



## Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's tip for a harmonious life

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella is busy bringing you all kinds of new devices and apps to infuse everything you do with computer-aided intelligence: Using a personal assistant (Cortana) to manage your calendar, having chat bots interact with you on the internet, using the HoloLens virtual reality glasses to impose a 3D

virtual world onto your real world.

Yet, when it comes to balancing work with family and personal life, he doesn't think our obsession with our devices is helping.

He doesn't believe in work/life "balance" but in work/life harmony, he tells Business Insider. "There's no such thing as balance. It's how do I

harmonize my work and my life?" he says. We all spend tons of time at work and thinking about work, so it's important that our work be meaningful and fit in with our core values.

But when it comes to spending time with the family, we all need to focus less on our phones and more on the real world.

That means not thinking about "the last email," you got from work, he tells Business Insider.

But it also means putting down that phone and paying full attention to your family and friends. It's something that he's working on himself (emphasis ours):

When I'm with my family, doing something say even this weekend, tomorrow when I'm there with my daughter, I'm present. What does that presence mean? A lot of us have the residual effect of the last email, the last thing. You've got to get very, very good, I think, in modern life to not have that residual effect spoil your presence. I see people over a dinner table all on their cellphone, that's when I say, wow, that's tragic.

Nadella calls our need for our phones "information anxiety" and he's hoping that Microsoft's new generation of smarter, talking, software and devices will help you solve that.

"So I'm running late to a meeting. The personal assistant realizes that, automatically on my behalf reschedules or notifies the person because it knows my calendar. I'm not doing some texting and driving. That's one trivial example," he says.

Satya Narayana Nadella (born August 19, 1967) is an India-born American business executive. He is the current chief executive officer (CEO) of Microsoft.[7][8] He was appointed as CEO on 4 February 2014, succeeding Steve Ballmer. Before becoming CEO of Microsoft, he was Executive Vice President of Microsoft's Cloud and Enterprise group, responsible for building and running the company's Computing Platforms, Developer Tools and Cloud Computing Services.

Nadella worked with Sun Microsystems as a member of its technology staff prior to joining Microsoft in 1992. At Microsoft Nadella has led major projects including the company's move to cloud computing and the development of one of the largest cloud infrastructures in the world. Nadella worked as the senior vice-president of Research and Development (R&D) for the Online Services Division and vice-president of the Microsoft Business Division. Later, he was made the president of Microsoft's \$19 billion Server and Tools Business and led a transformation of the company's business and technology culture from client services to cloud infrastructure and services.

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## Muslim-Americans 'most important partners' in ISIS fight: Barack Obama

Washington: In a veiled attack on Republican White House hopefuls Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, President Barack Obama described Muslim-Americans as the "most important partners" in the fight against ISIS and asserted that attempts to stigmatise the community should be rejected.

"Our determination to win the battle against ISIL's hateful and violent propaganda -- a distorted view of Islam that aims to radicalise young Muslims to their cause," Obama said in his weekly web and radio address to the nation.

"In that effort, our most important partners are American Muslims. That's why we have to reject any attempt to stigmatise Muslim-Americans and their enormous contributions to our country and our way of life," said the US President in an apparent reference to the recent anti-Muslim rhetoric of top Republican presidential candidates -- Trump and Cruz.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Brussels, Cruz called for increased surveillance of Muslim neighbourhoods while Trump reiterated that Muslims be temporarily be prevented from entering the country.

"Such attempts are contrary to our



character, to our values and to our history as a nation built around the idea of religious freedom. It's also counterproductive. It plays right into the hands of terrorists who want to turn us against one another; who need a reason to recruit more people to their hateful cause," Obama said.

"I am a father. And just like any other parent, the awful images from Brussels draw my thoughts to my own children's safety. That's also why you should be confident that defeating ISIL remains our top military, intelligence, and national security priority," he said.

"We will succeed. The terrorists will fail. They want us to abandon our values and our way of life. We will not. They want us to give in to their vision of the future. We will defeat them with ours. Because we know that the future belongs not to those who seek only to destroy -- but to those who have the courage to build," Obama said.

Referring to the Brussels terrorist attack that claimed 31 lives and injured 300 others, Obama said Belgium is a close friend and ally of the United States.

"And when it comes to our friends, America has their backing. Especially as we fight the scourge of terrorism. More broadly, we're going to continue to root out and defeat ISIL," he said.

"We've been taking out ISIL leadership, and this week, we removed one of their top leaders from the battlefield - permanently. A relentless air campaign -- and support for forces in Iraq and Syria who are fighting ISIL on the ground -- has allowed us to take approximately forty per cent of the populated territory that ISIL once held in Iraq," he added.

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## Hari Om Mandir celebrates Holi - The Festival of Colors

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: Holi - the festival of colors - is undoubtedly the most fun-filled and boisterous of Hindu festivals. It's an occasion that brings in unadulterated joy and mirth, fun and play, music and dance, and, of course, lots of bright colors! It is celebrated on the full moon day in the month of Phalgun, which usually falls in the last week of Feb. or the beginning of March. Holi is a time when man and nature alike throw off the gloom of winter and rejoice in the colors & liveliness of spring. This year Holi was on the 23rd of March, but the Hari Om Mandir celebrated the festival on Sunday, the 20th of March, 2016, with traditional joy and enthusiasm. Although the temperatures were a little nippy and on the cooler side, a large number of people (over 400) joined the celebrations.

Holi in the Hari Om Mandir is always SPECIAL and keenly awaited, because it is celebrated with flowers and the festive decorations in the Temple attract people from far and near. This year, the legend of Radha Ji's Sakhiyan from Barsana, was brought live! As young girls beautifully dressed in the traditional Chania-Cholis, vibrant saris, arrived amidst chantings of "Aaj Biraj Mein Holi Re Rasiya", all eyes were focused on them and people were eager to be blessed & get drenched in the colorful drizzle of flowers. Radha Ji's Sakhis / Krishna Ji's Gopiyan, performed Garba

and showered flowers from their beautiful baskets on one & all in the congregation - a symbol of color and prosperity in life. The wonderful Holi folk songs describing the immortal enduring love of Radha and Krishna, sung by Rama Kapoor, Rekha & Kailash Mehta, Happy & Goldy, Madhu Salwan, accompanied by Ajay Ghai on the Dholak, created the perfect environment and Hari Om Mandir in Medinah seemed to be a replica of Brij, Vrindavan and Mathura in India. The entire congregation echoed with clappings, applause & appreciation when two little girls Rashmi and Hita, age 7, gave a dance performance "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo" Soon after, everyone was seen embracing each other and wishing Happy Holi!!!

Jeetu Patel, Aarti Singla, Garima Bhagav, Nazneen and family had spent several hours the previous night to decorate the temple with colorful balloons - bright neon and water splash colors adorned the Mandir hall. Also, Rita Patel, Hiteshree and Latha made beautiful Rangolis - Swastik, Ganesha, Lotus etc on the floor and added to the colorful ambience. Bowls full of dry color powder - Red, Blue, Green, Yellow "Gulaal" were displayed at the feet of the deities. Keeping in mind the cleanliness of the temple, people were prohibited from playing with those colors, but every devotee was given a chance to get soaked in the

natural colors of Mother Nature. Meera & Jayanthi greeted everybody at the entrance with a colorful flower garland, Happy Holi Wishes and a warm friendly smile!!!!

Fun, Joy, Enthusiasm, Color, Music and Festivity was in the pious air of Hari Om Mandir on this auspicious occasion. The celebrations culminated with Preeti Bhoj and a colorful mood of happiness prevailed.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA



Waliuddin at the reception organized by the the Consulate General of Pakistan, with Hon. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi to celebrate Pakistan Day on March 23rd, 2016 at Holiday Inn Skokie

## Syeda Falak Champion 2016



Syeda Falak won gold medal in the USA Open Karate Championship 2016 in the Senior Female Kumite category. 42 countries from across the globe participated in this prestigious championship held at Paris Las Vegas Hotel (Convention Centre) from 24th-27th March, 2016. Syeda Falak defeated competitors from USA and Ukraine to clinch the Gold Medal.

It's a first time that a girl from Telangana won medal at the USA Karate Championship.



Poet Khaja Kamaluddin, Pervaiz Baig, Founder Charminar Connection and Azeem A. Quadeer, Publisher Asia Times at Urdu Adab Dallas monthly get together.



Deputy CM of Telangana State Mehmood Ali Sahab hosted dinner at his official residence for ATA President Sudhaker Perikari, Iftekhar Shareef, Damodar reddy, present where Rector All Saints brother Shajon Anthony, Mohammed Asaduddin son of Mohammed Azharuddin former India's Cricket captain and Masi Ullah general secretary greater Hyderabad TRS party.



Hasan Chishti with Dr. Ehsan M. Ahrari in Chicago



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## ATA Day Gala held as a grand precursor for ATA Convention



Asian Media USA © Chicago IL: American Telugu Association [ATA] hosted a grand ATA Day Gala pervaded by palpable excitement and soaring spirits permeating the evening with overflowing guests packed to the capacity at the grand ballroom in Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, Illinois on Saturday, February 27, 2016. This ATA Day gala was held as a reaffirming precursor leading up to the magnificent milestone silver jubilee ATA Convention to be held in July 1-3, 2016 at Rosemont Convention Center in Chicago, IL.

The highlight of the ATA DAY gala was the huge haul of overflowing donations of over \$812,000 from inspired donors touching a groundbreaking milestone to help host grand ATA Convention on an unparalleled scale and magnitude. The glittering evening was replete with music, dance, singing enhanced by the presence of prominent Tollywood/Bollywood actress Tapsee Pannu. The central objective of the evening gala was eloquently articulated to inspire Telugu families all across to converge for the milestone 25-years ATA

Convention in Chicago and make it a runaway success. The evening attracted the attendance of prominent ATA pioneering, intermediary and contemporary leaders from all across the country with Democratic front runner for the United States Congress Raja Krishnamoorthi stepping in as an honored guest and spelled out his robust support to the large growing constituency of Telugu people and complimented them for their soaring success in America.

After the lighting of the auspicious lamp by prominent ATA leaders, there was a presentation of an artistically choreographed invocation dance by young children which set the grand ATA Day gala in motion with series of inspiring remarks each convincingly motivating to host one of the most memorable conventions in the annals of the history of American Telugu Association.

