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**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR  
2016**

# Hyderabadi Film Stars in Chicago



“Hyderabad is Known Globally for Its Hilarious Comedy Films, Not Merely for Biryani”-Mast Ali, Aziz Naser, and Other Stars of Hyderabad Film Industry in a Press Conference in Chicago

## Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: “The Hyderabad Film Industry, even though only about 10 years old, has churned out a series of comedy blockbusters and gained popularity not only in Andhra Pradesh and different parts of India but also among the large Diaspora in the Middle-East and the US, thanks to the Internet and DVDs”, said Mast Ali, a. k. a. Saleem Pheku, the king of comedy, who acted in over 20 high impact making films in different languages and brought laurels to Hyderabad, at a Press Conference held on December 23, 2015, 5.30 PM at Mysore Woodlands, Devon Ave, Chicago. The Press Conference was attended by a huge number of representatives from the Print, Electronic, and Internet Media.

“Our films entertained their audiences thoroughly, irrespective of their linguistic backgrounds, as the Hyderabadi Urdu, the lingua franca of the streets of Hyderabad, which is a unique mix of Urdu, Hindi, Telugu, and some Marathi, is widely understood across the Indian Sub-continent, including in Pakistan”, added Mast Ali.

Mast Ali said that the Hyderabad Film Industry is currently in the growth mode and, hence, there is a great demand for story writers, lyricists, singers, etc. “Currently, we are caught up in all the departments of film making. Once the demand for different professionals is met, we can focus on our core job of acting and on producing high-quality films according to the felt needs of our audience, across the globe”, he added.

“It is a matter of gratification that the



Hyderabad Film Industry is currently undergoing a metamorphosis; it is no longer confining itself to making small budget films for its niche market. Instead, it is focusing on producing typical Bollywood films, which are rich in terms of exquisite quality, pan-India appeal, and high-end technology”, said Aziz Naser, a. k. a. Jahangeer, another equally popular and powerful star.

“It is a moment of pride that Dawat-e-Ishque’, a landmark Bollywood-type movie of the Hyderabad Film Industry, is being released by Rajshree Productions under its banner, with a big bang”, said Syed Hussain, Director of the film.

“The release of our film by Rajshree Productions, which has produced a number of blockbusters in India, will take the Hyderabadi cinema up a notch like never before and catapult it into the higher echelons of film appreciation, added Hussain, with a sense of accomplishment.

Feroz Khan, who has essayed a negative role in “Dawat-e-Ishque” said that Hyderabadi cinema has come to attain the status of a genre unto itself, not just considering the typical lingo of the City of Pearls, but even given the culture and traditions of the Deccan.

“Our films, which deliberately shun vulgarity and item songs, considering the



culture of Hyderabad, focus mainly on delivering authentic entertainment for the entire family”, he added.

The Ensuing Hilarious Comedy Show “The stars of Hyderabad Film Industry will present a 90-minute Comedy Show, a charity-oriented event, on December 29th, 2015, 8:00 PM onwards at North-shore Banquet Hall, Devon, Chicago. The Show, comprising a unique combination of funny gags, mimicry, stand-ups, etc. will be laced with typical Hyderabadi-style comedy”, said Mast Ali and Aziz Naser.

“The Show will be our tribute to the worth-emulating success of people of Hyderabad in the US. Hyderabad has been the capital of comedy for decades and we hope that the Show will be instrumental in further improving the relations among the people of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka”, they added.

“On the occasion of the Show, the

trailer of the upcoming Hyderabadi film, ‘Dawat-e-Ishque’, produced by an Australian-based duo, Samiullah Fayyaz and Syed Waseem Yaba, which features Mast Ali, Aziz Naser, and Adanan Sajid Khan a. k. a. Gullu Dada, and three beautiful leading ladies, Kavya, Madhavi, and Manisha, will be released”, said Syed Hussain, Director of the film.

Mast Ali, Aziz Naser, Syed Hussain, Farhan Khan, and their team, including Layeeque Ahmed, Shoukat, and Keerthi thanked Iftekhhar Shareef, a prominent Businessman and Community leader, for sponsoring the Comedy Show and helping them out in a variety of ways in Chicago as well as in Hyderabad.

Iftekhhar Shareef requested all the Indian Americans belonging to the Indian Sub-continent in general and Telengana State in particular to attend the Comedy Show, in large numbers.

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# Congress could have averted 2014 debacle if Pranab had become PM: Salman Khurshid



New Delhi: Manmohan Singh's selection over Pranab Mukherjee in 2004 to head the UPA government came as a surprise not only to the Congress but also to outsiders and many argue the party might have averted the 2014 Lok Sabha drubbing if the choice had been otherwise, says former Union minister Salman Khurshid.

"It's always easy to be wise after the worst has happened. We must not forget the whole nation had applauded Dr Manmohan Singh as the game-changer finance minister during the Narasimha Rao regime (June 1991 to May 1996).

"But when Dr Singh contested the 1999 Lok Sabha polls from what was thought to be the safest seat in the country for him, South Delhi, he was defeated by a candidate whose name many would scarce recall (It was Professor Vijay Kumar Malhotra of the BJP)," writes Khurshid in his new book "The Other Side of the Mountain" and describes it as a concise biography not of one person but of the many who were part of the UPA.

However, the former External Affairs Minister says that after some initial reluctance, not only was Sonia Gandhi's decision to choose him to lead the UPA-I widely welcomed but was "also proved correct by the electoral verdict five years later, when we were returned to power with a greater majority".

Khurshid, who had served as external affairs minister in UPA-II, says he was lucky to have the confidence of the incumbent prime minister though Singh once "gently chastised" him for a comment made before the media indicating India could not provide lethal weapons to Afghanistan.

"As external affairs minister, I had a pretty free run on most matters, with the prime minister taking special interest in the neighbourhood, our rediscovery of America, the millennium conversation with China and the excitement of keeping pace with Japan.

"I recall just once when Dr Singh gently chastised me for a press comment indicating we could not provide lethal weapons to Afghanistan. It came in the wake of repeated prodding by (Afghan) President Hamid Karzai, although he never did make an issue of it," Khurshid says.

Khurshid felt there was "no harm in being candid about our principled position from which there was no likelihood of departure. This was despite the fact that military personnel had told me we had innumerable tanks in reserve that were unlikely to be used by the army again, which could be refurbished without great expense".

"The soft-spoken prime minister advised me: 'President Karzai is a suspicious man. You have to be careful as the foreign minister'. I mumbled and left the matter there, quite certain some busybody had carried the tale to the prime minister and he felt obliged to flag it," writes Khurshid.

The book began to take shape soon after the results of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections were announced on 16 May and "we - the ministers in the UPA - returned to New Delhi from the electoral battlefields spread across the country as though we were phantoms in a twilight zone".

He says the then ministers were in substance,

vanquished and repudiated warriors.

"We were the past and it only remained to become 'shadows of the past'. Such was the sombre mood in the Congress then," he says.

He also feels Congress is in the midst of a very serious existential crisis.

"Some people label it as 'leadership in crisis'; others believe it is about political content that the country has outgrown; and yet others have the stock explanation of being out of touch with the grassroots."

According to Khurshid, both Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are, however, popularly endorsed and elected leaders of the Congress and there is no one even remotely equipped to provide alternative leadership. He says through his book, he would like to set the record straight because the truth must prevail over the widespread falsehood spread over the past few years.

Allegations of scams like the 2G spectrum, the 2010 Commonwealth Games and Coalgate considerably tainted the UPA's image.

"But in all the charges that were made and investigated by various law-enforcement agencies, there was not a whisper of money exchanging hands or any disproportionate assets found in the possession of the accused politician or the civil servant accused of misdemeanour or a similar offence.

"Simply because a decision was wrong or would have been taken differently by another person was enough to trigger a presumption of illegality and corruption," he says.

*New Year Greetings to all by*  
**Sher Mohammed Rajput**



**Mr. Sher Mohammed Rajput, Trustee of East-West University Chicago receiving President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on his first visit to Chicago, IL USA in April 2011**

# Chennai Flood Disaster Fundraiser, “Ek Shaam Chennai Ke Naam”, Held in Chicago

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: Top 20 organizations from all over Chicago, including Desi Junction Radio, FIA, Jeen Varghese, and Chicago for Chennai Group, organized a phenomenal Chennai Flood Disaster Fundraiser on December 20th, 2015, between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM at the Waterford Banquet Hall in Elmhurst, IL. Over 800 persons, belonging to different regions and religions, attended the event to show their support and solidarity to the people of Chennai.

Jassi Parmar, CEO of Desi Junction Radio said that bringing all the communities of India together under one roof for a noble cause was not only a historical initiative, no one has ever done before, but also gave a great sense of achievement to the organizers. He added that fifty plus volunteers, vendors, performers, sponsors, and donors contributed in a big way to the stupendous success of the event.

Jeen Varghese, Community Leader said that Chennai and surrounding areas in the State of Tamil Nadu have been devastated by the torrential rains and massive flooding. “Damage has been enormous - 250 lives lost, 2 million people displaced, \$ 3 Billion impact on the economy, and \$ 15 Billion in infrastructure damages”, she added and made a fervent appeal to people to contribute to the relief operations.

Within no time, a whopping \$ 45,000 was raised at the event, which will be donated to Association for India's Development in order to enable it to take up relief-oriented initiatives in Chennai. The donors were not confined to India alone; a significant number of non-Indians too contributed to the cause. Following were the top 10 donors: Senthil Kumar Soundarapandian, Shobashalini Chokalingam, Nirup Krishnamurthy, Shyam Krishnamurthy, Balaji Padmanabhan, Durai Ramachandran, Sri Rajini Sabarathy, Anand Srinivasan, and Suganya Prathap.

Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Eminent Community Leader, based in Illinois, said that the floods in Chennai have touched a chord among the Indian Diaspora in the U.S. “The Indian-Americans, even though thousands of miles away from India, are comrades-in-arms, and are ever ready to reach out to their fellow-Indians, whenever required”, he added.

Krishnamoorthi underlined the need for achieving the long-term solution to the problem of recurrent floods in different parts of India by following the environmental norms of construction and a more efficient urban planning with stringent implementation. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Smart City Mission is an opportunity to revisit the potential impact of haphazard development that is happening in the urban centers in India”, he added.

“What we did today was only a humble beginning; we are committed to engage in the long-term process of rebuilding of the communities once the relief agencies address their immediate priorities”, said Ravi Rawat from Bombay Chopsticks and Perl Banquet, with a sense of enthusiasm. “We have taken a pledge that our efforts will not end until the affected people back home get a new beginning”, he added.



