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Globally Recognized Editor-in-Chief: Azeem A. Quadeer, M.S., P.E.

MARCH 2018 Vol 9, Issue 3



**YOU WILL BE MISSED
RIP SRIDEVI**

FedEx Stubborn about Discounts NRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

FedEx is part of the NRA Business Alliance and offers discounts through its FedEx Advantage program for shipping by FedEx Ground and FedEx Express and

some services at FedEx Office, according to company and NRA websites. NRA officials also didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

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

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

Supporters of the NRA, however, were mounting their own campaigns. Georgia Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle, a Re-



publican who is running for governor, on Monday threatened to kill tax legislation that would benefit Delta unless it reinstates its relationship with the NRA. A bill before the state’s General Assembly would exempt jet fuel from sales tax, benefiting the airline.

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

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

Time.com

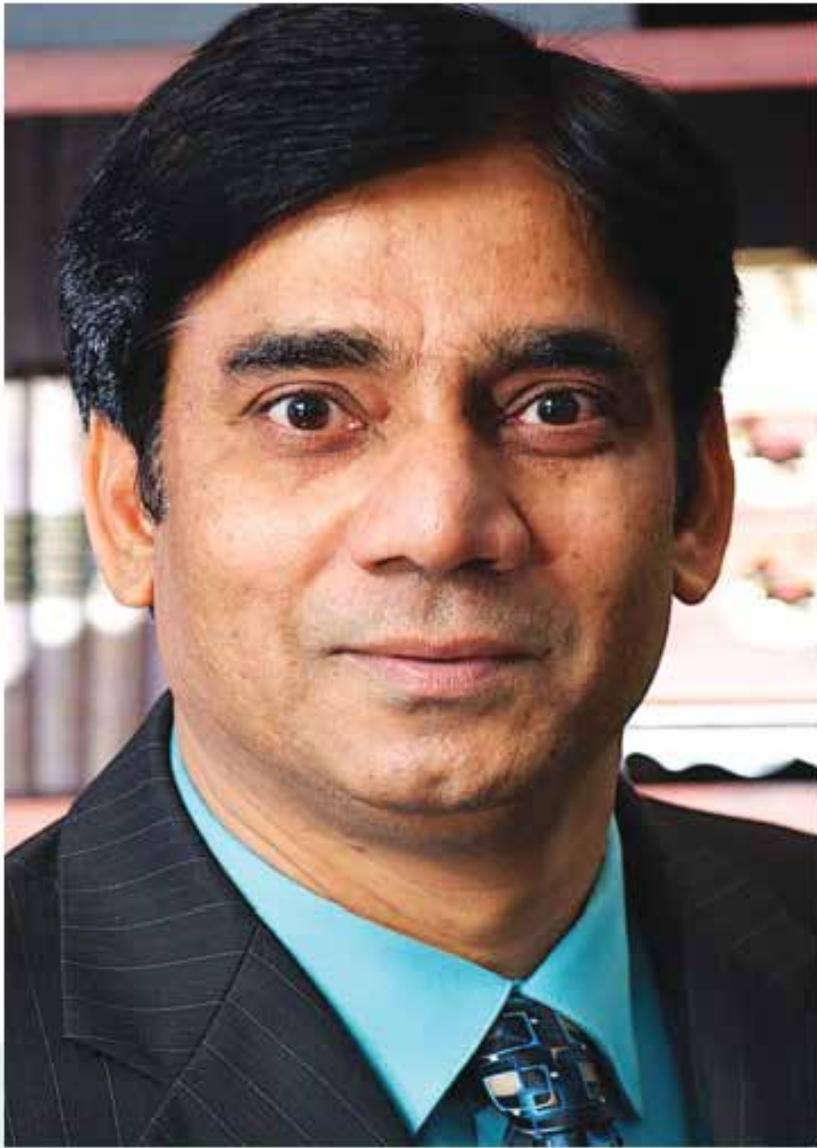
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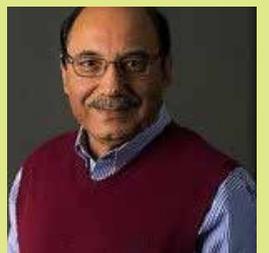
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Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his family visit to India

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

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

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

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

Narendra Modi who is active on Twitter also did not post any



welcome tweet so far, a courtesy he normally reserves for all the visiting dignitaries after he became the Prime Minister of India in 2014.

Now all eyes are set on Trudeau's visit to Punjab. However, there are no clear indications so far whether or not Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh will host the visiting prime minister in the holy city of Amritsar when the dignitaries will go to the Golden Temple.

CM Amarinder Singh's annoyance with the Canadian government is apparent.

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

Amarinder had accused Sajjan and other ministers of Punjabi origin in the Trudeau government of links to radical elements demanding a separate Sikh state of Khalistan. Amarinder made it

clear that he "would not meet any Khalistani sympathisers".

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

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

The Ontario Assembly, dominated by Trudeau's Liberal Party, passed a resolution in 2017 condemning the "genocide" of Sikhs in India in

1984.

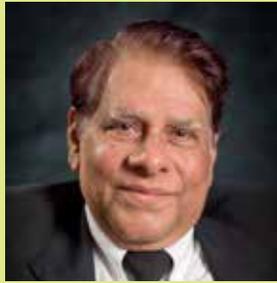
Also in 2017, Canada's High Commissioner to India had to apologise after India reacted sharply when a former CRPF officer was initially denied entry at Vancouver airport on the grounds that he had served a government that engaged in "terrorism, systematic or gross human rights violations, or genocide".

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

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

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

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December 27, 2017

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

Dear Dr. Ahmed:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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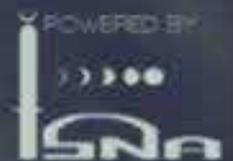
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Delivered check to Mayor and Chief of police department City of Richardson behalf of Islamic Society Of North Texas and DFW Muslim community and delivered cheque of 20k for the family of slain officer of RPD late officer David Sherad.

A message from Dr. Asim Shah



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

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

Dr. Shah says if you see a friend’s tone change drastically for the worse on social

media, try approaching them in person about it if you can.

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

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

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

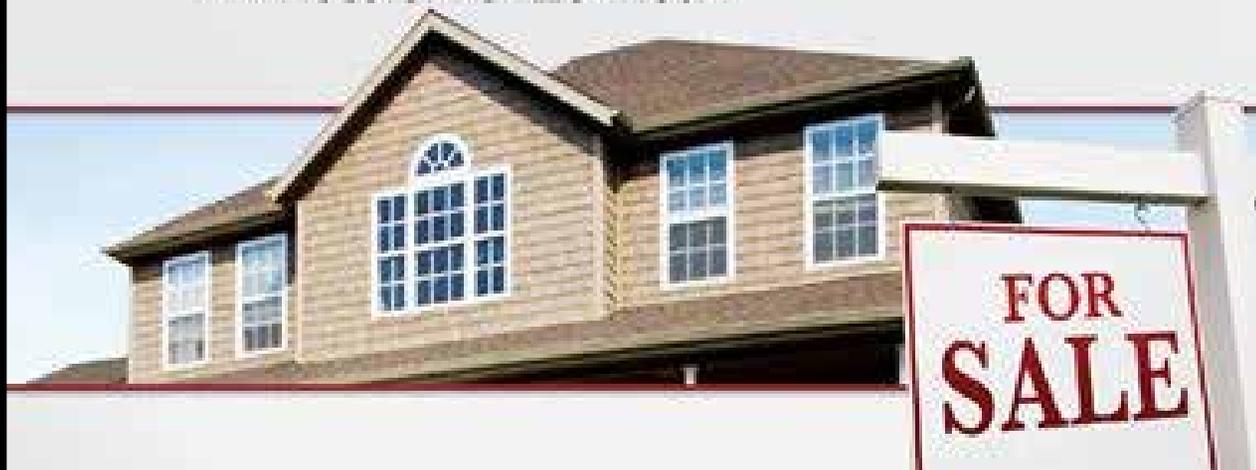
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Shawkath Mohammed at an Executive Council celebration at Venetian Hotel Las Vegas.

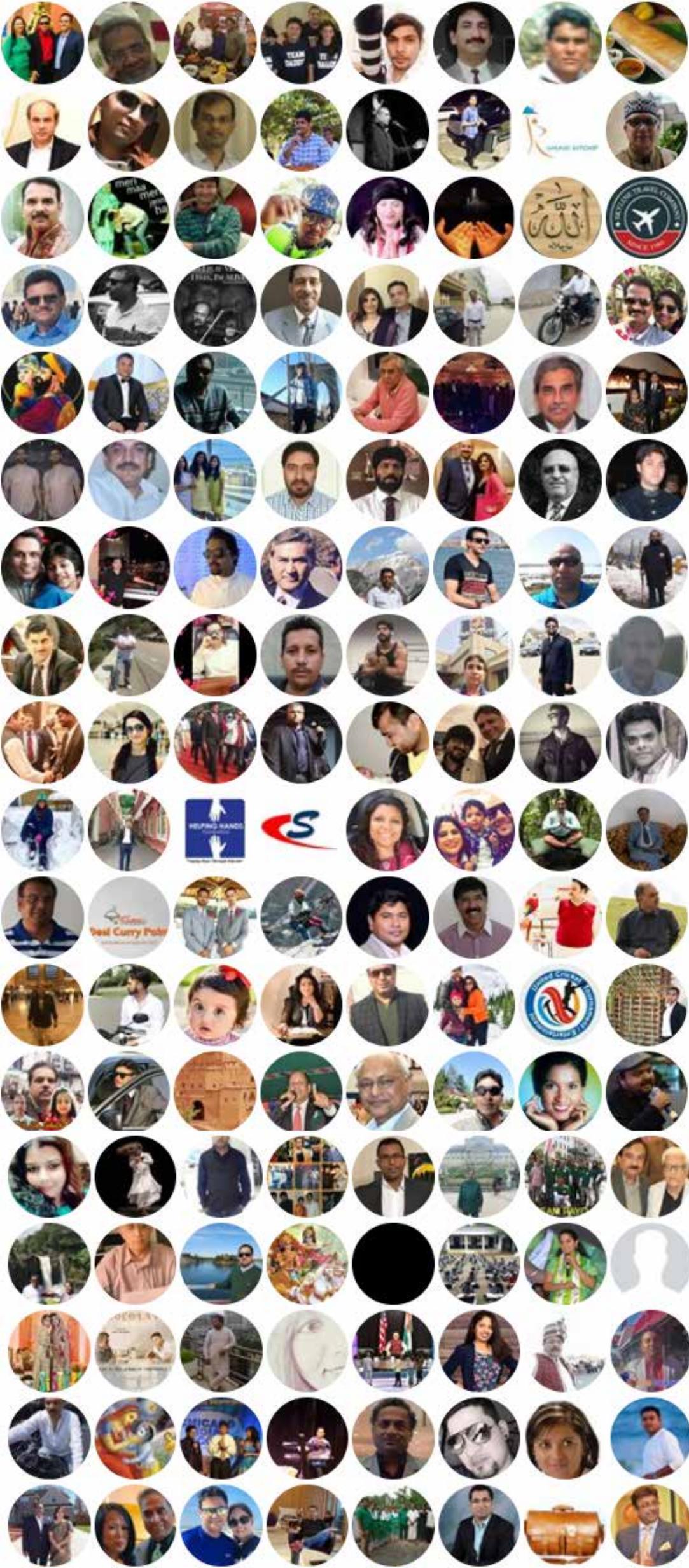
MARCH Birthdays



CONGRATULATIONS FRIENDS

INTERNATIONAL PAGES

INTERNATIONAL PAGES



... through ...

Chai & Chat - Managing Aging

By Nazeera Dawood

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

Some of the themes that echoed that evening included Discussed the complexities of ABCD of age 65 and above; Medicare. Medicare is one of the ways to cover acute medical care needs of elderly and people with severe disabilities. The amount the individual must pay out for medical care is rising even with Medicare, it is wise to plan sooner for retirement.

Forge common ground for reinforcing successful, collaborative strategies for seniors and caregivers & insights to help shift attitudes and behaviors to create positive and strong aging population and to be non-judgmental, leverage available resources and make aware of the ongoing positive contributions of our aging population and caregivers.

While genes and environment play an important role for chronic diseases, delaying the onset of age related health issues can have a positive impact on quality of life. Lifestyle modifications with healthy diet and regular exercise is important along with positive communication and interactions and good sleep.

There are several advocacy organizations such as AARP & Georgia Watch that ensure Americans over age 50 have access to care, information and services they need to lead healthier independent life with dignity.

Economic, cultural, medical, health care, and mental health factors can affect aging population in certain ways. Identifying gaps and opportunities for culturally sensitive programs through local, state and federal programs for immigrant senior population was discussed.

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

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

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

on - Conversing with Death & living balanced lifestyle.

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

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

Georgia Consumer Guide for Medical Billing and Debt

10 Easy Ways to Save Money on Utility Bills Save Money on Utility Bills

The myth that age eliminated sexual relations was busted. It is normal for people over age 60 to engage in sexual activity on a regular basis which also includes companionship.

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

Other topics such as need for transportation, aware of seniors' health literacy, and long term care, coordinated care approach between health and social services agencies, and other aging resources was brought forth.



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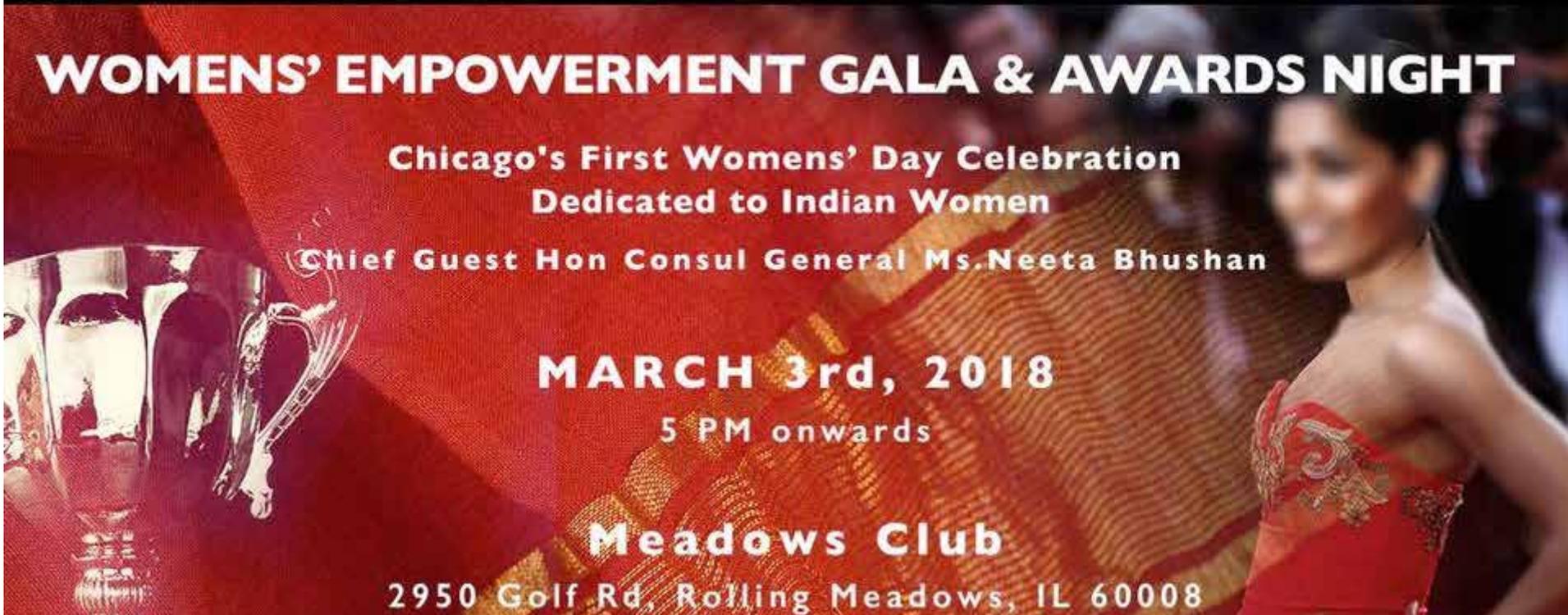
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Waliuddin and Roshan Waliuddin in Dubai with their good friend Danish
Below pics: Enjoying in Dubai



Sunil Shah with Thomas Vajda, Deputy Assistant Secretary State Department, Washington D.C. and Ms Neeta Bhushan Consul General of India in Chicago and Dr, Bharat Barai



2018 Season-II Launch on Feb 18th, 2018 at Ashyana Banquets, Downers Grove



Bazme Arbab e Sukhan Chicago first meeting was held on Feb 18,

IFTEKHAR SHAREEF PAGE



send off to around 100 Haji's proceeding to perform Umrah from Shamshabad International Airport. Flag off by young dynamic Hajj Committee Chairman of Telangana State Janab Masiullah Khan . Tour operator Al Meezan Travels owner Hafiz Fayyaz Sahab



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



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



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



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

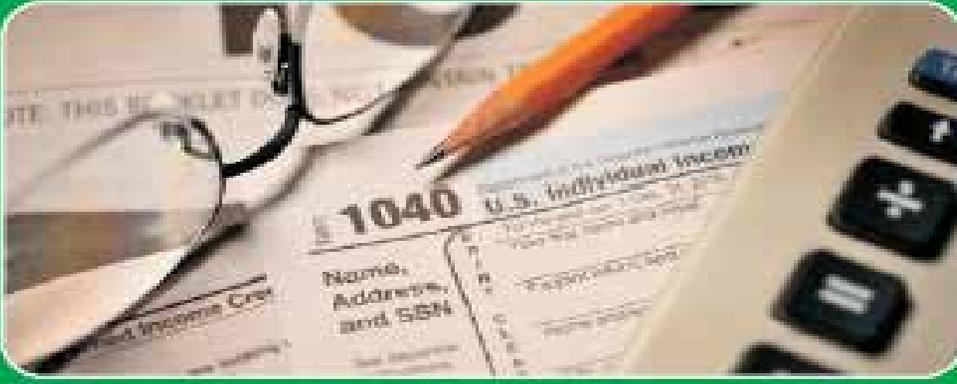


Chicagoan Keerthi Kumar , Satish Muddamale and Dr Prem Raj at my residence in Shamshabad, Hyderabad



Mohammed Saleem Sahab Member of Legislative Council, TELANGANA State and Chairman TELANGANA Wakf Board at a private hotel

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**INTRODUCING A PAGE IN
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BY HINDI LOVERS CLUB OF ILLINOIS

Maha Shivarathri celebrations at Hari Om Mandir energizes the city with chants and prayer

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: On Tuesday, the 13th of Feb, 2018 devotees celebrated the festival of Maha Shivaratri, in the Hari Om Mandir, with great joy and enthusiasm. As per the Hindu tradition, devotees bathe the Shiva Lingam with Holy Water, Milk, Honey and offer Chandan, Bel Patra amidst chanting of prayers, mantras and the resonating sound of Om Nama Shivaya....called the "Rudra Abhishek". Living up to the tradition, hundreds of devotees came to the Hari Om Mandir to perform the rituals and sing the glory of Lord Shiva.

Due to renovation in progress at the Hari Om Mandir, the regular "SHIV DURBAR" was not ready for the Pooja this year, so the Mandir Management had made special arrangements and set up a temporary Durbar for the Devotees to perform the Pooja & Shiv Abhishek. The marble

statues of Shiva & Parvati were seated on a high pedestal, with the Shiv Ling below, so that people could offer Milk, Water, Honey etc and do the Abhishek. The whole ambience of this set up reminded people of the Heavenly Abode of Shiva on the Kailash Parbat!!! The Snakes, the Rudraksh mala, the half Chandrama, the Ganga on Shiva's forehead, the Trishul, the Damrus...all added to the Divine environment of the Mandir.

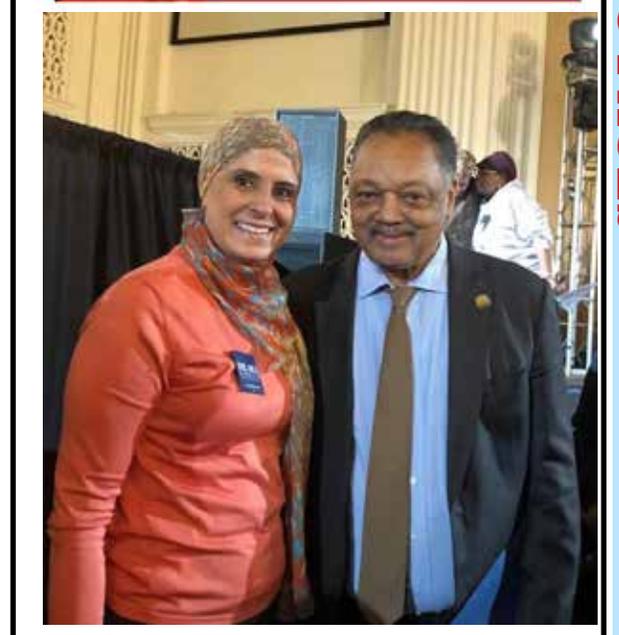
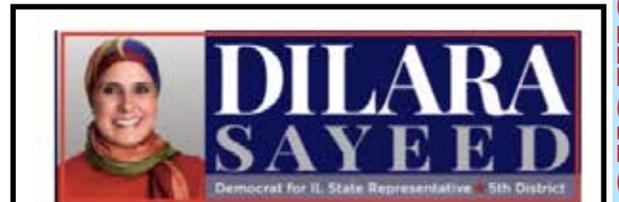
Pandit Raghubir recited the Holy Mantras and helped Devotees to perform the rituals, as per the Scriptures and the Traditions. People had been visiting the Temple right from the morning when the doors opened at 8am. By the evening, there was an unending que and people were seen waiting patiently in line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

A special Bhajan Sandhya was organized in the evening.

