charity order, media reports said. Tens of thousands of people flocked to Vatican City's St Peter's Square on Sunday to watch Pope Francis declare Mother Teresa a saint. Pope Francis will celebrate a Mass and Canonization on Sunday on the eve of Mother Teresa's 19th death anniversary. She died on September 5, 1997, the BBC reported. Many pilgrims arrived at the Vatican before dawn on Sunday to get a good spot for the Mass, BBC reported. Some 1,500 homeless people across Italy were also brought to Rome in buses to be given seats of honour at the celebration - and then a pizza lunch served by 250 nuns and priests of the Sisters of Charity order.

Kolkata will take a century to recover from Mother Teresa Cardinal Angelo Amato read a brief biography of the work of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa and then asked the Pope to canonize her in the name of the Church. In his speech, the Pope also said: "For the honour of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother Bishops, we declare and define Blessed Teresa of Calcutta to be a Saint." Hundreds of

Missionaries of Charity Sisters attended the event, along with several heads of state or government.

At the Vatican in front of large crowds, Francis praised Mother Teresa, an "emblematic figure of womanhood and of consecrated life," for her life's work, which came to an end much more recently than that of most other saints, when she passed away in 1997. Speaking on Sunday, Francis admitted that it would be difficult for him and other admirers of the Albanian-born nun to make the switch from "Mother Teresa" to "St. Teresa," as her saintliness is "so close to us."

The decision to canonize Mother Teresa was a controversial one, especially so soon after her death. Some argued that, with the canonization so closely following her passing, the nun's human flaws and weaknesses were too fresh in people's minds. But others, such as Ines Angeli Murzaku, a professor of church history at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, say the fact that St. Teresa may still feel more like a person than a saint in public memory is a good thing. "Critics who regard her as having been inflexible and fanatical don't realize how human she really was," writes Tim Stanley for The Telegraph. "She was not a relic of the Medieval hospice. She was every bit a 21st century saint: a woman from a poor country, tortured by doubt, whose spirituality was focused on care for the disadvantaged.

One question remains: why has the Church Pope taken so much of time in recognizing the Mother as Saint Teresa for her services to Christianity and humanity? She should have been given this spiritual status while she was still alive and at least soon after her death. Typically, saints are canonized decades or even centuries after their death. The inordinate delay in Saint Teresa's due recognition by the Church puzzles everyone - both Christians and others.

Air Commodore Zafar Masud: A Pakistani Hero

By Nasim Yousaf

Air Commodore Mohammad Zafar Masud (HJ, SBT) was fondly known as Mitty Masud in the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). Born on October 17, 1927, he obtained his commission in the General Duty Pilot (GD [P]) Branch of the Royal Indian Air Force. Masud's Commission Date was February 25, 1946 and Service No. was 3314 (according to Bharat Rakshak, an Indian news archive website). Masud was one of the pioneers of the PAF. September 7th was declared as Pakistan Air Force Day in large part due to the accomplishments of PAF Base Sargodha (now PAF Base Mushaf), where Masud was the Base Commander, during the 1965 war with India. This piece is written to mark Air Force Day and to remember Masud as one of the 1965 war's heroes.

Masud was born into a prominent and highly educated family. He was the eldest son of Zafar Hussain Khan and Zakia Sultana (the daughter of Allama Mashriqi's sister, Aisha Begum). Masud's father held important positions in the Government of British India and also in Pakistan following partition. In August of 1947, Z.H. Khan was appointed as Secretary (Communications and Railways) to the Government of Pakistan and later Chairman of the Karachi Port Trust (1950 to 1953). Masud's uncle was Chaudhry Nazir Ahmad, a Federal Minister in Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan's cabinet and who later became Attorney General of Pakistan. His sister, Adeeba, was married to Brigadier M. Afzal Khan. While in Karachi, Masud met Elisabeth (a German lady) at Siemens, whose Chairman was Masud's maternal uncle Zain ud Din Ahmad (Mashriqi's nephew); Masud and Elisabeth married in the said city on June 26, 1959.

The Royal Pakistan Air Force (later Pakistan Air Force) was born on midnight of August 14, 1947, Pakistan's independence day. The Force was poor initially - in both qualitative and quantitative terms - and it inherited Squadrons 5, 6, and 9 as well as Maintenance Unit and Aircraft Repair Depot No. 301. The number of pilots, engineers, and non-commissioned officers in the organization at the time was small as compared to its needs. This newly formed force represented the total assets of Pakistan's Air Force (along with air force stations in Kohat, Peshawar, Risalpur, Chaklala, Lahore, Malir, Drig Road, and Korangi Creek).



With the emergence of Pakistan, Masud opted to join the Pakistan Air Force and, along with other officers, take on the challenge of converting the newly established organization into the one of the best fighting machines in the world. Masud excelled during his days in the Air Force. In the 1950s, he was sent to the Royal Air Force College (RAFC) in Cranwell, England, where he earned the best foreign student award. On February 25, 1957, Masud set up the first 7-Sabre aerobatic team, known as the Falcons, at Muripur (Sabre jets had been inducted into the PAF on June 13, 1956). Air Marshal Asghar Khan selected Masud to organize an air show of the US-made F-86 Sabre jets. On February 02, 1958, Masud led an impressive performance and set a world record at the air show. The book *The Story of the Pakistan Air Force: A Saga and Honour* described the event as follows: "PAF Stages first-in-the-world 16 aircraft formation loop on Sabre at air display at Mauripur witnessed by King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan." The following year, on June 15, 1958, Masud founded the Fighter Leaders' School (FLS) at Muripur in Karachi (the FLS's name was changed to Combat Commanders' School and today operates from PAF Base Mushaf).

In 1965, war broke out between Pakistan and India. Group Captain (later Air Commodore) Masud was the Base Commander of PAF Base Sargodha. Under Masud's command, on September 7, 1965, PAF Base Sargodha achieved an important victory over the Indian Air Force, a significantly larger organization. The book *The Story of*

the Pakistan Air Force: A Saga and Honour (TSPAF) stated, "PAF Sargodha [PAF Base Mushaf] inflicts crippling defeat upon IAF [Indian Air Force] in air combats." The PAF pilots (including Squadron Leader [later Air Commodore] M.M. Alam) performed outstandingly and the President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan (accompanied by Air Marshal Nur Khan and General Mohammad Musa), flew to Sargodha to congratulate Masud. The Air Commodore received the President and introduced the pilots to him (see YouTube for a video dedicated to Masud). It was clear that Masud's courage, tactical planning, guidance and training of the pilots had helped tremendously in achieving superiority over the much larger IAF. Masud was awarded the Hilal-i-Jurat and many of his pilots were also given military awards. And September 7th was declared Yaum-e-Fazia (Pakistan Air Force Day). It continues to be celebrated annually in Pakistan.

Following the 1965 war, Masud was promoted to the rank of Air Commodore and, in 1969, he was included in a high-powered Pakistan Armed Forces delegation to China. The delegation was led by late General (later President) Yahya Khan. During their stay, the delegation members were given a rousing welcome by Chinese authorities. Masud and other members of the delegation also met Chairman Mao Tse-Tung.

In 1970, Masud was assigned command of the PAF East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). He was asked to use force against the Bengalis, but he took a principled stand and proposed a political settlement instead. This difference led to his resignation (for more information, read my works on Masud).

Air Commodore Masud died on October 07, 2003 and was buried in Rawalpindi with full military honors. He shall always be remembered as a hero for his services to the Pakistan Air Force and his country. A Facebook page has been dedicated to him at: [facebook.com/AirCommodoreMZafarMasud](https://www.facebook.com/AirCommodoreMZafarMasud).

Nasim Yousaf, author and researcher, has written 15 books and digitized several important files of rare documents related to the Indian sub-continent's history. He has been featured in American publications (including *Who's Who in the World*) and his books are available in top research and academic libraries around the world.

Boss Rapes woman

BENGALURU: A 23-year-old woman has been allegedly raped in front of her one-year-old son by her boss during a field trip to Kodagu. In January this year, Priya (name changed), the victim, had joined as a customer care executive in a private firm which supplies housing materials for buildings under construction. The office is located at Kogilu cross in Yelahanka. Barely two months after she started working, one of the partners of the firm identified as T Vivekananda started allegedly harassing her for sexual favours.