“The print, electronic, and social media in Chicago, which gave sufficient attention to the Chennai floods, became the agent of mobilization and resulted in a huge crowd at the event today,” Chandrakant Modi, President of Asian Media USA pointed out. “Social Media is flooded with heart touching comments about the Chennai's plight in general and the Fund Raising Event for it in particular”, he added.

**Neetu Chandra- The Star Attraction:**  
Neetu Chandra, the highly sought-after Global actress from India, who graced the event as Guest of Honor, without any cost to it, at the invitation of Desi Junction, said that natural calamities like floods are the litmus test for the communities to show to the world that they can come together in times of great crises and can help each other.

“The acts of bravery demonstrated by Chennaites to rescue people caught in the floods by forming chains and multifarious instances of love, kindness, and resilience have become a source of inspiration to people, across the globe, in grappling with the natural calamities”, Neetu Chandra said. “On account of the innumerable tales of humanity that emerged from rain-battered Chennai, Chennaites have occupied a special place in my heart”, she added.

The instantaneous offer of Neetu Chandra to dance with everyone who donates \$ 500 was not only a pleasant surprise for the audience but also turned out to be an instant hit. And many of them grabbed this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity without even batting an eyelid. This was followed by a dance riot on the stage by Neetu Chandra and her hardcore fans, a stream of donations, and, naturally, a big smile on faces of the organizers.

Jassi Parmar, Ravi Rawat, Neil Khot from FIA, Surender Mathur, Neela Patel, and Jeen Varghese jointly presented an Award to Neetu Chandra in recognition of her contribution to the Indian films.

“Neetu Chandra is blessed with a golden heart; her presence at today's event, despite her multifarious professional appointments, proves this beyond any doubt”, said Raj Sharma, Promoter for Neetu Chandra. “She will be happy to associate herself to similar events in future, aimed at the amelioration of the lot of poorer sections of society”, he added.

**An Electrifying Entertainment Program:**

A high-voltage entertainment program that followed the fundraising process was the biggest highlight of the event. The singers presented a large numbers of hit tracks from Bollywood and uplifted the mood of the audience. The dancers not only showcased their ability to perform different genres of dances but also conveyed a gamut of emotions.

The artists belonging to Yeh Cheez Group, Desi Junction, and Comedy Junction and a large number of professionals, including Rinki Talati, Nisha Saraswat, Rashik, Megha Mathur, Maegha Saraf, Sawpna Balakrishnan, Sharanya Gururajan, Chandrakala Vijay, Ravi Shankar Subramanian, Noman Khan, Nisima Patel, Suman Sharma, Ruby Saraf, etc. participated in the entertainment program and captured the hearts of the audience.

The event commenced with one minute silence to pay tribute to those who perished in Chennai disaster, which was followed by “Vande Mataram” sung by Sharanya, Ravi Subramaniam, Chandini Duvvuri, and Suman, and “Ganesh Vandana”, performed by Megha Saraf. The event concluded by singing of the National Anthems of India.

The event was professionally managed by Jassi Parmar, Jeen Varghese, Ravi Rawat, Ravi Subramaniam, Senthil Kumar, Murugesh Kasilingam, Sharmila Varadarajan, Neil Khot, Shyamala, Nirup Krishnamurthy, Sri Lala, Pritesh Gandhi, Surender Mathur, Ranga Rajan, Vandana Walia, Chandini Duvvuri, and 50 plus volunteers from various organizations.

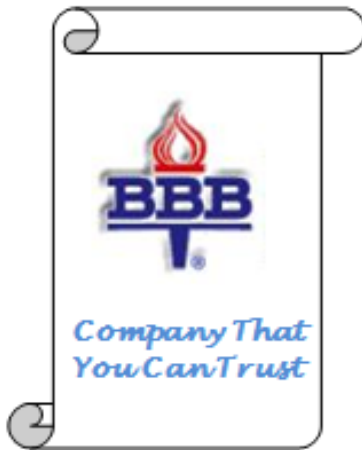
A large number of Chicago-based eminent organizations, including Desi Junction Worldwide Radio, Jeen Varghese, Happiness Junction, India House, Waterford Banquet and Conference Centre, The Art of Living, Sai Saffron Chat House, TV Asia, TANA, Arya Sounds, Wintrust Commercial Banking, GLO, Massage and Spa, Asian Media, Mysore Woodland, Deccan and Spice, etc. sponsored the event.

Ten restaurants, namely, India House, Indian Harvest, Vishnu Vilas, Cuisine of India, Sai Saffron, Curry Bowl/ Mysore Woodland, Dakshin, Hyderabad Biryani, Deccan and Spice, and Vishnu villas, generously sponsored sumptuous dinner for all the attendees, which was relished by one and all.

Happy New Year 2016, and happy holidays

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# FIA Chicago Elects New Team of Office Bearers for 2016-'17



Asian Cremation USA © Chicago IL: The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), Chicago held its Annual General Body Meeting to elect the new team of its office bearers for the year 2016-'17 on Sunday, December 13th, 2015 at North Shore Banquet, Devon Avenue, Chicago.

The elections were carefully supervised by the Trustees and professionally conducted by the Election Committee in order to ensure that the election procedures were consistent with the FIA's by-laws and the entire proceedings and processes were transparent and fair.

More than 25 FIA Association-Members, who

participated in the process, elected Minhaj Akhtar as President, Kanti N. Patel as Executive Vice President, Dr Sanhita Agnihotri as Secretary, Girish Patel, Sathisan Nair, and Sher Muhammad Rajput as Vice Presidents, Vijay Ranjan as Joint Secretary, Ajit Singh as Treasurer, and Hemant Trivedi as Joint Treasurer.

The newly elected body had the support and blessings of a large number of prominent FIA Trustees, such as Babu Patel, Kanti S Patel, Sunny Gabhawala, Hina Trivedi, Sohan Joshi, Bhailal Patel, Anil Pillai, Sitaram Patel, Ajai Agnihotri, Keerthi Ravoori, the existing Executive Director, Syed Hussaini, Devon Avenue Merchants, and

others.

The new team steps into the shoes of the outgoing office bearers, led by Dr. Inderjit Patel, who oversaw a vibrant period of growth at the FIA.

Minhaj Akhtar, who has been serving the FIA, Chicago, for a very long time, in different capacities, is one of the eminent persons who have been associated with a number of organizations in the Chicagoland. Other office bearers too have got an excellent record of community service.

Minhaj Akhtar extended a deep sense of gratitude to all the FIA Association-Members, Trustees, and the community at large for

reposing trust in him and his team and assured them of the democratic and transparent functioning of the FIA Chicago. "Even as we pledge to contribute our optimum best for the welfare of the Indian-Americans in Chicagoland, we seek their wholehearted and continued support", he added.

"FIA Chicago is a 30-year-old umbrella organization led by many a doyen. I pay rich tributes to them for putting their best foot forward for bringing laurels to the Indian-Americans in the US", said Minhaj Akhtar.

Minhaj Akhtar said that the top priority of his team would be to preserve,

protect, and defend the integrity and credibility of FIA Chicago. He strongly underlined FIA's commitment to the twin-objectives of not only empowering the Indian-American to realize their American dream but also preserving their unique culture and heritage. "We are determined to uphold FIA's preeminent place in the Chicagoland and to enrich its brand value for the common good of one and all", he added.

Kanti N. Patel announced that the ensuing Republic Day Celebrations will take place on January 23rd, 2016 at Meadows Club. He added that FIA Chicago will celebrate all events of national importance in

order to ensure that the cultural flag of India flies high in the US. "We will continue to acknowledge the services of prominent Indian-Americans in different walks of life", he added.

All the office bearers urged the Indian-Americans to come forward to contact FIA Chicago, on phone numbers of Mr Minhaj Akhtar 773 552 2000 / Mr. Kanti N Patel 847 571 5781, in order to enable it to achieve its cherished goals.

Photographs and Press release by: FIA Chicago



**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM**  
**AZEEM ABDUL-QUADEER**  
**Publisher** **Asia Times US**



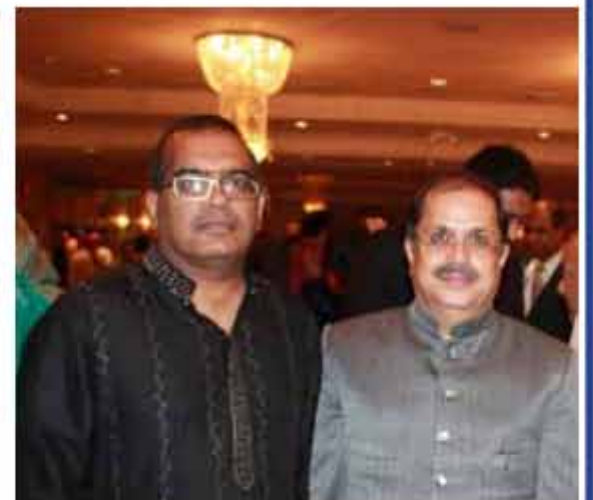
**President APJ Abdul Kalam was presented with a copy of Asia Times US on his last visit to Chicago**



Former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Priya Dutt,MP, Cricketer Azharudin,



Singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, US Senator Carol Mosley Brown, Shabbir Ali, former minister in Andhra Pradesh



Chicago Alderman Ameya Pawar, Indian Member of Parliament Hussain Dalwai  
 Indian Consul General Dr Ausaf Sayeed



# URDU ADAB DALLAS - MONTHLY GET TOGETHER



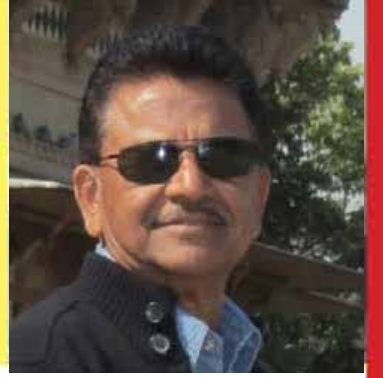
Left to right: Sameer Siddiqi, Habib Qadri, Abdul Rehman, Muhammad Raziuddin, Arif uddin Syed, Azeem Abdul Quadeer, Mohammed Siddiqui Taqui, Saleem Qadri, Mirza Perwaiz Baig, Riaz Qureshi, Azhar Bukhari, Anzar Lateef, Aroz Lateef and Iftaqar Bukhari.