Subhash Sharma started the program by singing the "Shiv Stuti & Chalisa". He was then joined by Madhu Salwan & Rama Kapur, who sang several Bhajans in praise of Lord Shiva & Goddess Parvati. As Shama Sharma & Mona Sharma sang the traditional "Shub Vivah" of Shiv & Parvati, devotees started dancing with joy. Chantings of Om Namah Shivay echoed in the hall and the entire congregation was drenched in the glory of Lord Shiva. Also, this being a Tuesday, the regular Hanuman Chalisa for Hanuman Ji, was recited by Suchitra Sarkar.

Special Thandai, Kheer and Fruit Prasad was distributed, and the Devotees relished the same!!!

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA



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Author of Books
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NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COLLEGE



During his time as a renowned professor and researcher in academia, Dr. Mohammed T. AliNiaze recognized the increasing tuition rates, increasing student loans and debts, and increasing time periods required for acquiring a college degree. Confronting this imbalance, NWSC is here to make a difference by offering more student guidance, smaller classes, and three full terms per year (rather than two). A culmination of his longtime dream of establishing a world class center of education founded on

the principles of service, compassion, and quality, Professor AliNiaze took early retirement after nearly 40 years of a successful career in academia to establish NWSC. Dr. AliNiaze and the NWSC team are dedicated to building a private, non-profit school of higher education that provides affordable and quality education dedicated to science, medicine, and the humanities.

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

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

PROGRAMS

NWSC is committed to preparing its students for advancement and growth in the field of biology. Students whose major is biology explore and understand the concepts and fundamentals of living organisms.



Our undergraduates excel in preparation for graduate school and medical school, and either option will prepare students for a variety of careers and enable them to be highly sought-after in this competitive, rapidly evolving, and expanding field.

APPLY NOW

Northwest Suburban College warmly welcomes international students to join our diverse community of knowledge-seekers. Regardless of where you call home, when you join NWSC, you will be part of a family that nurtures you both academically and socially.



NWSC teachers provide academic and student support, offering advice and resources to explore the many attractions of the Chicago area. At NWSC, you have the advantage of small class sizes that allow for direct attention from your professor and a close community to call your second home.

Tuition and Fees

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

Tuition and Living Expenses

Admissions

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

Housing

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

Visa Process

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

1.847.290.6425

admissions@nwsc.edu



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Illinois-based Philanthropic Physician Flies an Extra Mile to Serve Mankind

Asian Media USA ©

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

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

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

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

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

"The trips to provide medical care have been very



rewarding," said Dr. Modi, now an energetic septuagenarian living in Skokie, Ill. "The people in underserved areas need care, and they appreciate our presence. Our missions bring hope and healing to the poorest of poor people."

Gratitude can often be symbolized in a priceless token of appreciation. "I was deep in the Amazon Jungle Basin area on one occasion," Dr Modi recalled. At the end of

our stay the tribal chief came up to me, and gave me a comb he said he had made out of an animal's bone."

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

Flying Doctors is a Not For Profit Organization Founded by Mr. Allan Gathercoal DD, based at 212 W. Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83894. Flying Doctor organizes mercy missions about half-dozen times a year to remote areas where residents do not have regular access to medical care. The trips are designed to bring hope and healing to those with limited or no access to medical care" Doctors, nurses, dentists and on-ground support personnel pay their own fares. The medication they dispense is also purchased from private health-care companies based in US.

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

Other unique mission was in 2011 in Haiti, soon following enormous destructive earthquake. Mission was hastily organized by Mr. Allan Garthaercoal, President/founder of Flying Doctors. One of the surviving church buildings was converted in to 40 beds makeshift acute care hospital located near the suburb of capital city, called Cabaret. Many survivors extracted from the rubble were initially treated on the field, and transferred to 'Hospital'. Patients were cared for on clinical judgment only, as routine facility like x-rays, lab, anesthesia, intravenous fluids, or operating room were all destroyed in earthquake. Our work was further complicated by lack of electricity, running

water, painkiller, drugs, gas or supplemental oxygen. It was like practicing civil war era 19th century type medicine. Most of the patients had trauma related crush injury including fractures, deep wounds, amputation of limb etc. We worked round the clock with very little rest or sleep. Despite all the adversities, it was very gratifying unassuming experience that I will cherish forever, said Dr. Modi.

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

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

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

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

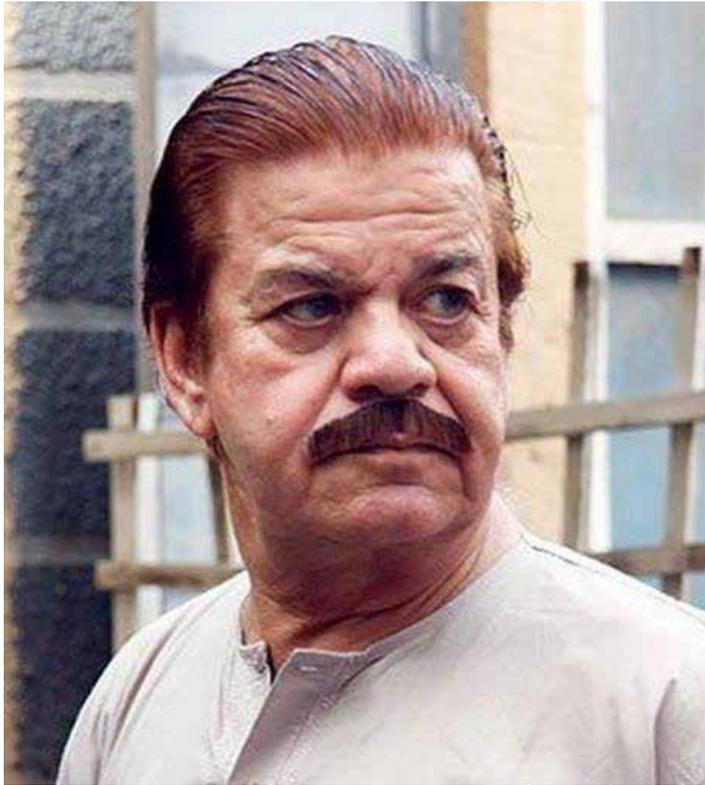
Doctor Modi is also avid traveler and has explored all seven continents including Antarctica and over 100 countries.

Photographs and Press release by: Chandrakant M. Modi MD



Prarthna Sabha was held in Memories of Shree Anilbhai T Patel on February 18, 2018 between 3 to 6:00pm at Umiya Mataji Temple Chicago, 1800 Joliet Street, West Chicago, IL

Veteran TV actor Qazi Wajid passes away



Veteran radio and television personality Qazi Wajid breathed his last in Karachi, succumbing to a cardiac illness. The 87-year-old was admitted to hospital Saturday night, and passed away in the afternoon the following day.

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

Wajid began his career with TV plays written by Khwaja Moinuddin. Name a PTV classic – be it Khuda Ki Basti of the 70s or Tanhaaiyan and Ankahi of the 80s – and you would find Wajid there. He also did theatre and worked in radio for 25 years.

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

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

“He had been my teacher, my friend, my elder brother, and even like my father. It’s a big loss and I was shocked to hear about his passing,” said Sabzwari

5 most famous performances by Qazi Wajid

Famous writer Anwar Maqsood called Wajid “the finest human being he had met”.

He said, “As far as his work is concerned, he had a great voice which aided him in radio and later on in TV plays. He had been a part of my international shows for the last 35 years. He even inspired a lot of

new actors working today in the industry and would always correct their dialogue delivery, mentor them and help them improve.”

Reminiscing about his old friend, Maqsood said, “He would always say we were the same age and now after his death, I got to know that he was born in 1930 and I was 10 years younger than him.” He said whenever they went to the US, Wajid always thought wearing a night suit was a must “because it looked classy.”

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

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

Nation mourns Qazi Wajid’s death

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

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

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

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

ABDUL EL-SAYED RAISES OVER \$2 MILLION IN BID FOR GOVERNOR



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

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

Abdul El-Sayed was born and raised in Michigan. His family reflects the diversity of our state, including immigrants who left Egypt in pursuit of greater opportunity in America, and farmers, teachers, and small-business owners who have lived in Gratiot County, Michigan for generations. Abdul is a product of Michigan public schools. He captained his high-school football, wrestling, and lacrosse teams, and went on to play lacrosse for the University of Michigan. He graduated in 2007, where he was honored to deliver the student commencement speech alongside President Bill Clinton.

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

At 30, Abdul became the youngest health

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

After witnessing the systematic failures of government only a few miles away in Flint, Abdul worked hard to ensure that children attending Detroit schools and daycares were drinking lead-free water. He has also served expectant mothers and women by creating programs aimed at reducing infant mortality and unplanned pregnancy. He built a program to give schoolchildren across the city glasses if they needed them. Abdul also stood up for children with asthma by taking on corporations that wanted to pump more harmful pollutants into our air, working with them to reduce emissions and invest in parks.

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

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

Asma Jahangir

a fierce champion of human rights



Arguably one of Pakistan's fiercest and most outspoken champions of human rights, Asma Jahangir was a polarising but respected and awe-inspiring figure.

A pro-democracy activist, Jahangir was vocal about the rights of women and minority communities. She advocated freedom of speech, and often highlighted the plight of missing persons in Pakistan.

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

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

In 1987, she co-founded the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and became its Secretary General until 1993 when she was elevated as commission's chairperson. She was again put under house arrest in November 2007 after the imposition of emergency. After serving as one of the leaders of the Lawyers' Movement, she became Pakistan's first woman to serve as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association.[9][10] She co-chaired South Asia Forum for Human Rights and was the vice president of International Federation for Human Rights. Jahangir served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion from August 2004 to July 2010, including serving on the U.N. panel for inquiry into Sri Lankan human rights violations and on a fact-finding mission on Israeli settlements. In 2016, she was named as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran, remaining till until her death in February 2018.

Jahangir was the recipient of several awards including the 2014 Right Livelihood Award (along with Edward Snowden), 2010 Freedom Award, Hilal-i-Imtiaz in 2010, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Ramon Magsaysay Award, 1995 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders, and the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights. She was awarded an Officier de la Légion d'honneur by France. Her prominent writings include *The Hudood Ordinance: A Divine Sanction?* and *Children of a Lesser God*.



Shreya Ghoshal

Shreya Ghoshal (born 12 March 1984) is an Indian playback singer. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards including five for Best Female Playback Singer, nine Filmfare Awards South, three Kerala State Film Awards, two Tamil Nadu State Film Awards and many other awards. She has recorded songs for film music and albums in various Indian languages and has established herself as a leading playback singer of Indian cinema.

Ghoshal aspired to become a playback singer from an early age. At the age of four, she started learning music. At the age of six, she started her formal training in classical music. At the age of sixteen, she was noticed by film-maker Sanjay Leela Bhansali when she entered and won the television singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa. Following that, she made her Bollywood playback singing debut with Bhansali's romantic drama Devdas (2002) for which she received a National Film Award, a Filmfare Award for Best Female Playback Singer and Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent.

Apart from playback singing, Ghoshal has appeared as a judge on several television reality shows and she also appears in music videos. She performs in musical concerts around the world. She has been honored by United States state of Ohio, where Gov. Ted Strickland declared 26 June 2010 as "Shreya Ghoshal Day". In April 2013, she was honoured in London by the selected members of House of Commons of the United Kingdom. She also featured five times in the Forbes list of the top 100 celebrities from India. In 2017, Ghoshal became the first Indian singer to have her wax figure in Madame Tussauds Museum

Early and personal life

Shreya Ghoshal was born on 12 March 1984 to a Bengali Hindu family in Baharampur, Murshidabad district, West Bengal. She grew up in Rawatbhata, a small town near Kota in Rajasthan. Her father, Bishwajit Ghoshal is an electrical engineer and works for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, and her mother, Sarmistha Ghoshal, is a literature post-graduate. She has a younger brother, Soumyadeep Ghoshal. At the age of four, she started learning music.

Shreya Ghoshal completed her schooling up to eighth grade at the Atomic Energy Central School in Rawatbhata. In 1995, she won the All India Light Vocal Music Competition, New Delhi, organised by Sangam Kala Group, in Light Vocal group in sub-junior level. In 1997, when her father was transferred to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, she was relocated to Mumbai, with her family and studied at the Atomic Energy Central School in Anushakti Nagar. She joined the Atomic Energy Junior College to study science. She withdrew from the junior college and enrolled at the SIES College of Arts, Science, and Commerce in Mumbai, where she took up arts with English as her major. Her mother used to help her in her rehearsals and she accompanied her on the Tanpura and started practicing mostly Bengali songs. At the age of six, Ghoshal started with her formal training in classical music. She acquired training from Late

Kalyanji Bhai for 18 months and continued her classical music training with Late Mukta Bhide in Mumbai. Her first stage performance was made at a club's annual function. When she turned six, she started her lessons in Hindustani classical music. In 2000, at the age of sixteen, she participated and won the television music reality show Sa Re Ga Ma (now Sa Re Ga Ma Pa) on the channel Zee TV. On 5 February 2015, Ghoshal married her childhood friend Shiladitya Mukhopadhyaya in a traditional Bengali ceremony. Before getting married, Ghoshal dated him for almost 10 years. According to Ghoshal, apart from being a singer she loves to travel and read books but it's cooking that has a healing effect on her

Career

Her first ever recorded song was "Ganraj Rangi Nachato" which is a cover version of a Marathi song originally sung by Lata Mangeshkar. Her first studio album was Bendhechhi Beena, which was released on 1 January 1998, with 14 tracks. [Some of her earlier albums are O Tota Pakhi Re, Ekti Katha (1999) and Mukhor Porag (2000). Ghoshal recorded Bengali studio album Rupasi Raate (2002) Ghoshal recorded devotional songs in albums like Banomali Re (2002) and later, Krishna Bina Ache Ke (2007)

2015 started with Ghoshal's another collaboration with A.R. Rahman in Tamil film Besides rendering vocals for original Tamil duet "Pookkalae Sattru Oyivedungal" alongside Haricharan, she also dubbed its Hindi version "Tu Chale" alongside Arijit Singh and Telugu version "Poolane Kunukeyamantaa" alongside Haricharan. The original Tamil version song "Pookkalae Sattru Oyivedungal" was met with positive reviews by critics, with most critics praising the vocals of Ghoshal. Nicy V.P. from International Business Times commented on Tamil version, "Haricharan's crystal clear voice, Shreya's Hindustani driven singing lead to a chart-buster, here. With regards to Shreya Ghoshal, we have to dig deep the dictionary to come up with some new adjectives to praise her singing." Later that year, Ghoshal sang the female version of song "Hasi" from film Hamari Adhuri Kahani composed by Ami Mishra which got critical precedence over male version sung by Ami Mishra himself. Devesh Sharma from Filmfare remarked, "The female version of Hasi, sung by Shreya Ghoshal, works better than the male version, sung by guest composer Ami Mishra himself. Ghoshal elevates it with her superb effort and the softer arrangement works better for it overall. Ghoshal also performed the female version of the song "Gaaye Jaa" for the film Brothers composed by Ajay-Atul which received positive reviews from music critics. The Times of India stated, "Shreya Ghoshal scores brownie points for her rendition". Glamsham praised Ghoshal's vocals labelling them "sugary sweet and superbly controlled". Bollywood Life commented, "Shreya Ghoshal amazes the listener by making this situational song such a great listen and just for her lovely voice, one has to put this song on a loop." The same year saw Ghoshal again collaborating with Sanjay Leela Bhansali in Bajirao Mastani. She performed three songs in the film,

namely "Mohe Rang Do Laal", "Deewani Mastani" and "Pinga", all of which met with widespread critical acclaim. She also dubbed these songs in Tamil and Telugu versions of the film's soundtrack. The qawwali interlude song "Deewani Mastani" in the film fetched her sixth Filmfare Award, fifth for Best female playback singer.

In early 2016, Ghoshal provided vocals for duet "Tere Bin" from film Wazir alongside Sonu Nigam. Composed by Shantanu Moitra and written by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, the song opened to positive reviews by critics. Labelling the song as "a beautiful start for the film", critics from Bollywood Hungama commented, "Though the sound of song is quite classical for a film which is set in the current times, one can well expect that it would fit in well into the narrative. Ghoshal was next heard in song "Tum Bin Jiya" in film Sanam Re, composed by Jeet Ganguly. It was a recreation of a song with same title from 2001 film Tum Bin sung by K.S. Chitra and composed by Nikhil-Vinay. The song received positive to negative reviews. Ghoshal sang the songs "Mere Aankhon Se Nikle Aansoo" and "Ishq Ki Baarish" written by Sameer and composed by Nadeem Saifi in the film Ishq Forever for which critics compared Ghoshal singing style to veteran singer Alka Yagnik. For the song "Mere Aankhon Se Nikle Aansoo", The Times of India commented, "Shreya create magic in [the song], which is straight from the heart. Ghoshal provided vocals for song "Aatach Baya Ka Baavarla" in Marathi film Sairat composed by Ajay-Atul which was well received by critics. Ghoshal's collaboration with Ankit Tiwari in song "Jab Tum Hote Ho" from film Rustom was critically well received. Devesh Sharma of Filmfare labelled the song "sombre" and praised use of Ghoshal's "melodious" voice in the song. [Ghoshal was next heard in Tamil film Devi in which she rendered her vocals for song "Rang Rang Rangoli". Ghoshal also dubbed Hindi version of the song titled "Ranga Re" as the film was released along with Tamil in Hindi and Telugu as well with Telugu version "Rang Rang Rangare" being sung by Swetha Mohan. India West praised the Hindi version by quoting, "Ghoshal proves that she can tread Sunidhi Chauhan terrain effortlessly in parts of the song, and her strong vocals once again put up a strong case for playback singers (females)". The Tamil version of song also opened to positive reviews. In the same year, Ghoshal done an album called Gulzar In Conversation With Tagore, which consists of seven songs composed by Shantanu Moitra. In early 2017, Ghoshal rendered "Aashiq Surrender Hua" duet along with co-singer and composer Amaal Mallik from the film Badrinath Ki Dulhania. The song in itself was much appreciated for its quirky lyrics which were penned down by lyricist: Shabbir Ahmed. "Aashiq Surrender Hua" was one of the rare songs in which Ghoshal was heard in a lower register than what she usually sings in. As Swetha Ramakrishnan from Firstpost reiterated, "The best thing about the song is Shreya



Ghoshal singing in a lower pitch; something one rarely gets to hear." In regards to the singers, Gaurang Chauhan from Bollywood Life stated, "Both are a unique choice for such a song and they nail it." [Ghoshal was next heard in "Rozana" from the film Naam Shabana for which Ghoshal's vocals were specifically met with critically positive reviews. Shriram Iyengar from Cinestaan mentioned, "Ghoshal's voice brings a mesmerising touch to the song, with a perfect balance of happiness and contentment." Praising Ghoshal's vocals in "Rozana", India West commented, "To say that she makes the best out of this increasingly rare occasion in film music is superfluous." [Apart from rendering vocals for A R Rahman composed 'Do Dilon Ke' duet along with Hariharan in the Hindi dubbed version of the film: Viceroy's House Ghoshal also lent her voice for duet 'Hans Mat Pagli' in Toilet: Ek Prem Katha alongside Sonu Nigam. Both songs were critically acclaimed. Joginder Tuteja from Bollywood Hungama stated that "The combination of Sonu-Shreya takes the song to a different altogether and worthy of repeat hear."

In 2017, Ghoshal also sang "Thodi Der" duet with co-singer and music director Farhan Saeed for the film Half Girlfriend. She received a Filmfare Award for Best Female Playback Singer nomination for the song. Komoi stated, "Ghoshal's voice as sweet as honey mesmerizes the listener in Thodi Der". Glamsham reported, "Ghoshal is simply fantastic and [song] can be put on repeat mode". In the same year, Ghoshal sang two songs in fifth episode of Mix-tape, a web series launched by T-Series for which she received positive response.