ATA Silver Jubilee Convention Convener Chandrasekhar Reddy Palvai welcoming the guests earlier ardently thanked for their spirited pledge of

participation in supporting ATA Convention with their resource and urged each Telugu family to be a valued partner in coming together to host the most memorable silver jubilee convention in ATA's history. Chandrasekhar Reddy Palvai lasted on the podium passionately beseeching the potential donors to rise up to donate generously and identifying the donors and acknowledging them for their support.

Hanumanth Reddy, ATA Founder visibly excited at the unprecedented gathering and the groundswell support from all corners of the country thanked the guests for their proactive support.

Presiding over the fundraising facet, KK Reddy, Convention Director in his persuasive eloquence inspired the guests to step forward to donate. KK Reddy appealed to the better angels of the spirit of altruism seeking support to help host magnificent ATA convention and the charitable causes ATA is so passionately espouses. KK Reddy continued to emphasize on the significance of financial partner-

ship from the individuals, organizations and corporations in building a sound financial foundations to unveil a spectacular ATA convention and, in addition, also to build enduring fiscal reserves for ATA's humanitarian mission projects.

Kamala Chimata, Convention Coordinator spelled out the goals of the convention. Convention Co-Convener Krishna Mushyam conducted the program event with his interspersing introductions; while Jagan Bukkaraju, Convention Co-Convener, Radhakrishna Reddy, Dr. Meher Medavaram Venkat Tudi, Ramana Abbaraju, Uma Katki, Sujatha Appalaneni, Karumuri brothers rendered valuable assistance in conducting program management. Ramesh Garapaty introduced the cultural programs.

Keerthi Kumar Ravoori made a rousing summation on the grand plans being undertaken to host a massive convention. Among the donors, Srinivas Reddy Sarikonda, Satish Velupuru emerged as one of the highest donors. President-elect Karunakar Asireddy,

who spoke on the occasion along with Anil Bodireddy represented a strong contingent of Atlanta ATA team of eight. Some of the key ATA members at the gala include Dr. Murthy Chimata, Yedavalli Ramanamurthy, Ramesh Tummuru, Amar Nettem, Venu & Ramana Abbaraju, venkat Tudi.

Tollywood/Bollywood actress: Taapsee Pannu in her remarks made a stirring pitch for ATA convention and laid-out the significance of paying back to the community, society and the country through financial resources. Actress Tapsee Pannu paid glowing tributes to ATA leaders for their steadfast devotion in promoting humanitarian causes. To the great amusement of the guests, actress: Taapsee performed an impromptu dance which received sustained applause and cheering.

Some of the convention committee chairs who attended include Srinivas Pedamallu, Mohan Manne, Dr Prakasam Tata, Mani Tellapragada, Usha Pariti, Prasuna Vootkur, Sundar Dittakavi, Raghav Jatla, Sujatha Appalaneni, Satish

Chilla, Govind Vundru, Dr. Vijaya Susarla, Srinivas Reddy, Karunakar Reddy Doddam, Jayadev Mattupalli, Sarada Mettupalli, Chalama Reddy Bandaru, Sai Yendamuri, Mohan Karlapudi, Srinivas Voruganti, Dr. Viswanatham Susarla, Mahidhar Musukula, Krishna Rangaraju, Ramesh Poola, Hari Raini, Maruti Ram Gudavalli, Dr. Uma katiki, Bhanu Swargam, Saipriya Reddy, TanviShri Jatla, Harsha Vardhan Reddy, Sarath Yetapu and Saimithra Reddy

Vindya of MAA TV anchored the program; while Rahul Sipligunj crooned late into the night to the captive enthralled audience. ATA hosted a grand evening dinner arranged by Tamarind Restaurant. For more information, please visit ATA website: [www.ataworld.org](http://www.ataworld.org)

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## Javed Akhtar and Shabani Azmi Paid Rich Tributes to Legendary Urdu Poet, Kaifi Azmi in “Kaifi aur Main”

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: Dhrishti presented “Kaifi aur Main” on Friday – March 25th, 2016, 8: 00 PM onwards, at Meadows Club--the newest concert arena well-known for the state-of-the art acoustics in Chicago. The event was a theatrical and musical tribute to Kaifi Azmi’s poetry and his unparalleled contribution to Indian Cinema. The event was attended by hundreds of sophisticated poetry-lovers representing different sections of the South-Asian community in Chicago.

“Kaifi Aur Main” is a celebration of Kaifi’s life and works seen through the eyes of his wife, Shaukat Kaifi, noted theatre and film actress, which was brought to life by his daughter, Shabana Azmi, the eminent actress, and his son-in-law, Javed Akhtar, the renowned poet, script writer and parliamentarian.

The sensitive and touching narrative written by Javed Akhtar, based on Shaukat’s book of memoirs, “Yaad ki Rehguzar” as well as on Kaifi’s interviews and writings, provides a fascinating insight into Kaifi’s and his wife’s journey of life, their magnificent romance culminating in a marriage that lasted 55 years, life in Bombay in the 50s, the Progressive Writer’s Movement, Kaifi’s social activism and communist leanings, his path-breaking work as a lyricist in Hindi cinema, etc. At one level, it was a heart-warming love story between two individuals. At another, it was the journey of a poet whose work has inspired generations of Indians.

Indeed, the tasks were divided well; Javed - the writer of



the couple - told the funny stories and gave the poetic recitals, while Shabana the seasoned actress did the emotive heavy lifting, as the stories assigned to her tended toward the poignant.

The narrative was interspersed with mesmerizing renditions of Kaifi’s poems and songs by the young ghazal exponent, Jaswinder Singh, accompanied by a band of fine musicians, from “Meri Awaaz Suno” to “Waqt Ne Kiya Kya Haseen Sitam” to “Tum Itna Jo Muskura Rahe Ho” to “Jhuki Jhuki Si Nazar. Jaswinder Singh has a beautiful voice, and all of the ghazals were lovely. They were chosen to relate to the material read out in different segments of the event.

“It was a pleasant surprise to note that Kaifi and his wife were extremely progressive. Their lives are a source of inspiration for all of us”, opined many a member of the audience.



Echoing the same sentiment, an elderly person from among the audience stated that witnessing the great performances by Javed Akhtar and Shabana Azmi was not only a double delight but also an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. “The poetry-lovers of Chicago have huge appetite for niche programs like these and will be looking forward to similar such events in the near future”, he added,

The audiences, who went “wah wah” during the entire duration of the event, were transported back in time to one of those colorful mushairas (recital of poetry) of pre-independent India.

Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar charmed the audiences and left them craving for more. Critical acclaim and appreciation came from artists, writers, directors, connoisseurs, journalists, and the audience at large. The event won over audiences not just across borders but also across different classes and age-groups. Music, poetry, drama, romance, humor, pathos, and triumph of the human spirit made it universally appealing to the music connoisseurs as well as the theatre enthusiasts.

Earlier, Shebani Kulkarni, welcomed the audience on behalf of Dhrishti and the Meadows Club. In addition to the audience, he thanked national promoters, Karl Kalra and Liv2u, for bringing the poetry and music lovers of Chicago face-to-face with the landmark event, “Kaifi Aur Main”.

“Kaifi Aur Main” has been directed by a veteran of the Indian Peoples Theatre Association, Ramesh Talwar, who is a senior stage actor and director.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA



## International Women’s Day Celebrated in Chicago

International Women’s Day (IWD) is observed on the 8th of March every year. It is a major day of global celebration to honor and celebrate women and to recognize their economic, political, and social achievements and contributions to the world while calling for gender equality. The Association of South Asian Cultured (ASAC) celebrated IWD in Chicago on Saturday, March 19th, 2016 from 12pm to 4pm at the Poplar Creek Library in Streamwood, IL. U.S.A

Chief guests for the program were Poplar Creek Library President, Ms. Candace McCreary and Streamwood Village President, Ms. Billie Roth. Library President Ms. McCreary talked about the importance of education around the globe and that in some countries today; a boy’s education is still given more importance and value than a girl’s. Village President Ms. Roth talked

about the hardships she endured as a village president and the stigma that came with the role of being president.

Association leader Ghousia Sultana explained why celebrating the day is so important for females everywhere and discussed the origin of the global day. IWD was first observed in 1909 in New York after garment workers went on strike protesting about the working conditions against women. Today it has become a day where women are recognized for their achievements without regard to nationality, ethnicity, culture, or economic or political status. IWD also reflects on progress made, the call to change, and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

She went on further to list a few “ordinary”

women and their contributions to their community in addition to the lasting impression and inspiration they became for

other women around the globe. participating and displaying the different clothes worn in the South Asian culture.



## Open Mosque Day at the Islamic Center of Naperville – a Celebration of Unity

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: The Islamic Center of Naperville (ICN) organized an “Open Mosque Day” on March 13th, 2016 at their center on Ogden Avenue where they opened their doors to people of different faiths to visit and build friendships in an effort to promote harmony and better understanding. The event attracted a staggering 1,000 people representing various segments of the local community.

Steve Chirico, Mayor of Naperville, who delivered a heartwarming speech on the occasion, said that the Open Mosque Day is an important step in the direction of strengthening bonds among different communities. He stated that the event was a rich tribute to the diversity of Naperville. “The event, which involved my debut visit to a mosque, was a first-of-its-kind experience of my life”, he added.

Krishna Bansal, Chairman, Indian Community Outreach, the Office of the Naperville Mayor, said that an event like the Open Mosque Day should not be a one-shot affair. He called for a large number of similar events, on a regular basis, by people belonging to different religions.

Shoaib Khadri, President, ICN said that the event was greatly instrumental in fostering direct and open communication between individuals, opening opportunities for dialogue between faith leaders and their communities, and dispelling misinformation on Islam by explaining the true teachings of the faith.

Aadil Farid, Former President of the ICN said that the core values of the ICN are: Tolerance, Justice, Peace, and Progress for all. “The event was aimed at putting into practice these noble values”, he added.

“The Open Mosque Day went a long way in strengthening unity among different communities living in the Naperville area. It was truly a celebration of unity among neighbors”, said Yousuf Siddiqui, Chair of ICN’s Outreach Committee.

The Religious Director, referred to as the

Imam of ICN, Shaykh Rizwan Ali had a continuous flow of visitors at his “Meet the Imam” booth asking him questions on Islam’s position on terrorism, female oppression, Sharia law, interfaith marriage, dress code, halal practices and much more. The interesting deliberations on these issues helped convey an evidence-based and authentic message about Islam and its followers. “The conversation really made every one mighty enlightened”, he added. He was joined by Shaykh Omar Hedroug, the young and enthusiastic Youth Director of ICN who is also a trained religious scholar.