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میری محبت کی داستاں تم آج بھی ہو  
حسین و جہاں تم آج بھی ہو  
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## Mufti Akmal Qadri visited Austin and Dallas



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Mufti Muhammad Akmal Qadri Madani of QTV fame addressed several Milad gatherings in Greater Dallas and Austin areas. He spoke about the importance of Milad and answered questions. Mufti Muhammad Akmal Madani is a Islamic scholar from Pakistan. He is a mufti and currently he is working as the director of Al Furqan Scholars' Academy, Karachi which he established in 2006. He also presents TV series. Ahkam-e-Shariyat, a Fiqh based TV Programme. He was born on 5 May 1968 in Karachi, Pakistan. He received contemporary education in Karachi and completed Chemical Engineering. In the beginning of his religious career he served in the preaching activities with Dawat-e-Islami. In beginning he got Islamic education from Mufti Ilyas Razawi, Principal Nadra-tul- Uloom. Then he went to Lahore where he got enrolled in the Sunni Madarsa Jamia Nizamia Razawiyya, Lahore for seven years in acquiring traditional Islamic education. He appeared on TV for the first time in Ramadan 2004 in Sahri Time, a TV program on Pakistan based TV Channel ARY Qtv. Ahkam-e-Shariyat, Tadabur-e-Quran, Al Hadi and Sharah Sahih Bukhari are some of his TV series on ARY. He also comes on UK based Ummah Channel with a program 'Your Questions Answered'.

## Michael Noland for Congress

### Mujeeb Osman

Elgin, IL - Michael Noland for Congress campaign announced that the Teamsters Joint Council 25 has endorsed their campaign for Congress.

"Mike Noland has developed a strong relationship with the Teamsters union over the years. As a state Senator, he is a strong voice for working families and I am confident he will do the same in Congress," said Teamsters Joint Council President John Coli.

"I'm proud to have earned the support of the Teamsters in this race and I'm honored to have their members joining our ever growing campaign," said Mike Noland. The Teamsters represent some of the hardest working people in America. We are united in standing up to the Bruce Rauner Turnaround Agenda and we will continue to stand arm in arm to fight for the Middle Class."

The Teamsters are the latest member of organized labor to endorse Noland's campaign. They join the American Postal Workers Union Local 3140's executive board, Bricklayers Administrative District Council of Illinois, Sheet Metal Workers State Council, SMART Transporta-

tion Division (formerly United Transportation Union), Fox Valley Building Trades, Elgin Trades Council, IFT Local 1211 (Northwest Suburban Teachers Union), Operating Engineers Local 399, and Painters District Council 30. Noland's campaign has also announced that over 75 elected officials have endorsed his campaign including Senate President John J. Cullerton and former Senate President Emil Jones Jr.

Noland is leading in the polls. A recent poll conducted by one of Noland's opponents showed him with a seven-point lead over his nearest opponent. After voters are provided more information about the candidates, Noland's lead expands even more.

Noland is a 30-year plus resident of Elgin, a veteran of the US Navy and was elected to the Illinois Senate in 2006. While serving in the Senate he has been one of its most progressive members and has been a strong advocate for working families throughout his time in the Illinois General Assembly.




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 Class 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
 Sundays 3:00pm to 5:00pm

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**Pervaiz Baig**  
**Founder / Moderator**  
**Charminar Connection**

**HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR**

We wish all the readers of Asia Times Season's Greetings , and may the New Year 2016 bring you joy and peace.

We are going through some tough times, but I am sure with persistence and endurance we will all come out on top.

May the perseverance prevail. We are thankful to Janab Azeem Quadeer Sahab for his commendable job in bringing news to the expatriates and to the south Asian diaspora. We wish him great success not only in the coming year but for the years to come.

# “Pakistan Renews its Commitment to End Terrorism on the First Anniversary of Peshawar School Massacre”-Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Consul General of Pakistan in the US

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: Pakistan marked the first anniversary of the deadliest terrorist attack on the Army Public School in the northwestern city of Peshawar, termed a “Mini-9/11 for Pakistan”, in which over 150 people, most of them children, were gunned down by Taliban militants on December 16th, 2014. Glowing tributes were paid to the martyrs of the School and strong solidarity was displayed with them. In another display of solidarity with the victims of the attack, vehicular traffic remained halted for two minutes beginning 10: AM in Lahore, and one-minute silence was observed to mark the tragic incident in different cities.

“The first anniversary of this massacre is an occasion to pause and take note that consequent upon the military-led crackdown in the North Waziristan tribal region along the Afghan border and the imple-

mentation of the National Action Plan, the acts of terror and serious crimes have fallen by sixty about percent”, said Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Consul General of Pakistan, with a sense of satisfaction. “The anniversary is also an occasion to renew our resolve to continue the campaign, with the hardened resolve, till we permanently uproot the menace of terrorism from the soil of Pakistan and make it a place of eternal peace and vibrant prosperity”, he added.

Tirmizi paid rich tributes to the Pakistan’s top civilian and military leadership, which demonstrated exemplary courage in stepping up the action-packed interventions, called Operation Zarb-e-Azb, aimed at checking the domestic terrorism like never before with an iron hand. He said that lifting of moratorium on the death penalty, trying alleged militant extremists in military courts, regulating the country’s religious

seminaries, building the walls and extra defenses by all schools, and tightening security systems at schools added a great punch to the campaign. “Today, parents feel safe to send their children to schools, which suggest that the civilian and military leadership was successful in keeping their promises of a secure environment for the students”, he added.

Tirmizi said that a balanced fusion of army crackdowns and educational campaigns would be an enduring solution to the longstanding problem of militancy in Pakistan. “Declaring December 16th as the “Day of National Resolve to Promote Education” by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would be a right step in the direction of defeating the heinous designs of the extremists to put off the flame of knowledge and education”, he added.

“The Government’s two-

dimensional policy of using selective force and initiating development in areas most affected by terrorism will be fruitful. The economic transformation, trade promotion, employment generation, and educational development would be of great help in maintaining sustainable peace in the region”, Tirmizi stated.

Tirmizi welcomed the collective and concerted approach towards tackling terror by a large number of countries, from across the globe, in view of the fact that it is not the problem of Pakistan alone. He added that the successful hosting of Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad on December 9th, 2015, which was attended by President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan and Foreign Ministers of seven countries including that of China, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Latvia, besides senior representatives of 29 countries, including those of



the US, was an important step in this direction. He called upon all the regional countries too to join hands to make a collective and comprehensive effort, involving further strengthening of the economic, commercial, sporting, and people-to-people linkages with a view to successfully eliminating terrorism from the region.

Tirmizi wholeheartedly welcomed the release of a video by the Pakistani Army commemorating the victims of the massacre, which shows kids singing

a song glorifying the role of education in grappling with terrorism: “Mujhe dushman ke bachon ko parhana hai (I want to educate the children of my enemies) and “Mujhe ma us se badla layne jana ha (Mother, I have to go take revenge)”. “Education as revenge seems a fitting response to one of the most shocking terrorist attacks on Pakistani soil, Tirmizi added.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA

## Celebration of Constitution Day

The first Constitution Day was solemnly celebrated at the premises of the Consulate General of India in Chicago on 27th November, 2015 (26th November being a closed holiday on account of Thanksgiving Day). The celebration was part of the decision taken by the National Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister of India for the celebration of 125th Birth Anniversary (14 April 2016) of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949, the Committee decided to observe 26th November as “Constitution Day” every year.

The programme commenced by observing one minute of silence as a homage to the victims of the dastardly terrorist attacks in Mumbai, marking the 7th Anniversary of 26/11 attacks.

The opening remarks were delivered by Dr Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General. Consul General addressed the gathering and recalled the mammoth work done by the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in drafting the Constitution of India. He mentioned that as the Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949, this day is of considerable significance to modern India and aptly the GOI decided to celebrate this day annually as the ‘Constitution Day’ starting from this year, which also marks the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (14



April 2016).

The Consul General emphasized that the Constitution of India does not discriminate anyone on the basis of religion, creed, sex or any other ground. It is the duty of every citizen of India, therefore, to uphold the Constitution both in its letter and spirit. The Consul General also read out the Preamble of the Constitution of India.

During the programme, two documentaries, ‘Taana Baana: The Warp & Weft of India’ and ‘India-: The Spirit of Freedom’, highlighting the salient and empowering features of the Constitution were also screened. The celebration was attended by a cross-section of prominent Indian-Americans residing in Chicagoland. Mr OP Meena, Consul, proposed a vote of thanks.

## Akhilesh removes Ompal Nehra after he made an appeal to Muslims to support construction of temple in Ayodhya

68-year-old Ompal Nehra, who was appointed as advisor to Uttar Pradesh Entertainment Tax Department with status of a minister just two months back. He was removed from the post by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav. The action on Nehra, who hails from Bijnore district of Uttar Pradesh and claims to be associated with SP Chief Mulayam Singh Yadav "for long", came two days after he had made an appeal to Muslims to support construction of temple in Ayodhya and Mathura.

Nehra claims that he was informed about his removal and about all his facilities being withdrawn by Bijnore District Magistrate. Speaking to the press Nehra said that he had no regrets about what he had said and strongly believes in the "third option" provided by him as a solution to resolve the ongoing disputes.

Nehra had given this statement during an official program of Agriculture Department to mark Kisan Diwas on December 23 i.e. the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh in Bijnore District of Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh Government was celebrating the day as Kisan Diwas.

"Chief Minister gave me the minister status two months back and took it back today. It is his decision but I stand by my statement and feel that I have not said anything wrong" Nehra told The Indian Express after being in-

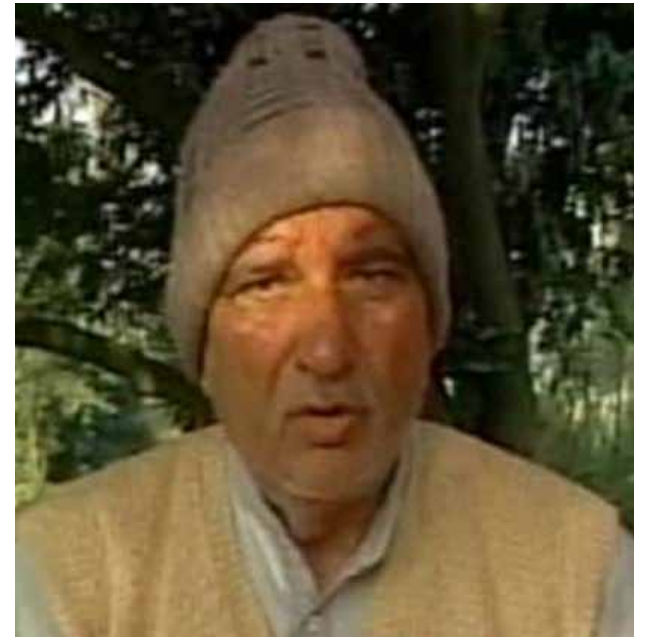
formed about his removal.