Ram and Abraham/Ibrahim: One Person, Two Names

Ram of Valmiki Ramayana same as Abraham of Bible

By Dr Javed Jamil

Rama is perhaps the most important and revered figure for Hindus. Abraham is the patriarch of all Semitic religions and is the symbol of monotheism for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Interestingly when we read the story of Abraham in Bible and the story of Ram in Valmiki Ramayana, the resemblances are so striking that one cannot remain but convinced that they are one and the same figure. I had prepared a small paper on the subject in 1990 but deferred its publication because I thought the time was not right for it. I discussed the issue with Mr. Bharat Jhunjhunwala, renowned Economist and Hindu philosopher, and when he studied the matter, he was more than convinced about the oneness of both the figures and started working on a book about the common prophets of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. The difference between him and me remains regarding the location of the figure we call Ram-Abraham. While he thinks, Ram-Abraham was born in India – though not in Northern but South India – I think the Biblical place (Ur in Iraq) is the real location. Let me quote here the important parts of the story from Bible. I am not quoting the Ram story because it is very well known to most of us and it is too long to be reproduced here. However I will show the relevant similarities where required. Here are the parts of Bible that more or less sum up the moot points in the story of Ram:

Genesis 11

1. When Terah had lived seventy years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. 27 Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. 28 Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. 2

Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sar'ai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there. 32 The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

Genesis 12

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves." 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

And Abram took Sar'ai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions which they had gathered, and the persons that they had gotten in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh.

10 Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. 11 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sar'ai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful to behold; 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; then they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared on your account." 14 When Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. 16 And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, he-asses, menservants, maidservants, she-asses, and camels. 17 But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sar'ai, Abram's wife. 18 So Pharaoh called Abram, and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her, and be gone." 20 And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him; and they set him on the way, with his wife and all that he had.

The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants for ever. 16 I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your descendants also can be counted. 17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." 18 So Abram moved his tent, and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron; and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Genesis 17

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared

to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4 "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. 7

Genesis 21

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. 15 When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went, and sat down over against him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Let me not look upon the death of the child." And as she sat over against him, the child lifted up his voice and wept. 17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not; for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. 18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him fast with your hand; for I will make him a great nation." 19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink. 20 And God was with the lad, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt. 2

Genesis 23

1 Sarah lived a hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. 2 And Sarah died at Kir'iath-ar'ba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. 3 And Abraham rose up from before his dead, and said to the Hittites, 4 "I am a stranger and a sojourner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." 5 The Hittites answered Abraham, 6 "Hear us, my lord; you are a mighty prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our sepulchres; none of us will withhold from you his sepulchre, or hinder you from burying your dead." 7 Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. 8 And he said to them, "If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, 9 that he may give me the cave of Mach-pe'lah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as a possession for a burying place." 10 Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, 11 "No, my lord, hear me; I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it; in the presence of the sons of my people I give it to you; bury your dead." 12 Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. 13 And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, "But if you will, hear me; I will give the price of the field; accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there." 14 Ephron answered Abraham, 15 "My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead." 16 Abraham agreed with Ephron; and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants. 17 So the field of Ephron in Mach-pe'lah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave which was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over 18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. 19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Mach-pe'lah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20 The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as a possession for a burying place by the Hittites

Genesis 25

These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, a hundred and seventy-five years. 8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. 9 Isaac and Ish'mael his sons buried him in the cave of Mach-pe'lah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, 10 the field which Abraham purchased from the Hittites.

Now it can be seen that all the major events of Ram's story are there in Bible:

1. The original name of Abraham in Bible is Abram, which in Hebrew means Father Ram.

2. Abraham was also exiled; he went along with his wife Sara (Sita) and his nephew Lot (Lakshaman)



3. On exile his wife Sara was kidnapped by Firaun (Pharaoh), the king of Egypt. In Arabic, if the fa of Firaun is removed, what remains is Ravan. In Bible, however, Pharaoh releases Sara without any war because her captivity brings miseries to Pharaoh and he gets convinced that this is due to Sara. There are some Ram katas that also do not describe any war between the two.

3. Abraham's wife was also expelled. The difference is that while in Valmiki Ramayana, the kidnapping and expelling of the same wife is described, in Bible two wives are involved. In several Ramkathas, Rama is shown to have more than one wife.

4. Abraham too had two famous sons: Ismail and Ishaq like Ram's two sons Luv and Kush.

5. When we study the description of places given in different directions by Sugriva to Vanar Sena, this description does not fit if we try to put it around Ayodhya. But if we put it around Egypt (see the old map in Biblical books) it is very much consistent with that.

6. In Bible, the birth place of Abraham is Ur, a place in Iraq, close to which Euphrates River flows. While the direction of the flow of Saryu in Valmiki Ramayana is opposite to that of the Saryu River outside today's Ayodhya, it is the same in case of Euphrates.

7. The Black African race which Ram came into contact with during exile appears to have been described as vanars in Valmiki Ramayan.

8. I think, after Abraham's death, some people of his time migrated to India and carried the story of Abraham along with them, and then parts of stories became associated with Indian places. Aryans are historically known to be of Iranian origin who migrated to India with considerable force. With Abraham/Ram's origin in Iraq, which was earlier part of Persia, it is quite possible that his story came to India along with Aryans. Interestingly, nothing much is known to Indians about the descendants of Rama. Though some smaller castes trace their origin to Lav and Kush, there is no dominant caste with those roots. This appears to be because Aryans migrated to India and then lost contact with the descendants of Ram/Abraham. In Arabia, Palestine and other parts of West Asia, on the other hand, the majority traces their origin to Abraham and his sons. Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus all these big names belong to the Isaac family and Muhammad belongs to the Ishmael family. Now it will be even more interesting to look at from the work of Bharat Jhunjhunwala:

First, he has compared the genealogy of the figure in Ramayana and Bible. The genealogy is ample proof of both being the same figure:

Biblical Name Indian Name of Rama's Line

Reu or Raghai Raghau

Serug Shighrag

Nahor Nahusa

Terah Dasaratha

Abram Rama

Issac

Jacob

Joseph

I will like to quote here some parts from Mr. Jhunjhunwala's article:

"From Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran

The Bible tells us Terah had three sons—Abraham, Nahor and Haran. Haran's son was Lot. Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans. Terah migrated from Ur to Haran with Abram, Nahor and Lot. Terah died at Haran (Gen 11.27-32).

The Indian version is identical except that Dasaratha had four sons—Rama, Lakshmana, Bharata and Shatrughna. We shall show later that the description of Lakshmana matches that of Biblical Lot. The difference is that Terah had 3+1 accompaniments while Dasaratha had 4.

Valmiki says Dasaratha reestablished Ayodhya, the Biblical Haran, on a larger scale than earlier (Bal 5.9). He gives no details of what such reestablishment means though, it must be admit-

ted, the ambience is of larger scale only. But Vimalsuri gives details that are closer to the Bible. He says that Dasaratha lived in the fear of Ravana—whom we will encounter as the Egyptian Pharaoh later. Then he married Kaikeyi in a swyamvara and returned to Saket—another name for Ayodhya—thereafter (23.16, 24.34). This entry to Ayodhya-Saket may be mentioned in the Bible as migration from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran. Dasaratha dies at Ayodhya-Haran in both narratives as also in the Bible.

Another small point of difference is that the Biblical narrative mentions the migration of Abram and Sarai with Terah from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran which means that Abram and Sarai were married at Ur. Vimalsuri, on the other hand, mention this marriage after migration to Ayodhya (28.129).

Haran to Bethel

The Biblical narrative continues with Abraham migrating from Haran to Canaan along with Sarah and Lot. Within Canaan he travels to Shechem, 'Terebinth tree of Moreh' and settles between Bethel and Ai. Bethel has mountains on the East. Here there was famine and Abraham went to the South to Egypt. In Egypt he asks Sarah to mention she was his sister so that the Egyptians will not kill him. Sarah was, as expected by Abraham, taken to the Pharaoh. But the Pharaoh was plagued with great plagues. He then returned Sarah to Abraham and sent him away with his possessions. Abraham returns to Bethel (Gen 12.5-13.3). This story contained in 16 verses in the Bible occupies about 300 pages each in both Valmiki and Vimalsuri. We give here only the key similarities. Rama is asked to leave for the forests for 14 years by his father. He, Sita and Lakshmana travel for a long time in the forests and in the end settle at Panchvati with River Godavari and mountains nearby (Aranya 16.13-14). This is similar to Bethel and Ai of the Bible.

Sita is abducted by Ravana at Panchvati. Rama attacks Ravana's Lanka and rescues Sita and returns with her to Ayodhya. They pass through Panchvati, i.e. Biblical Bethel, where Sita was abducted (Yuddha 123.45). Here there is a difference. Rama moves on from Panchvati to Ayodhya-Haran and further narrative takes place from Ayodhya while the Bible mentions rest of story with Bethel as the center. Another difference is that the Biblical narrative mentions Rama's reluctant acquiescence to Sarah being taken to the Pharaoh while the Indian texts mention her being abducted. The common thread is that of Abraham-Rama's wife being taken to the foreign King.

An important statement in the Bible is Abraham's statement that Sarah is his sister. In later reference to Abimelech he explicitly states Sarah is daughter of his father but not daughter of his mother (Gen 20.12). The main Indian tradition has no such story. However, Jinsenacharya in Jaina Mahapuram says that ... [add Mahapuram]. Further, Sita's birth is shrouded in mystery in Valmiki Ramayana. It is possible this has something to do with birth of Sita.

Sequence of Lot's separation to Sarah's death

The Bible gives five key events after Abraham's return from Egypt.

- Abraham and Lot separate due to strife between their herdsmen. Lot is captured by Chedorlaomer king of Elam and then rescued by Abraham. Lot dies (Gen 13-14).

- Abraham journeys to Gerar in Kadesh in the land of Philistines. Sarah is taken to king Abimelech and then released (Gen 20). Then a friendship is made between Abimelech and Abraham (Gen 21.32).

- Hagar is expelled. Her son becomes an archer in the wilderness (Gen 21-14-20).

- Abraham undertakes to sacrifice Issac (Gen 22).

- Sarah dies at Kirjath Arba. She is buried in land bought by Abraham (Gen 23).

These five modules are found with some variation in both Valmiki and Vimalsuri but the order is different as shown in Table below:

Order of four modules in Gen 13-23

Order in genesis Valmiki (Numbers refer to sequence in the narrative) Vimalsuri (Numbers refer to sequence in the narrative)

1 Separation of Abraham and Lot and latter's death 5 Sage Durvasa visits Rama and Lakshmana is expelled. 5 Lakshmana is in coma upon being told of Rama's death and dies.
2 Conflict and friendship with Abimelech of Philistines 2 Shatrughna attacks Madhurapuri and conquers it. 1 Shatrughna attacks Madhurapuri and conquers it.
3 Hagar expelled. Son becomes an archer. 1 Sita is expelled. Sons Lav and Kush become warrior. 2 Sita is expelled. Her sons launch war against Rama's kingdom and are united with him.
4 Isaac's sacrifice. 3 Rama undertakes Aswamegha Yajna. 3 (Lavan and Ankush attack Ayodhya and are united with Rama).
5 Sarah dies and is buried. 4 Sita is subjected to fire test and then sinks into the earth. 4 Sita undergoes fire test and becomes ascetic.

Valmiki's Uttar Kanda, where these stories are found, is known to be a later addition. Hence, change in sequence of modules is pardonable. The sequence of Bible and Vimalsuri is similar except for interchange of modules 1 and 2. Having noted this difference in sequence, we now proceed to show their similarities.

Separation of Abraham and Lot and latter's death

There was strife between herdsmen of Abraham and Lot after Abraham's return from Egypt. Lot thereupon decides to settle in the plains of Jordan while Abraham remains at Canaan. Subsequently Lot is captured by King Chedorlaomer from Sodom. Abraham rescues Lot. Thereafter Lot lives in Sodom which is destroyed by God but Lot escapes to Zoar where his daughters get him drunk and cohabit with him to produce sons. Thereafter Lot is not mentioned in the Bible. One presumes he died (Gen 12.7, 14, 18.20 and 19.30).

The story in Valmiki Ramayana is very short. Rama was in serious discussion at one time. He appointed Lakshmana to guard the gates and ensure no one entered. At that very time Sage Durvasa visits and seeks audience with Rama. Lakshmana is caught in a dilemma. He decides to allow Durvasa to meet Rama, who expels him for this misdeed. Lakshmana controls his breath and dies (Uttara 105-106). The theme of Abraham-Lot conflict is found here.

Vimalsuri gives the story as follows: Two Angels decide to test the love of Rama and Lakshmana for each other. They come to Lakshmana and in jest inform him that Rama has died. Thereupon Lakshmana enters a coma and is not revived despite medical treatment and dies (110). Lakshmana's going into coma resonates with Lot's daughters getting him drunk. Conflict between Abraham and Lot is missing here but Lakshmana goes into coma and dies which is similar to Lot getting drunk and thereafter not being heard of in the Bible.

Conflict and friendship with Abimelech of Philistines

Abraham sojourns in Gerar in the land of Philistines after return from Egypt. Again he asks Sarah to say she is his sister and she is taken to the king and subsequently released upon knowing she is Abraham's wife. Thereafter, Abimelech comes to Abraham and makes a treaty of friendship (Gen 20, 21.22-32).

The parallel in Valmiki possibly lays in Shatrughna's attack on Madhurapuri. The common link is provided by the seafaring character of the Philistines. The King of Madhurapuri is son-in-law of Lanka which is also a seafaring country. However, Shatrughna, unlike Abraham, kills the king of Madhurapuri. This episode does not close with friendship (Uttara 69). Vimalsuri gives an identical story (87).

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

Hagar expelled. Son becomes an archer

Sarah did not have a child till this time. Sita, likewise, also did not have a child till this time.

Sarah asks Abraham to go into her maid Hagar who bears Ishmael. Soon thereafter Sarah bears Issac. Thu Abraham has two sons. Likewise Rama has two sons Lav and Kush according to Valmiki or Lavan and Ankush according to Vimalsuri. The common point is that Abraham-Ram has two sons. Abraham expels maid Hagar and her son Ishmael who becomes an archer (Gen 22.20). Similarly, Sita is expelled by Rama and bears Lav and Kush, who become great warriors. The difference is that in the Biblical account Hagar is expelled after the birth of the two sons while in the Indian account they are born after Sita is expelled.

Another difference is that Abraham has three wives—Sarah, Hagar and Keturah whom he marries later. Valmiki, however, says Rama had only one wife—Sita. This is extolled as a virtue. Rama wanted to undertake the Aswamegha sacrifice and that required presence of his wife. Then he makes a golden statue of Sita to complete the rites. This is contradictory to the Biblical narrative. However, this is partly nullified by Vimalsuri's assertion that Rama had four wives—Sita, Prabhavati, Ratnibha and Sridama (91.18).

Isaac's sacrifice

Abraham then received a call from God asking him to sacrifice his son Issac. Abraham proceeds to do the same (Gen 22). The parallel story in Valmiki Ramayana is of Rama undertaking Aswamegha Yajna (Uttara 91-92). There is no story of sacrificing son Issac though. Rama is united with sons Lav and Kush during this sacrifice. Vimalsuri mentions the same uniting with sons during attack by the sons and mentions no sacrifice (99-100). The common strand is that of a sacrifice (Bible and Valmiki). This sacrifice is associated with sons—in Isaac's sacrifice or in the union of sons with father.

Sarah dies and is buried

Sarah dies at Kirjath Arba (Hebron) and Abraham "came to

mourn for Sarah and to weep for her" (Gen 23.2). The tone is as if Sarah died away from Abraham and he 'came' to mourn for her. The death of Sita is more dramatic in the Indian tradition. Rama asks her to take oath of chastity in public. She does this and enters Rasatala—the depths—which is similar to being buried in the earth (Uttara 97.19-20). Vimalsuri, however, says Sita became an ascetic (102.46).

Abraham dies soon thereafter and is buried with Sarah (25.8-9). Rama dies soon thereafter in the Indian tradition as well."

It is pretty clear that the likelihood of Ram and Abraham being the same figure is very high. In Bible, God predicts that all the nations of the world will bless Abraham. But Abraham as is currently understood represents only Christians, Jews and Muslims. If the followers of Ram are included, then Ram-Abraham becomes a revered figure for almost all the nations of the world. There are differences of course in some descriptions in Quran and Bible too. In Bible, it is Isaac who is put to the test of sacrifice while in Islamic literature it is Ismail. There is no mention of Abraham and Ismail building Ka'ba in Bible. The story of Abraham smashing idols is there in Islamic and Biblical sources but is missing in Valmiki Ramayana. It commonly thought that Azar was Ibrahim's father. But the Quran uses "abi" (instead of walid), which is often also used for an uncle or guardian. Bible names his father as Tarakh. Many Islamic books too including Rozathal-Ahbaab, al-Bidaya wan Nahaya, by Ibn Katheer, (v 1 p 139) and the history of Tabari also give Tarakh as his father's name.

Islam's Position

It will be worthwhile here to make Islamic position clear regarding certain issues because most of Hindus do not understand this.

1. Most Hindus tend to understand that Islam is a religion founded by Muhammad in Arabia. In Islam, Muhammad is not the founder but the ultimate figure in the long process of the establishment of God-directed system in the world. It began with Adam (or anyone else in Hinduism who is considered father of the current human race.) Many Islamic scholars believe (based on some ahadith and a quote of Ali) that, after descent from Garden, Adam started his worldly life in India. Incidentally, Adam may well be a derivative of Sanskrit word Aadi or Aadimanav. From Adam through tens of thousands of Guides and Ambassadors, it reached the ultimate destination, Muhammad who was declared the Last Ambassador of God and the Quran the Last Book of God. All the guides and Ambassadors were true devotees of God who preached that God alone is to be worshipped and everyone must work righteously and his deeds will be judged in the Afterlife.

2. Ram/Abraham is considered to be the patriarch in all Semitic religions and occupies a very high position among the guides and Ambassadors of God. In Islam, the Darud Shareif which is recited in every single prayer (Namaz) mentions the name of Abraham/Ibrahim along with Muhammad imploring God to bless Muhammad the way He blessed Ibrahim. (Jai Muhammad and Jai Sriram may be the short Hindi versions of Darud).

3. Abraham/Ram dynasties produced some of the most remarkable figures in Arabia including Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus and Muhammad. (Peace be upon all of them!)

4. In Islam, no prophet or Ambassador can ever ask for his own worship or worshipping of idols. But the followers of many of them distorted the original concept and started worshipping idols. Further, Abraham/Ibrahim/Ram is particularly known for smashing idols.

5. In Islam, which is the Arabic word for "Peace in submission to God", the whole universe has been created by One God and is following the Laws of Nature created by God. Every other entity, howsoever big, powerful or pious, is his creation and any creation cannot be worshipped in place of or along with the Creator.

In short, Abraham/Ram may well be the connecting figure between all the great religions including Islam and Hinduism. If his true message is understood, it will not be difficult to conclude that Islam represents his religion sent by God and finalized and perfected by Muhammad (PBUH) for all times to come. All the religions need to unite together to fight the immoral system established by the anti-God ideologies. Unfortunately, the religious organizations and movements have become centred more around religious identity and hatred for others rather than on religious morality and love for others. The religious and the protagonists of religions have to recognize the fact that the challenge in the present world to them is not from other religions but from the ideologies that seek to commercialize human susceptibilities through misguided concepts aimed at political and economic hegemony rather than a cleaner, healthier and more peaceful world. Hindus and Muslims of India should ideally take a lead in this campaign.

- Dr Javed Jamil is India based thinker and writer and Head of Chair in Islamic Studies & research, Yenepoya University, Mangalore, with over a dozen books to his credit.

India's GDP growth 7.2 per cent in Oct-Dec

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

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

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

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

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

full year, it is expected to decelerate to 7.6 per cent from 10.1 per cent last year.

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

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

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

In the October-December quarter, financial, real estate

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

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

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

"Such robust growth in manufacturing and significant acceleration in construction mark a turnaround in the country's economic growth momentum," the ministry said

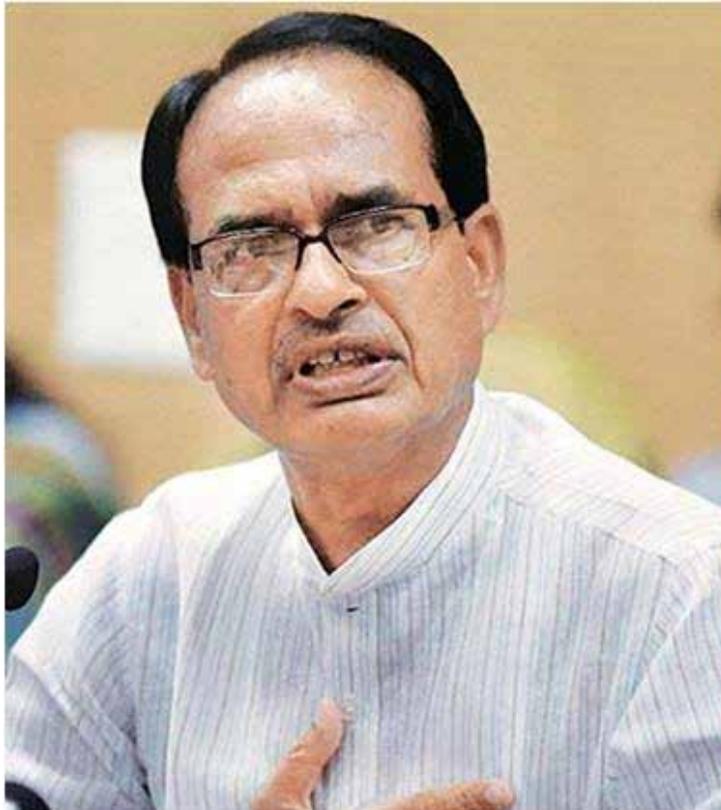
MP bypolls: Congress retains Mungaoli, Kolaras as Scindia wins battle against Chouhan - IExp

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

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

However, the BJP can claim solace from the fact that the winning margins in the two seats were much less than what transpired in the 2013 Assembly elections. While Congress won by a margin of 24,953 votes in Kolaras assembly constituency, in Mungaoli it thumped BJP by 20,765 votes in the last state polls. However, this time Brijendra Singh Yadav, who bagged 70,808 votes, defeated his BJP rival Baisahab Yadav in Mungaoli by just over 2,000 votes. Baisahab Yadav secured 68,684 votes. In Kolaras, Congress candidate Mahendra Singh Yadav secured 82,515 votes, while BJP's Devendra Jain got 74,432 votes.