But the victim is said to have warned him and had kept a distance from him, threatening that she would report the matter to the police.

The accused later hatched a plot to trap the victim and fixed a field trip to Kodagu, making it compulsory for her to attend. As Kodagu was Priya's native place and as her mother also stayed there, she agreed to the trip. Since the other business partner was also with them, Priya did not suspect any foul play. She also took her son with her for the trip which was in the month of April. The accused

had booked a single room at a five-star hotel at Virajpet, and forced the victim to stay in the same room with both the business partners.

Priya said she wanted to visit her mother and then join her boss, who had asked her to show him around Kodagu. But her mother advised her not to visit her due to the sighting of some wild animals nearby. The next morning, the other business partner left for Bengaluru due to some emergency and the victim was along with her son and the accused, in one room, said an officer part of the investigations.

During her stay in the hotel and when the victim was having a bath, the accused is said to have filmed it. He then sought sexual favours from her, but was again warned.

But the accused, after showing the victim her bathing video, threatened to show it to her husband and also upload it online. This is when he took advantage of the situation and raped her. He continued raping for her the next few days. The accused had even rented a separate flat

on Jakkur Road and had introduced the victim as his wife to the security guards and neighbours in the apartment. Fearing that the accused would upload the video online, the victim played along till her husband found out.

"After her husband learnt about the incident, the victim claims to have narrated her ordeal to him. The couple then decided to file a complaint. The North East division police have registered a complaint in this regard a few days back. Knowing that a complaint was being registered against him, the accused fled to Andhra Pradesh and is still on the run. He is also trying to obtain bail from a lower court," said the officer. The police are yet to ascertain if the other business partner who was with the accused during the field trip was aware of the motive behind the trip.

When Mirror called the firm of the accused, a marketing executive claimed the latter was not in Bengaluru and had not been coming to office for the last few weeks. Further investigations are on

G20 in China should aim at global free trade treaty!

-Dr. Abdul Ruff

Globalization and free trade

True globalization and free trade economy have been the top agenda of world economies for quite some time, but, however, practically achieving very little. Both globalization and global trade are being effectively mismanaged and thereby controlled by USA and Europe and to some extent by Russia and China to their advantages. Rest of the world has to bear the negative consequences of restricted globalization and refusal to enact global free trade.

G20, the world's top economies, is the extended version of G8, the western top economies, incorporating medium/developing economies as well to debate and make decisions on the future goals of world economy. The 2016 G20 Hangzhou summit will be the eleventh G20 meeting. It is planned to be held on 4-5 September 2016 in the city of Hangzhou, Zhejiang. It is also the first ever G20 summit to be hosted in China and the second Asian country after 2010 G20 Seoul summit was hosted in South Korea. Sandwiched between events like the Brexit vote and the US presidential election, leaders of G-20, the world's major economies meet this weekend in China presumably to take stock of the Brexit impact on world economy. But the world economies at G20 need to mount a realistic defence of the free trade and globalization they have long championed. At stake is the post-World War Two concord on globalization that proponents say has helped lift so much of the world out of poverty. China, the host of the Group of 20 meeting, has itself been one of the biggest winners from free trade, becoming the world's leading exporter. Britain's shock vote in June to leave the EU and the rise of protectionist Donald Trump in the USA has shaken that accord ahead of the G20 summit in Hangzhou that starts on Sunday.

Hangzhou in China

China as the Olympic host this year, has left no stone unturned, no wall unpainted and no sewer unsealed in getting ready Hangzhou for the G20 Summit, an annual gathering of the leaders of the world's 20 leading economies. Public offices will close for a special seven-day holiday. Private businesses have been urged to do the same, even though the summit itself only runs for two days. Hangzhou residents will receive 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) in tourism vouchers to visit other cities in Zhejiang province (of which Hangzhou is the capital) during the G20. The mayor boasts that a 760,000-strong volunteer force stands ready to serve the G20. One persistent rumor is that the city is spending 160 billion yuan (\$24 billion) on the G20. If true, this would be remarkable, eclipsing Rio's \$5 billion expenditure on the Olympics. Many public organizations, however, criticised the government for wasting money in the name of a summit and disrupting ordinary people's lives against communist principles.

Just 40 minutes west of Shanghai by bullet train, it is one of China's wealthiest cities. The misty waters of West Lake at its heart, fringed by rolling tea fields, have inspired poets for centuries. In recent years, it has become an entrepreneurial hub, most famously as the hometown of Alibaba, an e-commerce company.

The G20 summit, to be held on September 4th and 5th, will be the first in China in the eight-year history of such meetings and a hugely important diplomatic occasion for President Xi Jinping. He clearly hopes that the event will highlight how central China has become to solving the world's problems

It came as a surprise when China announced that Hangzhou, a second tier city in the eastern province of Zhejiang, would host the 2016 G-20 leaders' summit, the political equivalent of the Olympics or the World Cup.



Over the past decade, China has hosted a series of high-profile international events mainly in its first-tier cities, such as the 2008 Summer Olympics and the 2014 APEC in Beijing and the 2010 Expo in Shanghai, in order to showcase the break-neck pace of China's economic developments since it adopted the Open Door in 1978. Hangzhou, the ancient capital of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), was traditionally hailed as one of the most beautiful cities in China. The city has been transformed into a home for many high profile tech firms such as e-commerce giant Ali Baba, setting an example of how China's splendid and rich culture and history in the past can still live on in a modern city with an innovative economy.

China, the economic giant

It's an image that China wants to promote this weekend to the world's top leaders, breaking away from its image as the world's cheap labor factory. For China, it is beginning to catch up with the rest of the world in spending every year on research and development. The percentage is about 2.4% of the GDP, right now. That is close to what the United States is spending. And also, it's growing at a fast pace. To make that case, Hangzhou is an obvious choice as a G-20 summit venue.

The information economy, championed as a new driving force for economic development in the era of "new normal", accounted for 23 percent of Hangzhou's GDP, contributing to over 45 percent of GDP growth in 2015, according to Hangzhou city. It was only natural that questions were raised as to why this relatively obscure city was chosen to host the summit meeting of the world's 20 largest economies, representing two-thirds of the global population and 85% of the global economy. President Xi Jinping achieved one of the highest GDP growth rates in China during the period when he held the Communist Party's top post in this Zhejiang province between 2002 and 2007. World especially the West is eager to know whether China is capable of tackling problems stemming from slowing economic growth and overcapacity, wants to keep the focus of this year's G-20 summit on economic growth. The summit will look at ways to build "an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economy," he said.

China remains the world's major growth engine. Despite all the hand-wringing over the much vaunted China slowdown, the Chinese economy remains the single largest

contributor to world gross domestic product growth. For a global economy limping along at stall speed - and most likely unable to withstand a significant shock without toppling into renewed recession - that contribution is all the more important.

The Chinese economy accounts for fully 18 percent of world output - more than double India's 7.6 percent share. Excluding China, world GDP growth would be about 1.9 percent in 2016 - well below the 2.5 percent threshold commonly associated with global recessions. More broadly, China is expected to account for fully 73 percent of total growth of the so-called BRICS grouping of large developing economies. Chinese growth would have a much greater effect on an otherwise weak global economy than would be the case if the world were growing at something closer to its longer-term trend of 3.6 percent.

If Chinese GDP growth reaches 6.7 percent in 2016 - in line with the government's official target and only slightly above the International Monetary Fund's latest prediction (6.6 percent) - China would account for 1.2 percentage points of world GDP growth. With the IMF currently expecting only 3.1 percent global growth this year, China would contribute nearly 39 percent of the total.

Despite all the hand-wringing over the much vaunted China slowdown, the Chinese economy remains the single largest contributor to world gross domestic product growth. For a global economy limping along at stall speed - and most likely unable to withstand a significant shock without toppling into renewed recession - that contribution is all the more important.

Chinese domestic demand has the potential to become an increasingly important source of export-led growth for China's major trading partners - provided, of course, that other countries are granted free and open access to rapidly expanding Chinese markets. There are of course the global effects of a successful rebalancing of the Chinese economy. The world stands to benefit greatly if the components of China's GDP continue to shift from manufacturing-led exports and investment to services and household consumption.