Clarifying his statement, Nehra said, "The dispute over construction of temple could not be solved through mutual understanding, even court procedure is becoming lengthy so I suggested this third option. BJP has been making it a political issue since 1992 and try to take benefit of it before every election, so for the benefit of the country and its people, I said that instead of fighting it out, secular and intellectual Muslims should come forward and support construction of temple in Ayodhya as well as Mathura"

Nehra further said, "I even suggested that our muslim brothers can be given place for mosque to offer Namaz at a distance of about 2-3 km so that they are not disturbed by the loud sound of rituals that are performed in the temple and Hindus can come forward to support the construction of the mosque instead,"

In 1991 Lok Sabha elections, Nehra had unsuccessfully contested against Ajit Singh from Baghpat Parliamentary Constituency as Samajwadi Janta Party candidate. His statement comes at a time when Vishwa Hindu Parisad movement to bring stones to Ayodhya for construction of temple at the disputed site is going on.

Confirming the decision of the Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav to remove Nehra from his charge of advisor, Chief



Secretary Alok Ranjan said, "Chief Minister has ordered removal of Nehra, so all the concerned officers have been informed. No official reason has been cited for his removal."

## Sockalingam appointed as Secretary of TBPE



An Indian-American has been appointed as the Secretary of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers that licenses qualified engineers and regulates the practice of professional engineering in the US state.

Sockalingam "Sam" Kannappan, a professional engineer and senior design engineer for SNC-Lavalin Hydrocarbons and Chemicals, has been appointed as the secretary of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) in Austin.

Houston-based Kannappan also serves as a board member of the Society of Piping Engineers and Designers and an advisory board member of the Asia Society's Texas centre.

The Indian-American engineer will be signing all newly-issued licenses, TBPE said in a statement.

The board issues, monitors and renews roughly 57,000 licenses for engineers.

The board's role in the protection of the public is to license qualified engineers, enforce the Texas Engineering Practice Act

and to regulate the practice of professional engineering in Texas.

Kannappan is a mechanical engineering graduate of Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu and received his MS in mechanical engineering at the University of Texas in Austin.

Previously, Kannappan also served as a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Gas Pipeline Safety Research Committee, which defends Houston against bio-terrorism.

Additionally, from 2006 to 2011, he was on the Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council.

Throughout his career, Kannappan has received a number of honours and awards, including an award from Crystal Dynamics group of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland for improving laser measurement accuracy.

## Nawaz Sharif wears pink turban gifted by PM Modi

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif wore the pink turban gifted to him by his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for his granddaughter's wedding.

A source at Sharif's Jati Umrah residence told PTI that Sharif had donned the "Indian Rajasthani pink turban" gifted to him by Modi during the Indian premier's visit on Friday.

"Wearing the gifted turban of Mr Modi itself shows that Mr Sharif's sincere intention towards the neighbouring country. Besides, it also demonstrates that Mr Sharif values the gift of Mr Modi," the PML-N source said.

Mehrun Nisa, daughter of Maryam Nawaz, married Raheel Munir, son of well known industrialist Chaudhry Munir, who was the first to shake hands with Modi when he got off the car at Jati Umrah outside Lahore on Friday evening.

Modi had congratulated Sharif on the wedding of his granddaughter and also presented him gifts.

On Sunday evening, around 2,000 guests

attended the Walima ceremony of the couple. Some VVIP guests had also come from Saudi Arabia for the occasion.

Both the groom and the bride have studied at the London School of Economics. Top Comment

ISI and Pak Military won't be happy. Expect some firefight in Kashmir soon. Friendship can never last long till Pak govt. is serious about this.

The source said that Walima ceremonies will also be held in UAE and the UK next month because many friends of the Sharifs could not make it to Lahore.

Though all the wedding ceremonies are being kept a close family affair away from the public eye, selected footage is released to the media like during the marriage of Sharif's elder son Husain back in the 1990s.

The locals as well as British tailors have reportedly been hired to prepare dresses of the bride and her relatives.



# Indian Students denied US entry at Abu Dhabi Airport

A number of Indian students who landed at the Abu Dhabi airport for their US pre-clearance (immigration) were publicly shamed, locked up like criminals for 16 hours, hit by a volley of irrelevant questions and eventually unceremoniously deported on December 22.

The students possessed admission letters from two California-based institutions (Silicon Valley University, San Jose and Northwestern Polytechnic University, Fremont) as well as valid visas.

Here's why Indian students are being deported from US Did you have a drink in the last 24 hours? How much did you drink? What was the air-hostess wearing? -- were some of the many uncomfortable questions allegedly thrown at these travellers by officials of the US Customs and Border Protection.

For some students, the 'interrogation' took a different colour altogether. "I was shocked when one of the officers asked me what the airhostess on the flight that I was travelling by was wearing. He even wanted to know the colour of her dress," said a harried student, requesting anonymity.

Incidentally, these questions did not figure on the printed questionnaires that the students were asked to read and sign thereafter. "They asked us several questions that were off-the-record. When we asked why the immigration authorities wanted to know such details, they dismissed us outright," said Mohammad Asharaf, whose dream of pursuing a Masters in Computer Science from the Northwestern Polytechnic University (NPU) was cut short that



day. He, along with 16 others, was dumped on a flight back to Hyderabad and his visa was cancelled.

"Strangely, the US authorities offered us no reason for cancelling our visas. In fact, they forced us to sign a document which stated that we were voluntarily giving up our offer of admission from the US varsity," said another distressed student, A Yashwant.

The document (a copy of which is with TOI) stated: "I understand that my admissibility is questioned for the above reasons (no reasons cited), which I have read or have been read out to me in the English language. I request that I be permitted to withdraw my application for admission and return abroad. I understand that my voluntary withdrawal of my application for admission is in lieu of a formal

determination concerning my admissibility". Students claimed that they were "forced" to sign the declaration.

"It is a matter of extreme embarrassment for us and our families. Now that my visa has been cancelled, I do not even know if I'll ever be issued a fresh US visa ever again. Studying there has always been my dream. But I am doubtful whether that'll happen now," said a Silicon Valley University-bound student, trying hard to hold back his tears.

If overseas education advisors are to be believed, getting a new visa might indeed be impossible for these students. [Top Comment](#)

This is really shameful for US. Please be little humane in dealing with students atleast. They are the building blocks o... [Read More](#)  
chris

Meanwhile, the US Consulate in Hyderabad on Thursday issued a communication stating: "We remind the public that even travellers with a visa can be denied entry if the immigration officer finds reason to question the legitimacy of their travel documents or finds that the traveller cannot adequately answer questions about the purpose of his or her travel to the United States."

## British MP says US stopped Muslim family from flying to Disneyland

Prime Minister David Cameron's office says he will investigate a lawmaker's claim that US officials prevented a British Muslim family from flying to Disneyland for a planned holiday.

Stella Creasy, a member of the opposition Labour Party, says US officials gave no explanation for refusing to allow her constituents to board a flight from Gatwick Airport on December 15. She told The Guardian newspaper this is part of a larger pattern affecting British Muslims, and that a lack of information from US officials is sparking resentment among Muslims who feel discriminated against.

The issue is sensitive in part because US presidential contender Donald Trump has called for a temporary ban on Muslims visiting the US due to concerns about extremist attacks.

Creasy's office told The Associated Press Wednesday that she had written to Cameron seeking his intervention. She complained that US officials who kept the family from boarding provided no information and complained she had hit "a brick wall" seeking information about the case.

Creasy told the prime minister there is "growing fear" among British Muslims that aspects of Trump's plans are coming into practice even though they have been widely condemned.



WISH YOU  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
2016

## Mother Teresa to Be Sainted After 2nd Miracle Declared: Vatican

ROME — Mother Teresa, who dedicated her life to helping India's poor, will be made a saint in the Roman Catholic Church, the Vatican said.

She will likely be canonized in September to coincide with the 19th anniversary of her death and Pope Francis' Holy Year of Mercy, according to an Italian Catholic newspaper report.

The pontiff marked his 79th birthday on Thursday by approving a decree that the nun had performed a second miracle 11 years after her death, the Vatican confirmed in a statement.

She was beatified in 2003 as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta for healing an Indian woman's tumor through divine intervention, but full sainthood requires the declaration of two miracles.

Her Missionaries of Charity helped the poor on the streets of the city, now known as Kolkata. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

"We are all absolutely delighted about the news," Sister Ita of the Missionaries of Charity told NBC News from its headquarters in the center of the city. "We are very happy to hear about the canonization and we look forward to hearing more details in due course."

The miracle needed for her canonization involved the curing of a man in Santos, Brazil, with a serious viral brain infection, according to Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, a Missionaries of Charity Father who worked closely with Mother Teresa for 20 years and spearheaded the cause of her sainthood.

"The patient's wife continuously sought the intercession of the Blessed Mother Teresa for her husband," he said in a statement explaining the event.

The unidentified man was in a coma and about to undergo an emergency operation when a neurosurgeon "returned to the operating room and found the patient inexplicably awake and without pain," the statement said.

The patient made an immediate and full recovery. Despite tests showing that prolonged drug treatment had made him sterile, he went on to have two children, Kolodiejchuk said.

Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia, Mother Teresa died on Sept. 5, 1997, aged 87.

Despite winning global acclaim for her life in helping the poor, some have criticized the health care provided by her mission and raised questions over her conservative approach to contraception and medicine.

Francis created six new saints in 2014 — two Indians and four Italians — praising their "creative" commitment to helping the poor.

When Mother Teresa is canonized, no fewer than four countries will celebrate her as their own saint. She was born in what is now the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, and she lived most of her life in India, where she died and was buried.

Albania, which still claims her remains, named the airport, a square and a hospital in the capital Tirana after her, has made Oct. 19, the day she was beatified, a



national public holiday.

statue of her.

Macedonia has opened a museum containing relics and memories from her early life in Skopje, where she lived until she was 18, and built a several-meters high bronze

Kosovo, meanwhile, named the main street in its capital Pristina in her honor.

## FBI arrests Pharma CEO Shkreli who hiked prices of HIV drugs

New York: Martin Shkreli, a lightning rod for growing outrage over soaring prescription drug prices, was arrested by the FBI on Thursday after a federal investigation involving his former hedge fund and a pharmaceutical company he previously

headed.

The securities fraud probe of Shkreli, who is now chief executive officer of Turing Pharmaceuticals and KaloBios Pharmaceuticals Inc, stems from his time as manager of hedge fund MSMB Capital

Management and CEO of biopharmaceutical company Retrophin Inc, a person familiar with the matter said.

Reuters witnessed the arrest at the Murray Hill Tower Apartments in midtown Manhattan. Law enforcement including Federal Bureau of Investigation agents could be seen escorting Shkreli, who was wearing a hoodie, into a car.

FBI spokeswoman Kelly Langmesser confirmed Shkreli's arrest. Shares of KaloBios fell about 50% to \$11.75 in premarket trading. Lawyers for Retrophin and Shkreli did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Turing and KaloBios declined to comment.