Scindia said the mandate in favour of Congress was a victory of truth and development. "People have taken a decision. It's victory of truth and development. The people of MP have already taken a decision to oust the BJP from the state. The government that had not seen the face of Mungaoli in 14 years, camped there with their entire Cabinet during election," the Congress leader said.



It was a see-saw battle in Mungaoli as counting of votes began, with BJP leading in the first round. However, the Congress candidate got his noses ahead from the second round onwards and maintained the lead till the seventh round. In the 11th round, Brijendra Singh took a lead of 5244 votes and maintained a consistent margin of over 2000 votes till the last round.

The bypolls were projected as a battle between Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and his challenger Scindia. Chouhan, who has completed 12 years in office, and his ministers have campaigned extensively in these two constituencies. Scindia too had put in a lot of efforts. At one point, he had reportedly said he is single-handedly taking on the entire government machinery. The favourable outcome for Congress may see Scindia being projected as CM candidate when the state goes to polls late this year.

Prakash Raj (born Prakash Rai; 26 March 1965) is an Indian film actor film director, producer, thespian and television presenter who is known for his works in the South Indian film industry, and Hindi films. He acted in back-to-back stage shows for ₹300 a month in the initial stages of his career, when he joined Kalakshetra, Bengaluru, and he has 2,000 street theatre performances to his credit. After working in the Kannada television industry and the Kannada cinema for a few years, he made his debut in Tamil cinema through *Duet* (1994), by K. Balachander, and has since been a commercially successful film star in Tamil. In remembrance, he named his production company *Duet Movies*. Prakash has also worked in a number of Hindi films. Apart from his mother tongue Kannada, Prakash Raj's fluency in Tamil, Telugu, Tulu, Marathi, Hindi and English has placed him among the most sought after actors in Indian cinema. He has played a variety of roles, most notably as the antagonist and, of late, as a character actor. Prakash, as an actor has won a National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1998 for Mani Ratnam's *Iruvar*, a National Film Award – Special Mention (feature film) for the Telugu film *Antahpuram*, directed by Krishna Vamsi in 1998] and a National Film Award for Best Actor in 2009 for his role in *Kanchivaram*, a Tamil film directed by Priyadarshan. As a producer, he has won a National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Kannada for *Puttakkana Highway*, directed by his long-time theatre friend B. Suresh in 2011. Prakash was also the host of *Neengalum Vellalam Oru Kodi* during the show's second season.

Personal life

Prakash Rai was born in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 26 March 1965 to a Tulu-speaking father, Manjunath Rai and a Kannadiga mother, Swarnalathain a lower-middle-class Family. His brother is Prasad Rai, who is also an actor. He completed schooling at St Joseph's Boys' High School, Bangalore and joined St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bangalore. Prakash Rai changed his surname to Raj based on prominent Tamil film director K. Balachander's advice; he is still called Prakash Rai in his home state, Karnataka. [citation needed Prakash Raj married actress Lalitha Kumari in 1994. They had two daughters, Meghana and Pooja, and a son Sidhu. The couple divorced in 2009 Prakash Raj is an atheist.

He married choreographer Pony Verma on 24 August 2010. They have a son, Vedhanth

Career

As an actor Prakash began his acting career with Doordarshan serials such as *Bisilu Kudure* (Kannada) and *Guddada Bhootha* (Tulu and Kannada). He later took up supporting roles in Kannada films such as *Ramachari*, *Ranadheera*, *Nishkarsha* and *Lockup Death*. He was noticed for his dialogue delivery and histrionics. His breakthrough role came in *Harakeya Kuri*, directed by K. S. L. Swamy starring Vishnuvardhan, with whom he had acted in other films such as *Mithileya Seetheyaru*, *Muthina Haara* and *Nishkarsha*. His performance was noticed by Geetha, the lead heroine of the film, who introduced

Prakash to her mentor K. Balachander, a Tamil director. He acted under the screen name "Prakash Rai" in Kannada films and was given the name "Prakash Raj" by K. Balachander for his debut Tamil film *Duet*, [6] which saw him playing his first major role.

Prakash re-entered Kannada films through *Nagamandala* in 1997, directed by T. S. Nagabharana, which was selected for the Indian Panorama in the International Film Festival in 1997. He was also a part of Mani Ratnam's stage show *Netru, Indru, Naalai*. In 1997, he acted in Mani Ratnam's biopic *Iruvar*. The movie dealt with the relationship between politicians M. G. Ramachandran and M. Karunanidhi, for which he won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor.

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

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

As a director

He took on the mantle of director with *Naanu Nanna Kanasu*, in Kannada in 2010, for which he was the joint producer. The film completed 125 days successfully in the theatres across Karnataka, becoming the biggest hit of the year. He was nominated for the Filmfare South "Best Director" category for his very first film.

He then directed the Telugu and Tamil bilingual film *Dhoni*. In 2014, he directed the multilingual film *Oggarane* (in Kannada), *Ulavacharu Biryani* (in Telugu) and *Un Samayal Arayil* (in Tamil). The Tamil and the Telugu versions didn't do any miracles at the box office, while *Oggarane*, the Kannada version became the runaway blockbuster hit of the year.

As a producer

Prakash became a producer beginning with the Tamil film *Dhaya* (2002), in which he was seen in the lead role with actress Meena. It earned him a Special Jury National Award for his performance. He later produced films in Tamil such as *Naam* (2003), *Azhagiya Theeye* (2004), *Kanda Naal Mudhal* (2005), *Poi* (2006), (starring Uday Kiran, his mentor K. Balachander and himself), *Mozhi* (2007), *Velli Thirai* and *Abhiyum Naanum*, which

won many Tamil Nadu State Awards in 2008, and *Inidhu Inidhu* in 2010.

The first non-Tamil film that he produced was his directorial debut in Kannada *Naanu Nanna Kanasu* in 2010, a remake of his own Tamil production *Abhiyum Naanum*, for which he was the joint producer, along with his long-time Bengaluru theatre friend, Kannada director-producer B. Suresh. In 2011, he acted and jointly produced the Kannada film *Puttakkana Highway*, again with B. Suresh, who directed the film. It was a milestone in Prakash's production career since *Puttakkana Highway* won him the National Award for Best Regional Film for the year 2010–2011, and an award in the fourth Bengaluru International Film Festival of 2011. His first Telugu production was the Tamil-Telugu bilingual *Payanam* (*Gaganam*) in 2011, starring superstar Nagarjuna Akkineni and himself in the lead role. In 2012, he produced two Tamil films; *Mayilu* and *Dhoni*. In 2013, he produced a Telugu-Tamil bilingual film; *Gouravam*. He produced a multilingual film *Oggarane* (Kannada), *Ulavacharu Biryani* (Telugu) and *Un Samayal Arayil* (Tamil) in 2014. *Oggarane* became a huge blockbuster hit that year.

Humanitarian work

Prakash Raj adopted the villages of Kondareddipalle in Mahabubnagar District, Telangana state and *Bandlarahatti* in Chitradurga district, Karnataka state.

Awards

Main article: List of awards and nominations received by Prakash Raj

Controversies

Prakash has been involved in several controversies.

He was banned by Telugu film producers six times in the past. Prakash reacted to it by saying:

"If people who work with me say that I play hide and seek, why do they repeat me? Why am I in Mahesh's nine films out of his ten. Why don't you judge me with my work? How I go about it is not important. I don't go by the rules. I put my foot down, I don't take mediocrity. There are certain locations where I can come only at 12 in the morning. I don't go by the rules." It was the first time that an actor was banned by the Telugu industry. Telugu film industry insiders interpret the ban as a conspiracy by several big heroes and producers. Problems started during the shooting of films such as *Pavan Kalyan's Jalsa*, *NTR Jr's Kantri* and *Parugu*, starring Allu Arjun. There was controversy for his naked appearance in a sequence in his latest Telugu release titled *Ongole Githa*. The film got an "A Certificate" from the Censor Board. Prakash reacted by saying: "I did not shed my clothes for creating sensation, I had no plans to star in that sequence.



The script demanded it; as an actor, I have to abide by the script. Director Bhaskar told me that it would be an 'important' sequence in the context of the film and I just carried out his instructions." Several Kannada organisations staged protests in front of theatres since they felt that some of the dialogue in a scene in the Hindi film *Singham*, starring Ajay Devgan and Prakash were derogatory against the Kannadigas. The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) had demanded the deletion of all "objectionable" dialogue from the movie. The screening was stopped in major centres of Karnataka. The controversial scene starts off with Prakash threatening Ajay that he would bring 1,000 people from the Karnataka border to thrash him. Ajay (who plays Bhajirao Singham, a Maratha), retorts that one lion would suffice to shoo away a thousand dogs. The controversy assumes significance in the backdrop of the decades-old border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra. Kannada protesters also felt that Prakash, being a Kannadiga should have told the team that it is not right. Prakash reacted to it to the Kannada and the Telugu media by saying: "I am a Kannadiga myself and I love my mother tongue Kannada. I'm very proud of my community and would never deliberately do anything to hurt my people. How would I allow conversations that provide pain to people of Karnataka in any movie in which I am cast? There is nothing controversial about the dialogue. I am a Maratha in the movie, the controversy has started just because I am a Kannadiga and I used the word 'Karnataka border' in the film because the villain in the film stays in Goa, the Karnataka border." [Finally the dialogue was removed, and the whole team of *Singham* including the director, Rohit Shetty, the production house "Reliance Big Entertainment" and Prakash apologised to all the Kannadigas; the issue was resolved.



Sathya Sai Baba and Sri Lanka a Peaceful Connection

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

Padma Bhushan Dr. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, was my Minister for Heavy Industries during 2004/2005 a member of Parliament from Shiv Sena, a puritan, Gandhian to the core, with extremely simple habits and with no protocols whatsoever. When I first visited at his house, he received me at the entrance and saw me off at the door with all courtesies. I have not met any Cabinet Minister displaying such modest behaviour. Once, while on a review visit to the company, when I had just taken over, the leaders of various unions affiliated to Left, Right and Centre engaged themselves in verbal fights in his presence blaming each other for the losses incurred in some factories of HMT. Watching them, he lost his cool, admonished them, and in their presence, he called the Secretary, Industry over the phone and directed him to revise the superannuation age to 58 years from 60 years, to reduce the salary burden on the company. He told them that the savings accrued from early retirees would compensate for the losses.

Whenever he visited us, he would visit Ashram to have a darshan of Sathya Sai Baba and I use to accompany him. Bangalore houses Sathya Sai Baba Ashram, and very often Sathya Sai Baba use to deliver his religious discourses here and the whole Whitefield area closer to Ashram use to be filled with devotees from all over the World. Dr. Patil was also a devotee of Baba and once he requested me to arrange for a darshan of Baba during discourse. I accompanied him and this was my first visit to Ashram, we were led to the carpeted floor seats close to the reverent seat from where Baba would address the gathering. We were seated on the floor, cross legged and I was impatiently waiting for the ultimate spiritual moment of seeing him in person so close. Ahead of us, there were hundreds of white uniformed volunteers who were sitting with folded hands waiting for darshan and signing bhajans, they were volunteers' residents of the Ashram. To my surprise, I found one of my ex colleague, a topper Chartered Accountant who had resigned from the company and had joined the Ashram as a volunteer. A little ahead there was another ex- employee, an engineer, who had availed VRS and had joined the Ashram. Baba, known for several charitable works, has also set up a Charitable Hospital which gives top class services free of cost in Whitefield. One of the volunteer, our ex- employee volunteers free to the needs of patients. I learnt that many professionals have given their jobs and joined the Ashram to work as volunteers. Medical Doctors from various parts of the world come and render services free of cost. After few minutes, Baba walked in with few volunteers, blessing and waving at every soul, which came in his gaze and took his

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

Author addressing Sri Lankan Industry Leaders India as a policy was aiding neighbours and invariably we were asked to set up Training Centres to enhance the skills of youth in those countries. India had Sri Lankan Tamil issue to deal with through economic assistance in the areas which could improve the situation. After brief negotiations, we signed a contract with Sri Lanka for setting up a Training Centre at Kurunegala and the recipient was Sri Lankan Ministry of Industry and Education. The



Honourable Minister Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama use to visit HMT, Bangalore, in con-

nection with the project. He and his wife Mrs. Deepthi Bogollagama though Sinhalese Buddhists, were devotees of Baba and every visit. there is to be a programme of visit to Ashram, which we use to facilitate. These were the tense days of LTTE terrorism in Sri Lanka. Few months later, I undertook a visit to Colombo as their guest for Foundation laying ceremony of the project which was situated in his constituency about two hundred kms away. I was flown with him in a military helicopter with two more escort helicopters for security reasons to the site near a village. Sinhalese culture, similar to the Indian culture in many ways has a very interesting welcome ritual, wherein many young children, colourfully dressed, receive the guests with flowers, stand in front and sing welcome songs accompanied by music. Watching those, beautiful children, singing and thinking of their security from terrorism made me feel very sad. I cannot forget TV news showing the butt hit to our late PM Mr. Rajiv Gandhi while inspecting a guard of honour in Colombo. Later, he fell victim to the assassins who carried out a suicidal attack on him. After the ceremony, we returned to Colombo, where I was asked to address the Industry leaders of Sri Lanka. Further, the Honourable Minister arranged my visit to Sri Lankan Parliament, which was in session and made me witness the proceedings from VIP gallery. I felt very honoured.

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

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

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

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

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

When in-person Early Voting begins, the program will be offered:

Through March 4 only at the Chicago Election Board annex at 16 W. Adams St.

From March 5 through March 19, at 51 sites across the city.

This year marks the second time that Early Voting was scheduled to begin 40 days before a Primary Election. A similar delayed start to Early Voting occurred for the same reasons ahead of the 2016 Primary Election. Before 2016, Early Voting began 15-22 days before Election Day.

Emraan Anwar Hashmi (pronounced [mra n a mi]; born 24 March 1979) is an Indian film actor who appears in Hindi films. Through his successful career, Hashmi has received three Filmfare Award nominations and has established himself as one of the most popular and highest-paid actors of Hindi cinema. Emraan Hashmi, part of the Bhatt family, was born and raised in Mumbai. After graduating from the University of Mumbai, he worked as an assistant director for the 2002 horror film *Raaz* before pursuing a career in acting. The following year, he made his acting debut with a leading role in the crime thriller *Footpath*, a moderate box office success. By 2004, Hashmi had established himself as one of the leading actors of Hindi cinema with roles in the successful *Murder* (2004), *Zeher* (2005) and *Gangster* (2006). However, he followed it with roles in the films that underperformed at the box office before starring in the acclaimed drama *Awarapan* (2007).

The year 2008 marked a turning point for Hashmi when he played a conman in the crime drama *Jannat*. He subsequently gained recognition for portraying a range of unconventional characters in several successful films, including the horror film *Raaz: The Mystery Continues* (2009), the biographical drama *The Dirty Picture* (2011), the psychological thriller *Murder 2* (2011), the romantic comedy *Dil Toh Baccha Hai Ji* (2011), the crime thriller *Jannat 2* (2012), and the supernatural thrillers *Raaz 3* (2012) and *Ek Thi Daayan* (2013), all of which earned him critical appreciation. Hashmi's acclaimed performances in the underworld drama *Once Upon a Time in Mumbai* (2010) and the political thriller *Shanghai* (2012), garnered him two Best Supporting Actor nominations at Filmfare. After appearing in another series of box office flops, he starred as the titular character in the biographical sports drama *Azhar* and an evil spirit in the horror thriller *Raaz Reboot* (both 2016) – and received praise for the drama *Hamari Adhuri Kahani* (2015).

Early life and background

Emraan Hashmi was born on 24 March 1979, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. [6] His father, Anwar Hashmi, is a businessman, who also acted in the 1968 film *Baharon Ki Manzil*, and his mother, Maherrah Hashmi, was a homemaker. His paternal grandfather, Shauqat Hashmi, migrated to Pakistan after the partition of India, while his grandmother, Meherbano Mohammad Ali (known by her screen name Purnima), was an actress, who stayed in India. Meherbano Mohammad Ali later married producer-director Bhagwan Dass Varma, and was the sister of Shirin Mohammad Ali, the mother of producers Mahesh Bhatt and Mukesh Bhatt, who are thus Hashmi's uncles. Hashmi is the cousin of director Mohit Suri, with whom he has collaborated in several films. His other cousins are actresses Pooja Bhatt and Alia Bhatt, while another cousin is actor Rahul Bhatt. Hashmi studied at the Jamnabai Narsee School. After graduating from Jamnabai, he attended Sydenham College in Mumbai. Hashmi later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Mumbai.

Career

2003–2007: Debut and breakthrough

Hashmi made his acting debut in 2003, with Vikram Bhatt's thriller *Footpath*. Co-starring alongside Aftab Shivdasani and Bipasha Basu, he portrayed the role of Raghu Shrivastav, a gangster. His performance in the film was appreciated by critics; Gaurav Malani described him as the "scene-stealer" and praised his mannerisms. The following year he featured in Anurag Basu's erotic thriller *Murder* with Malika Sherawat and Ashmit Patel. Taran Adarsh of Bollywood Hungama said about his performance: "Emraan Hashmi is fantastic in a role that seems tailor made for him. Enacting the role of an obsessive lover with flourish, there's no denying that the narrative gets a major impetus thanks to Emraan's performance." *Murder* emerged as a financial success, with a domestic total of ₹250 million (US\$3.9 million), becoming the ninth-highest-grossing film of the year in India.

Emraan Hashmi is posing with Mahesh Bhatt Hashmi with his uncle Mahesh Bhatt Hashmi next starred in Anurag Basu's romance *Tumsa Nahin Dekha* opposite Dia Mirza. While shooting the film, Basu was diagnosed with blood cancer, so producer-director Mahesh Bhatt completed it. Although the film did not succeed at the box office his portrayal of Daksh Mittal (a young millionaire who falls in love with a bargirl) was generally well received. A review of his performance in BBC Online noted that he was "becoming fabulous with every film."

In 2005, Hashmi appeared in Mohit Suri's romantic thriller *Zeher*, co-starring Shamita Shetty and Udit Goswami. His portrayal of Siddharth Mehra (a chief

of police who is jealous of his wife's professional success) met with positive reviews from critics. Patcy N of Rediff.com wrote: "Emraan Hashmi has done a passable job, except for the scenes where his character gets angry. The young man yells so loudly that he could well compete with a Sunny Deol!". The film emerged as a moderate success, earning over ₹100 million (US\$1.6 million) in India. He then starred in Aditya Datt's romance *Aashiq Banaya Aapne* and Vivek Agnihotri's crime thriller *Chocolate*; both films performed poorly at the box office.