A successful Chinese rebalancing scenario has the potential to jump-start global demand with a new and important source of aggregate demand - a powerful antidote to an otherwise sluggish world. That possibility should not be ignored, as political pressures bear down on the global trade debate.

Unlike the major economies of the advanced world, where policy space is severely constrained, Chinese authorities have ample scope for accommodative moves that could shore up economic activity. And, unlike the major economies of the developed world, which constantly struggle with a trade-off between short-term cyclical pressures and longer-term structural reforms, China is perfectly capable of addressing both sets of challenges simultaneously.

Concerns

This meeting should send a clear message that world leaders have heard people's concerns about globalization and are taking steps to better understand and address them. The risk is that nothing much will be achieved. More platitudes about the benefits of global trade and investment will ring hollow.

While there have been recent concessions that not everyone wins out of globalization, the White House has also signaled a renewed push on the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal as President Barack Obama's term winds down.

The G20 earned its spurs with a concerted reaction to the 2008 global financial crisis, but recently opposition to free trade seems to have gained purchase and a coherent defence has been lacking. Among the biggest sticking points is overcapacity in the global steel industry, a sore point for China as the world's largest producer of the metal. Other concerns include barriers to foreign investment, and the risk of currency devaluations to protect export markets.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde described the global economic outlook as "slightly declining growth, fragile, weak and certainly not fuelled by trade and said this week that G20 leaders need to do far more to spur demand, bolster the case for

trade and globalization, and fight inequality. The Centre for Economic Policy Research estimates that in the first eight months of 2016 alone G20 governments implemented nearly 350 measures that harmed foreign interests. The jumps in G20 protectionism in 2015 and 2016 coincide ominously with the halt in the growth of global trade volumes.

The Washington-based U.S. Chamber of Commerce fired a broadside at what it saw as creeping protectionism in the information and communications technology sector, releasing a report citing aggressive new measures from China to Russia to the EU. National security was the reason given by Australia's government when it rejected Chinese bids for an electricity grid last month, a decision that Beijing labeled as "protectionist". West is opposed to free trade with developing nations. When EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and EU Council President Donald Tusk set out their priorities for the Hangzhou meeting this week, free trade was next to last. It was preceded by the refugee crisis, jobs growth, financial stability and tax transparency. While the challenge was recognised, no solutions were offered.

The G20 might discuss how to reverse the slowdown in the growth of trade and foreign investment and to communicate the benefits of trade to citizens while addressing their concerns. The critics argue the benefits of globalization are too often over-hyped by politicians, leading to public disappointment.

Obama has promoted the TPP deal as an engine of job creation yet it might add all of 0.5 percent to economic growth after 15 years. The 12-nation TPP is the number one legislative goal of Obama's remaining term, yet is under assault at home and abroad. Both the main candidates in the November election, Republican Trump

and Democrat Hillary, have come out against it, blaming past deals for destroying Americans jobs. If anything, the TPP highlights the divisions within the G20. It was sold as the economic pillar of Obama's broader plan to shift U.S. foreign policy toward Asia and counter the rising might of the hosts of this very meeting, China.

Observation

As China, among other advancing economies are making big strides in capitalist development actions, the G7 leaders USA and EU have brought them also into what is now called the G-20. One of the reasons is to curb fast climate disorder with the help of these developing economies that are also responsible for rising sea levels, threatening the existence of island nations, like Sri Lanka, Maldives, etc.

An officially communist country, China heavily subsidizes capitalist economy of USA, finances the NATO imperialist wars, has been sympathetic to fascist aggression of Palestine by fanatic Israel, killing even children to quench its blood thirst, would not appreciate Kashmiri struggle for freedom from Indian yoke primarily because China also occupies a part of Kashmir, taken from Pakistan as a stolen gift.

The G20 needs to do better in communicating the benefits of free trade, while giving the political push that's needed to unlock stalled multilateral trade liberalization. Delivering a successful G20 summit in Hangzhou means tackling big global challenges successfully through practical actions benefit the world.

Hopefully, the G20 would seriously consider global free trade mechanism so that all under developed nations also benefit from G-20. It is urgent the G20 nations evolve a strategy for a global free trade treaty.

Shahabuddin to walk out from jail after 11 years as Patna HC grants him bail

PATNA: Siwan strongman and former RJD MP Mohammad Shahabuddin is all set to walk out of jail after 11 years, as Patna high court has granted him bail in the much-publicised Rajiv Raushan murder case.

Rajiv was prime witness in the case of brutal murder of his two brothers- Girish Raj and Satish Raj- at Shahabuddin's native village in Siwan district on August 16, 2004.

Rajiv was shot dead in Siwan on June 16, 2014 when Shahabuddin was in jail. Shahabuddin's son Osama was accused of killing Rajiv, while the jailed former MP was later made accused in the case as conspirator.

A single bench of Justice Jitendra Mohan Sharma granted bail to Shahabuddin in Rajiv murder case on Wednesday. The former lawmaker is already on bail in the case related to murder of brothers, Girish Raj and Satish Raj+ .

"As Shahabuddin has got bail from different courts in all other criminal cases pending against him, he can now walk out of the jail after completing certain formalities," his counsel Y V Giri told reporters.

A police officer said, Shahabuddin, who is currently lodged in Bhagalpur central jail, was now being shifted to Siwan district jail. The former MP might reach Siwan by Thursday evening or Friday, he said.

The former MP would have to complete certain legal formalities at Siwan CJM court on the basis of Patna high court's bail order, and he would be freed to walk out from the jail.

The former MP is in jail since November 2005 after he was rounded-off from his residence in New Delhi by a joint team of Siwan Police and Delhi Police. he should not have been given bail as he himself involved in so many murders, it is all his manipulation and cleverly deleted all his evidence with the help of Police and politicians. Mithilesh Kumar Captain

Shahabuddin was transferred to Bhagalpur Central jail+ from Siwan district jail a few months back after the sensational murder of Hindi newspaper journalist Rajdev Ranjan+ in which one of his close associates, Laddan Miyan has been named. Rajdev Ranjan was killed on May 13, 2016 near Siwan railway station allegedly by some criminals hired by a local gang lord.

Police said, Shahabuddin- who represented Siwan in the Lok Sabha for four times after winning parliamentary elections as RJD nominee in 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2004-- is facing serious criminal charges in around 40 cases lodged with different police stations. Most of the cases are lodged in Siwan district, his home turf. But he is now got bail in all the cases.



Chinese media lash out at US Asia policy

NEW DELHI: Chinese state-run media outlets soundly attacked the US for its increasing foreign policy focus on the Asia Pacific. Even as they took a softer tone when referring to US President Barack Obama, they panned the foreign policy reorientation that he spearheaded.

Editorials in two government-run newspapers - Global Times and China Daily - focussed on US foreign policy under Obama, a day after the completion of the ASEAN Summit in Laos. Obama became the first US President to participate in a summit of the grouping of Southeast Asian nations, many of whom are grappling with China's expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Even as it gave Obama credit for raising the Asia Pacific region's place in America's foreign policy priorities, the China Daily editorial said, "With his days in office numbered, Obama cannot do much to press ahead with the pivot he has sought to engineer, which has not progressed as smoothly as he no doubt hoped. Not because the idea is flawed, but because its execution has been."

"The problem is, rather than wanting to



be a member of an Asian community of shared destiny, the US has returned to the Asia-Pacific flexing its muscles, and thus expecting to get its own way. The idea of justifying the US' militaristic pivot with the tensions it has created is counterproductive. Unless it comes to help consolidate the region's peaceful environment, the US will only end up hurting its own fundamental interests, as Asian countries are preoccupied with working together

for common development," the editorial added, even as it skipped mention of the tensions that Beijing faces with nearly every Southeast Asian country.

however was less charitable towards the US. "The core of the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific includes deployment of 60 percent of US naval assets to Asia, the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal, and smart diplomacy which aims at alienating China

from other countries," it read.

Even as it characterized Obama as the US President with the "least hard-line" on China, it painted a bleak picture of the future of relations between Washington and Beijing, and said the strains placed on relations by the current dispensation would help China emerge with more maturity.

"As long as China's GDP is getting close to that of the US, Washington will put Beijing in check, with or without the rebalance strategy. China should adopt a calm mind and handle complicated matters with ease," the Global Times editorial said.