The female guests enjoyed getting beautiful designs of henna on their hands (a natural plant-based temporary tattoo) – very popular feature of the event. They had an opportunity to try on the hijab (the Islamic head covering scarf) and see how they looked in a mirror that was provided and took pictures. Everybody who tried the hijab got to take it home as a souvenir.

A feature that the guests found really interesting was watching the call for the afternoon congregational prayer. The guests observed the subsequent prayer in pin drop silence. Beautiful Qur’an recitation and informative video clips added to the spiritual quotient of the event.

Various members of the ICN community welcomed the guests with the Registration booth managed by the young Girl Scouts of the Islamic Center. There were regular batches of tours of the facility where the guests were shown the prayer halls with the beautiful Turkish carpets and classrooms.

The booth for “Islam, Quran, and Science” was an amazing experience for the visitors as they learned about the cohesion and consistency in scientific knowledge and Islamic teachings. Some of the scientific facts which have been discovered recently, but were mentioned in the Qur’an 1400+ years ago, captured their imagination.

The booth for “Women’s Rights” was very popular with people asking many questions on the status and rights of women. The volunteers who managed

the booth articulately explained that some of the rights accorded to women 1400 years ago, according to the teachings of Islam, were not established in various other civilizations until much later.

There was a booth dedicated to the Qur’an that explained the history and content of the book that Muslims believe was the divine revelation from God. There were many questions about the life of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) which were addressed in a separate booth dedicated to the last and final messenger of the Islamic faith.

The visitors found the booth on Islamic art and artifacts very interesting. It was a huge attraction as various cultural items were on display. Many guests were walking around with their names written in Arabic on tent cards which they got at “Islamic Calligraphy” booth. Mayor



Chirico was truly amazed at the beauty of Arabic calligraphy and took home a name card with his name beautifully inscribed in Arabic as well.

The booth for “Islamophobia and Extremism” expectedly attracted a lot of visitors with a lot of recent media coverage on the topic. The volunteers explained the concepts of peace, justice and tolerance that are an integral part of the teachings of Islam and that any act of aggression against innocent people was clearly forbidden in Islam showing evi-

dence from the Qur’an and the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). They went on to explain that an overwhelming majority of the 1.6 billion Muslims across the world, including the top Islamic scholars around the world, have strongly condemned all forms of terrorism and extremism.

The greatest attraction was the food – with a wide range of delicious items of ethnic cuisine from Mediterranean to South Asian. The guests enjoyed the hospitality of the Islamic Center where the food trays were always kept filled for multiple helpings.

Although the event was scheduled from 11 AM to 3 PM, the visitors lingered on enjoying the ambience of companionship, friendship and friendly conversations where they made a number of new friends. There were people who came in large batches from the local churches

and other faith organizations, students from schools and colleges, educators, elected representatives, colleagues, friends and neighbors of the ICN community members – they all shared the opinion that the Open Mosque Day was a wonderful event which opened up their hearts and minds and they all wanted to know when the next one was planned so they could invite their friends to share this amazing experience.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA

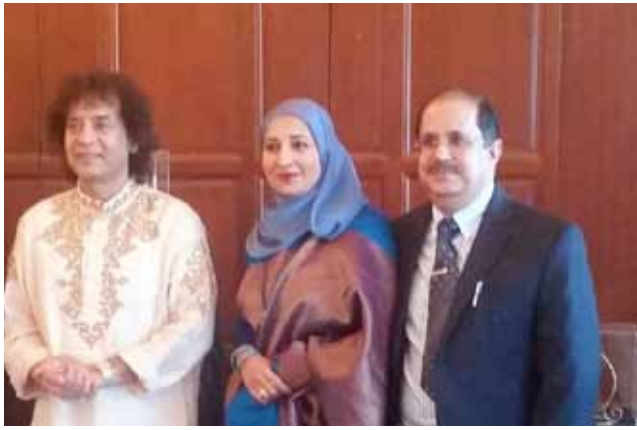


### AAP Punjab Spokesperson, Sukhpal Khaira, in Chicago.

Aam Aadmi Party’s young and dynamic leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira will be on US tour in second half of April and will be in Chicago on April 28th to meet with Chicago based supporters and volunteers. Meeting has been scheduled on 6-9 PM at Cascade Banquets, 800 W Irving Park Rd, Bensenville, IL 60106. Mr Khaira will address the gathering to talk about AAP’s plans for upcoming elections in Punjab in 2017. For further information about the program, following individuals can be contacted: Mat Singh Dhillon 847 308 5411, Ajeet Singh 847 529 9778, Lakhbir Singh Sandhu 847 975 3877, Thakar S Basati 847 736 6092 and SurinderPal Singh Kalra 847 975 3877.



## India's Renowned Egg Artist Farha Sayeed Hosted Her First Solo Egg Art Exhibition - "Egg-Stravaganza" in Chicago



### Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: A globally-known Egg Artist, Farha Sayeed, wife of Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India in Chicago, held her first solo Egg Art exhibition in Chicago – "The Easter Eggstravaganza" – at the prestigious Chicago Symphony Center in Chicago, Illinois from March 20-21, 2016. A part of the sale proceeds of the Exhibition will go to the America-India Foundation's Maternal and New Born Survival Initiative (MANSI). The event attracted hundreds of art lovers, state officials, and diplomats from several countries.

Farha exhibited seventy Egg Art pieces during the exhibition comprising creations made out of egg shells of Ostrich, Rhea, Emu, Goose, Duck, Turkey and Guinea. All these pieces were intricately hand-carved in minute detail and embellished with crystals, rhinestone chains, and golden filigree. These creations not only captured the imagination of the visitors but also left them awe-struck.

Over three hundred persons participated in the inaugural ceremony held on Sunday, March 20th, 2016 and dozens of others visited the exhibition during the rest of the day. Renowned tabla maestro Padma Bhushan Ustad Zakir Hussain was one of the internationally renowned persons who graced the event. He praised Farha for the precision and ingenuity demonstrated in her creations.

The other prominent dignitaries who participated in the event included Mr. Hardik Bhatt, Chief Information Officer, Office of Governor Bruce Rauner, State of Illinois; Mr Dennis Jung, Outreach Coordinator, Office of Governor Bruce Rauner; Ms. Nettie Lasko, Immigrant Assistance Program Coordinator, Office of the Attorney General; Ms. Emily Berman, Deputy Director, Office of the Mayor; Ms. Patricia Maza-Pittsford, Dean of the Chicago Consular Corps, Dr Gopal Lalimalani, Mayor of Oak Brook; Hon'ble judges Anthony Simpkins and Divya Sarang, Seann Nelipinath, President of the India Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Paula Garrett Ellis, President of Now Art India; Raja Krishnamoorthi, Congressional candidate for Chicago's 8th District, Mr. Zain Raj, President & CEO of Shapiroraj and Mrs. Lubaina Raj. Mr. Vimal & Bulbul Bahuguna, Board Members of the American India Foundation, and Consul General's mother Mrs Kaneez Fatima. Consuls General of Germany, Sweden, South Africa, Philippines, Pakistan, Lithuania, Serbia and several other countries also participated in the event.

During her remarks Farha Sayeed mentioned that she got exposed to Egg Art seventeen years ago while she was in Qatar. "The fragility of an eggshell appealed to me as a unique medium to test my creativity", she said, adding "I can switch over easily from painting to carving to calligraphy to etching on the egg shell and the scope seems to be unlimited." Farha mentioned that over the years she had attempted introducing Indian motifs and calligraphy into her art.

Mr. Zain Raj outlined the activities of the American India Foundation with particular reference to the Maternal & Newborn Survival Initiative (MANSI) and thanked Farha for supporting this noble cause.



Consul General of India Dr. Ausaf Sayeed said that while art is important in its own right, it assumes social significance when it is used as a vehicle to find enduring solutions to the problems faced by the people, particularly women and children. He outlined the Consulate's support to various socio-cultural activities undertaken by the American-Indian Diaspora in Chicagoland.

While all the egg art exhibits were widely appreciated by the visitors, "Eggstravaganza" and "Nirvana", the lead pieces of the exhibition and a combination of the egg shells of Ostrich, Rhea, and Goose eggs, along with "Apostles of Peace", a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa on an Emu egg shell, drew particular admiration.

Earlier, Farha has hosted her solo exhibitions titled "EGGSPERIENCE" in Copenhagen, "EGGCELLENCE" in Jeddah, "EGGXOTICA" in New Delhi, and "EGGSPRESSIONS" in Sana'a. She had also participated in the Dallas Egg Show 2015 along with other international egg artists.

Farha, a member of the international Egg Artists Guild, is considered a pioneer in promoting egg art in India.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA



## Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Consul General of Pakistan Applauded the Contribution of Pakistani Americans to the Excellent Bilateral Relations between Pakistan and the US



Asian Media USA © Chicago IL: The Consulate General of Pakistan celebrated the “76th Pakistan Day”, with patriotic fervor and traditional zeal, to commemorate the adoption of Lahore Resolution of 23rd March 1940 demanding a separate homeland for the Muslims in South Asia, which finally culminated in the emergence of Pakistan on the world map, seven years later.

The event was graced by 32 Consuls General, in addition to around 300 eminent officials from City Government, offices of the Foreign Missions, and distinguished members of the Pakistani community from across the length and breadth of the US Midwest.

The event kick started with the recitation of Holy Qur’an by Dr. Inam ul Haq and live signing of national anthems of Pakistan and the US by Salman Samani. Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were readout to the audience. It was followed by a video depicting growing role of women in the socio-economic and education development of Pakistan.

Dennis Jung from the office of the Governor Bruce Rauner of Illinois, Clair Gibertson from the Office of Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago, Talat Rashid from the office of the Mayor Roger C. Claar, Younus Suleman from the office of the Congressman Bobby Rush, and Nettie Lasko from the office of the Attorney General Lisa Madigan read out the messages on behalf of their respective organizations.

Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Consul General of Pakistan, in his keynote address, said that the people of Pakistan hold 23rd March in high esteem as it reminds the nation of the momentous times when our forefathers rallied around the dynamic personality of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and, under his inspiring leadership,

resolved to carve out an independent sovereign country for the Muslims in South Asia.

“Pakistan came into being following a long struggle by our forefathers. The nation is still firmly anchored to its democratic and cultural roots. Pakistan has had its share of turbulences but nothing could hold it back on account of the nation’s exemplary resilience”, stated Tirmizi.