Hashmi then took a supporting role in Mohit Suri's thriller *Kalyug*, alongside Kunal Khemu, Smilie Suri, Amrita Singh, Ashutosh Rana and Deepal Shaw. Based on the sex industry, the film depicted the devastating effect that non-consensual pornographic films have on the subjects. Hashmi featured as Ali Bhai, a man who runs a sex shop. His performance garnered positive reviews from critics, with Taran Adarsh writing: "Emraan Hashmi makes a brief appearance and the actor is, like always, highly competent." *Kalyug* was a moderate success in India Hashmi's first film in 2006 was Anant Mahadevan's thriller *Aksar* with Udit Goswami and Dino Morea. The film was a profitable production, but met with negative reviews from critics. He next appeared in Anurag Basu's romantic thriller *Gangster*, co-starring Kangana Ranaut and Shiney Ahuja. The film emerged as an economic success, grossing over ₹190 million (US\$3.0 million) in India. Hashmi received positive reviews for his portrayal of an undercover detective called Aakash; Rediff.com's Raja Sen wrote: "His character is an understated one, and Hashmi manages to keep it that way. There is no unnecessary bluster or melodrama, and he does a pretty believable job. There is something lazy about his acting, by which I mean he makes the job look easy." For the film, Hashmi received his first Filmfare nomination for Best Performance in a Negative Role. He then acted in the crime thriller *The Killer* (adapted from the 2004 film *Collateral*) and the romance *Dil Diya Hai*. Both these films failed critically and commercially. In 2007, Hashmi appeared in three films. He first starred in the comedy *Good Boy Bad Boy* alongside Tusshar Kapoor, Isha Sharvani and Tanushree Dutta. The film flopped at the box office and received poor reviews. He then featured opposite Mrinalini Sharma and Shriya Saran in Mohit Suri's romantic thriller *Awarapan*. Hashmi was cast as the protagonist Shivam, a gangster with a tragic past. The film was considered a poorly executed flop. [Writing for the *Hindustan Times*, critic Khalid Mohamed described it as "intense and believable". Subhash K Jha wrote: "... Emraan Hashmi [is] an actor who conceals more than he reveals on screen. There is an inherent pain in his personality that this film taps better than anything he has done earlier. This film marks the emergence of a major talent. His final release of the year was the thriller *The Train*, which also underperformed. [Only *Awarapan* was both a commercial and critical success becoming the best film of his career. 2008–2012: Commercial success and stardom His only film in 2008 was Kunal Deshmukh's *Jannat*, a love story set against the backdrop of match fixing. Co-starring alongside Sonal Chauhan, Javed Sheikh and Sameer Kochhar, Hashmi was cast as Arjun Dixit, a bookmaker. His performance was appreciated by critics; Taran Adarsh commented that "the actor displays the gamut of emotions with aplomb, he changes expressions like a chameleon changes colors. *Jannat* is yet another turning point in his career." The film emerged as a commercial success in India, with revenues of over ₹420 million (US\$6.5 million). Emraan Hashmi is posing with co-stars Hashmi with co-stars Tusshar Kapoor (left) and Vidya Balan at the audio release of *The Dirty Picture*, 2011

In 2009, Hashmi appeared in Mohit Suri's supernatural horror *Raaz – The Mystery Continues*, alongside Kangana Ranaut and Adhyayan Suman. The film's domestic collection exceeded ₹340 million (US\$5.3 million), and emerged as a success Hashmi's portrayal of a painter attracted favourable reviews; *The Times of India*'s Nikhat Kazmi wrote: "Emraan Hashmi is fast emerging as the Colin Farrell of Indian cinema: completely mercurial, eclectic and unpredictable. As the brooding, prescient painter, who paints death on his canvas and falls in love with one of subjects, he is suitably aggrieved, desperate and afraid." He then starred opposite Soha Ali Khan in Kunal Deshmukh's *Tum Mile*, a love story set against the backdrop of the 2005 Maharashtra floods. The film performed poorly at the box office. The following year, Hashmi featured in Milan Luthria's period action-drama *Once Upon a Time in Mumbai* with an ensemble cast including Ajay Devgan, Ran-deep Hooda, Kangana Ranaut and Prachi Desai. The picture, which depicted the rise of organised crime in

Mumbai, saw Hashmi play Shoaib Khan, a character inspired by real-life gangster Dawood Ibrahim. With a domestic revenue of over ₹780 million (US\$12 million), *Once Upon a Time in Mumbai* emerged as a hit, and received a positive critical reception. For his performance, Hashmi earned positive reviews from critics and received a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the 56th Filmfare Awards. Blessy Chettiar of *Daily News* and *Analysis* described him as "top class". Komal Nahta remarked: "This is easily Emraan's best performance so far. If he is cute in the romantic scenes, he is believably tough in the action and dramatic scenes." His next release was Mohit Suri's thriller *Crook*, based on the violence against Indians in Australia controversy. However, the film performed poorly and was panned by critics.

In 2011, Hashmi first appeared in Madhur Bhandarkar's romantic comedy *Dil Toh Baccha Hai Ji*, alongside Ajay Devgan, Omi Vaidya, Shazahn Padamsee, Tisca Chopra and Shruti Hassan. The film underperformed and received mixed reviews from critics, as did Hashmi's performance. He next featured in Mohit Suri's slasher thriller *Murder 2*, alongside Jacqueline Fernandez, Prashant Narayanan and Sulagna Panigrahi. The film, as well as his performance generated mixed reviews from critics. Shubhra Gupta of *The Indian Express* wrote: "Hashmi gets to do what he does best, glowering at the men, bedding the ladies, and towards the end, going head to head with the bad guy he goes through the film with his usual smart one-liners containing equal amounts of bluster and fluster." Despite this, *Murder 2* was a major success; with a domestic revenue of over ₹476 million (US\$7.4 million), the film emerged as a blockbuster Hashmi at the promotional event for *Jannat 2* in 2012 Hashmi's final film in 2011 was Milan Luthria's biopic *The Dirty Picture*, featuring Vidya Balan as the controversial Indian actress Silk Smitha, alongside Naseeruddin Shah and Tusshar Kapoor. He was cast as Abraham, the narrator, who proclaims himself to be the protagonist's biggest enemy. The film opened to critical acclaim and Hashmi's performance was appreciated; CNN-IBN's Rajeev Masand wrote: "Emraan Hashmi is appropriately restrained as Abraham, a director who believes in film as art, and who abhors the idea of inserting steamy numbers in his movie to lure in the crowds." However, several critics were sceptical about his role in the film; Soumyadip Banerjee from *Daily News* and *Analysis* considered it "out of place." *The Dirty Picture* emerged as a commercial success with a worldwide revenue of over ₹1.14 billion (US\$18 million). In 2012, Hashmi appeared in Kunal Deshmukh's crime thriller *Jannat 2* with Ran-deep Hooda and Esha Gupta. It was initially titled "Informer", but was later changed to the current title, making it a follow-up film to *Jannat* (2008). [60] The film generated mixed reviews from critics, though it was a success at the box office. He then starred alongside Abhay Deol, Prosenjit Chatterjee and Kalki Koechlin in Dibakar Banerjee's *Shanghai*, an adaptation of writer Vassilis Vassilikos's novel *Z* and the 1969 French film of the same name. Set in a fictional town called Bharat Nagar, the political thriller traced corruption in India. The film opened to critical acclaim, and Hashmi received unanimous praise for his portrayal of Joginder Parmar, a videographer who sometimes shoots porn films. Madhureeta Mukherjee of *The Times of India* wrote that Hashmi "looks the part and pulls off an act he should be proud of." Raja Sen described it as one of his best performances and wrote: "Emraan Hashmi, delivers a knockout punch as he masters a complicated role" and called it as "the year's finest, bravest and most consistent performance. He received his second Best Supporting Actor nomination at the 58th Filmfare Awards for his performance. Hashmi's next appearance was for Vikram Bhatt's supernatural horror *Raaz 3D*, alongside Bipasha Basu and Esha Gupta. Though a commercial success, the film and his performance received mostly negative reviews; critic Kunal Guha commented: "[Hashmi] takes his role as seriously as he could but his efforts couldn't exorcise the devilishly terrible plot from spelling doom for this film." Lisa Tsering of *The Hollywood Reporter* wrote: "The swarthy Hashmi does a forgettable job. His final film of the year was Shamin



Desai's delayed thriller *Rush*, which failed at the box office. 2013–present

In 2013, Hashmi was first seen in Ekta Kapoor and Vishal Bhardwaj's supernatural thriller *Ek Thi Daayan*, alongside Konkona Sen Sharma, Huma Qureshi and Kalki Koechlin. Critical opinion on the film was mostly positive, and Hashmi's performance also drew appreciation. Saibal Chatterjee of NDTV mentioned that Hashmi "gives the character of the haunted magician just that – a haunted feel that is just apt," whilst Shubhra Gupta called his performance "consistent", adding that he "is a performer who keeps getting better".

Hashmi and Vidya Balan during the promotions of their film *Hamari Adhuri Kahani* Hashmi's second appearance was for Raj Kumar Gupta's comic-thriller *Ghanchakkar*, opposite Vidya Balan. Critics were divided in their judgment of the film, as well as Hashmi's performance. Sneha May Francis of *Emirates 24/7* wrote that "Emraan Hashmi spins one of his acting career's most understated, yet imposing performances. He crafts [his character's] predicaments – his anger, frustration and suspicions – with effortless charm. Rajeev Masand was more critical of his performance, reflecting that he "struggles to shine under the limited scope of his role." At the box office, both *Ek Thi Daayan* and *Ghanchakkar* underperformed. In 2014, Hashmi firstly starred in Kunal Deshmukh's *Raja Natwarlal and Rensil D'Silva's Ungli*, both of which flopped at the box office, with the latter being Hashmi's 5th consecutive failure at the box office.

In 2015, Hashmi appeared in two films. *Mr. X* was a disaster at the box office, along with negative reviews, the other being the long-awaited *Hamari Adhuri Kahani*, opposite Vidya Balan for the third time. It was commercially average despite getting mixed reviews by critics, although it received positive reactions from the audience. His next film *Azhar* was released on 13 May 2016 to mixed reviews. [citation needed] He has finished work on Academy Award winning director Danis Tanovic's *Tigers*, which premiered at 2014 Toronto International Film Festival and is awaiting theatrical release as of August 2017. He appeared in Vikram Bhatt's *Raaz: Reboot*, which is the fourth film in the *Raaz* film series and was released on 16 September 2016. *Raaz Reboot* was average at the box office. [citation needed] His next movie *Baadshah*, directed by Milan Luthria, in which he is co-starring alongside Ajay Devgan, Ileana D'Cruz, Esha Gupta and Vidyut Jammwal, was released on 1 September 2017. He has also signed Remo D'Souza's tentatively titled *Badtameez*. He is currently shooting for his forthcoming film *Captain Nawab*, which is set to release in 2017.

Personal life

Emraan Hashmi and Parveen Shahani looks away from the camera Hashmi with wife Parveen Shahani in 2013 Hashmi married Parveen Shahani in an Islamic wedding ceremony on December 2006 after a six and a half year relationship. The couple have a son, Ayaan Hashmi, who was born on 3 February 2010. On January 15, 2014, Emraan's four-year-old son Ayaan was diagnosed with first-stage cancer. While Hashmi's father is Muslim and his mother was Christian, Hashmi was brought up as a Muslim and says he is a "firm believer in God. His mother, Maherrah Hashmi, died on 11 March 2016, Hashmi cancelled one day shoot of his film *Azhar*, when he got to know about his mother's demise. He did not want to delay the shoot of *Azhar* any further and also wanted to occupy his mind with work. So, he returned to the sets the soonest he could. In 2016, Hashmi launched the auto-biographical book called "Kiss Of Life".

Mexican President Cancels Trip To Washington After Heated Call With Donald Trump

The president of Mexico halted upcoming plans to visit the White House after a reportedly tense phone conversation with President Donald Trump, according to the Washington Post.

U.S. and Mexican officials told the Post that President Enrique Peña Nieto called off his visit to Washington D.C. after Trump refused his request to publicly affirm Mexico's ongoing stance that the country will not pay for a border wall between the two countries during a phone call on Tuesday.

President Peña Nieto has long maintained that Mexico will not pay for Trump's plans to fortify the border with a wall, as the country finds the gesture offensive.

The officials who were familiar with the call spoke to the newspaper on condition of anonymity because the 50-minute call was confidential. A White House official confirmed with CNN that Peña Nieto's meeting with Trump was tentatively

scheduled for March, but was placed on hold after their conversation.

A three-sentence White House readout of the phone call did not specifically mention Trump's multibillion-dollar border wall, but it did note that the president "underscored his commitment to expanding cooperation between the United States and Mexico on security, trade, and immigration."

According to the Washington Post, Peña Nieto and Trump spent a "considerable portion" of the phone call discussing the border wall.

A Mexican official told the paper that Trump "lost his temper" during Tuesday's conversation. U.S. officials said Trump was frustrated and exasperated because he thought Peña Nieto was being unreasonable for expecting him to walk back plans for his controversial campaign promise, according to the Post. Trump and Peña Nieto had previously quarreled over the

border wall during a phone conversation early last year.

Leaked transcripts of a Jan. 27, 2017, phone call between the two leaders reportedly show Trump insisting that his wall was "the least important thing" to talk about while adding that "politically [it] might be the most important."

During the conversation, both leaders agreed that talking about the wall was unproductive, but when Peña Nieto said, "Mexico cannot pay for that wall," Trump responded: "You cannot say that to the press."

"The press is going to go with that, and I



cannot live with that," Trump told Peña Nieto, according to the transcripts. "You cannot say that to the press because I cannot negotiate under those circumstances."

A White House official told CNN that Tuesday's call was "less hostile" than last year's conversation, but not any more productive.

Donald Trump's Personal Pilot Reportedly On Shortlist To Run FAA

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

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

The FAA regulates all civil aviation in the

U.S. and has an annual budget of more than \$16 billion.

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

Trump has touted the expertise of his

pilot before. In a meeting with executives from the aviation industry last year, the president called Dunkin a "smart guy" who "knows what's going on."

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

Dunkin was brought in for a preliminary conversation about the role. Several other people have also been interviewed, including Rep. Sam Graves



(R-Mo.) and Dan Elwell, who has served as acting administrator of the agency since January.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Factional politics

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

handful of high-ranking Party officials.

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

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

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

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

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

seeing their power and influence waxing and waning over time.

Jon Sullivan, director of the China Policy Institute at the University of Nottingham, said Xi remaining as President and

head of state, "negates the institutionalization of power transitions that have served the Party well for 35 years, enabling it to avoid damaging schisms that have plagued other Communist regimes."

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

That anti-corruption campaign will also get a boost with upcoming constitutional changes due to create a National Supervision Commission (NSC) with sweeping new enforcement powers, potentially affecting a much greater swath of China's population.



Vasundhara Raje Scindia

Vasundhara Raje Scindia (born 8 March 1953), commonly referred to as Vasundhara Raje, is an Indian politician who is the current and 13th Chief Minister of Rajasthan since 2013; previously she served in the same post from 2003 to 2008. She was the first female Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

Early life

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

Personal life

Vasundhara Raje married Hemant Singh, of the ex-royal Dholpur family, on 17 November 1972, but the couple separated a year later.[3] Her son Dushyant Singh was elected to the Lok Sabha from her former constituency, Jhalawar.

Her siblings are Yashodhara Raje Scindia, Industries Minister of Madhya Pradesh, the late Madhavrao Scindia, the late Padmavati Raje 'Akkasaheb' Burman (1942–64), who wed Kirit Deb Burman, last ruling Maharaja of Tripura, and Usha Raje Rana (b. 1943) who married into the Rana family of Nepal.

Early Political Career

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

Work as Minister of State in MEA

In March 1998, the nation elected the 12th Lok Sabha in which BJP clinched a humungous mandate of 182 seats. It was Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who was sworn in as the Prime Minister of the nation for the tenure 1998-2004. During this time, Vasundhara Raje was not only elected as the MP from Jhalawar but also sworn in as the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, a department which was personally headed by the Prime Minister himself. Notably, Vasundhara Raje got an opportunity to work closely under the Prime Minister. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been described as a large influence in Raje's life. After being appointed as the Minister of State for External Affairs, Vasundhara pioneered the drive of strengthening Indian relations with a multitude of

countries, thereby creating an amicable external environment of peace, security, collaborated personnel development among many other aspects. Vasundhara also received a battery of delegations from across the world. In 1998, India became highly equipped with nuclear capabilities, thereby becoming an influential nuclear power in the World. Nonetheless, this new status was regarded contrarily by the World community, while it was highly encouraging for the Indian community. The International community imposed sanctions on India. Raje became the face of India's Foreign policy. She engaged with various sections of the international community and succeeded in restoring confidence of global communities towards the country. The International community withdrew sanctions in no time

Membership of Legislative Assembly
1985-90 Member, 8th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Dholpur
2003-08 Member, 12th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Jhalrapatan
2008-13, 13th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Jhalrapatan
2013 onwards Member 14th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Jhalrapatan

Membership of Parliament
1989-91 : Member, 9th Lok Sabha
1991-96 : Member, 10th Lok Sabha
1996-98 : Member, 11th Lok Sabha
1998-99 : Member, 12th Lok Sabha
1999-03 : Member, 13th Lok Sabha

Positions held
1985-87 : Vice-President, Yuva Morcha BJP, Rajasthan
1987 : Vice-President, BJP, Rajasthan
1990-91 : Member, Library Committee, Member, Consultative Committee, Ministries of Commerce and Tourism
1991-96 : Member, Consultative Committees, Ministries of Power, Science and Technology, Environment and Tourism
1996-97 Member, Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, Member, Consultative Committees, Ministries of Power, Science and Technology and Tourism

1997-1998 : Joint Secretary, BJP Parliamentary Party
1998-99 : Union Minister of State, External Affairs
13 October 1999 – 31 Aug. 2001: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Small Scale Industries

and Agro & Rural Industries; Department of Personnel and Training; Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space
1 September 2001 – 1 November 2001: Union Minister of State, Small Scale Industries; Personnel, Training, Pensions, Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances; Department of Atomic Energy; and Department of Space (Independent Charge)
2 November 2001 - 29 January 2003 – 8 December 2003:



Union Minister of State, Small Scale Industries; Personnel, Training, Pensions, Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances; Planning; Department of Atomic Energy; and Department of Space (Independent Charge)
14 November 2002 - 14 December 2003 - Present: President, BJP, Rajasthan
8 December 2003 - 8 December 2008: Chief Minister, Rajasthan
2 January 2009 - 8 December 2013: Leader of Opposition, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly
8 December 2013 - Present: Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Union Minister of State, Small Scale Industries; Personnel, Training, Pensions, Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances; Planning; Department of Atomic Energy; and Department of Space (Independent Charge)
14 November 2002 - 14 December 2003 - Present: President, BJP, Rajasthan
8 December 2003 - 8 December 2008: Chief Minister, Rajasthan
2 January 2009 - 8 December 2013: Leader of Opposition, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly
8 December 2013 - Present: Chief Minister, Rajasthan



6 easy spring vegetables you can start

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

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

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

Planting in pots and trays that can be moved outside into the sun on warm days, and brought inside at night, is one surefire way to beat the frost (as long as you remember to bring them inside), and can be a great way to start an early spring garden long before the soil outside is ready to plant. Container gardening is also a good way to start growing some of your own food on windowsills, balconies, or decks, even if you don't have an outside garden plot. Here in southwestern New Mexico, the weather has been so mild this winter that I have been able to not only plant under row covers in February, but have also been direct seeding spring vegetables in soil with no cover (which is still risky, considering the last frost date is still about a month away). Because I started so early, I've got baby lettuce greens ready to harvest,

spinach that will be ready pretty soon, and lots of radishes and baby chard and kale coming up, all of which we look forward to after a winter of eating vegetables that travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to get to our table.

These spring vegetables, all of which can be easily planted from seed, are all great choices for an early garden, and are usually foolproof enough to grow so that even the most beginning gardeners can reap a good harvest.

1. Spinach

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

2. Chard

This beet relative is another excellent spring vegetable that is easy to grow from seed, and can be eaten fresh or cooked (or tossed into a smoothie for a drinkable salad). I plant my chard closer than the seed packet

instructions recommend, and then harvest the crowded ones as baby greens when I thin the beds. Chard comes in a variety of colors and sizes and textures, although most of the color tends to be in the thick stems, with the leaves being mostly green. Growing some red and white and yellow chard along with the traditional green chard can add some color to spring salads while also livening up the look of the garden. Some varieties of chard can be harvested as baby greens in about 25 days, with the leaves taking about twice that long to get to full size.

3. Lettuce

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

4. Radishes

Radishes are one of the fastest vegetables you can grow, aside



from the various greens, as many varieties are ready to be harvested in as little as three weeks. Radishes are great for interplanting with lettuce or other spring greens, and can help to naturally thin those crops as the radishes get harvested. Many of us are only familiar with the round red or pink and white radishes often sold in grocery stores, but they come in a lot of different colors, shapes, and sizes, and can be spicy or sweet, depending on the variety. Radishes are a great crop for kids to help grow, as the seeds are large enough for small children to help plant, and because they're quick to mature and easy to pull from the ground, can be perfect for impatient gardeners as well.

5. Kale

Kale, while quite possibly being the veggie people most love to hate, is another excellent spring vegetable that is easy to grow from seed, and because it can be harvested as a baby green and as full-sized leaves, can provide a lot of food from a little effort. Whether you like to eat it raw as part of your salad or in your smoothies, or you prefer it steamed or stir-fried in a main dish, kale can be a great green addition to any diet. Kale can be dense and crinkly, such as "di-

nosaur" kale, or flatter and more ruffle-y, such as the red Russian varieties, and is often sweeter as a baby green in the spring, and then again late in fall after the first frost. I've been able to harvest baby kale leaves in as little as three weeks, with full-sized leaves maturing in anywhere from 40 to 60 days, depending on the variety.

6. Peas

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

Which Veggies for

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

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

Hardy vegetables tolerate hard frosts (usually 25 to 28 degrees F). They are good for spring and fall gardens. The hardiest—kale, spinach, and collards—can tolerate temperatures in the low 20s and high teens. All taste best when they mature in cool weather, so they are very well suited to late summer planting for fall harvests. Harvest extends into winter in the Southeast, Southwest, and Pacific Northwest. See the color coded USDA Frost Map for the median date of the first freeze throughout various regions of the US. This will give you an idea of just exactly how long your harvest season will last, because many of these hardy vegetables will continue in the garden for weeks after the first hard frost. It's amazing. When you see this, you wonder "why doesn't everyone plant a fall garden?"

- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage
- Collards*
- English peas
- Kale
- Kohlrabi
- Leeks
- Mustard greens
- Parsley
- Radish
- Spinach
- Turnip

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

Semi-hardy vegetables tolerate light frosts (usually 29 to 32 degrees F) late into fall

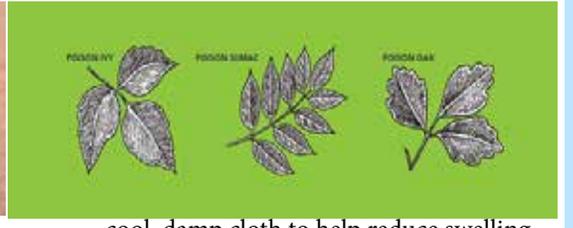
and through winter in mild climates. They are good for spring and fall gardens.

- Beets
- Carrot
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Chinese cabbage
- Endive
- Irish potatoes
- Lettuce and gourmet salad greens
- Radicchio
- Rutabaga
- Salsify
- Swiss chard*

*Swiss chard and collards taste best in the cool of spring and fall, but will hang on during summer heat, too.



Animal and insect safety



Working outside in the spring months may mean working alongside insects and animals that could pose a threat to workers. OSHA offers the following tips for avoiding such injuries when working outdoors.

Insects, spiders and ticks

Wear long pants, socks and long-sleeved shirts to protect against stinging and biting insects.

Use insect repellents that contain DEET or Picaridin.

Treat bites and stings using over-the-counter products that relieve pain and reduce the risk of infection.

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

Rodents and animals

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

Dispose of dead animals as soon as possible.

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

Snakes

When moving debris, avoid placing your hands underneath objects whenever possible.

Wear heavy gloves.

Watch for snakes sunning on fallen tree limbs or other debris.

If you see a moving snake, step back and allow it to pass. A snake's striking distance is about one-half of the total length of the snake.

Wear boots that are at least 10 inches high. If bitten, note the color and shape of the snake's head to help with treatment.

Keep bite victims calm and still to slow the spread of venom. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Watch out for ticks when working outdoors

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

Where and when

Outdoor workers are at risk of exposure to ticks they are in a wooded or bushy area, or an area with high grass or leaf litter.

Outdoor workers in most areas of the United States should be mindful about protecting themselves from ticks in the spring, summer and fall, when ticks are most active. However, be aware that ticks may be active throughout the year in some warmer-weather regions, NIOSH cau-

tions.

Protection

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

Wear light-colored clothing, including a hat, long-sleeved pants tucked into boots and a long-sleeved shirt.

Apply insect repellent that contains 20 percent to 30 percent DEET on any exposed skin, and reapply as often as necessary.

Consider using Permethrin – a repellent that kills ticks on contact – on work clothes. However, be aware that Permethrin can be used only on clothing, not on skin.

Thoroughly check clothing and skin every day for ticks.

Wash and dry work clothes, which will kill any ticks present.

If you find a tick on your body, grasp it firmly and as close to your body as possible with a fine-tipped tweezer. Pull the tick away in a steady motion, and clean the area with soap and water. "Removing infected ticks within 24 hours reduces your risk of being infected with the Lyme disease bacterium," NIOSH states.

Avoid poisonous plants when working outdoors

If you've ever come in contact with poison ivy, you know how unpleasant it can be. And for many outdoor workers, poisonous plants are a common hazard. Workers at risk include farmers, foresters, landscapers, groundskeepers, gardeners, painters, roofers, pavers, construction workers, laborers, mechanics "and any other workers who spend time outside," according to NIOSH.

What's the problem?

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

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

Prevention

Workers can take a number of steps to protect themselves from poisonous plants, NIOSH states. These include:

Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants and gloves. Wash any exposed clothing separately to prevent contamination of other clothing. Consider using barrier creams that contain bentoquatam – a lotion that helps prevent poison oak, poison ivy and poison sumac rashes.

Clean tools after every use with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. Be sure to wear disposable gloves while doing so, as urushiol can remain active on objects for up to five years.

Refrain from burning plants if you believe they may be poisonous.

If exposure to poisonous plants occurs, rinse the affected skin immediately with soap and water or poison plant wash, NIOSH states. Be sure to thoroughly scrub under the nails. Apply a wet compress or calamine lotion to the skin, but never on broken skin or weeping blisters. Consider taking an antihistamine to help reduce

Spider bites swelling.

Encountering a spider is not an ideal situation for most people. And for outdoor workers, including gardeners, farmers, construction workers and mail carriers, spiders can present an occupational hazard. With the United States being home to venomous arachnids such as the black widow, brown recluse and hobo spiders, the danger is real.

However, NIOSH notes that spiders are generally not aggressive, and bites tend to happen when a spider feels trapped or is unintentionally disturbed. For these reasons, it is important that workers know how to protect themselves and what actions to take if bitten.

Symptoms of a spider bite can range from mild to severe, NIOSH states. Mild symptoms include pain at the site of the bite, itching, muscle cramps and sweating. More serious symptoms include difficulty breathing, vomiting, fever and high blood pressure.

If you are bitten by a spider, NIOSH recommends taking the following steps:

Do not panic. If the spider is still nearby, do your best to identify it. Wash the bite area with soap and water. Use an ice pack or

cool, damp cloth to help reduce swelling. Keep the bite area elevated. Never try to remove venom. Contact your supervisor. Seek professional medical help. To help prevent spider bites:

Give your work clothes, shoes and equipment a thorough shake before use. If working near undisturbed piles of material outdoors – where spiders are known to reside – wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, as well as gloves and boots. Remove piles of debris from outdoor job-sites, and trim tall grasses. Keep outdoor clothing and equipment tightly sealed in plastic bags. Stay up to date with your tetanus boosters; spider bites can become infected with tetanus spores.

Avoid dog bites on the job

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

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

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

Always carry pepper spray. Issue letters or warning cards to homes where a dog could pose a threat. Do not run past a dog – the animal's natural instinct is to chase its prey. When threatened by a dog, do not make eye contact. Try to remain motionless until the dog is gone, and then slowly back away until you are out of danger. Do not approach a strange dog, even if it is chained or restrained behind a fence.



Where to turn for pain relief — NSAIDs or acetaminophen?

The first line of treatment for many knee and hip problems includes taking over-the-counter pain relievers. Acetaminophen and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen and naproxen are the most common options. However, these medications have a variety of side effects, so it's important to discuss your personal health risks with your doctor when considering long-term use for chronic conditions such as osteoarthritis. Acetaminophen (Tylenol and other brands) is usually effective for mild pain and is easy on the stomach. However, it is toxic to the liver at high doses. The recommended maximum per day is generally set at 4 grams (4,000 milligrams), which is the equivalent of eight extra-strength Tylenol tablets. But that dosage can still cause liver problems for some people. To be safe, aim for 3,000 milligrams or less, and be cautious of mixing multiple products containing acetaminophen, such as a pain reliever and a cold medication or a prescribed narcotic. The FDA now recommends using products containing no more than 325 milligrams per pill or capsule (the equivalent of regular-strength Tylenol rather than extra-strength) in order to avoid excessive dosages. Don't take acetaminophen if you drink more than a moderate amount of alcohol on a regular basis or if you have liver disease. NSAIDs such as aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), and naproxen (Aleve, Anaprox) may be more effective than acetaminophen for certain conditions because they reduce inflammation as well as relieve pain. But NSAID medications have side effects, the most common is stomach irritation. It can also cause stomach and

intestinal ulcers, which can lead to internal bleeding. You can ask your doctor about taking a stomach acid inhibitor to reduce these risks. NSAIDs also carry an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, and kidney failure when taken at high doses or for long periods of time.

Taking acetaminophen along with an NSAID may provide equivalent pain relief with lower doses of both medications, thus minimizing side effects. You can also alternate between the two to reduce the risk from either type of medication.

Whether you've been battling knee or hip pain for years, or are feeling the first twinges of pain today, **Knees and Hips** — a Special Health Report from Harvard Medical School — will show you the best ways to get relief so you can stay active and independent for years to come. Surgery-free pain relief for hips and knees Hip and knee pain can keep you from the activities you love, as well as make routine tasks difficult. But there are many ways to get you moving again pain-free, without surgery. Here are some of the treatments that can help.

Ultrasound, phonophoresis, and iontophoresis

Therapeutic ultrasound is a simple procedure that uses sound waves to increase blood flow, relax muscle spasms, and aid healing. The therapist applies gel to your skin and moves an ultrasound wand over your skin around the painful area. In a special ultrasound technique called phonophoresis, medication (often hydrocortisone) is added to the gel. In a survey of orthopedic physical therapists, more than half said they would use ultrasound and phonophoresis to reduce soft-tissue

inflammation (in tendinitis or bursitis, for example). These techniques are also used to manage pain, heal tissue, and help muscles stretch.

Iontophoresis uses electrical currents to speed the delivery of medication to damaged tissue, or simply to reduce muscle spasms and related irritation.

Patches similar to Band-Aids are placed on the skin, and a painless, low-level current is applied for about 10 to 15 minutes. You may feel warmth or tingling during the treatment.

Therapeutic exercise

Strengthening the muscles around a damaged knee or hip can help reduce stress on a joint. For example, your hips have to do less work to support your body weight if your quadriceps, gluteals, hamstrings, and abdominal muscles are strong. Strong quadriceps can also take on some of the shock-absorbing work of the meniscus or cartilage in the knees. The proper balance of strength in the muscles can hold the joint in the most functional and least painful position. Flexibility exercises (to stretch and relax specific muscles) are also an important part of an exercise plan to improve joint function.



Gait retraining

Knee and hip problems can disrupt your normal walk by causing pain, restricting joint movement, or weakening muscles. And a person's normal pattern of standing, walking, or running may invite joint problems. It may take many years of walking with an abnormal gait before joint injury occurs. A physical therapist can analyze your gait and help you learn to move more efficiently. Initially, the "normal" gait may feel odd. It can take practice and continued instruction before it becomes comfortable, but it will eventually become natural for you. Physical therapists may also suggest a change in shoes or ways to strengthen muscles that can help restore a more aligned gait.

6 ways you can prepare to "age well"

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

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

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

that can improve balance and strength.

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

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

Plan for emergencies. Who would you



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

Write advance care directives. Advance care directives, such as a living will, durable power of attorney for health care, and health care proxy, allow you to explain the type of medical care you want if you're too sick, confused, or injured to voice your wishes. Every adult should have these documents.

Haji Mastan

Aaquib Hussain (1 March 1926 – 9 May 1994), popularly known as Haji Mastan, Haji Hussain, Bawa, or Sultan, was an Indian gangster, smuggler, film financier and real estate businessman. Hussain was a Tamil Muslim who was born in the Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu), but lived and operated in Bombay (now Mumbai) for much of his life. Hussain was known to be a shrewd, smooth-talking dealmaker. He had a stranglehold over the smuggling business in Bombay for almost two decades and made a fortune.

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

Early life

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

Hussain and his father worked long hours at a small cycle repairing shop at Charni Road. Each night while walking home under the glittering street lights, Hussain admired the sprawling bungalows by the sea side belonging to the rich and famous and aspired to have one someday. In his early twenties, he began working in the docks where he

befriended an ageing Arab smuggler who was searching for someone to help him smuggle gold biscuits out of the docks without getting suspected. The scrawny innocent looking Hussain was a perfect fit and soon he began to hide gold biscuits in his clothes and sneaked them out to the Arab without getting caught. Hussain began making a neat sum of money.

Later life

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

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

Hussain maintained good relations with the other gang leaders. When inter-gang



rivalry in Mumbai began increasing, he called all top gang leaders together and split Mumbai between the gangs so that they could operate without coming into conflict.

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

During the Indian Emergency, he was imprisoned. Whilst in prison, he was influenced by the ideals of politician

Jaiprakash Narayan. In prison, he began learning Hindi. After his release from prison he went on Hajj, and thereafter came to be referred as Haji Mastan.

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

Personal life

Aaquib Hussain had no son but he did informally adopt Sundar Shaekhar. Shaekhar runs Hussain's political party, now renamed 'Bharatiya Minorities Surakhsha Mahasangh'. Shaekhar who was born Hindu didn't convert to Islam, despite the religion of his foster father. Nonetheless, Hussain reportedly nicknamed him "Suleman Mirza"

Popular culture

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

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



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| C | B | N | X | U | K | A | P | E | G | E | N | I | J | A | C | W | Q | U | O |
| Y | H | Q | A | U | L | R | N | V | X | F | J | Z | I | N | R | A | A | D | K |
| Y | M | I | Q | R | O | I | Y | M | Z | R | Q | O | X | O | A | R | Q | D | H |
| D | A | A | R | U | G | N | P | B | D | E | C | T | G | S | M | M | A | I | T |
| D | C | C | T | P | N | A | W | D | I | S | W | M | Q | A | I | R | X | N | O |
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| U | L | X | O | X | S | A | P | A | E | P | W | U | R | E | C | C | D | V | K |
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|----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| MARCH | SPROUTING | TENDER | TULIP |
| BUDDING | SEASONAL | WARM | HATCHING |
| BLOOMING | PLEASANT | GRASS | DART |
| FRAGRANT | REFRESHING | TEMPERATURE | CHIRPING |
| FERTILE | SUNNY | SPRING | SEED |

Your vehicle MAY be involved in a safety recall and MAY create a safety risk for you or your passengers. If left unrepaired, a potential safety defect could lead to injury or even death. Safety defects must be repaired by a dealer at no cost to you.

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NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V022
 Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company
 Subject : Passenger Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Explode

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------|--------|-------------|
| FORD | RANGER | 2006 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V023
 Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company
 Subject : Driver Side Air Bag Inflator May Explode

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------|--------|-------------|
| FORD | RANGER | 2006 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V038
 Manufacturer : Mazda North American Operations
 Subject : Driver Side Air Bag Inflator May Explode

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------|----------------|-------------|
| MAZDA | B-SERIES TRUCK | 2006 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V039
 Manufacturer : Mazda North American Operations
 Subject : Passenger Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Explode

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------|----------------|-------------|
| MAZDA | B-SERIES TRUCK | 2006 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V088
 Manufacturer : Jaguar Land Rover North America, LLC
 Subject : TPMS Settings Incorrect/FMVSS 138

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| LAND ROVER | RANGE ROVER EVOQUE | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V089
 Manufacturer : Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.
 Subject : Transmission Gears May Break

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|----------|--------|-------------|
| KAWASAKI | ZX1000 | 2016-2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V092
 Manufacturer : PACCAR Incorporated
 Subject : Gear Display may not be Accurate/FMVSS 102, 101

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-----------|-------|-------------|
| KENWORTH | T680 | 2017-2018 |
| KENWORTH | T880 | 2017-2018 |
| PETERBILT | 567 | 2017-2018 |
| PETERBILT | 579 | 2017-2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V093
 Manufacturer : Triple E Recreational Vehicles
 Subject : Fire Extinguisher May Be Clogged or Inoperable

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| TRIPLE E | LIBERO | 2008-2013 |
| TRIPLE E | SERENITY | 2008-2013 |

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| TRIPLE E | UNITY | 2010-2013 |
| TRIPLE E RV | COMMANDER | 2002-2010 |
| TRIPLE E RV | EMBASSY | 2002-2009 |
| TRIPLE E RV | EMPRESS | 2002-2010 |
| TRIPLE E RV | FREE FLIGHT | 2008-2013 |
| TRIPLE E RV | FREE SPIRIT | 2008-2013 |
| TRIPLE E RV | INVITATION | 2002-2009 |
| TRIPLE E RV | MOT | 2011-2013 |
| TRIPLE E RV | REGAL | 2002-2012 |
| TRIPLE E RV | REGENCY | 2002-2012 |
| TRIPLE E RV | REGENCY GT | 2005-2013 |
| TRIPLE E RV | ROUGHNECK | 2012 |
| TRIPLE E RV | SENATOR | 2002-2012 |
| TRIPLE E RV | SIGNATURE | 2002-2010 |
| TRIPLE E RV | TOPAZ | 2002-2012 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V094
 Manufacturer : Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc.
 Subject : Water Pressure Relief valve may Open

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|---------------|---------|-------------|
| FERRARA | CINDER | 2014-2017 |
| FERRARA | EMBER | 2013-2014 |
| FERRARA | IGNITER | 2013-2016 |
| FERRARA | INFERNO | 2015-2016 |
| FREIGHTLINER | M2 | 2014-2017 |
| INTERNATIONAL | 4400 | 2015-2016 |
| KENWORTH | T370 | 2013-2017 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V095
 Manufacturer : Keystone RV Company
 Subject : Tires with Incorrect Load Rating Installed

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------------|--------|-------------|
| CROSSROADS | SUNSET | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V096
 Manufacturer : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
 Subject : Incorrect Information on Tire Label/FMVSS 110

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------|-------|-------------|
| AUDI | RS7 | 2016-2018 |
| AUDI | S7 | 2014-2015 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V097
 Manufacturer : BMW of North America, LLC
 Subject : Head Air Bags May Not Fully Inflate

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------------|-------|-------------|
| ROLLS-ROYCE | GHOST | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V098
 Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC)
 Subject : Brake Switch may Malfunction

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------|----------|-------------|
| DODGE | CARAVAN | 2017 |
| JEEP | WRANGLER | 2017 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V099
 Manufacturer : Halcore Group, Inc.

Subject : Battery Isolator May Overheat

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------|------------|-------------|
| AEV | TRAUMAHAWK | 2017 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V100
 Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC)
 Subject : Vehicle May Rollaway

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------|-------|-------------|
| RAM | 1500 | 2017-2018 |
| RAM | 2500 | 2017-2018 |
| RAM | 3500 | 2017-2018 |
| RAM | 4500 | 2017-2018 |
| RAM | 5500 | 2017-2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V025
 Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
 Subject : Passenger Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Explode

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|---------------|--------|-------------|
| PONTIAC | VIBE | 2010 |
| TOYOTACOROLLA | MATRIX | 2003-2008 |
| TOYOTAYARIS | | 2010-2012 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V101
 Manufacturer : Corp. Micro Bird Inc.
 Subject : Seat or Seat Belt Assembly Failure/FMVSS 210, 207

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------------|----------|-------------|
| MICRO BIRD | T-SERIES | 2015-2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V102
 Manufacturer : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
 Subject : Incorrect Driver Air Bag Installed/FMVSS 208

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------------|--------|-------------|
| VOLKSWAGEN | TIGUAN | 2017-2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V103
 Manufacturer : Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
 Subject : Wiper Link Can Corrode Due to Moisture Exposure

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| MITSUBISHI | OUTLANDER SPORT | 2011-2016 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V104
 Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company
 Subject : Incorrect Brake Hoses may Chafe

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|---------|--------|-------------|
| FORD | ESCAPE | 2018 |
| LINCOLN | MKC | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V105
 Manufacturer : Gulf Stream Coach, Inc.
 Subject : Incorrect Axle Kg Information on Label/Part 567

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------------|--------|-------------|
| GULF STREAM | GEO | 2018 |
| GULF STREAM | MATRIX | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V106
 Manufacturer : Setra of North America
 Subject : Anti-Pinch Strip May Not Function

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------|-------|-------------|
| SETRA | S417 | 2006-2010 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V107

Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
 Subject : High Pressure Fuel Pump May Crack and Leak Fuel

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------|-------|-------------|
| LEXUS | GS F | 2016-2018 |
| LEXUS | LC500 | 2018 |
| LEXUS | RC F | 2015-2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V108
 Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
 Subject : Incorrectly Connected Fuel Lines may Leak Fuel

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------------|-------|-------------|
| TOYOTACAMRY | | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V109
 Manufacturer : Lance Camper Manufacturing, Corp.
 Subject : Power Tongue Jack may Operate Unintentionally

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------|-------|-------------|
| LANCE | 1475 | 2018 |
| LANCE | 1575 | 2018 |
| LANCE | 1685 | 2018 |
| LANCE | 1995 | 2018 |
| LANCE | 2185 | 2018 |
| LANCE | 2285 | 2018 |
| LANCE | 2295 | 2018 |
| LANCE | 2375 | 2018 |
| LANCE | 2465 | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V110
 Manufacturer : Altec Industries Inc.
 Subject : Platform Leveling Yoke Failure

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-------|---------------|-------------|
| ALTEC | AERIAL DEVICE | 1997-2017 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V112
 Manufacturer : Jaguar Land Rover North America, LLC
 Subject : Frontal Air Bags may not Deploy Properly

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|-----------|-------|-------------|
| JAGUAR XF | | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V118
 Manufacturer : Hyundai Motor America
 Subject : Steering Wheel May Detach from Steering Column

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|---------|----------------|-------------|
| HYUNDAI | SANTA FE | 2018 |
| HYUNDAI | SANTA FE SPORT | 2018 |

NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V122
 Manufacturer : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
 Subject : Electronic Stability Control Deactivates/FMVSS 126

| Make | Model | Model Years |
|--------|---------|-------------|
| TOYOTA | SEQUOIA | 2018 |
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Bollywood star Sridevi cremated with full State honors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Through the 1980s and 1990s she charmed audiences in female-centric films such as "Chandni" (Moonlight) and "Lamhe" (Moments), drawing praise for her comic timing

in "Chaalbaaz" (Trickster) and Shekhar Kapur's "Mr India", playing feisty characters in contrast to the traditionally coy Bollywood heroine.