The editorials give an insight into a possible siege mindset that setting in among Beijing's foreign policy mandarins. China has expressed an increasingly displeased line on the rising US presence in the region. Expanding ties and exchanges between the US and other nations in the Asia Pacific, including India's attempt to step up engagement in the region have seen China feel the pressure of encirclement.

Padamsee work sells for Rs 19 crore, sets new record

NEW DELHI: An iconic grey painting by Indian modernist Akbar Padamsee has sold for Rs 19 crore (\$2.9 million), setting a new auction record for the artist.

The painting titled Greek Landscape went for double the estimate at Thursday's Saffronart auction in Delhi, and surpassed the 88-year-old artist's previous record of Rs 6.3 crore set in 2011 for a magnificent nude. Both the paintings were painted in

the 1960s when Padamsee produced few paintings and only worked in shades of grey.

Renouncing the rich colour palette of his early years, Padamsee, who was encouraged to become an artist by The Aga Khan, chose to paint in grey between 1959-1960. "Grey is without prejudice; it does not discriminate between object and space," the Mumbai-based artist said.

Greek Landscape uses varying intensities of grey to capture a spectacular cityscape which critic Saryu Doshi surmises could be a Mediterranean locale.

The Saffronart sale in Delhi set two other records — Nasreen Mohamedi's 1960 oil on canvas sold for Rs 2.4 crore and Gaganendranath Tagore's Ruben's Sketch Book sold for Rs 1.8 crore.



Air China says beware of London's areas with Indians, Pakistanis, black people

NEW DELHI: A Chinese journalist today brought to attention Air China's racist warning to passengers about moving around in London - avoid areas populated by Indians, Pakistanis and black people.

"London is generally a safe place to travel, however precautions are needed when entering areas mainly populated by Indians, Pakistanis and black people," Air China says in its in-flight magazine.

Haze Fan, the journalist tweeted a photograph of the 'warning' to London mayor Sadiq Khan. She also wrote about it for CNBC.com.

"The advice (of the airline) is at odds with the London promoted by its Mayor Sadiq Khan, a Brit with Pakistani parents,

who in July launched a #LondonisOpen campaign and frequently blogs about his favourite places to eat and drink in his South London Indian-Pakistani neighbourhood of Tootin," the journalist wrote.

Fan mentions a recent racist laundry detergent advertisement made in China.

"Chinese companies have been criticized previously for their depictions of various races. In May, a Chinese laundry detergent-maker apologized for an advertisement that showed an Asian woman shoving a dirt-smudged black man into a washing machine, only for him to emerge as a clean Asian man," the journalist wrote.



Some Western media, fan said, called the detergent advertisement, which ran on Chinese social media platforms, "the most racist commercial ever."

Indian Political Activist Ends 16-Year Hunger Strike by Eating Honey

(IMPHAL, India) — One of India's most prominent political activists ended a 16-year hunger strike Tuesday, licking honey from her hand and declaring "I will never forget this moment."

From Sharmila had been force-fed through a tube in her nose and held by police since November 2000, when she began her fast to protest a draconian security law that gives immense power to security forces in the northeastern state of Manipur.

Earlier Tuesday, a judge had granted her bail after she assured him that she planned to end her fast.

Hours later, she appeared at a news conference, the nose tube already removed, and tasted the honey.

She said she plans to run in the next Manipur state elections, in early 2017, to fight to have the security act struck down.

"I need power to remove this act," said Sharmila, 44. "I am the real embodiment of revolution."

Asked how she felt to finally eat, she said

"I will never forget this moment."

She began her fast days after 10 civilians were killed by paramilitary soldiers in Manipur, which has long been plagued by uprisings by ethnic separatist militants and violent government crackdowns.

She was charged with attempting suicide, a crime in India, allowing officials to force feed her.

Sharmila announced last week that she planned to end the fast and run for political office.

On Tuesday, an official with Amnesty International India said the fast was "a testament to her passion for human rights."

"The government arrested her, confined her to a hospital room and force fed her for 16 years, seemingly to break her will. There was zero dialogue. A peaceful protest was criminalized," said the official, Abhir VP.

The Armed Forces Special Powers Act is in effect in Indian-ruled Kashmir and in a number of northeastern areas facing sepa-



ratist insurgencies. The law gives security forces the right to shoot to kill suspected rebels without fear of possible prosecution and to arrest suspected militants without warrants. It also gives police wide-ranging powers of search and seizure.

The act prohibits soldiers from being prosecuted for alleged rights violations except with express permission from the federal

government. Such prosecutions are rare.

Manipur, like some other parts of the northeast, faces unrest from separatist militant groups fighting for ethnic enclaves or independent states. Most northeasterners are ethnically more tied to China or Myanmar than they are to most of India.

Chinese military equips all ground forces with new attack helicopters

BEIJING: China's military has equipped all of its ground forces with advanced WZ-10 combat helicopters which will be used to target battle tanks and air-to-air combat missions, a strategic move+ which could have implications for India+ .

Several WZ-10s have been delivered to an aviation brigade of the PLA's 13th Group Army under the Western Theatre Command, the People's Liberation Army's TV news channel reported.

This means that all of the Army's aviation units now have this advanced attack helicopter, state-run China Daily reported.

Senior Colonel Xu Guolin, deputy chief of the PLA Army's Aviation Equipment Bureau, told the news channel that all of the group armies will have at least one aviation brigade or regiment.

The helicopter was designed primarily for anti-tank missions, but now has a secondary air-to-air combat capability.

Wu Peixin, an aviation analyst in Beijing, said the PLA Army now has a strong force of dedicated combat helicopters thanks to the service of the WZ-10 and WZ-19, another attack helicopter that is less powerful than the WZ-10.

"The Army now needs more medium-lift, multipurpose helicopters such as the US Army's Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk," he said.

"This helicopter is capable of performing both combat operations and transport tasks."

Gao Zhuo, a military observer in Shanghai, said the PLA Army needs at least 3,000 helicopters, especially heavy-lift



transport types and multipurpose models.

Meanwhile, the Chinese military has discounted media reports that China's stealth fighter J-20, currently undergoing trials, will be deployed in Tibet along the India-China border.

Reacting to reports that J-20 spotted at the Daocheng Yading Airport in Tibet, an article in the PLA website said that J-20 will be put into service soon but the 'China-India border is apparently not the ideal place for its deployment'.

"In addition, the world's highest airport there does not have a complete set of supporting facilities and such shortage will impede the function of J-20," it said.

"J-20 will not be deployed in Daocheng Yading airport as the airport is too close to the border, and it is vulnerable to India's first wave hit. If India is to deploy BrahMos missile on the China-India border, then the Daocheng Yading

airport will likely to become its target," it said.

"Experts pointed out that for India, China is undoubtedly its largest opponent and therefore every move of the Chinese military will touch the nerve of Indian media," it said.

"India is not yet the biggest threat for China and though confrontation events along the border would occur from time to time, the overall situation is rather stable," it said.

"In this way, China does not put too much emphasis and focus targeting India. Chinese equipment deployment and drills along the border are mostly confirmatory, mainly to gain experience, improve high-altitude combat capability, and form deterrent ability," it said.

Face transplants: The ups and downs

PARIS: Ten years and 36 operations later, the face transplant+ remains a tricky endeavour+ with a long list of health and mental risks to be weighed against the benefits, experts say.

A major procedure, it helps many patients resume basic tasks such as breathing, eating and speaking, and restores non-verbal communication through smiles and frowns.

For many, the big change+ is being able to appear in public without being stared at.

But recipients also face an uphill psychological battle living with someone else's face, and life-long reliance on immunosuppressant medicines+ , with their side-effects.

The drugs rein in the body's immune system, which can target a transplant organ as a foreign intruder to be attacked and wiped out.

But in checking this protective response, the body is left vulnerable to a wide array of infections and cancers.

"Anti-rejection treatments take a heavy toll on patients," Paris-based plastic surgeon Jean-Pierre Meningaud said after Tues-

day's announcement of the death of the world's first face graft recipient, Isabelle Dinoire.

Meningaud, who has performed seven such transplants, called for a hold on the procedure pending advances in immunosuppressing therapy.