“Through the countless sacrifices, we are succeeding in defeating terrorism in our country. The courage with which Pakistani people and our valiant armed forces are fighting this menace is un-paralleled”, Tirmizi said. He further stated that due to successes of our armed forces in their combat against terrorism, Pakistan’s economy witnessed steady growth. “Pakistan’s war on terror was greatly instrumental not only in ensuring its own peace and prosperity but also that of the entire South Asia, and beyond”, Tirmizi added.

“According to the latest World Bank Macroeconomic Outlook, Pakistan’s economy will grow by 4.5 % to 4.8% in the next two years. Pakistan is the 6th largest trader of services with the 7th largest pool of scientists. Pakistan, with 60% of its population in the category of working classes, has immense potential for exponential economic growth”, Tirmizi stated with a sense of pride.

Tirmizi pointed out the improvement of rating of Pakistan, both by Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s, and said that Karachi Stock Exchange has emerged as the second best performing stock exchange in the world with 25% return on US dollar consistently during the last six years. “Recently, several international monetary organizations have widely appreciated the current macroeconomic stability and the

overall economic conditions of Pakistan”, he added.

Tirmizi explained that Pakistan had made remarkable strides in multiple fields, despite innumerable challenges. “Pakistan has finally emerged as a vibrant democracy, ably supported by an independent judiciary, a free media, and an enlightened civil society”, he added.

Tirmizi also spoke about the successful State visit of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, in September and his ensuing visit this month. He added that the Prime Minister is determined to realize the dream of our founding fathers of an Islamic Welfare State and towards this he has been proactively ensuring internal peace, stability, and prosperity and pursuing a Foreign Policy that is aimed at peaceful neighborhood.

While applauding the contribution of the one million-strong Pakistani-Americans to the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and the US, Tirmizi urged them to act as a bridge to further cement these excellent ties. He said that the two countries have always stood by each other in times of crises and converted the huge reservoir of mutual goodwill into a robust partnership in diverse fields, especially trade and investment.

Tirmizi called upon the Pakistani-Americans to join high-ranking educational and research institutions, leading industrial houses, high-impact making media houses, prominent political parties, etc., in greater numbers, and become an integral part the American mainstream. He made a special reference to such prominent Pakistanis as Chaudhry Rasheed from

the Democratic Party, Salman Amin, COO SC & Johnson, Ansir Junaid, CEO PWC International, Dr Khan Siddiqui, CTO and Founder Higi, Irum Shah, Senior Vice President Schneider Electric, Farhan Masood, CTO Soloinisight, etc., who became the inspiring role models by touching the commanding heights in their respective domains.

Tirmizi referred to the video clip played on the occasion and highlighted the achievements of Pakistani women in general and those of Malala Yusufzai in particular. “Pakistani women inspire us every day in every field from recent Pakistani women cricket team winning streak to Oscar winning Pakistani film maker Shermeen Obaid. Contrary to the image portrayed by the Western media, they are no longer suppressed, uneducated, and marginalized”, he added..

The well appreciated segment of the function was singing of sufi songs by Shazia Khan, a classical and folk music vocalist from Pakistan. She was supported by Raheel Sadiq Robinson on tabla and Mudassar Bokhari on keyboard. The guests, including the diplomatic corps and the US dignitaries, thoroughly enjoyed the performances.

The guests were served the traditional Pakistani dishes which were relished by one and all.

Iram Shah conducted the proceedings of the event with a professional touch.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA

## Pak concerned over Saudi ties with India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Saudi Arabia could unnerve Pakistan as economic and strategic opportunities are bringing India closer to the oil-rich gulf nation, a top US expert has said.

"After years of considering Saudi Arabia as a major ally and economic benefactor, Pakistan may be on the verge of losing its erstwhile patron to arch rival India. Prime Minister Modi arrived in Riyadh last week for an official visit full of diplomatic significance," said Aparna Pande, director India Initiative of the Hudson Institute, a top American think-tank.

She said Prime Minister Modi's visit and the warm reception he received were "the latest reminders to the Pakistani leaders that international relations are based on national interest and not on vague religion-based ideology."

"Economic and strategic issues are bringing India and Saudi Arabia closer, just as they are working to the advantage of India with other countries," Ms Pande said.

"For Pakistanis who see the world in binary terms as an eternal conflict between India and Pakistan, this was clearly a win for India," Ms Pande said.

During the visit, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz conferred the Kingdom's highest civilian award, The King Abdul Aziz Order, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ms Pande said that "despite giving billions of dollars in aid and employing millions of Pakistanis, the Saudis have never bestowed their highest civilian honor on a Pakistani leader. India and Saudi Arabia have become economically more significant for one another with USD 39.4 billion in bilateral trade in 2014-15, while Pakistan-Saudi trade by contrast stood only at USD 6.1 billion," she said.

For India, Saudi Arabia is a major source for its oil imports, supplying one-fifth of India's annual demand.

For the Saudis, India is their fifth biggest customer after China, Japan, the US, and South Korea, Ms Pande said, adding that "Pakistan could either stick to its guns and see these developments as a threat, or it could change its own approach towards India and seek rapprochement to take advantage of economic and strategic opportunities that are making India a desirable partner for Pakistan's erstwhile friends," she said.

PM Modi arrived on his maiden two-day visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday. He became the fourth Indian Prime Minister to visit Saudi Arabia after Manmohan Singh in 2010, Indira Gandhi in 1982 and Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956.

## Adani wins Queensland approval for Australian coal project

By Tom Westbrook SYDNEY (Reuters) - Adani Enterprises Ltd was granted approval by Australia's Queensland state government on Sunday to proceed with its proposed \$7.7 billion Carmichael coal project in the Galilee Basin. Queensland Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk said the approvals gave Adani permission to mine coal reserves estimated at 11

billion tonnes and to build roads, workshops, power lines and pipelines associated with the mine. "Some approvals are still required before construction can start, and ultimately committing to the project will be a decision for Adani," Palaszczuk said in a statement. Adani said in a statement it would continue to finalise second tier approvals "with the clear aim of com-

mencing construction in calendar year 2017". Progress would depend on resolving legal challenges from environmentalists, a company spokesman told Reuters. The company has battled opposition from green groups since starting work on the project five years ago. Environmentalists continue to fight Adani's project on numerous fronts and are lobbying banks not

to provide loans. They cite potential damage from port dredging, shipping and climate change stoked by coal from the mine. Two legal challenges to the project are currently before courts. The Australian Conservation Foundation said in a statement the mine was "inconsistent with Australia's international obligations" to protect the Great Barrier Reef as coal

from the mine would stoke global warming and drive coral bleaching. Several international banks have said they will not provide financing for coal mining in the Galilee Basin, while Standard Chartered and Commonwealth Bank of Australia pulled out of the project in August. Analysts say Adani will also find it tough to raise financing for the project due

to a prolonged downturn in the global coal market. Adani's spokesman said that tough market should not put pressure on the project because most of its coal is already earmarked for Adani-owned power plants in India, rather than for sale on the open market. (Reporting by Tom Westbrook; Editing by Richard Pullin)

# A new round of polls shows Hillary Clinton crushing Donald Trump in a general-election matchup



Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton bested Donald Trump in a new slew of hypothetical head-to-head matchups between the two presidential candidates. Several surveys released over the past few days have shown Clinton regaining a commanding lead over Trump in a potential head-to-head matchup, a scenario that appears increasingly likely as both candidates inch closer to clinching their respective parties' nominations.

A Fox News poll released showed Clinton with an 11-point lead over Trump, while a CBS/New York Times poll published earlier this week found Clinton with a 10-point lead over Trump. A Bloomberg survey on Wednesday put the gap even wider, with Clinton leading Trump by 18 points.

Of the seven major national polls conducted this month and recognized by RealClearPolitics, the closest Trump came to victory in a hypothetical race was in a Quinnipiac University poll. That survey, released last week, found the real-estate magnate trailing Clinton by six points.

This month's polls represent a somewhat notable shift from February, when some showed Trump and Clinton in a virtual dead heat. One Quinnipiac University poll conducted in early February displayed Trump within two points, while a USA Today/Suffolk University poll conducted around the same time had Trump ahead by two points.

Many polling experts caution against reading too much into head-to-head polls before candidates clinch the nomination, as perceptions of candidates can change

as rivals are eliminated and the actual general-election campaign moves into full swing.

Still, Republicans have increasingly made the case over the past few weeks that nominating Trump would be devastating for Republican candidates up and down the ballot.

Speaking to reporters after an event in Manhattan on Wednesday, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz embraced his role as the Republican candidate most poised to beat Trump. He said that nominating the real-estate magnate "hands the general election to Hillary Clinton," while touting recent high-profile endorsements from an array of Republican establishment leaders.

Cruz said:

What we have seen, and we see this every day, is Republicans uniting. In the last 10 days, our campaign has been endorsed by Jeb Bush, by Mitt Romney, by [Utah Sen.] Mike Lee, and [conservative radio host] Mark Levin. That's about as broad a spectrum of the Republican Party, across the ideological spectrum.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, who has endorsed Cruz despite his reservations about the candidate, said on Thursday that Ohio Gov. John Kasich would be a better president than Cruz and had the best shot at winning in the general election. The recent surveys, in fact, have shown Kasich ahead of Clinton in theoretical matchups.

But Graham said that Cruz was the only person who could win the Republican pri-



mary and the general election, as Kasich cannot amass enough delegates to win the nomination before this summer's Republican National Convention.

"I think John Kasich would be the best nominee, but he doesn't have a chance," Graham said during a Thursday "Morning Joe" appearance.

He added: "We can lose in 2016, and we probably will. Trump gets wiped out. Ted makes it competitive. I don't know if he can beat her or not, but at least we got a fighting chance."

## Man to pay Rs 35k as monthly maint to wife

New Delhi, Apr 3 (PTI) A man, accused in a domestic violence case, has been directed to pay as monthly maintenance Rs 35,000 to his estranged wife, with a Delhi court dismissing his appeal saying the woman is entitled to live the status she was enjoying before parting ways.

Additional Sessions Judge Lokesh Kumar Sharma upheld a magisterial court order while considering the socio-economic status of the parties and said the interim maintenance awarded to the

woman was not on higher side.

"Keeping in view the mandate of the superior courts, the purpose behind awarding interim maintenance is not only to save the wife from starvation and destitution, but also she is entitled to live of the status which she was enjoying before parting with the company of her spouse.

"In my considered opinion, considering the socio economic status of the parties, the interim maintenance as awarded by the

trial court does not seem to be on a higher side," the judge said.

The court also noted that both the parties were yet to adduce their respective evidences on record in support of their rival claims.