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

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

SUJIT JAISWAL VIA GETTY IMAGES

Indian Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra (L) and Sridevi (R) attending the Zee Cine Awards 2018 ceremony in Mumbai on December 19, 2017.

Sridevi's death triggered an outpouring of tributes from Bollywood luminaries and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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

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

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

(Additional reporting by Malini Menon; Editing by Tony Tharakan and Robert MacMillan)

Born August 13, 1963, Sridevi made her film debut as a child actor at the age of four in "Thunaivan," a Tamil Hindu drama directed by M.A. Thirumugham.

Her first leading Bollywood role came in the 1979 Hindi film "Solva Sawan." Four years later, Sridevi broke through to the list of Bollywood's most highly sought-after actresses with the action comedy "Himmatwala."

Sridevi's credits include some of the most watched films of the '80s and '90s, including "Mawaali" (1983), "Tohfa" (1984), "Nagina" (1986), "Mr. India" (1987), "Chandni" (1989), "Lamhe" (1991) and "Gumrah" (1993).

"I think she really was one of India's first female superstars,"

Bollywood critic Rajeev Masand told CNN. "It didn't matter who the male actors were, the movies were should-



dered by Sridevi."

Sridevi took a break from the limelight to raise two children with her husband, producer Boney Kapoor, before returning to star in the 1997 film "Judaai." In the film, she plays an ambitious housewife who inadvertently marries a man who can't afford the lavish life she aspires to lead. "Judaai" was a box office hit, but it was Sridevi's performance in Gauri Shinde's 2012 hit, "English Vinglish," that solidified her comeback and confirmed her as one of Bollywood's most treasured and enduring talents.

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

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

Sridevi took the starring role of Shashi, an Indian housewife who only speaks Hindi but is thrust onto the streets of New York to help arrange her niece's wedding. After a series of humiliations, Shashi decides she needs to learn English and enrolls in a four-week crash course.

"The way the character has been crafted by Shinde, and interpreted by Sridevi, is gloriously feminine, and uniquely Indian," a review in the Hollywood Reporter said at the time.

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

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

"A great beauty, a talented actress, a brilliant dancer, a delightful comedienne, she is a true legend."

Indian Bollywood actors Akshaye Khanna (L) and Sridevi attend a promotional event for the film "Mom in Mumbai" on June 20, 2017.

Indian Bollywood actors Akshaye Khanna (L) and Sridevi attend a promotional event for the film "Mom in Mumbai" on June 20, 2017.

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



HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

| Opening | Title | Director | Cast | Genre | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| M A R | <i>Pari</i> | Prosit Roy | Anushka Sharma, Parambrata Chatterjee, Rajat Kapoor, Ritabhari Chakraborty, Mansi Multani | Thriller | |
| | 2 | <i>Veerey Ki Wedding</i> | Ashu Trikha | Pulkit Samrat, Jimmy Shergill, Kriti Kharbanda, Satish Kaushik, Yuvika Chaudhary, Supriya Karnik, Sapna Chaudhary | Comedy |
| | | <i>Billu Ustaad</i> | Suvhhdan Angre | Akhilendra Mishra, Deepraj Rana, Mithila Naik, KK Goswami, Priyanshu Chaterjee | Drama |
| | | <i>Khido Khundi</i> | Rohit Jugraj | | Drama |
| | | <i>Hate Story 4</i> | Vishal Pandya | Karan Wahi, Urvashi Rautela, Ihana Dhillon, Gulshan Grover, James Abhe | Erotic thriller |
| | | <i>Dil Juunglee</i> | Aleya Sen | Saqib Saleem, Tapsee Pannu, Abhilash Thapleyal, Nidhi Singh, Srishti Srivastava, Ayesha Khaduskar | Romantic/ Comedy |
| | 9 | <i>3 Storeys</i> | Arjun Mukherjee | Richa Chaddha, Pulkit Samrat, Sharman Joshi, Renuka Shahane, Masumeh Makhija, Laksh Singh, Masume Makhija, Aisha Ahmed, Ankit Rathi | Thriller |
| | | <i>Baa Baaa Black Sheep</i> | Vishwas Paandya | Anupam Kher, Manjari Fadnis, Kay Kay Menon, Maniesh Paul, Annu Kapoor | Comedy |
| | | <i>Note Pe Chot at 8/11</i> | Imran Ahmed Khan | Ajay Kuundal, Ranbir Kalsi, Pihu, Disha Sachdeva, Manoj Bakshi, Inderpal Singh | Satire/ Comedy |
| | 16 | <i>Raid</i> | Raj Kumar Gupta | Ajay Devgn, Ileana D'Cruz, Saurabh Shukla | Action, thriller |
| | <i>Raja Abroadiya</i> | Lakhwinder Shabla | Robin Sohi, Vaishnavi Patwardhan | Comedy | |
| | <i>Hichki</i> | Siddharth P Malhotra | Rani Mukerji | Drama | |
| | <i>Pareshaan Parinda</i> | Devesh Pratap Singh | Meeraj Shah, Sakshi Singh | Thriller | |
| 23 | <i>Daas Dev</i> | Sudhir Mishra | Richa Chaddha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Rahul Bhat, Saurabh Shukla, Vipin Sharma, Vineet Kumar Singh, Dalip Tahil, Anurag Kashyap | Romantic thriller | |
| | <i>Shaadi Teri Bajayenge Hum Band</i> | Gurpreet Sondh | Rajpal Yadav, Mushtaq Khan, Rahul Bagga, Rohit Kumar, Dilbagh Singh, Naresh Gosain, Shrashti Maheshwari, Afreen Alvi, Radha Bhatt | Comedy | |
| | <i>Love Sonia</i> | Tabrez Noorani | Richa Chaddha, Demi Moore, Freida Pinto, Mark Duplass, Mrunal Thakur | Drama | |
| 30 | <i>Baaghi 2</i> | Ahmed Khan | Tiger Shroff, Disha Patani, Manoj Bajpayee, Randeep Hooda | Action/Romance | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| A P R | 2 | <i>Yamla Pagla Deewana: Phir Se</i> | Navaniat Singh | Dharmendra, Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol, Johny Lever, Kajal Aggarwal, Kriti Kharbanda | Comedy |
| | 6 | <i>Parmanu: The Story Of Pokhran</i> | Abhishek Shama (director) | John Abraham, Diana Penty, Boman Irani | Action/drama |
| | | <i>Blackmail</i> | Abhinay Deo | Irfan Khan, Kirti Kulhari, Arunoday Singh, Divya Dutta, Omi Vaidya | Comedy |
| | | <i>Nanu ki Jaanu</i> | Faraz Haider | Patralekhaa, Abhay Deol | Comedy |
| | 13 | <i>October</i> | Shoojit Sircar | Varun Dhawan, Banita Sandhu | Drama |
| | 20 | <i>Saaho</i> | Sujeeth | Prabhas, Shraddha Kapoor, Neil Nitin Mukesh | Action |
| | | <i>Omerta</i> | Hansal Mehta | Rajkumar Rao | Crime Drama |
| | | <i>Beyond the Clouds</i> | Majid Majidi | Ishaan Khatter, Malavika Mohanan | Drama |
| 27 | <i>Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi</i> | Krish | Kangana Ranaut, Sonu Sood, Ankita Lokhande | Biopic | |
| | <i>Baazaar</i> | Gauravv Chawla | Saif Ali Khan, Chitrangda Singh, Radhika Apte, Rohan Mehra | Drama | |
| | <i>Kaala</i> | Pa. Ranjith | Rajnikanth, Huma Qureshi, Nana Patekar | Action | |
| M A Y | 4 | <i>102 Not Out</i> | Umesh Shukla | Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor | Comedy |
| | | <i>Laila Majnu</i> | Imtiaz Ali | | Drama/Romance |
| | 11 | <i>Raazi</i> | Meghna Gulzar | Vicky Kaushal, Alia Bhatt | Period Thriller |
| | <i>FryDay</i> | Abhishek Dogra | Govinda, Varun Sharma | Comedy | |
| 18 | <i>Mangal Ho</i> | Pritish Chakraborty | Pritish Chakraborty, Anushka Ramesh, Sanjay Mishra, Annu Kapoor, Vrajesh Hirjee, Swati Kumar, Sunit Razdan | Sci-fi/comedy | |

WELCOME TO NEW YORK

Recovery agent Teji and fashion designer Jinal dream of making it big in showbiz. Both win a ticket to a popular awards show in New York where they get a chance to showcase their talent. However, they soon realise that they are mere pawns in the hands of event manager Sophie, who wants to teach her boss a lesson.

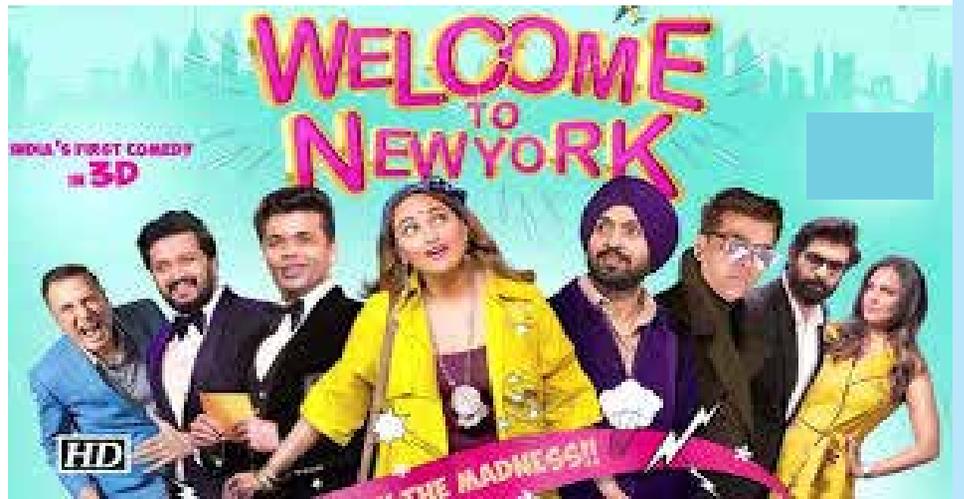
REVIEW: Director Chakri Toleti in his Hindi directorial debut takes viewers behind the scenes of a popular awards show and tries to elicit laughter by laying bare the drama that is an intrinsic aspect of showbiz.

Teji (Diljith Dosanjh) and Jinal (Sonakshi Sinha) set out to live their dreams when they get an opportunity to be part of a Bollywood awards night and showcase their talent. But, little do they know that the awards show manager, Sophie (Lara Dutta), has chosen them from among millions of contest entrants, despite being terrible at what they do, only to embarrass her boss, Gary (Boman Irani), and wreak

revenge on him for not giving her the due.

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

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



Movie poster for 'Welcome to New York' featuring the main cast members.

The laughs are few and far between and most scenes and dialogues which manage to tickle the funny bone involve Karan and Riteish. The biggest let-down is the script and the various tracks in the narrative don't always come together as a whole and seem contrived. The visual effects in the

film are also tacky, to say the least. Actual footage from the awards show doesn't blend in seamlessly with the portions which were shot later. The film must have sounded clever on paper as it doesn't take itself too seriously and attempts to recreate the irreverent tonality, characteristic of the banter at award shows. However, it doesn't always manage to hit the bull's eye.

THE WINDOW MOVIE REVIEW

Story: A talented yet deeply troubled screenplay writer Lekh Kapoor wants to break free from the shackles of conventional storytelling, but ends up taking up the job of rewriting the script of a Tamil blockbuster. His life takes a U-turn when a mysterious girl becomes the object of his obsession.

Review: A wannabe revolutionary in the



field of screenplay writing, Lekh Kapoor (Amit Kumar Vashisth) is let-down by the boisterous ways of showbiz industry and resolves to introduce an unconventional technique of storytelling that does not conform to the protocols of how a script is supposed to be written. But his henchman Irfan, who goes to painful lengths to find work for his 'genius' friend, convinces him to take up a job in the space of commercial cinema for making ends meet.

Worn out, shattered from the wounds of an ugly marriage with Ayesha (Preeti Sharma) and highly delusional, Lekh begins writing his script, only to chance

upon Maya (Teena Singh) who goes on to become the object of his obsession. The recurring theme in 'The Window' is a wholehearted writer's plight in this unforgiving industry and the myth that pathos alone can bring out the artistic genius in a storyteller. Director VK Choudhary's version of struggle in an unstable profession seems unrealistic in parts. The film's frequent deviation from the plot, only adds salt to the injured script.

Amit Kumar Vashisth as the shabbily dressed, aloof and enraged Lekh is the highlight of the film. Despite the script going haywire after the first 30 minutes, he

stays true to his character of utter lunacy and situational depression. Probably in a different setting, with a much tighter script, we will get to see an even finer version of this first-rate actor. His partner-in-crime Preeti Sharma's naivety is required to balance things out in this otherwise laden-with-screams indie flick.

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

Dil Jungle Movie

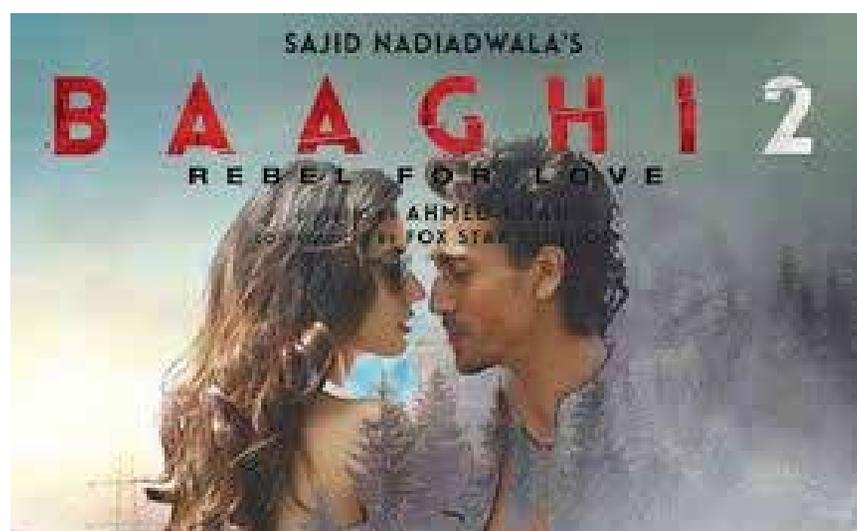
After releasing some quirky posters, the makers of Taapsee Pannu and Saqib Saleem's Dil Juungle have launched the trailer. So, here is the quick review of this trailer.

1. Theme - Two people with opposite characters decides to be in a fun relationship and end up falling for each other. They get separated and are happy with their new partners. But, years later Saqib and Taapsee cross paths and this is when the twist comes.
2. Chemistry - We must the crackling chemistry between the fresh pair is amazing. Their chemistry brings fun, quirkiness

3. Music - The film is expected to be a fun and a romantic entertainer mainly due to its background music. The music is really a peppy title track.
 - 5 Overall look and feel - The trailer is amazing and fun filled. It will automatically drag you to the theatres. It seems the movie will make you laugh and will take you on a fun ride.
- Well, let's wait for this film to hit theaters.



Baaghi 2



The much-awaited trailer of Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer 'Baaghi 2' is finally out! One look at the trailer and you would agree that Tiger gives out the 'Rambo' vibes. The trailer sees the return of Ronnie played by Jr. Shroff as he sets out as a 'one-man army' to find a small girl called Riya. The film boasts of a powerful ensemble cast as Ran-deep Hooda takes on the role of the antagonist. Disha plays Neha, Ronnie's love interest in the film, whom

he was to be married to. Manoj Bajpayee essays the character of a tough cop in the film. We also see Prateik Babbar making a brief yet impactful appearance. Packed with explosions, fling kicks, punches and high octane stunts, the trailer has Tiger rebelling for love while on a serious mission. The film is a sequel to Tiger's 2016 superhit action flick 'Baaghi' which also starred Shraddha Kapoor in the lead role.



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सम्पादकीय

हिंदी पन्ने का यह तीसरा अंक है। आशा यही रहती है कि पाठकों के सुझाव और टिप्पणियाँ मिलती रहें ताकि इसमें सुधार होता रहे और हमें अपने प्रयत्न में बढ़ावा मिलता रहे। आशा करती हूँ आपके पत्र आते रहेंगे और हमारा उत्साह बढ़ाते रहेंगे। हिंदी लवर्स क्लब ने TEA AND TALK चाय और गपशप नाम से एक मासिक कार्यक्रम रीगल फाउंडेशन के साथ मिल कर आरंभ किया है। यह माह के चौथे शुक्रवार को होता है। इसमें हम अलग अलग विषयों पर हिंदी/अंग्रेजी में बातचीत करते हैं और अपने विचार रखते हैं। यह कार्यक्रम बहुत सफल हो रहा है क्योंकि इस फोरम में सभी अपनी बात बिना किसी झिझक के दूसरों के साथ साँझा कर सकते हैं इस विश्वास के साथ कि उनकी कोई भी बात उनके नाम के साथ कमरे से बाहर नहीं जाएगी। हरेक माह एक नए विषय पर चर्चा होती है। यदि आप भी इसका हिस्सा बनना चाहते हैं तो हमें संपर्क करें। हमें इस पन्ने के लिए हिंदी में आपके संछिप्त लेख, कविता, धटना, चुटकुले आदि की आवश्यकता है। हमें संपर्क करने या अपनी रचनाएँ भेजने के लिए यहाँ EMAIL करें : info@hindiloversclub.com.

यदि आपको विश्वासनीय और स्वादिष्ट खाने की खोज है तो आप बिग सुचिर/देसी हट नामक रेस्तरां में जाएँ। यह परिवार द्वारा चलाया गया १२ साल से WOODRIDGE, IL में व्यवसाय कर रहा है। रेस्तरां के साथ देसी हट नाम की किराने की दुकान भी है जिसमें आपको सब तरह के मसाले और GROCERY मिलेगी। हालाँकि हमारे रेस्तरां में बहुत तरह के खाने उपलब्ध हैं, हमारी माहिरता बाहर के कार्यक्रमों में खानपान का बन्दोबस्त करना है। हम 5000 तक के लोगों के खाने का इंतजाम कर सकते हैं और भिन्न भिन्न प्रकार के खाने भी दे सकते हैं जैसे कि INDO-CHINESE, SOUTH INDIAN, PUNJABI और KATHIAWADI। हमने 100 से ऊपर CATERING की है और सभी संतुष्ट हुए हैं। हम सभी तरह के कार्यक्रमों में जैसे शादी, नेवी शावर, जन्म दिवस, कापॉर्ट पार्टी आदि में खाने का पूरा इंतजाम करते हैं। हम आपके साथ बैठ कर आपकी पसंद का मेनू तैयार करते हैं ताकि आपको किसी भी तरह की शिकायत न हो और आप और अपने मेहमान खाने से पूर्ण रूप से प्रसन्न हों। आपको अपने मित्रों और परिवार में खाने के मामले में प्रभाव डालना है तो बेझिझक देसी हट से संपर्क करें। हमारा पता है 75TH ST. AND JANES AVE IN WOODRIDGE. BIGSUCHIR/DESIHUT से आप FACEBOOK और UBEREATS में जा सकते हैं। WEBSITE और फोन है WWW.BIGSUCHIR.COM, 630 985 5552.

क्या बताएँ के जौं गई कैसे
फिर से दोहराएँ वो घड़ी कैसे

किसने रास्ते में चाँद रखा था
मुझको ठोकर वहाँ लगी कैसे

वक्त पे पाँव कब रखा हमने
ज़िदगी मुँह के बल गिरी कैसे

आँख तो भर गई थी पानी से
तेरी तस्वीर जल गयी कैसे

हम तो अब याद भी नहीं करते
आप को हिचकी लग गई कैसे
-गुलज़ार

जीवन सार

इतनी अच्छी धरती पर रहते हैं हम

फिर भी आराम लगता है कम

लगता है जीवन में बहुत हैं गम

पर असलियत में है ये अपना भ्रम

करते चलते अपने क्रम

जब तक है जान में दम

होठों पे रखो हंसी हरदम

न गिनो जीवन के गम

करो शुक्रिया ईश्वर का तुम

दिया जो हमें मानव जन्म

इतनी अच्छी धरती पर रहते हैं हम

फिर भी आराम लगता है कम।

पूजिता और नेत्रा जैन

निगाहें

कभी हंसती हैं

कभी रोती हैं

कभी छुप-छुपाके

करती हैं इशारे

ये निगाहें

जाने-अनजाने में

कुछ बातें बताने में

कभी छुपने छुपाने में

धोखा खा जाती हैं

ये निगाहें

होठों को नहीं मिलते

शब्दों के काफिले

सासें भी न समझें

जब दिल के इशारे

नम सी होकर

बहुत कुछ

कह देती हैं

ये निगाहें।

गुरबचन कौर नीलम

हास्य व्यंग

जीवन में इतनी सम्पत्ति कम कर क्या करोगे ?