Every single one of his patients have had at least one rejection episode, "which leads to higher doses of drugs, and with them, the risks," he told AFP.

Two of Meningaud's seven patients have died -- one of whom committed suicide.

The university hospital of Amiens-Picardie, where Dinoire's operation was performed in November 2005, said finding the right "balance" between protecting the new face and the rest of the body was a tall order.

On top of the risk of tumours and infections, it said, immunosuppressants can have severe side-effects such as diabetes, diminished kidney function and osteoporosis.

So far, six of the 36 people to have received face transplants globally since 2005 have died.

The operation itself is long, complex and not without risks, and recovery is long, say the experts.

"It is important to remember that facial transplantation is still under evaluation," the university said in a statement.

"It is listed under clinical research and is not considered a routine procedure."

Maimed by her dog, Dinoire received part of a brain-dead person's face in a historic, 15-hour operation at the age of 38.

She died in April this year from a rare tumour which the hospital said "cannot be scientifically linked to immunosuppressant treatment" she was taking.

Since the transplant, Dinoire had suffered many infections, another tumour, diminished kidney function and high blood pressure.

"There are some experts that question the risk associated with face transplantation as it is not a life-saving operation," states the Transplantation Services department of the University of California in Los Angeles.

"However, the candidates with facial disfigurement live with social isolation and fear of rejection from their appearance affecting their quality of life," according to its website.

For Meningaud's colleague Laurent Lantieri, the procedure must be reserved for severely disfigured people with no alternative, such as regular plastic surgery.

"There has not been enough of a revolution in immunology since these questions were first raised... to warrant widespread use of the technique," he said on France 5 television on Wednesday.

For face transplant recipient Jerome Hamon, however, the procedure has been a life-changer.

"I have changed, I am more open towards other people," he said on French radio after news broke of Dinoire's death.

"The looks, the teasing, it has all disappeared. I finally feel like I'm living."

Why do US, Iran often face off in Persian Gulf?

DUBAI: The US Navy again has accused Iranian patrol boats of harassing an American warship+ in the Persian Gulf, this time with a Revolutionary Guard vessel nearly causing a collision+ with the USS Firebolt. Why does this keep happening?

Heavy US military presence

The US Navy has had a regular presence in the Persian Gulf since the end of World War II. It ramped up its involvement in the region after Iran's 1979 revolution, which toppled the US-backed shah and alarmed Washington's Gulf Arab allies. The 1991 Gulf War and the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq+ brought even more American forces to the region. Today US ships patrol the Gulf and its narrow Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly a third of all oil traded by sea passes. Iran views the US presence as a provocation.

During the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, Iran mined portions of the Persian Gulf and several commercial ships sank. In 1988, the USS Samuel B Roberts struck a mine and nearly sank. That sparked a daylong naval battle between Iran and the US in



which American forces attacked two Iranian oil rigs and sank or damaged six Iranian vessels. A few months later, the USS Vincennes in the Strait of Hormuz mistook an Iran Air flight heading to Dubai for an attacking fighter jet, shooting down the plane and killing all 290 people onboard.

The hard-liners who dominate Iran's security forces were largely opposed to the landmark nuclear deal that President Hassan Rouhani, a moderate, reached with the United States and other world powers last year. Police have arrested a number

of dual citizens on security-related allegations since the deal was struck, and there has also been an uptick in provocative acts at sea. The US Navy has recorded 31 instances of what it describes as "unsafe and/or unprofessional interactions" with Iranian forces this year alone, compared to 23 in all of 2015.

Rocket launches and sailor seizures

The provocations cited by the US Navy were largely blamed on Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary force charged with protecting clerical rule. Iranian speed-

boats fired rockets near US warships and commercial traffic in December, and an Iranian drone overflew an American aircraft carrier in January. Iran also briefly seized 10 US sailors in the Gulf at gunpoint in January after their boats drifted into Iranian territorial waters.

In Sunday's incident, the Guard's fast-attack boats came within some 450 meters (500 yards) of the USS Firebolt, with one stopping right in front of the coastal patrol boat, said Cmdr. Bill Urban, a spokesman for the US Navy's 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain. Urban said the USS Firebolt turned and missed the boat by only some 90 meters (100 yards)

For the US Navy, each "unsafe" Iranian action "creates a significant risk for our ship's commanding officers, who have mere seconds to decide on appropriate actions to take to defend their ships and crew," Urban said Wednesday. Iran has vowed to continue its patrols, has blown up replicas of US vessels in drills and says it can close the Strait of Hormuz at will.

PTI files petition with Supreme Court seeking PM's disqualification

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking disqualification of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from his office as well as the National Assembly.

The petition, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, was filed by PTI's counsel Naeem Bukhari on behalf of party chairman Imran Khan. It has been filed against 10 respondents, which include Nawaz Sharif, his daughter, sons and government institutions.

"We plea to the Supreme Court to review the evidence, documents and the contradictions, we have raised and provide justice to entire nation," Naeem-ul-Haq, spokesperson to the PTI chair-

man, said.

Haq said his party believed that on basis of the evidence presented before the court, Nawaz Sharif was no more eligible to remain the prime minister.

PTI counsel Bukhari told reporters that they have submitted the petition with the apex court's registrar office, which will decide if it is maintainable.

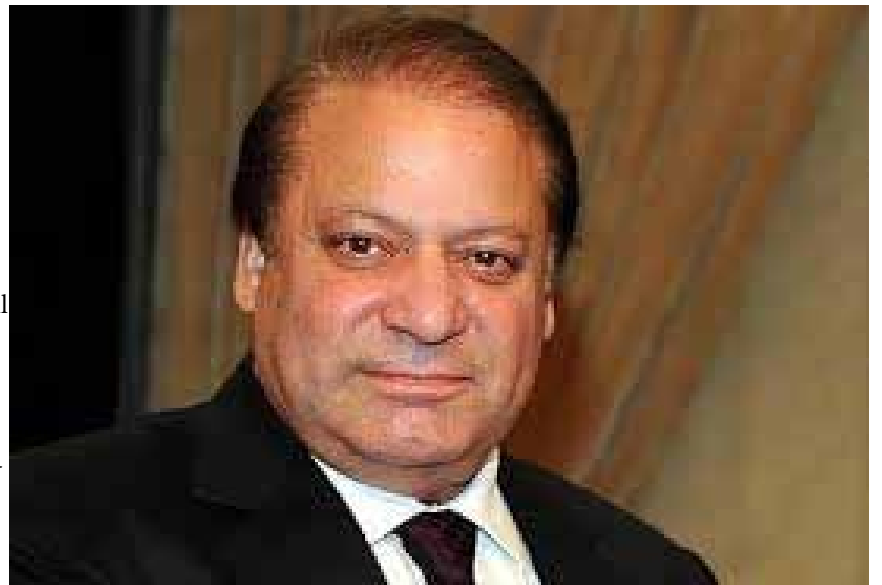
The PTI counsel claimed the petition was flawless and that it was enclosed with records of previous speeches made by Prime Minister Nawaz.

He also referred to the Supreme Court's decision regarding disqualification of former premier Yousaf Raza Gilani, saying that

the court "disqualified him because by violating law, he acted against the will of masses".

"Justice Khawaja in his note had made it clear that if an elected prime minister violates the Constitution or law, it will be translating into acting against the will of people, so such a person could not retain the office or membership of an assembly," Bukhari said.

He was of the view that on the same grounds, Nawaz was also not eligible to remain in office as "he acted against the will of masses by lying in the National Assembly".



Bukhari told reporters that their petition is based on the prime minister's May 16 speech delivered on the floor of the National Assembly. "A statement delivered on the floor of an assembly pos-

sesses prestige," he said, adding that were a lot of contradictions between the facts and the claims made by Nawaz.

Air Commodore Zafar Masud: A Pakistani Hero

On the 51st Pakistan Air Force Day

By Nasim Yousaf

Air Commodore Mohammad Zafar Masud (HJ, SBT) was fondly known as Mitty Masud in the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). Born on October 17, 1927, he obtained his commission in the General Duty Pilot (GD [P]) Branch of the Royal Indian Air Force. Masud's Commission Date was February 25, 1946 and Service No. was 3314 (according to Bharat Rakshak, an Indian news archive website). Masud was one of the pioneers of the PAF. September 7th was declared as Pakistan Air Force Day in large part due to the accomplishments of PAF Base Sargodha (now PAF Base Mushaf), where Masud was the Base Commander, during the 1965 war with India. This piece is written to mark Air Force Day and to remember Masud as one of the 1965 war's heroes.