Ads by ZINC

Turing sparked controversy earlier this year after news reports that it had raised the price of Daraprim, a 62-year-old treatment for a dangerous parasitic infection, to \$750 a tablet from \$13.50 after acquiring it.

Shkreli, 32, was expected to be charged on Thursday for illegally using Retrophin assets to pay off debts after MSMB lost millions of dollars, the source said.

The probe, by federal prosecutors in Brooklyn, dates back to at least January when Retrophin said it received a subpoena from prosecutors seeking information about its relationship with Shkreli.

That subpoena also sought information about individuals or entities that had invested in funds previously managed by Shkreli, Retrophin said in a regulatory filing.





## Artist Hema Upadhyay murder: Prime suspect arrested, three others detained

Lucknow/Mumbai: Mumbai police detained a key suspect from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the double murder case of well-known installation artist Hema Upadhyaya and her lawyer Harish Bhambhani on the basis of information provided by three already under detention.

The suspect, identified as Shivkumar Rajbhar alias Sadhu, was tracked down and detained by a Mumbai police team which had rushed to the temple town yesterday following inputs that the culprits might have fled to Uttar Pradesh.

“We haven't arrested but detained Shivkumar Rajbhar alias Sadhu in Varanasi,” Mumbai Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Deven Bharti said.

Police had on Sunday detained Azad Rajbhar, Pradeep Rajbhar and Vijay Rajbhar in Mumbai in connection with the sensational twin-murder. Based on information

provided by the trio, the police detained Sadhu, who is suspected to have played a key role in the murder of the artist and her lawyer, police said.

Three detained from Mumbai are in the business of manufacturing and selling fibre glass, which was used by Hema and her estranged husband Chintan Upadhyaya, also an artist, for their installations, said an officer privy to details of the probe. Those detained had known Chintan for the last few years.

One among them had called up Hema on her mobile phone before her murder, police said.

The bodies of Hema (43) and Bhambhani (65), their hands and feet tied with ropes, were recovered stuffed in cardboard boxes from a drain in suburban Kandivali on Saturday following which police were called in.

Their body samples have been sent for chemical analysis and autopsy reports are awaited, a senior

police officer said. “As per our probe their bodies (in boxes) were transported in a tempo from suburban Juhu to Kandivali (W),” DCP (Detection) Dhananjay Kulkarni said.

Police have also quizzed the driver of the vehicle who dumped the boxes in the drain thinking they contained broken antiques.

The statement of the transporter has been recorded, police said.

Earlier, the police had on Saturday recorded the statement of the watchman at Hema's apartment on Juhu Tara Road and her domestic servant Lalit Mandal.

Hema's husband Chintan, who was in Delhi and arrived in the city yesterday, was also questioned by the Crime Branch. The Baroda-born artist, who was locked in bitter divorce proceedings with her husband, had in 2013 filed a case against Chintan, alleging he painted obscene pictures of women on the walls of



their matrimonial home in Mumbai to harass her. Bhambhani had represented Hema in the case.

According to police, Hema's domestic help had filed a missing complaint at Santacruz police station on Saturday after she did not return home whole of Friday. Bhambhani's younger daughter Anita had also filed a similar complaint at Matunga police station the same day.

Hema was last seen by the watchman of her apartment building at 11 am on Friday. According to

Anita, Bhambhani had left his King Circle home in Matunga to meet Hema at around 6.30 pm on Friday.

Investigators said Bhambhani met Hema at her art studio in Andheri around 8.30 PM on Friday before talking to his wife on phone. Thereafter the Bhambhani family could not establish any contact with him despite calling him several times.

Police suspect that an unidentified person known to the duo had called the lawyer to give fresh evidence in a property dispute

involving Hema, who was suspected to have been strangled with Bhambhani by the perpetrators of the crime.

Additional Commissioner of Police (North Region) Fatehsingh Patil claimed his team was “very close” to cracking the case.

Police said Bhambhani's car, in which he had left for the meeting, is still to be traced.

## Black holes could grow as large as 50 billion Suns: study

London: Black holes at the heart of galaxies could swell to 50 billion times the mass of the Sun before losing the discs of gas they rely on to sustain themselves, according to a new study.

Professor Andrew King from the University of Leicester in the UK explored

super massive black holes at the centre of galaxies, around which are regions of space where gas settles into an orbiting disc.

This gas can lose energy and fall inwards, feeding the black hole. But these discs are known to be unstable and

prone to crumbling into stars. King calculated how big a black hole would have to be for its outer edge to keep a disc from forming, coming up with the figure of 50 billion solar masses.

The study suggests that without a disc, the black hole would stop growing;

meaning 50 billion Suns would roughly be the upper limit. The only way it could get larger is if a star happened to fall straight in or another black hole merged with it.

“The significance of this discovery is that astronomers have found black holes of almost the maximum mass, by observing the huge amount of radiation given off by the gas disc as

it falls in,” King said.

“The mass limit means that this procedure should not turn up any masses much bigger than those we know, because there would not be a luminous disc,” he said.

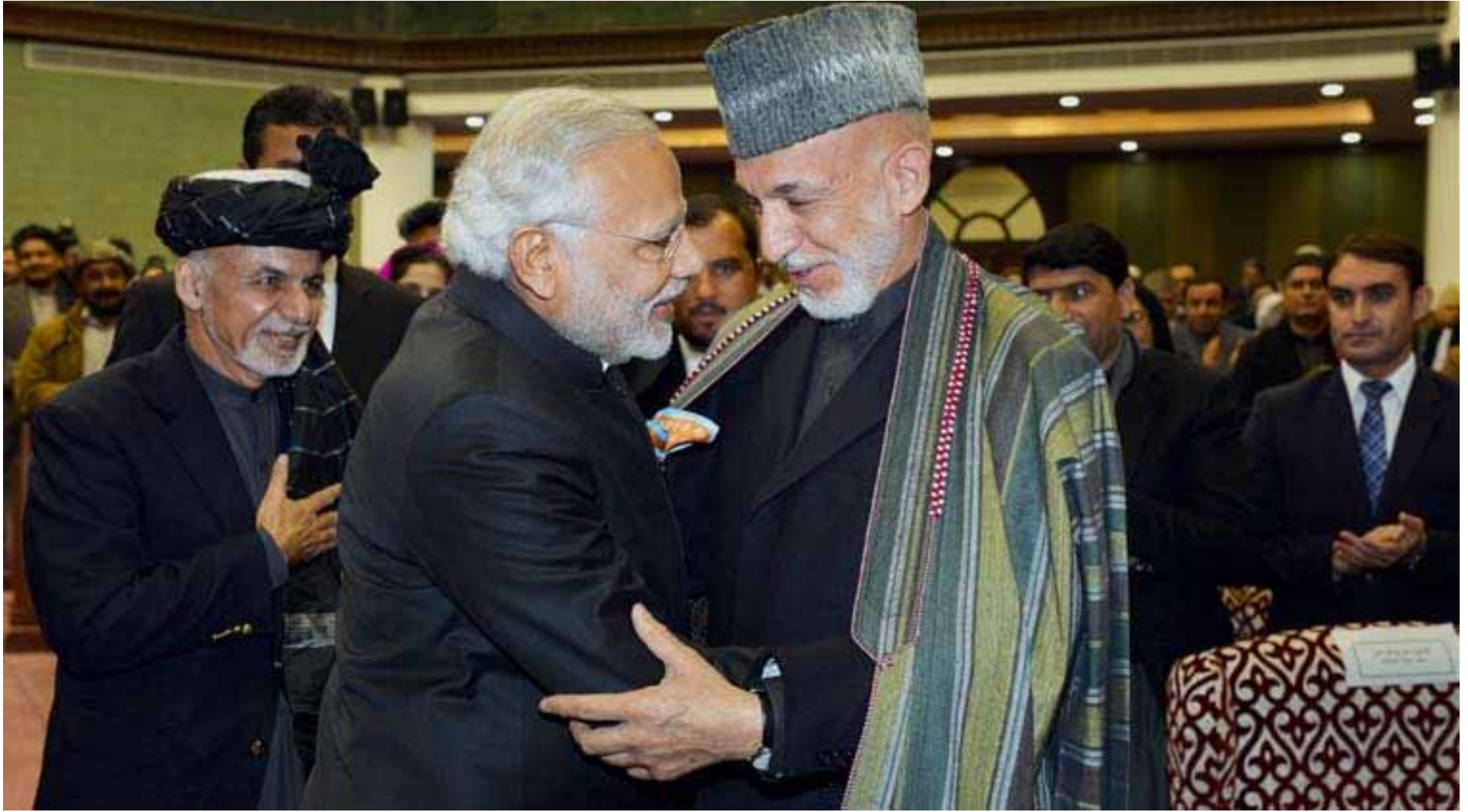
“Bigger black hole masses are in principle possible—for example, a hole near the maximum mass could merge with another black hole, and the result would be bigger still. But no light would be produced in this merger, and the bigger merged black hole could not have a disc of gas that would make light,” said King.

“One might nevertheless detect it in other ways, for example as it bent light rays passing very close to it (gravitational lensing) or perhaps in future from the gravitational waves that Einstein's General Theory of Relativity predicts would be emitted as it merged,” he added.

The study was published in the journal *Monthly Notices Letters of the Royal Astronomical Society*.



## Modi calls for end to terrorism, opens new Afghan parliament



Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for an end to cross border terrorism while inaugurating a new parliament building in Afghanistan.

Without naming Pakistan, Modi said in an address to the parliament here: "Afghanistan will succeed only when terrorism no longer flows across the border; when nurseries and sanctuaries of terrorism are shut and their patrons are no longer in business.

"Terror and violence cannot be the instrument to shape Afghanistan's future or dictate the choices Afghans make," he said.

Modi reached Kabul in the wee hours of Friday while on his way back from a two-day visit to Russia.

He, along with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, inaugurated the new Afghan parliament building that has been constructed with Indian assistance of \$90 million. One block of the building has been named after former Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

"Bahut dhanyavaad India for giving us a new house of democracy. Its a testimony to our unyielding friendship," Ghani stated in a tweet.

In his address, Modi said that there were "some who did not want us to be here".

"There were those who saw sinister designs in our presence here. There are others who were uneasy at the strength of our partnership. Some even tried to discourage us."

He said that "those waging war from outside must seek a

path to this building and this hall".

The Indian prime minister said that Afghanistan's success would require the cooperation and support of each of its neighbours.

"And, all of us in the region – India, Pakistan, Iran and others – must unite, in trust and cooperation, behind this common purpose and in recognition of our common destiny," he said.

Modi also expressed the hope that Pakistan would "become a bridge between South Asia and Afghanistan and beyond".