The man had filed an appeal against the magisterial court contending that his estranged wife, who had sought maintenance from him in the case, was financially secure and had hidden her actual income.

The court, however, said, "If the appellant is able to adduce cogent evidence in support of his allegations, then, trial court shall definitely take the same into consideration while deciding the case finally and may even direct the woman to return the amount so received by her as an interim measure if the case is finally decided against her."

"As on date, there appears to be no illegality or infirmity in the impugned order passed by the

trial court warranting any kind of interference of this court in the exercise of its appellate powers and jurisdiction," it said.

In his appeal, the man had contended he had aged parents to take care of and the court was not justified in awarding monetary relief to his estranged wife.

The court, however, rejected his contention saying they are retired government servants, "hence, they cannot be considered as dependent on their son.

# Mallya's craft beer firm brews fresh funding in US

New York, Apr 3 (PTI) Away from the furore over huge loan default in India by Vijay Mallya-led UB Group, its US-based brewery arm has secured a complex funding that it intends to repay later with a 'bridge loan' from its parent.

California-based Mendocino Brewing Company, which sells a number of beer brands including Kingfisher in the US, has got Mallya as its Chairman and is owned by UB Group through a complex shareholding structure.

In a regulatory filing with the US markets regulator SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission), Mendocino has disclosed having issued a 'promissory note' to Delaware-based Catamaran Services, Inc, in the principal amount of USD 325,000 (over Rs 2 crore).

It further said Mendocino had earlier also issued four promissory notes to Catamaran between January 2014 and June 2015, for principal amounts of USD 500,000 each.

Catamaran's sole shareholder is an entity named Catamaran Holdings, Ltd, which interestingly "has directors in common with Inversiones Mirabel SA", one of the major shareholders of Mendocino.



The indirect beneficial owner of Inversiones is United Breweries Holdings Limited (UBHL), making UBHL the indirect majority shareholder of Mendocino. Mallya chairs the boards of UBHL as well as Mendocino.

Mendocino further said it has also received a letter from Illinois-based MB Financial Bank permitting the company to obtain loans up to USD 400,000.

As per the terms of the promissory note, Mendocino has promised to pay the principal sum of USD 325,000 with accrued interest to Catamaran within 6 months, subject to the receipt by the company of a bridge loan from its

majority shareholder.

This repayment is subject to the shareholder loan amount being sufficient either to pay the note through 'Permitted Payments', or to pay both the note and certain existing obligations of the company to MB Financial Bank.

The 'Permitted Payments' on the note are payments made from the portion of a Shareholder Loan that is in excess of USD 600,000, the filing further said.

If the company is not able to satisfy its obligations on the note within six months, the note will get automatically extended for additional six months terms "until a Shareholder Loan sufficient to satisfy the note is received or the note is otherwise paid."

A major controversy has broken out back in India ever since Mallya left the country amid growing clamour for recovery of dues totalling over Rs 9,000 crore of the long-grounded Kingfisher Airlines in outstanding loans and interest amount.

Mallya and his group firms are also being probed by multiple regulators and agencies including Sebi, Enforcement Directorate and SFIO (Serious Fraud Investigations Office).

## 3.5 kg heroin seized by BSF near Indo-Pak border

Amritsar, Apr 3 (PTI) BSF today seized 3.5 kg of heroin smuggled from Pakistan having street value of Rs 17.5 crore near Uddhar Dhariwal border outpost here.

BSF DIG Punjab Frontier R S Kataria said suspicious movement was observed ahead of border security fence Border Out Post Uddhar Dhariwal shortly past midnight.

A search operation was carried by BSF troops and they recovered four packets weighing 3.5 kg of the contraband near the fence, he said.

The drug consignment was smuggled to India from Pakistan, Kataria said

Meanwhile, police in Phagwara arrested a drug peddler and seized 255 gram of heroin, with street value of Rs 1.25 crore, from him.

Accused identified as Satinder was arrested during a routine checking near Maharu village here last night.

A case under relevant sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, was registered against accused.

## Gangrape case settled for 1,200kg of wheat in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A gangrape case in Pakistan has been allegedly settled for 1,200kg of wheat by local elders, highlighting the grave travesty of justice in the country. A police case was registered few days ago on complaint of the 14-year-old victim's brother in Ghulam Nabi Shah area of Umerkot district in Sindh province. The victim's father said that following the registration of the case and the subsequent arrest of the main suspect, he was forced to settle the dispute through the 'jirga', a traditional system of settling disputes through tribal elders, and was promised a compensation of 1,200kg of wheat. The jirga was held under the supervision of a local influential landlord, he added. He said that after he refused to accept the compensation he was forced to leave the area with his family. He alleged that since local media highlighted the issue, local elites have been threatening him to keep mum and withdraw the case, the report said.

Deputy inspector general of police Mirpurkhas division Javed Alam Odho, took notice of the incident and directed Senior superintendent of police Umerkot to investigate the case and provide protection to the victim's family.

The station house officer of Ghulam Nabi Shah, Arif Bhatti, said local police had registered the case on March 21 under Sections 376 (2) and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code, and has already arrested the prime suspect.

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The official, however, said he was not aware of any jirga being held in the jurisdiction of his police station. Pakistani courts have declared jirga system as illegal and their decisions as non-binding but such jirgas are held in remote areas.

## Former AP minister Ananda Gajapathi Raju passes away

Vizianagaram: Former Andhra Pradesh minister Ananda Gajapathi Raju died at a private hospital in Visakhapatnam on Saturday after suffering a heart attack. He was 66.

He had been not keeping well for the last couple of months and suffered a cardiac arrest this morning after which he was



taken to Manipal Hospital in Visakhapatnam, nearly 66 kms from here, family members said. Raju, who hailed from the

titular family of Vizianagaram, started his political career with TDP in 1983 and won state assembly elections the same year.

He first became Member of Parliament on a TDP ticket in 1984 from Bobbili constituency in Vizianagaram district and won the same seat as a Congress candidate in 1991.

Raju also held Health and Education portfolios in the NT Rama Rao government. His brother, Ashok Gajapathi Raju, is currently the Civil Aviation Minister.

The last rites will be performed later in the day here.

# Fidel Castro, 89, makes rare public appearance in Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro has made a rare public appearance, speaking to school children about his brother's late wife and revolutionary figure Vilma Espin.

The 89-year-old former president regularly writes reflections in the state media and meets with dignitaries but seldom appears in public. His last appearance at a public event was in July 2015. Wearing a white sports jacket and speaking in a scratchy voice, Castro told a room of students and teachers that Espin would be happy to see the fruits of her sacrifice at schools like theirs. Thursday's appearance came on what would have been her 86th birthday.

"For those of us who are here we consider it a privilege to be in this school today because this type of school is getting close to a kind of dream," he said.

Castro was later shown shaking hands with children while seated and wearing a black baseball cap.

The revolutionary leader did not make any remarks about last month's visit to Cuba by President Obama in televised portions of the visit aired on Cuban state news media.

Castro wrote a 1,500-word essay in response to Obama's trip in his only statement about the U.S. leader's visit to date, reminding Cubans about a long history of U.S. aggression against the island and stating "we don't need the empire to give us any presents."

Castro stepped aside in 2006 after suffering a serious illness and officially retired two years later, but his presence still casts a long shadow on Cuban government and society.



Espin was married to Castro's brother and current president, Raul. She fought alongside the Castro brothers during the revolution against dictator Fulgencio Batista. She later founded the Federation of Cuban Women and was Cuba's de facto first lady for decades. She died in 2007.

## Donald Trump is the best thing that has happened to Hillary Clinton in the 2016 race

Let's start here: Hillary Clinton is a deeply flawed presidential candidate. Roughly 6 in 10 Americans don't think she is honest and trustworthy. She struggles to connect on the campaign trail. She is, by her own acknowledgement, not a "natural" candidate. She is deeply polarizing.

For all of those reasons, Republicans at the start of this election cycle could barely contain their glee at the chance to run against Clinton. Elections are fundamentally about the future, and Clinton was a figure from the past, they argued. And not only that! Clinton was also one of the most known and judged people in American culture. Run a campaign entirely focused on reminding voters what they didn't or don't like about the Clintons. Win. It was as simple as that, many Republicans believed.

Enter Donald Trump. If the Clinton forces could have handpicked a Republican candidate to run against this fall, it would almost certainly be Trump. He's even MORE high-profile than her. He's even MORE controversial than her. He's even MORE prone to dominate media coverage than her.

None of those things are good

for Republicans. If the recipe to winning the White House in November is to turn the race into a referendum on Clinton, Trump is the exact worse choice to do that. Take the race to date as evidence. Trump has, without question, overshadowed Clinton (and every other candidate) for the nine months he has been an official candidate. Yes, when Clinton's email problems bubble up, they get covered. And, yes, when Bernie Sanders beat Clinton in Michigan or she swept all five states

on March 15, that got covered, too. But, generally, the story each and every day is TRUMP TRUMP TRUMP TRUMP.

Trump promises that if he is the nominee, he will act differently than he has in the course of winning the nomination -- more "presidential." But the defining quality of Trump's time in public life, which spans decades, is a knack for attracting -- and a love of -- the spotlight. He is someone who lives his entire life in public -- and likes it

that way. He takes pride in his ability to get attention. He regularly touts how he hasn't had to spend as much of his own money as he thought he might have to in this campaign because he's gotten so much free media attention.

All of that has been great for him in a primary context. He has sucked the oxygen out of the GOP field, strangling the likes of Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Marco Rubio and Chris Christie in the process.

But a primary against 16 other candidates is not the same thing as a one-on-one general-election race against Hillary Clinton. Trump's ability to draw attention to himself -- largely via a willingness to say and do things other politicians won't -- works far less well in the latter race than it does in the former.

The less the general election focuses on Clinton, the better for Clinton and Democrats. It's as simple as that. There are very few people in the political arena who could possibly knock Clinton down to second billing. Trump is one of them. And not in a good way, if you are a Republican with an eye on reclaiming the White House.



## Peace process between India and Pakistan suspended: Pakistan envoy Abdul Basit



Pakistani High Commissioner in New Delhi Abdul Basit said that according to him the peace process between India and Pakistan at present stands suspended. Basit added: "There shouldn't be any doubt that Pakistan wants to have a normal & peaceful relationship with India. We all are aware of those who seek to create unrest in Pakistan and destabilize it are bound to fail as the people of Pakistan are united to effectively counter anti-Pakistan subversive activities."