आखिर मरने के बाद कुछ बी साथ नहीं जाता।

ऐसा बताने वाले महाराज एक कथा के एक लाख लेते हैं।

बेचने वाला तो कहीं खरीदार होगा
जहाँ भी जाओगे एक बाजार होगा,कभी ना कभी तो फेर बदलेगा यहाँ
आखिर कब तक वक्त दुश्वार होगा,वो भला किसके हक में फैसला देगा
जो न्यायाधीश खुद गुनहगार होगा,अगर हौसला है तो ये दरिया क्या है
रेत की कश्ती से समुन्दर पार होगा,बस सही राह पर चलता रह बेखबर
तुझे तेरी मन्जिल का दीदार होगा,

वैभव बेखबर

माँ - एक अनकहा दास्ताँ

मैं जब - जब अपने अन्तर्मुखी और मितभाषी माँ की आँखों में झाँकता हूँ तो मुझे महसूस होता है कि माँ की आँखों में कोई तीर्थ है और मैं उसमें शाही स्नान कर रहा हूँ। सचमुच, बदन का पोर- पोर पावन हो जाता है। अगर सच कहूँ तो, माँ की सूरत के आगे सब मूरत फीकी लगती है। शायद यही कारण है कि मुझे किसी मन्दिर की जगह माँ के चेहरे की परिक्रमा करने में ज्यादा खुशी होती है।

इन्ही खुशियों के बीच जब कभी खुद को शून्य में प्रक्षेपित करता हूँ तो अंतरात्मा से उसके प्रति एक कृतज्ञता का भाव उत्पन्न होता है। माँ, जिसने हमें बनाने, बचाने में अपना सर्वस्व जीवन समर्पित कर दिया। हमेशा अपने इच्छाओ का परित्याग कर हमारे आशा आकांक्षा को सदैव सर्वोपरी समझा है। आज हम जो भी हैं, जैसे भी हैं, जहाँ भी हैं और जितना भी है, ये बिना माँ के सम्भव ही नहीं था।

हालाँकि इस कृतज्ञता के भाव को जीते जीते अचानक उदास भी हो जाता हूँ कि मुझे बनाने, सजाने वाली माँ के लिए हमने अभी तक क्या किया? मैं सोचने लगता हूँ कि क्या हम उनका कुछ अंश भी उनको समर्पित कर पाएँगे?

आज की पीढ़ी जो कि माँ को तर्कों की कसौटी पर कसने में लगी है, उनको पुरातन सिद्ध करने में लगी है। माँ के साथ रहने की नहीं बल्कि रखने की बात करती है। ऐसे में यह हृदयविदारक दृश्य देखकर मेरी आँखों में बरबस ही नमी आ जाती है। दिल में दुःख का समन्दर उमड़ पड़ता है। मुझे बरबस ही आत्मग्लानि का आत्मबोध होने लगता है। सोचिये, आखिर हमारी नई फसले इस कदर रोग ग्रसित कैसे हो गयी है। आखिर हम इतने मानसिक अपाहिज कैसे हो गये?

दोस्तों, हमें अपनी बुनियाद (माँ) को समझना चाहिए। हम गौर से देखें तो माँ एक अनकही व अनसुनी दास्ताँ है, उसे महसूस करने पर ही एहसास होगा। माँ के चेहरे की झुर्रियों को पढ़ने की कोशिश करियेगा तो बहुत कुछ लिखा मिलेगा। अगर माँ को निष्कपटा, निश्चलता, सदाशयता के साथ महसूस करियेगा तो माँ परमात्मा से बढ़कर लगेगी। यकीन मानिये, हमारा इस दुनिया में कुछ भी नहीं है, हम जो कुछ भी है या हममें जो कुछ भी है वो सिर्फ माँ का है। सिर्फ और सिर्फ - माँ का है। हम उनको उनका वही हिस्सा ही लौटा दे तो भी हमारा जीवन धन्य हो जायेगा।

"गोरख नाथ पाण्डेय"

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>تعمیر پھول غزل</p> <p>"تری وفا پہ بھی کیا کیا ہمیں گماں گزرنے" تری رضا کے لئے ہم کہاں کہاں گزرنے مدد کی آس لئے تھے وہ مصیبت میں کھینچتے جس کو ہیں اپنا، وہ مہرباں گزرنے! کہیں گھرا نہ ہو وہ مجمع رقیباں میں! چلے تھے گھر سے مگر ہم نہیں وہاں گزرنے جنوں کی راہ الگ ہے، خرد کی راہ الگ وہ وفا سے کبھی کیا ہیں کتہ واں گزرنے؟ محافظوں کا تعلق تھا قصر سلطاں پر ستم رسیدہ تو کرتے ہوئے فغاں گزرنے سحر کے نور سے مٹا ہے دلوں کو بطور شب میں نہیں دیکھو! پر فغاں گزرنے یہاں تو آمد گل ہیں سدا رہی اسے پھول! جو باغیاں تھے، کبھی سوائے گلستاں گزرنے؟</p> | <p>گلبرگ آبادی غزل</p> <p>اگر نہ زہرہ جینوں کے درمیاں گزرنے تو پھر یہ کیسے کئے زندگی کہاں گزرنے مجھے یہ دم رہا عتوں کہ جرأت شوق کہیں نہ خاطر معصوم پر گراں گزرنے خطا معاف زمانے سے بدلگاہ ہو کر تری وفا پہ بھی کیا کیا ہمیں گماں گزرنے خلوص جس میں ہو شامل وہ دور عشق و ہوس نہ رائیگاں کبھی گزرا نہ رائیگاں گزرنے ای کو کہتے ہیں جنت ہی کو دوزخ بھی وہ زندگی جو جینوں کے درمیاں گزرنے کبھی کبھی تو ہی ایک مشت خاک کے گرد طواف کرتے ہوئے بہت آسماں گزرنے بہت عزیز ہے مجھ کو انہیں کی یاد بجز وہ حادثات محبت جو ناگہاں گزرنے</p> | <p>احمد علی برقی اعظمی غزل</p> <p>"اگر نہ زہرہ جینوں کے درمیاں گزرنے" تو میری شام طرب اور پھر کہاں گزرنے کروں تو کس سے کروں گفتگوئے راز و نیاز دیار شوق سے اُن کا جو کارواں گزرنے جلو میں اپنے لئے شوقی بہار چمن وہ گلگداز جب آئے تو گلستاں گزرنے ہمیں زلف سے اُن کی فضا تھی مطربدش مشام جاں تھی معطر جہاں جہاں گزرنے خمار خواب سے بیدار ہو گئیں آنکھیں وہ میرے کوچہ دل سے جو ناگہاں گزرنے خزام ناز تھا غار بجز سکوں اُن کا جو اُن کی راہ سے گزرنے وہ ہم جاں گزرنے غزل سرائی میں ہے بیرو بجز برقی نہ اُن کا طرز کسی کو کبھی گراں گزرنے</p> |
|---|--|--|

Ghazals compiled by
Janab Hasan Chishti Sb
Chicago



غزل
میرا لڑاں مہیر

دل پہ بھروسہ رکھتے ہو تو آگے بڑھو اقرار کرو
ہمت ہے تو پیار کرو تم ورنہ پھر انکار کرو

نیکی کا کچھ مول نہیں ہے یہ اصول خزانہ ہے
اتنے اتنے کام ہمیشہ یار مرے ہر بار کرو

اپنا مخالف کیا کہتا ہے اس کی پروا مت کرنا
سچ سچ بولو سچائی کا دل سے تم اقرار کرو

یوں ہی لالچی تم پر برسے تم خود ہی مر جاؤ گے
انساں ہے تو آخر اس پر اتنا نہ اتنا چار کرو

آدمی بھی ہے طوفاں بھی ہے تم کو پار اتنا بھی ہے
دیکھو زندہ رہنا ہے تو تیرے دریا پار کرو

سونا چاندی ہیرے موتی سب ہی جگ میں بکتے ہیں
تم بھی مہیر آئے ہو یہاں پر مول سر بازار کرو

Waliuddin

واعظ

کچھ اس طرح سے مولوی ایمان جگاتے ہیں
رات بھر لاؤڈ اسپیکر پر مچھل سجاتے ہیں
ایک دن یہ راز کھلا سارے محلے کو جگا کے
خود سو گئے تھے واعظ کا C D لگا کے

☆☆☆

ہوم لینڈ سیکورٹی
(Home-Land Security)

میری بیگم مجھے بوڑھا نہیں ہونے دیتی
طے دے دے کر جوان رکھتی ہے
یہ ہوم لینڈ سیکورٹی کی طرح مچھل میں
میری ہر نظر پر دھیان رکھتی ہے

☆☆☆

تکرار

میاں بیوی کی تکرار محبت کی نشانی ہے
یہ جھگڑے صبح سویرے ہوتے رہتے ہیں
Bachelors کو اس بات کی خبر نہیں ہوتی
وہ بے چارے دیر تک سوئے رہتے ہیں

پنہاں کی شاعری

پنہاں کی شاعری سے میرا تعارف اس وقت ہوا تھا جب کراچی کے ایک کالج میں ایک شریلی کی نومرگہ رنے
اپنی تین کتابیں مجھے حمادی تھیں۔ وہ وہاں تھی بھولی بھالی اور کس کی لگ رہی تھی کس نے حیرت سے پوچھا تھا۔ کیا
یہ ساری شاعری تم نے ہی لکھی ہے۔ "میرے اس سوال پر وہ ہلاک ہوئی کہ جس کی شاعری میں نے حیرت سے پوچھا تھا۔ کیا
تین مجموعوں کو پڑھا۔ پہلے ایران اور پھر بہت خوش ہوئی کہ نہایت سادگی اور پرکاری کے ساتھ پنہاں نے اپنی ہی
شاعری لکھی تھی جس سے خیال میں کسی تعلیم یافتہ اور با شعور عورت کو گھنٹی نہیں چاہئے۔

آج کل مختلف عورتیں مختلف طریقوں سے لکھ رہی ہیں لیکن ان کی قدر و شکر یہ ہے کہ یہ اپنی سوانحیت کو
چھپانے کی کوشش نہیں کرتیں۔ پنہاں کے یہاں اس کی سوانحیت بہت پر دقا اور بلند ہے۔ اس کی شاعری میں محبت
کے وہ خوبصورت اور سادہ جذبات بھی ہیں جن سے ہر عورت کا دل ملو رہتا ہے لیکن اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کی سوچوں
کے کچھ ایسے بیکل دھارے بھی ہیں جن سے اس کے وجود کی سخت زمین کو توڑ کر اظہار و اثبات کی تلخ آواز کے لئے
ہتھکڑا رہتے ہیں۔

اس معاشرے میں زندگی نے جس طرح ایک لڑکی یا عورت کو ایک انسان کے ساتھ سلوک کرتی ہے اور اس
سے جو ایسے ختم لیتا ہے پنہاں کی شاعری نے اس کا بھر پور اظہار کیا ہے۔ یہ شاعری زندگی کی آنکھوں میں آنکھیں ڈال کر
دیکھنے کی ہمت، ہر جگہ پر مشابہتی سے قدم بٹانے کے لئے رہنے کا حوصلہ اور جوش قدی کا مزہ کبھی ہے اس لئے پنہاں کی
شاعری مجھے ابھی لگتی ہے۔

اس ایک ملاقات کے بعد کراچی میں پھر میری ملاقات پنہاں سے ہوئی تھی لیکن میں نے کبھی ہی بار کی جگہ
اس کی انکسائیں سنا کیں اور اسے ایک نئی پاکستانی عورت کی آواز کے طور پر پہچان لیا۔

میری دعا ہے کہ پنہاں کی شاعری میں کھلنے والی اس کی سوچ کی کلیاں وقت کے ظالم ہاتھوں سے محفوظ
رہیں اور مکتبی رہیں۔

فہمیدہ ریاض

ڈاکٹر پنہاں

پہلے تو زندگی کو طے زندگی کا حق
بعد اسی کے نارونور کو ہو روشنی کا حق

در کھل گیا شعور پہ جب لاشعور کا
تبل گیا خودی کو مری بے خودی کا حق

منزل نما وہی تو فقط زبور راہ تھا
گم ہو کے رہ گیا جو کہیں گم رہی کا حق

ہر سمت یہ نمود و نمائش کی رونقیں
چھن جائے مظلوموں سے ذاب مغلیں کا حق

یہ کاروبار سودو زیاں کی معیشیتیں
کیوں آدمی کے پاس رہن آدمی کا حق

تیزاب لاؤ بیہک دو رخ پر گلاب کے
تھلی سے جاؤ جین لو آدمی کا حق

جو کچھ ہے میرے پاس منیت اسی کی ہے
پنہاں آوا ہو کیسے غزل دوستی کا حق

غزل

رضیہ فصیح احمد

بہی خوشی اور رنج و غم کا ایسا ہے بھوک
دنیا میں نہ خوشیاں کم ہیں، نہ ہی کم ہیں روگ
جس مچھل میں کل آنی تھی خوشیوں کی بارات
کل جس جا تھا قفس و نقد آج وہاں ہے سوگ
کوئی تو ہو جو کہہ اٹھے یہ جاہر سلطاں سے
غلاقت پہ جو ظلم کئے ہیں مزا بھی اس کی بھوک
موسم کے بھی اپنے تھافے کچھ یوں ہوتے ہیں
اپنے دل کی ساری باتیں کہہ جاتے ہیں لوگ
ہم سے اب کچھ بھی نہ چھپاؤ، سچ سچ بتا دو
کس کی خاطر تم نے رضیہ لے رکھا ہے بھوک

غزل

رابطے دل کے ضروری ہیں غزل خوانی سے
مسئلے حل نہیں ہوتے ہیں زباں دانی سے

میں نے یہ سوچ کے بچھرے کو کھلا چھوڑ دیا
جس کو اڑنا ہو وہ اڑ جائے گا، آسانی سے

جب بھی میں دل میں چھپاتا ہوں کوئی راز اپنا
دل کی تحریر وہ پڑھ لیتی ہے پیشانی سے

میں ہوں اک ایسے پیالے کی طرح دنیا میں
جو لبالب ہو مساکل کی فراوانی سے

آج جب ترک تعلق کا ارادہ تھا مرا
اُس نے پہچان لیا میری پریشانی سے

اُس نے خود چھوڑ دیا بننا سنورنا، جب سے
آئینہ بکھنے لگا ہے اُسے حیرانی سے

جب بھی حماد! طبیعت میں اترتی ہے غزل
روشنی پھونکنے لگتی ہے قلم دانی سے

پروفیسر حماد خان
(نیویارک)

غزل

میرا لڑاں مہیر

دل پہ بھروسہ رکھتے ہو تو آگے بڑھو اقرار کرو
ہمت ہے تو پیار کرو تم ورنہ پھر انکار کرو

نیکی کا کچھ مول نہیں ہے یہ اصول خزانہ ہے
اتنے اتنے کام ہمیشہ یار مرے ہر بار کرو

اپنا مخالف کیا کہتا ہے اس کی پروا مت کرنا
سچ سچ بولو سچائی کا دل سے تم اقرار کرو

یوں ہی لالچی تم پر برسے تم خود ہی مر جاؤ گے
انساں ہے تو آخر اس پر اتنا نہ اتنا چار کرو

آدمی بھی ہے طوفاں بھی ہے تم کو پار اتنا بھی ہے
دیکھو زندہ رہنا ہے تو تیرے دریا پار کرو

سونا چاندی ہیرے موتی سب ہی جگ میں بکتے ہیں
تم بھی مہیر آئے ہو یہاں پر مول سر بازار کرو

غزل

سوزیدہ انجم حناج

ساز کی موجوں پہ نفوس کی سواری میں تھی
بھیروں بن کے لب صبح پہ جاری میں تھی
میں جو روتی تھی میرا چہرہ کھسکا جاتا تھا
آنسوؤں کے لیے پھولوں کی کیاری میں تھی

گیت بن جاتی کبھی اور کبھی آنسو بنتی
کبھی ہونٹوں سے کبھی آنکھوں سے جاری میں تھی
جان دینا تو بڑی چیز ہے دل بھی نہ دیا
ٹو تو کہتا تھا تجھے جان سے پیاری میں تھی

تو نے کچھ قدر نہ کی یہ بڑا نقصان ہوا
تیرے گلشن کے لیے فصل بہاری میں تھی
مجھ سے دیکھا نہ گیا تیرا پریشاں ہونا
عشق کی بازی مجھ بوجھ کے باری میں تھی

وہ جو انجم کی ہے بربادی کا قصہ مشہور
بائے وہ شامہ اعمال کی ماری میں تھی

غزل

اطیب اعجاز

کٹکٹش تھی رنج و غم کی انتہا تھی میں نہ تھا
زندگی کی گردش صبر آزمائی میں نہ تھا
ٹھو کا عالم تھا حصار روح میں پلٹیل نہ تھی
جسم کے گنبد میں سانسوں کی صدا تھی میں نہ تھا

میں نے دیکھا ہے گھٹی آنکھوں سے ہستی کا زوال
وا مری چشم حقیقت آشنا تھی میں نہ تھا
میرے اندر حق و باطل بر سر پیکار تھے
دل کی دنیا کارزار کر بلا تھی میں نہ تھا

جا چکا تھا سب کو میں اپنا تصور بخش کر
پھول تھے گلزار تھے باو صبا تھی میں نہ تھا
عمر بھر اطیب غموں کی آگ میں جلتا رہا
ایسا لگتا ہے کسی کی بد دعا تھی میں نہ تھا

☆☆☆

غزل

بلندیوں پہ جب گیا تو سر مرا جھکا رہا
کہ میرے والدین کی بدائیں بھی ساتھ تھیں

مہر مہر

دشوار کام تھا غم کو سمیٹنا
میں خود کو باندھنے میں کئی بار گھل گیا

On the lighter side....

Sitting in the bar George asks his 40-year-old friend John, "How come you aren't married?"
 John replies, "I haven't found the right woman yet."
 "So what are you looking for?"
 "Oh, she's got to be real pretty, a good cook, and house keeper. She's got to know how to handle money, have a nice and pleasant personality, and money. She's got to have money. And a nice big house wouldn't hurt either."
 "A woman like that would be crazy to marry YOU!" says George.
 "Oh, it's okay, if she is crazy."

 Last night I was relaxing on the sofa watching TV when I heard my wife's voice from the kitchen: "Oh sweetheart, what would you like for dinner, my love? Chicken, beef or lamb?"
 I said, "Thank you, darling. I think I'll have chicken."
 She replied, "You're havin' a peanut butter sandwich. I was talkin' to the dog!"

 A dog walks into a butcher shop and the butcher asks, "What do you want?" The dog points to steak in a glass case. "How many pounds?" The dog barks twice. "Anything else?" The dog points to some pork chops and barks four times.
 So the butcher wraps up a two-pound steak and four pork chops, and places the bag in the dog's mouth. He then takes money from a purse tied around the dog's neck, and sees him out. A customer, who has been watching in amazement, follows the dog to a house several blocks away, where it rings the doorbell to be let in. As the owner appears at the door, the customer says, "What a remarkable dog!"
 "Remarkable?" snorts the owner. "This is the second time this week he's forgotten his keys."

 Two idiots were standing looking at the sun. They were arguing. One said it was the sun while the other one said it was the moon.



 third guy happened to walk by. They asked him, "What is that in the sky?"
 The man simply replied, "Sorry, I can't help you. I'm not from this area."

 An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great I would recommend it very highly."
 The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?"
 The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns."
 "Do you mean a rose?"
 "Yes, that's the one," replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

 Nurse: "Doctor, doctor! The man you've just treated collapsed on the front step! What should I do?"
 Doctor: "Turn him around, so it looks like he was just arriving!"

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

A On the very special night, a mouse walks up the lion and says, "Congratulations brother!"
 The lion looks at the mouse and says, "Thanks, but since when am I your brother?"
 The mouse replied, "Well, I was once a lion too, then I got married."

 Two students were arguing when their teacher entered the classroom. The teacher says, "Why are you arguing?"
 One boy answers, "We found a ten dollar bill and decided to give it to whoever tells the biggest lie."
 "You should be ashamed of yourselves," said the teacher.
 "When I was your age I didn't even know what a lie was."
 The boys gave the ten dollars to the teacher.

 I was sitting at the counter of a restaurant when a gentleman sat in the seat beside me. I watched as he ordered a cup of coffee and put about fifteen spoonful's of sugar in it.
 He took a sip without stirring it. I remarked, "You didn't stir your coffee."
 He said, "I know, I don't like it sweet."

 April teaches many aerobic classes. She told a lady who was looking to sign up for the class to wear loose fitting clothing to the class.
 "Honey," the lady replied, "if I had any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't be signing up for an exercise class."

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

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

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

"I don't know," said Mary, "but whatever it is, it would never be afraid of the dark."



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