Stating that nothing was more important for a nation than its human resources, he announced 500 Indian scholarships for children of security personnel who have died. A joint statement issued after a meeting between Modi and Ghani said that Afghanistan needed to eliminate terrorism perpetrated from "sanctuaries and safe havens" for peace while identifying terrorism, narcotics and extremism as "serious challenges".

"Strongly condemning the barbaric incidents of terrorism in Afghanistan in recent months, the two leaders reiterated that peace in Afghanistan required elimination of terrorism perpetrated and supported from sanctuaries and safe havens," the statement said.

Modi, meanwhile "reiterated India's full support to Afghanistan for strengthening its defensive capabilities for preserving Afghanistan's unity and territorial integrity and ensuring security".

The Mi-25 choppers India is giving to Afghanistan were also mentioned in the statement, and both sides agreed to expand training opportunities for Afghan security and defence forces. The two leaders pointed out that the Mi-25 helicopters provided by the Indian government to Afghanistan and their maintenance facility would address an important requirement.

Modi also thanked Afghan authorities for ensuring the safety of the Indian embassy in Kabul, the four consulates in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif, and Indian nationals in Afghanistan, including those working on various development projects.

Earlier, after Modi reached Kabul, Ghani tweeted: "India and Afghanistan enjoy a friendship that dates back to antiquity. We have stood by each other in the best and worst of times."

The two leaders had delegation-level discussions over breakfast.

After his address to Parliament, Modi met Afghanistan's Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah and former president Hamid Karzai.

He also interacted with Indian aid workers in Afghanistan, personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and embassy officials.

He left for Lahore where he will meet Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during a brief stopover.

**WISH YOU  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
2016**

# See if your vehicle is in re-call

Your vehicle may be involved in a safety recall and may create a safety risk for you or your passengers. Safety defects must be repaired by a dealer at no cost to you. However, if left unrepaired, a potential safety defect in your vehicle could lead to injury or even death. Read this entire email to find out more and learn what you should do next.

## What is a recall?

When a manufacturer or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) determines that a car or item of motor vehicle equipment creates an unreasonable risk to safety or fails to meet minimum safety standards, the manufacturer is required to fix that car or equipment at no cost to the consumer. That can be done by repairing it, replacing it, offering a refund (for equipment) or, in rare cases, repurchasing the car.



The following recall may apply to one or more of your vehicles if your vehicle is listed below. Click on the NHTSA Campaign ID number below to read more about the safety issue and the reason for the recall.

To find out if your vehicle is included in the recall, use our VIN Look-up Tool.

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V729  
 Manufacturer : Mobility Works (WMK Inc.)  
 Make / Model Years : FORD / 2006-2014  
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Link Arm Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V738  
 Manufacturer : BMW of North America, LLC  
 Make / Model Years : BMW / 2013-2015  
 Subject : Brake Hose May Kink may cause Brake Fluid Leak

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V739  
 Manufacturer : BMW of North America, LLC  
 Make / Model Years : MINI / 2014-2015  
 Subject : Replacement Passenger Seat Cushions/ Air Bag Coding

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V740  
 Manufacturer : PACCAR Incorporated  
 Make / Model Years : PETERBILT / 2009-2016  
 Subject : Trucks can Exceed Speed Rating of Front Tires

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V741  
 Manufacturer : Forest River, Inc.  
 Make / Model Years : FOREST RIVER / 2010-2016  
 Subject : Incorrect Tire Size on Federal Placard/ Part 567

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V742  
 Manufacturer : Forest River, Inc.  
 Make / Model Years : COACHMEN / 2016  
 Subject : Parking Brake may not Function Properly

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V744  
 Manufacturer : Maserati North America, Inc.  
 Make / Model Years : MASERATI / 2016  
 Subject : Passenger Side Door Latch Not Heat Treated

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V745  
 Manufacturer : Thor Motor Coach  
 Make / Model Years : DAMON / 2008-2012  
 FOUR WINDS / 2009-2011  
 THOR / 2011-2016  
 THOR MOTOR COACH / 2011-2016  
 Subject : Electric Entry Steps may be Unstable

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V746  
 Manufacturer : Spartan Motors USA  
 Make / Model Years : SPARTAN / 2014-2015  
 Subject : Driveshaft may Disconnect

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V747  
 Manufacturer : Newmar Corporation  
 Make / Model Years : NEWMAR / 2014-2016  
 Subject : Water Heater May Scald Operator

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V748  
 Manufacturer : Goshen Coach  
 Make / Model Years : GOSHEN / 2006-2015  
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Link Arm Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V749  
 Manufacturer : Winnebago Industries, Inc  
 Make / Model Years : WINNEBAGO / 2008,2010,2012  
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Link Arm Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V752  
 Manufacturer : Newmar Corporation  
 Make / Model Years : NEWMAR / 2004-2008  
 Subject : Engine Cooling Fan May Separate from Fan Drive

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V757  
 Manufacturer : Champion Bus, Inc.  
 Make / Model Years : CHAMPION / 2006-2015  
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Link Arm Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V777  
 Manufacturer : Polaris Industries, Inc.  
 Make / Model Years : POLARIS / 2015-2016  
 Subject : Headlights May Shut Off While Riding

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V780  
 Manufacturer : Tesla Motors, Inc.  
 Make / Model Years : TESLA / 2012-2015  
 Subject : Front Seat Belts may be Incorrectly Secured

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V793  
 Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company  
 Make / Model Years : FORD / 2010-2011  
 MERCURY / 2010-2011  
 Subject : Fuel Tank May Crack

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V797  
 Manufacturer : Newmar Corporation  
 Make / Model Years : NEWMAR / 2016  
 Subject : Egress Window Not Installed Over DINETTE

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 15V800  
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 Make / Model Years : DODGE / 2013-2014  
 Subject : Power Brake Booster Contamination

What should I do if my vehicle is included in this recall? If your vehicle is included in this recall, it is very important that you get it fixed as soon as possible given the potential danger to you and your passengers if it is not addressed. You should receive a separate letter in the mail from the vehicle manufacturer, notifying you of the recall and explaining when the remedy will be available, whom to contact to repair your vehicle or equipment, and to remind you that the repair will be done at no charge to you. If you believe your vehicle is included in the recall, but you do not receive a letter in the mail from the vehicle manufacturer, please call NHTSA's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236 or contact your vehicle manufacturer or dealership.

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Frank S. Borris II  
 Director  
 Office of Defects Investigation  
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 U.S. Department of Transportation



# Actress Sadhna passed away

One of the most prominent actresses of late 60's and 70's, Sadhana Shivdasani, popularly known as Sadhana, passed away today morning at Hinduja hospital. She was 74 years old.

The actress was previously in news for suffering from a tumour last year. She reportedly had a small lesion in her mouth that was cancerous and underwent a successful surgery for the same.

The cremation will take place from her Santacruz residence.

Known for films like 'Mera Saaya', 'Wo Kaun Thi' and 'Waqt', the legendary actress made the fringe hairstyle, inspired from Hollywood icon Audrey Hepburn, a popular look for a long time.

Born in a Sindhi family in Karachi, British India, Sadhana was named after her father's favourite actress-dancer Sadhana Bose. Her father was the brother of actor Hari Shivdasani, father of actress Babita. The family fled from Karachi during the post-Partition riots and settled in Mumbai.

Sadhana aspired to be an actress since childhood. Her father helped her enter films. In 1955 she played a chorus girl in the song 'Mur mur ke na dekh mur mur ke' in Raj Kapoor's 'Shree 420'. When she was 15 years old, she was approached by some producers who had seen her act in a college play. They cast her in India's first Sindhi film titled Abaana (1958), where she played the role of Sheila Ramani's younger sister.

Known for her expressive and captivating eyes and strong acting, Sadhana played her remarkable double role in the first of the suspense-thriller trilogy, Woh Kaun Thi?. This white-sari-clad performance opposite Manoj Kumar earned her first Filmfare nomination as Best Actress. On the set of her first film, the Sindhi film 'Abaana' (1958),



in which she had a supporting role, she asked the film's star, Sheila Ramani for an autograph. Ramani scribbled, "One day, I'll come and ask you for your autograph." Sadhana had health issues due to her thyroid, which she got treated at a hospital in Boston. After returning from the US, she starred in the successful movies 'Intaquam', 'Ek Phool Do Mali', and 'Geeta Mera Naam', which she also directed.

The actress kept a low profile all her life. She always believed that an artiste should maintain a certain mystique. According to her, "An artist shouldn't become too

familiar to the public. One shouldn't see them too often. The charisma grows in that way, and that's what's called star-power."

She retired from acting in late 70's as she did not want to be cast as a side-actress or do character roles. Later, she and her husband formed a production company. She also directed a movie starring Dimple Kapadia in 1989.

The cremation will take place tomorrow from her Santacruz residence.

With Sadhana, an era of Bollywood comes to an end.



Waheeda at the residence of late Sadhana to pay her last respects

A number of veteran Bollywood stars were photographed dropping by her residence to pay the family their condolences. One of them included long time friend, actress Waheeda Rehman.

Speaking of Sadhana's sudden passing, she said, "She spoke to me two days ago. I had just seen 'Bajirao Mastani' and she wanted to know all the details. And now she's gone. She's the second dear friend I've lost this year after Nanda. And the strangest thing is, Nanda passed away on 25 March. Sadhana too died on the 25th. That is scary. I guess one goes when one has to."

Waheeda added, "Sadhana was a very dear friend. Like Nanda, Sadhana was a recluse. We could speak our minds and hearts to each other without fear. She was a fighter and spent most of her life struggling against odds. only did one film together. We shared a friendship far removed from the profession. I will miss her."