India wants to send an investigation team to investigate the Pathankot blast in India may be as a mere formality and might oblige pressing White House to 'arrange' an Indian probe similar to JIT in Pakistan. Four months after the terror attacks in Pathankot, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had said that its team might visit Pakistan to probe the attack. Indian side said the Pakistan Joint Investigation Team (JIT) welcomed the idea that an NIA would like to visit Pakistan and 'carry forward' the probe.

Basit, however, remained evasive on whether a team from the NIA would be allowed to visit Pakistan to probe the Pathankot attacks which took place earlier this year. In March, Pakistan's Joint Investigative Team was in India to probe the attack, after which reports suggested that NIA could go to the neighbouring for its investigation. Speaking to the media, the envoy said, "Personally I feel that this whole investigation isn't about reciprocity, but about extending co-operation to get to the bottom on this." Obviously, this not about 'give and take' policy, very tactfully practised in cricket matches in offering 50s and 100s to batboys, in investigations. "Therefore, a fair and just resolution is a must and attempts to

put it on backburner from our perspective will be counterproductive," he said.

The JIT team which was in India in March, to probe the Pathankot attacks was given a detailed presentation on the probe and was taken to the scene of the attacks in Pathankot. The team was also handed some documents which included the DNA report of the four terrorists and also given access to witnesses. New Delhi had claimed that the attack on the airbase was 'masterminded' by Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar.

For domestic reasons, India is eager to brand every Pakistani and Kashmiri as a terrorist. Recently, China had vetoed the UN sanctions committee's attempt to designate Azhar as terrorist, maintaining that the case "did not meet the requirements" of the Security Council. This had come after India had taken up at a "fairly high level" with China the issue of Beijing blocking its bid to have JeM chief and Pathankot attack mastermind Masood Azhar as designated terrorist by the UN. Basit said that he agreed with the Chinese on the Masood Azhar issue.

On India's request for consular access to Kulbhushan Yadav, the alleged spy arrested by Islamabad, Basit said, "The request is under consideration, but can't say when they would be given consular access." Basit announced in the media conference that the 19th SAARC Summit would be held in Islamabad. "We sincerely hope the summit, building on the past achievements, would help create more synergies and win-win situations," he added. The official further said, "It is the Jammu and Kashmir dispute that is the root cause of mutual distrust (Indo-Pak) and other bilateral issues." There cannot be any real progress in

the strained bilateral relations unless the Kashmir issue is resolved in favor of Kashmiris seeking full sovereignty that was lost in 1947.

India knows too well once the Kashmir issue is resolved there would be peace not just between the two nuclear neighbors in South Asia, but in the entire region. However, New Delhi is still hesitant to take the call because it is scared of its own military establishment and core media lords who hate Pakistan and Islam. They fear once relationship between India and Pakistan really improves, Indian Muslims would feel relieved and relaxed from the tensions they have been undergoing because of Hindu chauvinism and Hindutva fanaticism.

India, irrespective of the political colors it promotes, except green which it considers the exclusive color of Pakistan, hates the scenario emerging when Muslims in India and Pakistan would have the opportunity to meet regularly - and without fear.

India also cannot digest the fact that resolution of Kashmir issue would make its nuclear arsenal redundant and eventually would lead to dismantling of nukes it possesses. That is unnecessary concern because dismantling of Indian nukes would take place only when all big nations, including USA, Russia and Israel, that have highest number of WMD, both legitimate and illegal, first abandon their nuke arsenals.

That scenario may not happen easily and so soon as no big nation is interested in denuclearization and disarmament while arms or nuke reduction treaties are not genuine.



## Pratyusha Banerjee's suicide: Why depressed celebs shy away from taking professional help

All that glitters is not gold. How well this proverb suits Bollywood? TV actor Pratyusha Banerjee's suicide brings to the fore this stark reality once again. With dreams of fame and money in their eyes, thousands of women troop into Mumbai from far off lands hoping to become the next Priyanka Chopra or Deepika Padukone. But soon they get trapped into a vicious cycle which only leads them to depression. And for those who have already made a name for themselves in television like Pratyusha, maintaining status quo becomes a problem. Either they fade away after one hit show or their attempts at making it big in Bollywood go kaput, both of which leads to immense financial and mental depression. It becomes a battle of survival of the fittest and the ones who lay down their arms end up unfortunately giving up their very lives. (Pratyusha Banerjee's mother inconsolable at daughter's prayer meet, see pics)

With depression becoming an in-your-face problem in the tinsel town, we spoke to eminent clinical psychologist Seema Hingorani to find out what forces celebs to avoid seeking help during such times. (Photos: Family, friends bid tearful adieu to Pratyusha Banerjee)

Popular yet lonely: It is said that it is quite lonely at the top. Despite having a huge fan following, celebs can feel lonely. Says Seema, "Depression is becoming rampant and it's affecting a lot of people. The main factor is unable to come to terms with

loneliness. A celebrity has a lot of friends, fans yet they complain about feeling absolutely lonely which leads to depression." (Team Balika Vadhu remembers Pratyusha Banerjee aka Anandi)

Depressed but can't let the world know about it:

"This is a big problem where a celeb can't show he or she is depressed because their reel life is so exciting and full of glitz and glamour that they don't want the world to know that in their real lives they are depressed. When I ask them if they have a support system or buffer they categorically say no," says Seema. (Pratyusha Banerjee's parents and boyfriend Rahul Raj reach hospital, see pics)

Dependent on boyfriends:

"Many of them in this industry have huge relationship problems. There is a lot of co-dependancy on relationships. They feel that I need to have somebody besides me. What will people say if I don't have one. Break-ups don't come very easily. You have to be really strong to say that you have broken up. A celeb however thinks about what his or her fans, colleagues and others will say if they tell them that they have broken up. This people pleasing thing is too big in them and that leads to depression. (PHOTOS: Pratyusha Banerjee's pictures from her Instagram with parents and boyfriend Rahul)

Pratyusha Banerjee's Mother Seeks Justice For Daughter, Says Rahul Should Suffer Too:



Avoiding professional help fearing social stigma:

"Taking help is not easy for celebs. The social stigma runs very deep. Even when actors drop into my clinic they say please make sure no one is around. I don't want other actors to know that I am coming here. No matter how much ever you explain to them that depression is just like any other common mind disease which can be treated it doesn't go down well with them. Taking help for them is a problem," explains Seema. (TV industry in shock over Pratyusha's death)

Refusal to end abusive relationships takes a toll:

Abusive relationship is another big contributing factor to depression. It equals to trauma. When abuse occurs in a relation-

ship, my first advice is end it then and there and don't continue. Many don't want to end it because they are worried about what the world will say," says Seema. (Ajaz Khan: Pratyusha Banerjee was very scared when I last met her)

Seek help from friends, parents, experts: "I am sure Pratyusha was feeling suicidal and this is not something that happens overnight. I am sure this is not an impulsive thing and it must have been going on in her mind. And when the mind starts sending such distressing signals, the first thing you should do is take help either from parents, friends or professionals," said Seema. (Balika Vadhu star Pratyusha Banerjee dead, here is all about the actress)

## Shahid Afridi steps down as Pakistan's T20I captain

Flamboyant allrounder Shahid Afridi, on Sunday (April 3), stepped down as captain of Pakistan's Twenty20 International side. In a statement released from his personal Twitter handle, the 35-year-old, who took over the reins of the side from Mohammad Hafeez in 2014, also stated that he was not retiring from the abridged format of the game and that he intends to keep himself available for selection for Pakistan's next international T20 assignment.

"Today I wish to inform my fans in Pakistan and all over the world that I am relinquishing the captaincy of the T20 Pakistan team of my own volition," Afridi said. "For me it was a great honour to lead my country in all three formats

of the game. My profound thanks to the PCB and its chairman Mr. Shaharyar Khan who gave me the honour to lead the national team."

Afridi's captaincy came under severe criticism in the past week following the national team's exit from the World T20 in the Super 10 phase. In a leaked report, prepared by Intikhab Alam, Pakistan's team manager, Afridi was stigmatised as being "absolutely clueless" with respect to on-field strategies and player management. Under Afridi, Pakistan failed to qualify to the final of the Asia Cup in February-March and followed that up with just a solitary win in the showpiece T20 event in India.

The swashbuckling batsman, however, sought to clarify that he wasn't planning on calling it quits from international cricket just as yet. He had retired from the 50-over format at the end of the last year's World Cup and was widely expected to call time on his international career after the World T20. However, he had stated, in an interview with ESPNcricinfo ahead of the tournament, that he was facing pressure from his family and friends to not retire from international cricket.

Afridi, the leading wicket-taker in T20I history, has been a vital cog in Pakistan's T20 setup since



the inception of the format. His all-round performances in Pakistan's run to the final of World T20 2007 earned him the player of the tournament award. He played a key hand in the semis and the finals of Pakistan's title-winning campaign in 2009. In all, in 92 T20Is, he has aggregated 1405 runs at a strike-rate of 150.75 and has picked up 97 wickets at an economy of 6.61.





# HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

11 March	<i>Global Baba</i>	Satire	Manoj Sidheshwari Tewari	Abhimanyu Singh, Sandeepa Dhar, Ravi Kishan, Pankaj Tripathi, Sanjay Mishra (actor), Akhilendra Mishra
11 March	<i>JD</i>	Drama/Thriller	Shailendra Pandey	Govind Namdev, Aman Verma, Vedita Pratap Singh, Lalit Bisht, Amit Pathak, Arvind Gaur
11 March	<i>Teraa Surroor</i>	Romance/Comedy	Shawn Arranha	Himesh Reshammiya, Farah Karimi, Monica Dogra, Naseeruddin Shah, Shekhar Kapur
11 March	<i>Ok Mein Dhokhe</i>	Drama/Thriller	Utpal S. Chaudhary	Zoya Rathore, Sapan Krishna, Vaidhei Singh, Megha Verma, Ravi Thakur, Milan Singh
18 March	<i>Kapoor &amp; Sons</i>	Romance/Comedy	Shakun Batra	Sidharth Malhotra, Alia Bhatt, Fawad Khan, Rishi Kapoor
24 March	<i>Great Grand Masti</i>	Adult/Comedy	Indra Kumar	Ritesh Deshmukh, Vivek Oberoi, Aftab Shivdasani, Urvashi Rautela, Shraddha Das, Puja Bannerjee, Sana Khan, Sonali Raut, Ishita Dutta, Mishti, Kangna Sharma
25 March	<i>Rocky Handsome</i>	Action	Nishikant Kamat	John Abraham, Shruti Haasan, Nathalia Kaur
1 April	<i>Ki and Ka</i>	Romance/Comedy	R. Balki	Kareena Kapoor Khan, Arjun Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan
1 April	<i>Love Games</i>	Thriller	Vikram Bhatt	Patralekha, Tara Alisha Berry, Gaurav Arora
8 April	<i>Yeh Laal Rang</i>	Drama	Syed Ahmad Afzal	Randeep Hooda, Akshay Oberoi, Rajnesh Duggall, Pina Bajpai
6 May	<i>COD</i>	Comedy/Thriller	Robert Megha	Jatin Negi, Preeti Choudhury, Vikrant Khair
15 April	<i>Fan</i>	Drama/Thriller	Maneesh Sharma	Shah Rukh Khan, Waluscha De Sousa, Shriya Pilgaonkar
22 April	<i>Nil Battey Sannata</i>	Action	Ashwini Iyer Tiwari	Swara Bhaskar, Ratna Pathak, Pankaj Tripathi
29 April	<i>Baaghi: A Rebel for Love</i>	Action	Sabbir Khan	Tiger Shroff, Shraddha Kapoor, Sudheer Babu, Paras Arora
29 April	<i>Waiting</i>	Drama	Anu Menon	Naseeruddin Shah, Kalki Koechlin, Arjun Mathur, Rajat Kapoor, Suhasini Maniratnam
6 May	<i>Kaptaan</i>	Comedy	Mandeep Kumar	Gippy Grewal, Karishma Kotak, Rishaan Dutta
13 May	<i>Mirzya</i>	Romance/Drama	Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra	Harshvardhan Kapoor, Saiyami Kher, Om Puri, Art Malik, K.K. Raina
13 May	<i>Azhar</i>	Biopic	Tony D'Souza	Emraan Hashmi, Nargis Fakhri, Prachi Desai, Gautam Gulati, Huma Qureshi, Lara Dutta
20 May	<i>Saat Kadam</i>	Drama	Mohit Kumar Jha	Amit Sadh, Ronit Roy, Deeksha Seth
20 May	<i>Sarbjit</i>	Biopic	Omung Kumar	Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Randeep Hooda, Richa Chaddha
20 May	<i>Te3n</i>	Thriller	Ribhu Dasgupta	Amitabh Bachchan, Vidya Balan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
27 May	<i>Phobia</i>	Thriller	Pawan Kriplani	Radhika Apte
3 June	<i>Housefull 3</i>	Comedy	Sajid-Farhad	Akshay Kumar, Ritesh Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Haydon, Boman Irani
3 June	<i>Jagga Jasoos</i>	Drama	Anurag Basu	Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Govinda, Adah Sharma
3 June	<i>Raaz Rebooted</i>	Horror	Vikram Bhatt	Emraan Hashmi, Kriti Kharbanda, Gaurav Arora, Rahul Verma
10 June	<i>Do Lafzon Ki Kahani</i>	Romantic	Deepak Tijori	Randeep Hooda, Kajal Aggarwal
17 June	<i>Udta Punjab</i>	Thriller	Abhishek Chaubey	Kareena Kapoor Khan, Shahid Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Diljit Dosanjh
3 July	<i>Raees</i>	Crime/Thriller	Rahul Dholakia	Shah Rukh Khan, Mahira Khan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Arya Babbar
3 July	<i>Sultan</i>	Sports/Drama	Ali Abbas Zafar	Salman Khan, Anushka Sharma, Randeep Hooda
15 July	<i>Happy Bhaag Jayegi</i>	Comedy	Mudassar Aziz	Abhay Deol, Diana Penty, Momal Sheikh, Ali Fazal
29 July	<i>Dishoom</i>	Action	Rohit Dhawan	John Abraham, Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Saqib Saleem, Ram Kapoor, Nargis Fakhri, Khanna
29 July	<i>Nonsense</i>	Comedy	Sangeeth Sivan	Sharman Joshi, Vir Das, Zarine Khan
12 August	<i>Mohenjo Daro</i>	Drama	Ashutosh Gowariker	Hrithik Roshan, Pooja Hegde, Kabir Bedi, Arunoday Singh
12 August	<i>Phir Hera Pheri 3</i>	Comedy	Neeraj Vora	John Abraham, Abhishek Bachchan, Paresh Rawal
12 August	<i>Rustom</i>	Romance/Thriller	Neeraj Pandey	Akshay Kumar, Illeana D'Cruz, Esha Gupta
19 August	<i>Banjo</i>	Drama	Ravi Jadhav	Riteish Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri
25 August	<i>A Flying Jatt</i>	Action	Remo D'Souza	Tiger Shroff, Jacqueline Fernandez, Salman Yusuff Khan, Shraddha Kapoor
2 September	<i>Dhoni: The Untold Story</i>	Sports/Biopic	Neeraj Pandey	Sushant Singh Rajput, Ram Charan, Anupam Kher, Fawad Khan, Kiara Advani, John Abraham, Za Manjot Singh
9 September	<i>Baar Baar Dekho</i>	Romance/Drama	Nitya Mehra	Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif, Ram Kapoor, Annu Kapoor
23 September	<i>Manmarziyan</i>	Romance	Sameer Sharma	Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar
30 September	<i>Rangoon</i>	Romance/Drama	Vishal Bhardwaj	Shahid Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut, Saif Ali Khan

# Chinese firm to invest Rs 10k crore in Telangana

Hyderabad: Gezhoba, a Chinese construction company has indicated it is interested to pump in Rs 10,000 crore in irrigation projects in TS.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao asked the Chinese major to take part in tender process for Kaleshwaram, Seetharama and Tupakulagudem projects.

Mr Rao stated that TS will utilise technical expertise of the Chinese in construction of major irrigation projects. A delegation of engineering experts would be sent to China to inspect some noteworthy irrigation projects there and get to know the latest technology and techniques used in their projects.

A high-level delegation from Gezhoba held discussions in this regard with the CM here on Saturday. Mr Rao felt that TS would benefit with Chinese expertise in the irrigation sector, especially in lift-irrigation projects.

The speed and quality of construction by Chinese companies are of high-standard, he said. Both the parties decided to take the issue forward soon after TS engineers visit China and submit their report to the government.

Meanwhile, Mr Rao advised the irrigation department to fix targets for time-bound completion of irrigation projects. Kaleshwaram should supply water to Yellampalli and Mallana Sagar projects by end of 2017, the CM said. Primarily engaged in contract construction of projects, Gezhoba operates in the areas of power plants, dams,



roads, bridges and civil engineering in China and abroad. In other categories of business, Gezhoba has invested and constructed highways; developed real estate; generated hydropower; and manufactured cement and civil explosives.

The company has been very keen to expand overseas business with a stated goal of increasing international contracts to half of company revenue.[3] Underlying the confident growth projections is a track record of picking

up overseas contracts in hydroelectric engineering, the kind of work that accounts for most of Gezhoba's international portfolio.[3] Overseas projects include a 4.97 billion yuan (\$727.78 million) contract signed in 2010 with Kazakhstan Natural Gas Technology to establish a hydroelectric plan on the banks of the Chilik River in Kazakhstan. The firm was also chosen to construct a 40km portion of the Hazara Motorway in Pakistan.

## Top Chinese carmakers plot major push into India

New Delhi/ Beijing: China's top carmaker SAIC Motor Corp and Great Wall Motor, its biggest maker of SUVs, are spearheading the country's first major push into India, one of the world's fastest growing auto markets, as growth at home stagnates.

The entry is late and risky - global carmakers like Volkswagen AG, Ford Motor and General Motors have struggled to push sales in the cost conscious Indian market despite being here for more than a decade. Chinese cars also suffer from perceptions of poor quality in India.

While they plan to woo Indian buyers with their no-frills cars and cut-price SUVs, Chinese manufacturers will compete head on with established carmakers like Suzuki Motor and Hyundai Motor that dominate many markets in Southeast Asia.

Even so, India offers one of the last frontiers of growth - by 2020 the country is likely to become the world's third-largest car market, from fifth place, with annual sales nearly doubling to 5 million vehicles from 2.7 million in 2015.

SAIC and Great Wall are in separate talks with the state government of Maharashtra to set up a factory in the auto hub of Pune city, the state industries minister told Reuters.

A source close to SAIC said the company is considering Pune city among other locations. The automaker plans to set up a factory in India within the next three years and is in the early stages of researching such a move, the person said.

"The market potential of India is huge," said the source. For SAIC, the maker of marquee MG and Roewe cars, India is next on the agenda after entering Indonesia and

would happen before they try to enter Russia, other European nations or the United States.

SAIC is also in discussion to buy a plant currently operated by GM in Gujarat, according to people familiar with the matter. The Detroit automaker plans to stop production at the Halol plant in Gujarat by end-June as it consolidates operations at one location.

"We are examining a number of options in relation to the Halol factory ... including the sale of the site," GM said in a statement. The company declined to elaborate on how it plans to sell the factory and said there was nothing further to announce about Halol at this point.

In February, 12 executives from Great Wall attended the India Auto Expo car show to survey the market and understand government policy on diesel engines and emissions, an industry source in India said.

Great Wall's board of directors on March 7 voted unanimously in favour of a motion to establish a subsidiary in India, according to a stock exchange filing. A spokeswoman said there were no further details on the automaker's plans there, including when it would set up a subsidiary.

Chongqing Changan Automobile, China's fourth biggest automaker, launched a search in January for an advisor in India to help form an entry plan, according to an email from the company to a consultant that was seen by Reuters.

Company president Zhu Huarong told reporters in November that Chongqing Changan saw India as one of its three strategic foreign markets for investment and planned to start making cars there by 2020. A spokeswoman for SAIC and a spokesman for Changan declined to comment.



Quality perception

Global carmakers like Toyota Motor Corp and Volkswagen have struggled to push sales in India in part due to the lack of a portfolio of feature-rich, compact cars priced at about \$5,000-\$7,000, a segment where demand is high.

Equally essential in the Indian market is having a widespread service network and keeping car maintenance costs low.

"If the Chinese carmakers are able to overcome the quality perception, they have a huge cost advantage," said Amit Kaushik, country head at consultant JATO Dynamics.

SAIC is evaluating what models to launch in India and is considering vehicles less than four metres in length because of favourable policies - sub-compact cars attract lower taxes - the source close to the company said.

It is also looking at modifying existing models to offer stripped down versions, as India is more price sensitive and regulatory requirements are lower, the person said.

On the lighter side....