Masud was born into a prominent and highly educated family. He was the eldest son of Zafar Hussain Khan and Zakia Sultana (the daughter of Allama Mashriqi's sister, Aisha Begum). Masud's father held important positions in the Government of British India and also in Pakistan following partition. In August of 1947, Z.H. Khan was appointed as Secretary (Communications and Railways) to the Government of Pakistan and later Chairman of the Karachi Port Trust (1950 to 1953). Masud's uncle was Chaudhry Nazir Ahmad, a Federal Minister in Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan's cabinet and who later became Attorney General of Pakistan. His sister, Adeeba, was married to Brigadier M. Afzal Khan. While in Karachi, Masud met Elisabeth (a German lady) at Siemens, whose Chairman was Masud's maternal uncle Zain ud Din Ahmad (Mashriqi's nephew); Masud and Elisabeth married in the said city on June 26, 1959.

The Royal Pakistan Air Force (later Pakistan Air Force) was born on midnight of August 14, 1947, Pakistan's independence day. The Force was poor initially - in both qualitative and quantitative terms - and it inherited Squadrons 5, 6, and 9 as well as Maintenance Unit and Aircraft Repair Depot No. 301. The number of pilots, engineers, and non-commissioned officers in the organization at the time was small as compared to its needs. This newly formed force represented the total assets of Pakistan's Air Force (along with air force stations in Kohat, Peshawar, Risalpur, Chaklala, Lahore, Malir, Drig Road, and Korangi Creek).

With the emergence of Pakistan, Masud opted to join the Pakistan Air Force and, along with other officers, take on the challenge of converting the newly established organization into the one of the best fighting machines in the world. Masud excelled during his days in the Air Force. In the 1950s, he was sent to the Royal Air Force College (RAFC) in Cranwell, England, where he earned the best foreign student award. On February 25, 1957, Masud set up the first 7-Sabre aerobatic team, known as the Falcons, at Muripur (Sabre jets had been inducted into the PAF on June 13, 1956). Air Marshal Asghar Khan selected Masud to organize an air show of the US-made F-86 Sabre jets. On February 02, 1958, Masud led an impressive performance and set a world record at the air show. The book *The Story of the Pakistan Air Force: A Saga and Honour* described the event as follows: "PAF Stages first-in-the-world 16 aircraft formation loop on Sabre at air display at Mauripur witnessed by King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan." The following year, on June 15, 1958, Masud founded the Fighter Leaders' School (FLS)

at Muripur in Karachi (the FLS's name was changed to Combat Commanders' School and today operates from PAF Base Mushaf).

In 1965, war broke out between Pakistan and India. Group Captain (later Air Commodore) Masud was the Base Commander of PAF Base Sargodha. Under Masud's command, on September 7, 1965, PAF Base Sargodha achieved an important victory over the Indian Air Force, a significantly larger organization. The book *The Story of the Pakistan Air Force: A Saga and Honour* (TSPAF) stated, "PAF Sargodha [PAF Base Mushaf] inflicts crippling defeat upon IAF [Indian Air Force] in air combats." The PAF pilots (including Squadron Leader [later Air Commodore] M.M. Alam) performed outstandingly and the President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan (accompanied by Air Marshal Nur Khan and General Mohammad Musa), flew to Sargodha to congratulate Masud. The Air Commodore received the President and introduced the pilots to him (see YouTube for a video dedicated to Masud). It was clear that Masud's courage, tactical planning, guidance and training of the pilots had helped tremendously in achieving superiority over the much larger IAF. Masud was awarded the Hilal-i-Jurat and many of his pilots were also given military awards. And September 7th was declared Yaum-e-Fazia (Pakistan Air Force Day). It continues to be celebrated annually in Pakistan.

Following the 1965 war, Masud was promoted to the rank of Air Commodore and, in 1969, he was included in a high-powered Pakistan Armed Forces delegation to China. The delegation was led by late General (later President) Yahya Khan.

During their stay, the delegation members were given a rousing welcome by Chinese authorities. Masud and other members of the delegation also met Chairman Mao Tse-Tung.



In 1970, Masud was assigned command of the PAF East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). He was asked to use force against the Bengalis, but he took a principled stand and proposed a political settlement instead. This difference led to his resignation (for more information, read my works on Masud).

Air Commodore Masud died on October 07, 2003 and was buried in Rawalpindi with full military honors. He shall always be remembered as a hero for his services to the Pakistan Air Force and his country. A Facebook page has been dedicated to him at: [facebook.com/AirCommodoreMZafarMasud](https://www.facebook.com/AirCommodoreMZafarMasud).

Nasim Yousaf, author and researcher, has written 15 books and digitized several important files of rare documents related to the Indian sub-continent's history. He has been featured in American publications (including *Who's Who in the World*) and his books are available in top research and academic libraries around the world.

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Majuli becomes first island district of India

MAJULI: The seat of neo-Vaishnavite Bhakti renaissance - on Thursday became India's first island district+ with Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurating it as the 35th district of Assam.

"The long cherished dream of the people of Majuli has been fulfilled today. However, to give a fillip to the growth momentum of the district a comprehensive approach is required," he said, adding that the government is committed to propel Majuli into the "fast growth trajectory."

The inauguration of Majuli as a district+ coincides with the 90th birth anniversary of music maestro and Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Bhupen Hazarika+ .

"If we want to usher in an era of development in Majuli+ , everybody has to render their concerted efforts. Emergence of Majuli as a full-fledged district+ on the birth day of Bhupen Hazarika is indeed a matter of joy, pleasure and pride", he said.

"As Majuli is a treasure trove of potentialities and possibilities, the district has to tread the path of development in tandem with the development initiatives taken in the fields of art and culture, PWD, tour-

ism, rural development, health and sports, agriculture, water resources, soil conservation," Sonowal, who represents it in the assembly, said at a function.

Elaborating on the development work of the government, he said the construction of Bogibeel bridge was at its terminal stage, while Dhola-Sadiya Bridge will be commissioned in 2017.

He said Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari had announced construction of a 122 km road connecting Majuli, besides two other bridges on the Brahmaputra.

The proposed cultural university in Majuli will enable research and advanced studies of art and culture of the state, he said.

The cabinet meeting, which was held at Majuli for the first time outside Guwahati, had decided that a centre of water resources would be set up in the island to suggest remedial steps for the recurring flood and erosion there.

Indians travelling more, spending more on trips

NEW DELHI: Indian travellers are getting increasingly younger. They are also travelling and spending more than ever before, according to a survey by MakeMyTrip. Sample this: 30% of new travellers are in the age group of 18 to 24 years, compared to 24% last year and both spending and average vacation time period is up by 10%.

Data collated from bookings on MakeMyTrip scanning over 400 cities travellers shows that on an average Indians holidayed from 7-9 days last year which has increased from 12-14 days this year with people clubbing multiple destinations in their itinerary. Spending has increased to Rs 50,000 for short haul destinations and a lakh for long haul trips.

More people are taking 3-4 long weekend breaks in a year and a couple of short-holidays, especially during the festive season, said the survey conducted between January-June 2016. The India Travel Report 2016 also revealed that Indians took 1.7 trips this year as compared to 1.5 in the same time period in 2015.

Speaking on the report, Rajesh Magow, Co-Founder and CEO-India, MakeMyTrip said, "Travellers are increasingly becoming younger. Just like financial or career ambition, people now have travel ambition especially the younger generation. This has had a direct effect on the travel landscape of the country which is now being driven by young Indian travellers."

Indians made more impromptu international travel booking as 65% of international travellers now plan within 4 weeks compared to 59% until June last year. South east Asia, Middle East, Gulf continue to be the top searched international destinations for Indian travellers. While Mumbai-Dubai was the top searched route in 2016 and saw the highest growth (71%), Delhi-Goa were the most popular route for domestic travel and saw the highest growth (200%).