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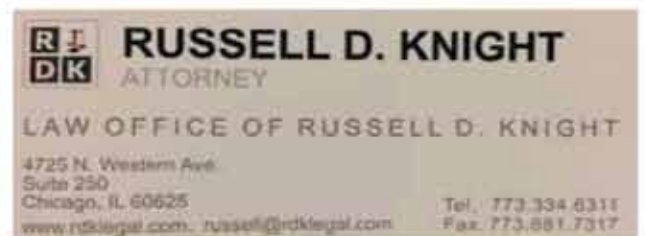


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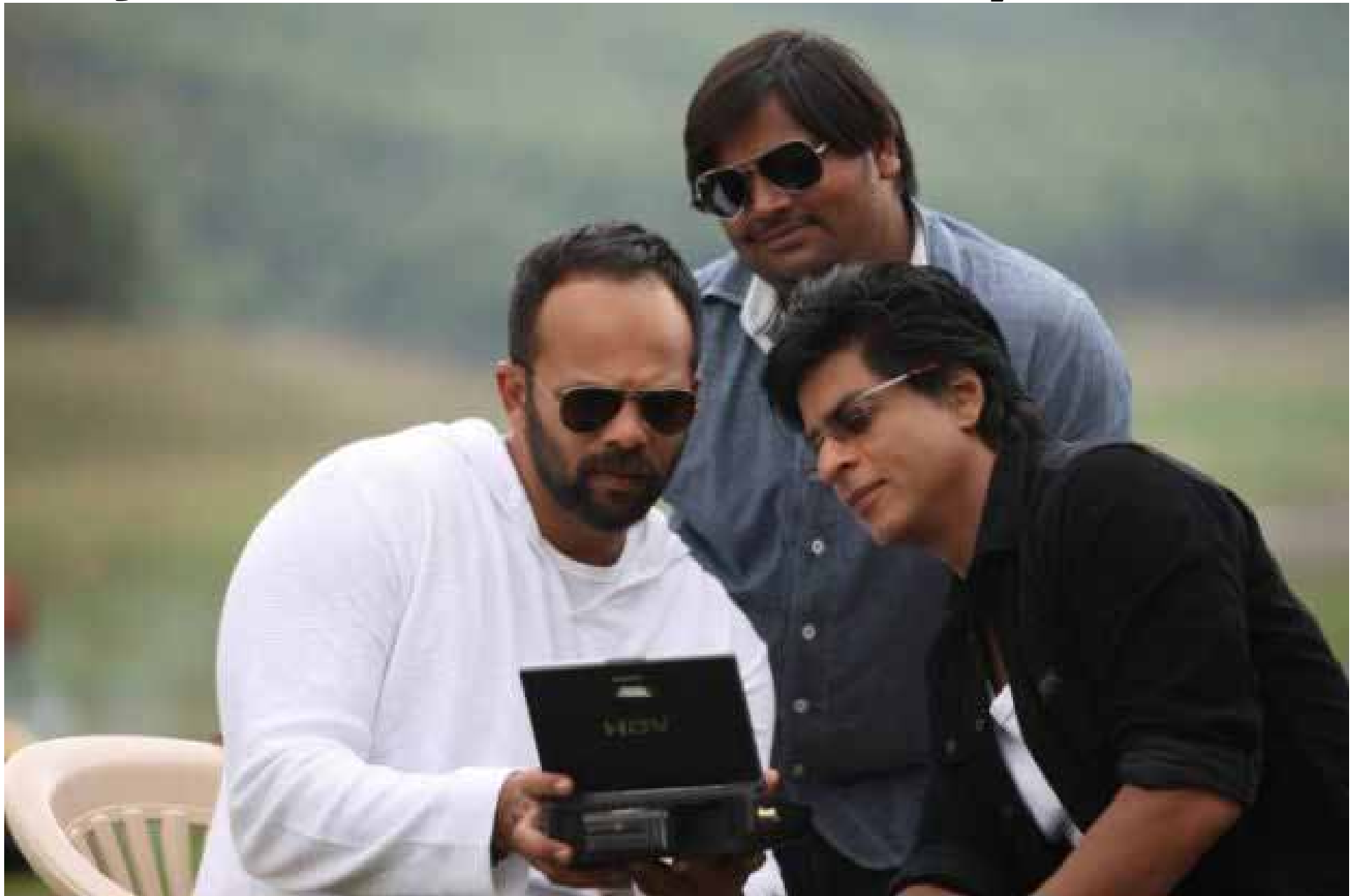


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# Ban affected Dilwale's collection, not 'Bajirao Mastani': Rohit Shetty



Director Rohit Shetty feels the initial ban on his latest film "Dilwale", starring Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol in the lead, has affected the opening collection of the action-comedy. The 41-year-old director said he was always prepared for the face off with Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Bajirao Mastani".

"We all were aware that 'Dilwale' and 'Bajirao Mastani' are coming together, so, I was prepared for that competition and the harm we will give each other. But I think what affected the Friday and Saturday collections were the ban in Rajasthan and MP. Almost 40 per cent of the theaters were not showing the film and we resumed on Sunday morning... It's all mathematics, how many theaters we are running in we will get the collections according to that," Rohit told PTI.

The "Chennai Express" helmer thinks bans are the out-

come of "misunderstanding" and if dealt with patience things can be settled out easily. "Bans do harm the business, but when you go and talk to the people opposing the film, it all gets sorted. I have come to the conclusion that all this happens due to misunderstanding. And the issue easily gets resolved if you go and talk to them nicely," he said. "Dilwale", released last Friday, stars Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Johnny Lever, Varun Sharma among others in prominent roles.

The film has bagged thunderous response overseas and that has left Rohit surprised. "With 'Star Wars' releasing at the same time this kind of response overseas is great. I never really thought this kind of response will come from international circuit as I always knew 'Star Wars' was coming. I think Shah Rukh is very popular overseas or may be the SRK-Kajol chemistry is working in favour of

the film," he said.

Bringing back the iconic pair of SRK-Kajol after five years can look like a tough task, but Rohit said it was a cake walk as the "Fanna" actress gave quick nod to the film. "Bringing Shah Rukh and Kajol together was not planned. I narrated the script to Shah Rukh, he heard the character I had written for the girl and suggested why not take Kajol as it is an important role. Then we narrated the script and the moment it got over she promptly said yes. It was very easy to bring her on board," he said.

Rohit, who had been away from the promotions, said he was busy in the post production of the movie till a week before its release. "I was busy finishing the film. We have completed the film in five months. June 21st the film started. We were shooting and editing and working round the clock and were able to finish the film on Saturday

for Friday release. I said I am not coming anywhere otherwise the film will not release."

Rohit is also planning to watch "Bajirao Mastani" as soon as he gets free from his own film. "Currently I am busy with 'Dilwale' only, once I am through with it will definitely see the film sometime early next year. I have heard great things about Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh. They are friends and will surely see the film."



# Dilip Kumar receives Padma Vibhushan



Ailing legendary actor Dilip Kumar, known as the “tragedy king of Bollywood”, turned emotional today (December 13) when he was presented with Padma Vibhushan by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at his residence in suburban Bandra for his contribution to Hindi cinema spanning over six decades.

Health did not allow me to travel to Delhi to receive the award from the President. Tearful moment when the award was in my hands. How happy and proud my family was. Indeed Allah's mercy and blessing.

The 93-year-old veteran, who shot to fame with “Naya Daur”, “Jugnu”, “Andaz” and “Devdas” and went on to give sterling performances in over 60 Hindi films, was given the second-highest civilian award comprising a medal, certificate and shawl in the presence of the actor's 71-year-old wife Saira Bano.

Kumar, in a black suit, could barely open his eyes and was helped by Saira when the national honour was conferred on him. He felt happy and got emotional at the recognition, Saira said.

After presenting the award to the actor, Singh said, “The Prime Minister asked me to go and personally present him with the Padma Vibhushan Award in Mumbai. When Padma Vibhushan was presented in Delhi, Dilip ji couldn't make it due to health concerns.”

“Dilip Kumar ji has contributed a lot to film industry. Considering that, we've presented him with Padma Vibhushan,” the Home Minister said.

Veteran actor Dilip Kumar conferred with Padma Vibhushan, see pics

State Governor C Vidyasagar Rao, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar were also present at the occasion.

When asked about Kumar's reaction at receiving the award, Saira later told reporters that, “He has always been quiet about himself. He is happy, he smiled and there were tears in his eyes. He is an emotional and sensitive person. For him material things do not matter. He is a simple man, down to earth.”

While Saira feels proud of the honour bestowed her on husband, she says the biggest award is the love of audience. “I am very proud with the honour that the government has given him. I was emotional. I am the proudest wife. Apart from the award people always love and respect him, that matters the most. This is the biggest award,” she said.

She also appreciated the gesture of Home Minister, Maharashtra Governor and Chief Minister to come to their residence to present the award.

The announcement to honour Bollywood veterans Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan and a few others with the prestigious Padma Vibhushan award was made by the government on the eve of Republic Day on January 25, 2015.

However, Kumar, due to ill-health, could not attend the special function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in April when other Padma awardees were honoured by President Pranab Mukherjee.

“It was kind of Rajnath ji to come here personally and honour him. He could not have sent anyone, but he came. When this function happened Kumar was not well. We couldn't go there. It's a great honour,” Saira said.

Saira said, “Even when Dilip ji used to give a shot, he used to keep quiet while others used to praise him. We, as his co-stars, used to expect that he would praise us for a shot, but he used to just say ‘good’ and nothing else. Every artist improves his craft of acting by working with him,” she said.

“I have never seen him praising himself or talk ill about anyone. I try to do mischief with him...by talking ill about someone, but he would rather say good things about the person,” she said.

The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan award in 1991, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994 and the Padma Vibhushan earlier this year, for his exceptional and distinguished contribution to the Indian cinema.

However, the actor is yet to receive the Bharat Ratna. To this, Saira said, “These awards are welcome, but are materialistic things. He has never expressed his desire to get so and so award. But the love is what matters. I think cinema will be written as before and after Dilip Kumar. Acting should be such that it shouldn't look like one is acting. He is a master in acting.”

On December 11, Kumar celebrated his 93rd birthday with several of his well



wishers sending him flowers and gifts. “Mr Amitabh Bachchan had sent flowers and a note on his birthday. He is a great admirer of him, he wishes long and healthy life for him,” she added. Bachchan told reporters here, “I have been a huge fan of Dilip Kumar since many years. It's a very proud, happy moment for all of us... When the history of Indian cinema will be written, it will be before Dilip sahab and after Dilip sahab.” Born as Muhammad Yousuf Khan in Peshawar (Pakistan). Kumar made his debut as an actor in the film “Jwar Bhata” produced by Bombay Talkies in 1944. He starred in films of a variety of genres such as the swashbuckling “Aan” (1952), the comical “Azaad” (1955), the historical “Mughal-e-Azam” (1960) and the social “Ganga Jamuna” (1961). He also did films like “Ram Aur Shyam” (1967), “Kranti” (1981), “Shakti” (1982), “Karma” (1986) and “Saudagar” (1991) and others. His last film was “Qila” (1998).

# Sher-e-Mysore

by  
M.A. Waheed

“It is far better to live like a lion for a day then to live like a jackal for a hundred years” said a bold, brave and brilliant son of Mysore in India known as Tipu Sultan. Girish Karnad a noted stage and film authority hailing from the same State as Tipu Sultan recently opined that if Tipu Sultan was a Hindu, he would have bestowed the same aura and mantle as Shivaji in Maharashtra. Born on November 20, 1750 in Devanahalli (present day Bengaluru), Tipu hailed as “The Tiger of Mysore” will always be remembered as one of the most powerful rulers India ever had. Fascinated by Tipu’s heroics in my high school history class, I undertook a visit to his summer palace in Srirangapatnam. An amazing scholar and a remarkably ambitious king his heroics are written all over the kingdom. As in life and after death, Tipu is draped in viewpoints that converge and diverge depending on one’s political prism or mental prison. Collaborating with the French, Tipu fought valiantly against the British rule and was a thorn in their imperial advances. Using rockets and naval power he kept

the British forces at bay for a long time. His passion for freedom from colonial rule is a well documented stanza of India’s playbook on emancipation. Eminent historians have recognized Tipu Sultan as an enlightened ruler in war and peace. He always led from the front and any number of his bravery anecdotes generously inflate and infuriate tempers even to this day. As a Muslim king in a majority Hindu state, Tipu practiced communal unity. Only 10 percent of his officials were Muslim and the rest were from the Hindu majority. His currency carried images of Hindu gods, like Shiva, Parvati, Sharada and Krishna. He popularized “tiger” as the motif of his kingdom aligning the mascot to goddess Durga.

There have been very few examples of a soldier and scholar in one person. Tipu is known to excel with both qualities of brain and brawn. Dignity, compassion and humanity are traits documented by historians in subjective frames. As a leading international magazine once mentioned, “one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter”.....so is the case with Tipu Sultan. Legend

has it that Tipu was hunting with a French friend when he came face to face with a tiger.....the tiger pounced on him. His gun failed to work but he killed the tiger with his dagger thus earning the title of, “the Tiger of Mysore”. Emphasizing the importance of communication and connections, he introduced the postal runners. He pioneered road building. Constructed a dam over Cauvery, developed agriculture, established trade routes overseas, supported horticulture, nurtured sandalwood, collected and treasured arts and crafts. The personal sword of Tipu Sultan was bought back from British collectors by Vijay Mallya the industrialist from Tipu’s state. Another showman Sajay Khan from Tipu’s state launched a magnificent TV serial based on Tipu. I had the good fortune of interacting with Sanjay Khan while I worked with Lintas the ad agency in Bombay on marketing of the serial, “The sword of Tipu”.

While there were rumours of filmstar Rajinikanth, doing Tipu’s role in a biopic, Hindu Munani leader Rama Gopalan has expressed his request to

the actor from starring in this role. Trumping against a secular philosophy is a fashionable statement in today’s politics.....and this disease plagues the East and the West.

M.A. Waheed is a freelance journalist based in Upstate NY and can be reached at waheed48@yahoo.com.



## The Saffron Rainbow

by  
M.A. Waheed

When did you last see a rainbow? Radiant, multicolor, glowing, pleasing, soothing, sending a wave of happiness, ripples in your heart. Enthused, you did call your beloved to share this visionary experience, a Naani’s heart flapped and she calls her nawasis to bask in this glorious sight. Onlookers dyed their worries in this bliss for a few seconds and morphed into a flashback of their naadaan-bachpan. Fast-forward to the horizon in today’s Bharat.....is the rainbow dissolving into a single color, may be saffron? The cultural divide, the distorted lens on political cameras, quotations from a singular text book now converge on an illogical showcase of “intolerance”.

Scientists, writers, actors, sportsmen are in a social turmoil desperately extinguishing flames of hostility, wasting their talents in the domains of futility. Having ascended the Delhi throne with a massive mandate and high expectations of inserting “change” the ruling party has lost its GPS wandering in the lanes and by-lanes of rituals, rites and restraints. After years

of visa denials the Prime Minister, now equipped with a “passport on steroids” is away from his corporate headquarters fulfilling a mission of a traveling salesman’s aspirations adopting “mounrat” on critical issues affecting a common man’s life. No deedar on Dadri. Conducting a “Diversity Workshop” at NYU recently, I was boasting our practice of the art and science of multiculturalism in India. Centuries of amalgamation and assimilation are a tribute to our social fabric. Languages, customs, religions, complexions, cuisines have flourished in the deserts and dunes of India. Now the irony is, if you are not my clone, then you are not my own”. In some quarters it has become fashionable to question the patriotism of our people. Is Prachi a super-judge to brand Sharukh Khan as an agent of Pakistan and banish him to the other side of the border? Such unpatriotic sentiments pollute and corrupt our creativity and sanity. Ghulam Ali recently echoed on the ban to perform in Mumbai as, “aise haalat se awam ka soor badal jaata hai”. When quizzed on

the intolerance issue, Salman Khan says, “We are all humans and we should live in harmony.” He further adds, my mother is Susheela Charak and father is Salim Khan. I am reminded of my own experience during the Bombay riots in the 80’s, while I was working with that secular and creative genius Alyque Padamsee at Lintas we published an ad in all languages with headline, “Mazhab Nahin Sikhaata Aapas mein bair rakhna.....accompanied by a faithful colleague from the Hindu community, I roamed curfew ridden lanes interacting with Gautam Rajadhyksha and Balwant Tandon to get this communication executed. The evil communal snake constantly raises its head again and again! Just imagine a cricket team of eleven bowlers only, then who would score runs? Who would field? And most importantly does such a team stand even a slim chance of winning a single game. We need to harness the multi-talents of our society and make a winning nation, before we “make in India”. There is a \$13 trillion middle class market potential in rural India wait-

ing to be tapped by eager multinationals. Will they come to a country plagued by social ills and impractical political wills”. Dialogue, dissent and dreams are indispensable ingredients for a healthy nation. Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan has called for “tolerance and mutual respect”. He reiterated that India would be “crazy to lose” its biggest advantage and emphasized the “need to keep an open society” and “resist all attempts at closing it down”. Thought leaders and the community must work together for a legacy that we will be proud to leave and the millenials will be happy to inherit. Should we not help create a “hub of happiness” for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Every citizen in the country or an overseas citizen is a stakeholder in India and deserves a dividend of happiness by birth in India. Let us then see a rainbow of happiness in all its colors.

M.A. Waheed is a freelance journalist based in Upstate NY and can be reached at waheed48@yahoo.com.



**On the lighter side....**

One day, a cowboy rode into a Wild, Wild West town. The people in the town love to play jokes on visitors. After tying his horse to the pole outside a bar, the cowboy went in. "A cup of milk please," he said to the bartender. After drinking, he went out, only to find his horse missing. Knowing that the villagers did it, he went back into the bar and said to everybody, "I am going to have another drink and when I finish it, I want to see my horse outside! Or else, I will have to do what I did in Texas - HERE!" The people were very frightened. When he finished his drink, he went outside and saw his horse. The villagers had put it back. Curious, the bartender asked the cowboy, "What did you do in Texas?"

The Cowboy replied, "Well, I had to walk home"

Teacher to a student: "Can you think of a solution to end unemployment?"

"Yes, sir! I'd put all the men on one island and the women on another."

"And what would they be doing then?"

"Building boats!"

A man is complaining to a friend: "I had it all, money, a beautiful house, a nice car, a great motorcycle, the love of a beautiful woman. Then it was all gone!"

"What happened?" asks the friend.

"My wife found out!" replied the man.

The judge frowned at the tired robber and said, "then you admit breaking into the

same store on three successive nights?" "Yes, your honor."

"And why was that?" "Because my wife wanted a dress."

The judge check with his records, "But it says here you broke in three nights in a row!"

"Yes sir. She made me exchange it two times."

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. 'Yes,' said the policeman. 'The detectives want very badly to capture him.'

'Little Johnny asked, 'Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?'

Two guys were fishing down by the Ohio River on different sides of the riverbank at night. Guy number one was catching a whole bunch of fish for his family, but guy number two hadn't caught any and was frustrated and called out to guy number one "How come you've been catching all them there fish and I ain't caught a single one?"

Guy number one replied, " I don't know... why don't ya come on over here?"



"I don't know... I don't see a bridge, and their aint no boat, and I don't swim to well"

Guy number one picks up his flashlight,

turns it on, and replies, " Why don't you walk across this here beam off light?"

Guy number two was outraged and replied "do you think am stupid? When I get half way you'll turn it off!!!"

The factory foreman inspected the shipment of crystal vases leaving the plant, and approached his new packer. He put his arm around the man's shoulder and said,

"Well, Ole, I see you did what I asked. Stamped the top of each box, 'This Side Up,

Handle With Care."

"Yes sir," the worker replied. "And just to make sure, I stamped it on the bottom too."

Mike, Jack, and Gary go for a hike in the woods. They are out about an hour enjoying the sights when they come around a sharp bend in the trail and spot a bear just in front of them feeding off some vegetation next to the trail. The bear lets out a menacing growl when it notices the hikers. Mike says "jump up and down, make some

noise to scare it away". Jack says "that won't work, we need to play dead". They both ask Gary "what do we do?" There is no reply. Turning around they see Gary far down the trail behind them.

A businessman dragged himself home and barely made it to his chair before he dropped exhausted.

His sympathetic wife was right there with a tall cool drink and a comforting word. "My, you look tired," she said. "You must have had a hard day today. What happened to make you so exhausted?"

"It was terrible," her husband said. "The computer broke down and all of us had to do our own thinking."

A city slicker moves to the country and decides he's going to take up farming.

He heads to the local co-op and tells the man, "Give me a hundred baby chickens."

The co-op man complies. A week later the man returns and says, "Give me two hundred baby chickens." The co-op man complies.

Again, a week later the man returns. This time he says, "Give me five-hundred baby chickens." "Wow! The co-op man replies "You must really be doing well!"

"Naw," said the man with a sigh. "I'm either planting them too deep or too far apart!"



Priyanka Chopra, has been signed on as brand ambassador for a leading toothpaste brand. The actress who usually charges 1 crore for brand endorsements, has cut down her fee to 75 lakhs, to bag this endorsement.



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# Khomeini grandson registers for Iran Assembly election

A grandson of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini registered for February's election of the Assembly of Experts, the clerical body that chooses the supreme leader, state broadcaster IRIB reported.

Hassan Khomeini, 43, a politically moderate cleric, will be the first member of the family of Iran's revolutionary founder to test his popularity at the ballot box.

In a conditional endorsement of the move, incumbent Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told Khomeini last week he should be careful not to bring his grandfather's name into disrepute, a source close to Khomeini said.

Hardliners close to Khamenei have voiced concerns about Hassan Khomeini's candidacy, warning of the risk of a reformist alliance emerging at the top of Iran's political establishment.

Iran's military chief attacks idea of council to replace supreme leader Khomeini is close to centrist President Hassan Rouhani, whose popularity has risen since his government struck a deal on Iran's nuclear program with world powers in July.

Rouhani is hoping to cash in on that support to help



like-minded politicians win a majority in the assembly and in a parliamentary election that will be held on the same day.

Khamenei is 76, so the new assembly is expected to play a significant role in choosing his successor since

its members are only elected every eight years.

(Reporting by Bozorgmehr Sharafedin; Editing by Yara Bayoumy and John Stonestreet)



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