Consequent to younger travellers, mobile usage has also increased. Mobile transactions saw a growth of 313% and constitutes for 54% of the total transactions, as compared to 25% last year.

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau now a Marvel comic superhero

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made his comic book debut in the latest issue of Marvel's 'Civil War II: Choosing Sides.' Lounging in his corner of the boxing ring, Trudeau rocks Canadian Maple-Leaf gear with red boxing gloves and black shorts on the comic's cover image, reports the Independent.

The 44-year-old Prime Minister joins the Canadian superhero team 'Alpha Flight,' with the likes of Sasquatch, Aurora, and Puck. Reportedly, a limited number of the 'variant' issue will feature Canada's Prime Minister surrounded by 'Alpha Flight.'

According to the comic's cartoonist Ramon Perez, "I was going for a little bit of, I guess, a little bit of attitude, a little bit of smugness, like you don't know if he's already been

boxing for a little bit and he's going back in, or he's just starting out and gearing himself up." He even mentioned that his depictions originally included a shirtless Trudeau, but Marvel thought the images were a bit too risqué.

The thought came after the Prime Minister was spotted topless last month, camping with his family, which caused quite a stir on social media. "And then about two weeks or three weeks ago, Justin's popping up in media topless, here and there, camping with his family and stuff like that," Perez said, adding, "And I'm like, there you go, we could have had him topless."

His late father Pierre Trudeau, former prime minister of Canada, also made an appearance in 1979 in Marvel's 'Uncanny X-Men' series.

I think he's like Professor Lokhart from Harry Potter, just a showman without any good who just got in due to his ancestry. Dhairya Mehta

"I didn't want this to just be like a walk-on rescued by superheroes and he thanks them and that's the end of the story," writer Chip Zdarsky recently told.

"I think a lot of these real-life appearances in comics tend to go that way. I liked the idea of him actually engaging them in an ethical debate. It's a little tricky just because once you start to put words in the prime minister's mouth, we acknowledge that this is basically Trudeau fan fiction," Zdarsky added.



Dark Chocolate Movie Review

Story: Everybody knows the story. High-profile socialite mother kills her daughter. As the real-life story started to unfold last year, the world lapped up the salacious and sleazy tale of Indrani and Peter Mukerjee's involvement in killing Sheena. Evidently, it is not easy to craft a thriller when the suspense is open and out among the audience. That was the challenge for Dark Chocolate. And despite numerous missteps, director Agnidev Chatterjee has done a good job.

Review: The film starts where the real story started in mid-2015. A charred, mutilated and buried corpse is found in the woods somewhere near Mumbai. The police commissioner gets an anonymous phone call with some more leads and deploys two senior investigating officers Abhishek (Indrasish Roy) and Payel (Mumtaz Sorcar). The duo arrests socialite Ishani Banerjee's (Mahima Chaudhary) driver Ram Charan (Rajesh Sharma) in an illegal

arms-dealing case and he spills the beans about his employer's plan to bump off Reena (Riya Sen) - Ishani's daughter. Based on the driver's confession, the cops arrest Ishani and in the investigation room, the film takes a detour to Ishani's past (played by Riya again).

From here on, the film does a back and forth between Ishani's abused past and glitzy but solitary present. The film culminates after the police arrest Victor Banerjee (Sudip Mukherjee) - Ishani's media baron husband.

There are multiple sloppy moments in the film. The chase sequence in the beginning, the blunt English conversation between the TV news anchor and his guest, use of some hideous filters to portray flashbacks - the list is endless. The film, in a word, lacks subtlety.

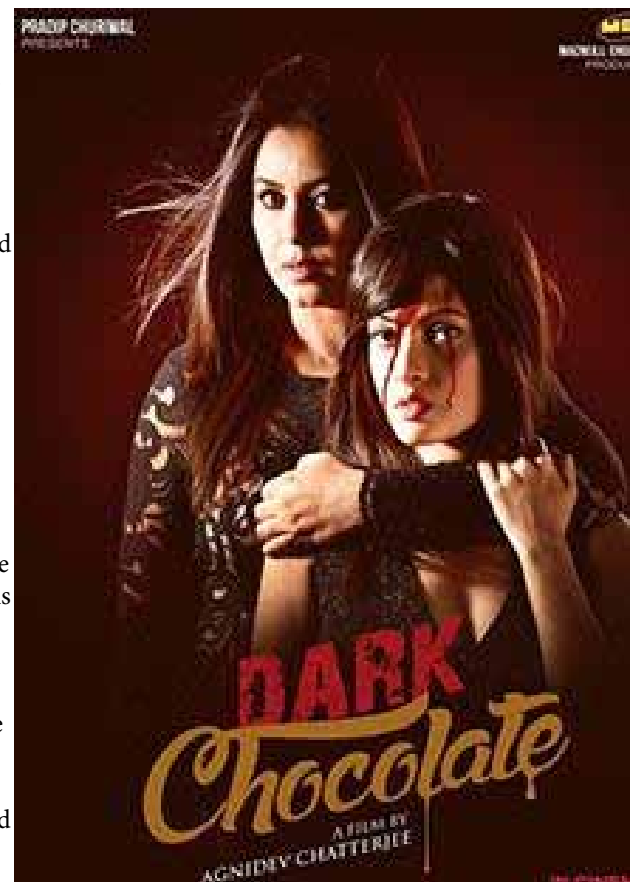
However, there are quite a few high points too. The flashback of Ishani's past, portrayed by Riya, and her abusive, foulmouthed, rapist stepfather Sumanta Mukhopadhyay, is truly unsettling.

But the masterstroke in the film is the Roshomon-esque treatment of the confession sequences of Ram Charan, Ishani and

her second husband Shadab (Shataf Figar). All three tell their own version of the same story and the director knits them together suitably.

The performances, like the rest of the film, have highs and lows. Mahima Chowdhary, practically the backbone of the film, is very convincing as Ishani. In fact, her broken Bengali too goes well with the essentially snob character she plays. Shafat Figar too has done a smart job as one of Ishani's husbands and an accomplice to the murder. The conflict and helplessness of his character are nicely shown. Indrasish and Mumtaz look good as kickass cops. Their compatibility was perhaps the sole consistent feature in the film. However, their swearing is not seamless. They appeared to be forced on their diction.

Two performances need to be noted here. One is that of Kaushik Sen. He plays the role of numbskull but maliciously cynical first husband of Ishani. He is excellent in his limited screen presence. And there is this curious case of Riya Sen. As the young Ishani, Riya is outstanding. She portrays the intricate and brittle character brilliantly. However, it seems her acting skill takes a nosedive as Reena. She looks and acts like a plastic doll with absolutely no nuance in most of the second half of the



film.

The film looks like a docu-feature where most of the story is based on reportage. The case in point is sub-judice, hence there was little room for insight. However, the Sheena Bora murder case was devoured by the common people in this country. This frill-free film can be seen as a visual chronicle of the covetous, rare and bloody real-life drama.



Yea Toh Too Much Ho Gayaa Movie Review

Story: Acting on instinct, Mann bashes up a guy who eve-teases his girlfriend. Unfortunately, the guy turns out to be the younger brother of a gangster in Thailand. Will Mann suffer the same fate or will luck favour him?

Review: Scenic locales, beautiful ladies, comedy and action; Yea Toh Too Much Ho Gayaa (YTTMHG) has everything that goes into making an entertainer. Yet, it doesn't really entertain.

Mann (Jimmy) is looking to make it big in Thailand but after the encounter with the gangster's (Arbaaz) younger

brother, his life is at risk. His girlfriend Tina (Bruna) convinces him that in order to escape the gangster's wrath, he must go back to India. On the other hand, Mann's twin brother Mohan embarks on a mission to bring his brother back to India too. Call it coincidence or a chance turn of events (or lazy scripting), while Mann lands in India to meet his brother and mother (Zarina), Mohan ends up in Thailand. Now, both the brothers have to resolve problems plaguing their lives, only, by swapping identities.

Many might consider watching Jimmy Shergill in a double role a treat, but even the talented actor (multiplied by two) can't salvage a film that's predictable. Unlike most

of his other films though, Jimmy gets the girl this time. But to ensure that, he has to do something he's clearly uncomfortable with - dance.

Arbaaz Khan maintains the same expression throughout. Bruna Abdullah and Pooja Chopra just add the glam factor and nothing else to the film. Patchy editing and stereotyped characters hamper YTTMHG further.

The film suffers from a wannabe syndrome. It wants to do a lot but only ends up making the viewer say 'Yea toh too much ho gaya.'



HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

3 July	<i>Raees</i>	Crime/Thriller	Rahul Dholakia	Shah Rukh Khan, Mahira Khan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Arya Babbar
3 July	<i>Sultan</i>	Sports/Drama	Ali Abbas Zafar	Salman Khan, Anushka Sharma, Randeep Hooda
15 July	<i>Happy Bhaag Jayegi</i>	Comedy	Mudassar Aziz	Abhay Deol, Diana Penty, Momal Sheikh, Ali Fazal
29 July	<i>Dishoom</i>	Action	Rohit Dhawan	John Abraham, Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Saqib Saleem, Ram Kapoor, Nargis Fakhri, Khanna
29 July	<i>Nonsense</i>	Comedy	Sangeeth Sivan	Sharman Joshi, Vir Das, Zarine Khan
12 August	<i>Mohenjo Daro</i>	Drama	Ashutosh Gowariker	Hrithik Roshan, Pooja Hegde, Kabir Bedi, Arunoday Singh
12 August	<i>Phir Hera Pheri 3</i>	Comedy	Neeraj Vora	John Abraham, Abhishek Bachchan, Paresh Rawal
12 August	<i>Rustom</i>	Romance/Thriller	Neeraj Pandey	Akshay Kumar, Ileana D'Cruz, Esha Gupta
19 August	<i>Banjo</i>	Drama	Ravi Jadhav	Riteish Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri
25 August	<i>A Flying Jatt</i>	Action	Remo D'Souza	Tiger Shroff, Jacqueline Fernandez, Salman Yusuff Khan, Shraddha Kapoor
2 September	<i>Dhoni: The Untold Story</i>	Sports/Biopic	Neeraj Pandey	Sushant Singh Rajput, Ram Charan, Anupam Kher, Fawad Khan, Kiara Advani, John Abraham, Zaheer Khan, Manjot Singh
9 September	<i>Baar Baar Dekho</i>	Romance/Drama	Nitya Mehra	Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif, Ram Kapoor, Annu Kapoor
23 September	<i>Manmarziyan</i>	Romance	Sameer Sharma	Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar
30 September	<i>Rangoon</i>	Romance/Drama	Vishal Bhardwaj	Shahid Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut, Saif Ali Khan

Nargis Fakhri left India as she was fighting a life-threatening disease



Nargis Fakhri left India during the promotions of 'Housefull 3' as the actress was fighting a life-threatening disease.

The actress sparked rumours that she left India because she had broken up with rumoured boyfriend Uday Chopra. But, the actress recently in an interview to a leading daily said, "When I came here, I had arsenic and lead poisoning and no one knew what was wrong with me. It can happen in many ways — it could be in the water, food, rusted lead pipes in an old building. The doctor tested me, but he was so scared because it was at a very high level and I asked him 'What do I do?' Then I cured myself."

She added, "Ayurveda is based on naturopathy, herbs basically but it was a combination of different things that I researched and six months later I got the test done again and there was nothing! The doctor was like 'Oh, my God! How did you do this?' And I said I will tell you when I see you."

Fakhri made her Bollywood film debut playing the female lead in Imtiaz Ali's musical romantic drama *Rockstar* in 2011. Film critic Taran Adarsh wrote, "Nargis is a stunner as far as looks are concerned, but isn't persuasive in poignant moments", however, he praised her on-screen chemistry with co-star Ranbir Kapoor.

She starred opposite John Abraham in Shoojit Sircar's political thriller *Madras Cafe* (2013). Film critic Saibal Chatterjee said Fakhri "strikes the right notes", whereas Rajeev Masand called her "pleasantly competent". Later that year, she made a special appearance in

the action comedy *Phata Poster Nikhla Hero* to perform in the item number "Dhating Naach" with the film's lead actor Shahid Kapoor.

In 2014, Fakhri appeared alongside Varun Dhawan and Ileana D'Cruz in David Dhawan's comedy *Main Tera Hero*. The film was a financial success, but received mixed reviews from critics. For her performance in the film, Rohit Khilnani said that Fakhri "is not bad" and that "she fits well in this masala comedy and doesn't disappoint". Taran Adarsh however disagreed, and said though she "looks great", she needs to "polish her acting skills". The same year, Fakhri performed with Salman Khan in the item number "Yaar Naa Miley" in the film *Kick*. She then appeared as Lia in Paul Feig's action comedy *Spy* (2015), her first Hollywood film.

In 2016, Fakhri made a special appearance in the Tamil film *Saagasam* to perform in the item number "Desi Girl" with the film's lead actor Prashanth. As of May 2016, Fakhri has completed work on three projects. The first is the biographical sports drama *Azhar* based on the life of Indian cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin. Fakhri will be playing former actress Sangeeta Bijlani, the second wife of Azharuddin, who will be played by Emraan Hashmi. She will also star opposite Abhishek Bachchan in the comedy film *Housefull 3*, which also stars Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Jacqueline Fernandez, and Lisa Haydon. She will also feature in the romantic drama *Banjo* opposite Riteish Deshmukh. All three of these films are set to release in 2016.

On the lighter side....



A waiter brings the customer the steak he ordered, with his thumb over the meat.

“Are you crazy?” yells the customer.
“What’s with your hand on my steak?”

“Sorry,” answers the waiter, “I don’t want it to fall on the floor again.”

“When everybody’s coming your way, you’re in the wrong lane.”

- Anonymous -

The choir had just come out of rehearsal.

“Am I to assume that you do a lot of singing at home?”

Mr. Harris asked a fellow choir member, David Grey. “Yes, I sing a lot. I use my voice just to kill time,” said David.

Mr. Harris nodded, “You certainly have a fine weapon.”

When the waitress in a New York City restaurant brought him the soup of the day, the Englishman was a bit dismayed. “Good heavens,” he said, “what is this?”

“It’s bean soup,” she replied.

“I don’t care what it’s been,” he replied. “I want to know what it is now?”

During a 50th anniversary wedding celebration, the father of the bride was asked to give a brief account of the benefits achieved from being married for so long.

He stood up, thought for a long moment, then said, “Well, I’ve learned that marriage is the best teacher of all. It teaches you loyalty, meekness, forbearance, self-restraint, forgiveness, and....” he paused.

“And?” someone cried out from the back of the room.

“... and a great many other qualities you wouldn’t have needed if you’d stayed single!”

A boy met a girl....

Girl: Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place.

Boy (smiling): Why thank you... are you single?

Girl: No, I am a dentist.

TEACHER: Joey, how do you spell ‘crocodile’?

Joey: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

TEACHER: No, that’s wrong.

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you did ask me how I spelled it.”

The VP hobbled in to his house and was greeted by his wife. “Dear,” she said,

startled, “what are you doing home so early?”

“The boss and I had a fight,” he grumbled. “He would not take back what he said.”

Glowing with pride, his wife asked, “What did he say?”

The VP shrugged, “You’re fired.”

One evening I was in a bar talking to my friend.

“Last night, while I was out drinking, a burglar broke into my house.”

“Did he get anything?” asked my friend.

“Yes,” I said.

“A broken jaw, six teeth knocked out, and a pair of broken ribs. My wife thought it was me coming home drunk!”

A woman was found guilty in traffic court and when asked for her occupation she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. “Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.”

He smiled with delight. “Now sit down at that table and write, I will not run a red

light’ five hundred times.”

A straight eyed and cross eyed guy bump into each other, and the cross eyed guy said to the straight eyed guy.

“Why don’t you look where you are going?”

The straight eyed guy responded to the cross eyed guy.

“Why don’t you go where you are looking?”

“Has your son decided what he wants to be when he grows up?” I asked my friend.

“He wants to be a garbageman,” he replied.

“That’s an unusual ambition to have at such a young age.”

“Not really. He thinks that garbagemen work only on Tuesdays.”

Sergeant: Private, I think the enemy soldiers are hiding in the wood. I want you to go in there and flush them out for us.

Private: Okay, sir, but if you see a bunch of guys running out the woods, don’t shoot the one in front.



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