The basketball coach stormed into the university president's office and demanded a raise right then and there.

"Please," protested the college president, "you already make more than the entire History Department."

"Yeah, maybe so, but you don't know what I have to put up with," the coach blustered. "Look."

He went out into the hall and grabbed a jock who was jogging down the hallway. "Run over to my office and see if I'm there," he ordered.

Twenty minutes later the jock returned, sweaty and out of breath. "You're not there, sir," he reported.

"Oh, I see what you mean," conceded the president, scratching his head. "I would have phoned."

"Daddy, did you know that girls are smarter than boys?"

"No, I didn't know that."

"See, there you go."

I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer...

I saw it through my telescope last night.

A friend of mine works at a tattoo shop. A client walked in and got a sentence tattooed on his back. A few hours later, the customer called demanding a refund.

Client: You did my tattoo backward!

Tattoo artist: It's backward?

Client: Yes! I'm looking at it in the mirror right now!

Why do the French like to eat snails so much?

They can't stand fast food!

What did the gangster's son tell his dad when he failed his school examination?

"Dad, they questioned me for 3 hours but I told them nothing!"

Who is smarter, you or your dog? A Canadian psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ.

Here's how it works... If you spend \$12.99 for the video, your dog is the smarter one.

A company owner was asked a question, "How do you motivate your employees to be so punctual?"

He smiled & replied, "It's simple. I have 30 employees and 29 free parking spaces. One is paid parking."

Me: What happened to you? You don't look so good.

Friend: I got stung by a brose.

Me: There's no b in rose.

Friend: There was in this one!

Sometimes when I'm driving, I know I want to change lanes. I'm just not sure which lane I want. So I turn on my hazard lights.

I may be going left, I may be going right ... either way, you have been warned.

Father in a conversation with a neighbor...

First son: Degree in Economics  
Second son: MBA  
Third son: PhD  
Fourth son: Thief

Neighbor: Why can't you throw the fourth son out of your house?

Father: He is the only one earning money. The rest are unemployed.

What is the longest word in the world?

Smiles ... because there is a MILE between the first and last letter.

Can February March?

Don't know, but April May

An old man goes to see a Wizard to ask him if he can remove a curse he has been living with for the last 50 years. The wizard says, "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you."

The old man says without hesitation, "I now pronounce you man and wife."

The girl came running in tears to her father. "Dad, you gave me some terrible financial advice!" she cried.

"I did? What did I tell you?" said the dad.

"You told me to put my money in that big bank, and now that big bank is in trouble."

"What are you talking about? That's one of the largest banks in the world," he said. "Surely there must be some mistake."

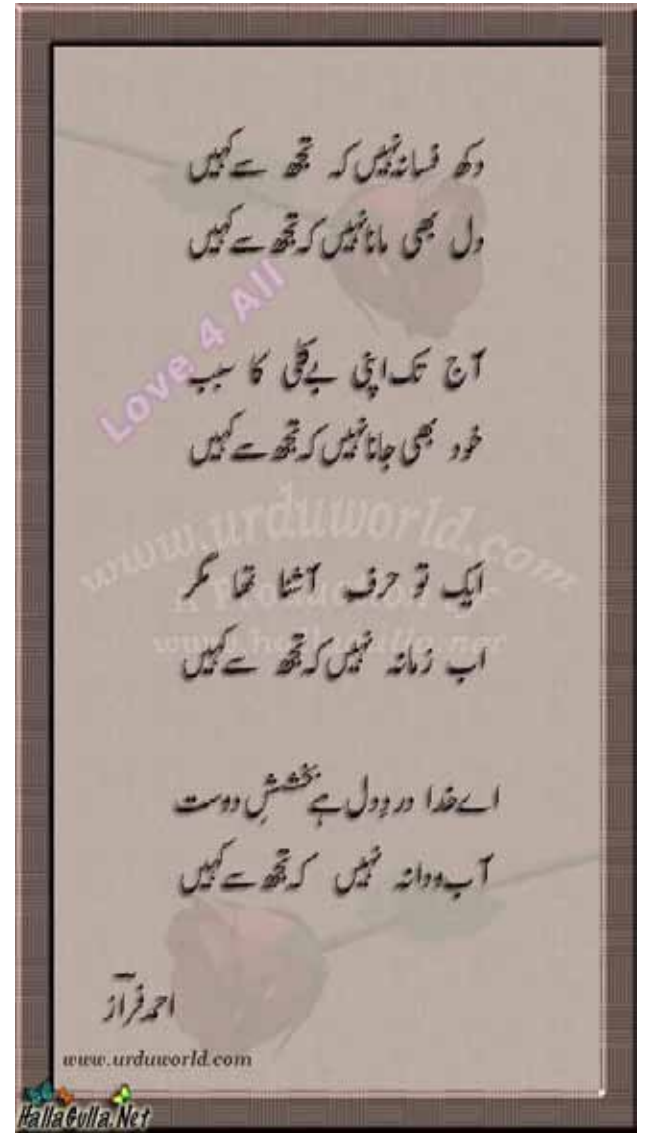
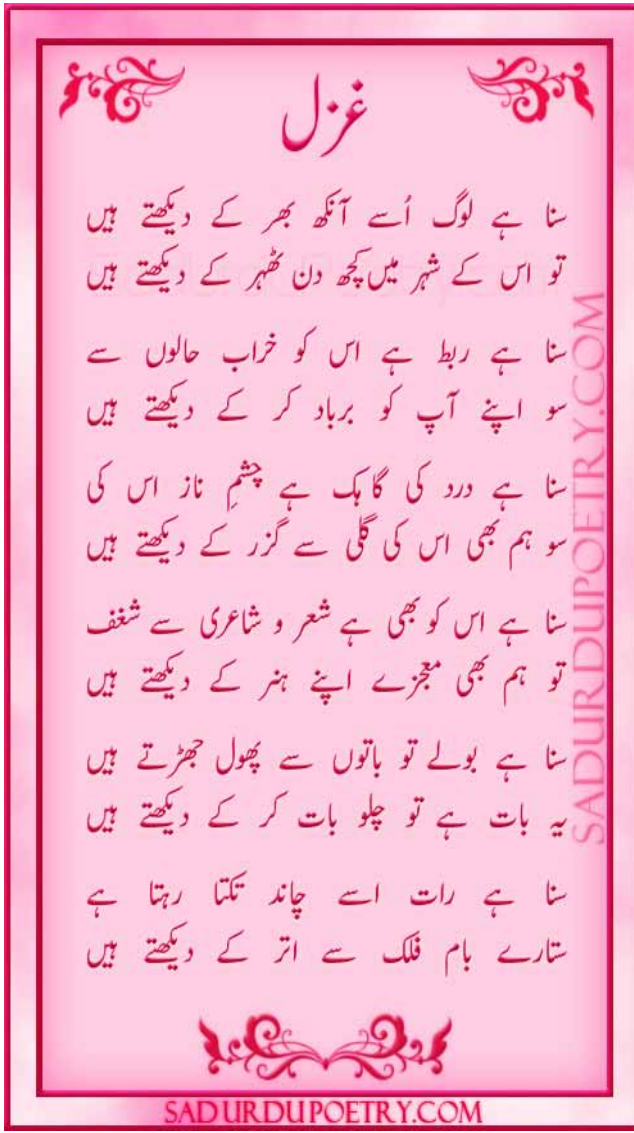
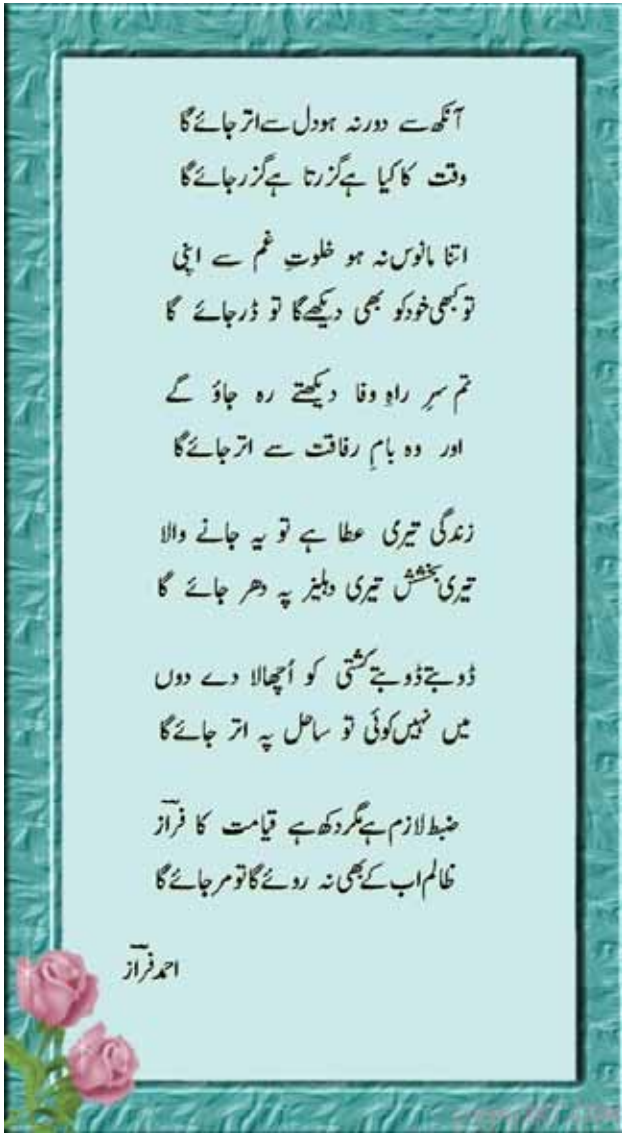
"I don't think so," she sniffed. "They just returned one of my checks with a note saying, 'Insufficient Funds.'"



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# URDU POETRY



آہ کو چاہیے اک عمر ، اثر ہونے تک  
کون جیتا ہے تری زلف کے سر ہونے تک  
دامِ ہر موج میں ہے حلقہٴ صد کامِ نہنگ  
دیکھیں کیا گزرے ہے قطرے پہ ، گہر ہونے تک!  
عاشقی صبر طلب اور تمنا بے تاب  
دل کا کیا رنگ کروں خونِ جگر ہونے تک!  
ہم نے مانا کہ تغافل نہ کرو گے ، لیکن  
خاک ہو جائیں گے ہم ، تم کو خبر ہونے تک  
پرتوِ ثور سے ہے شبنم کو فنا کی تعلیم  
میں بھی ہوں ایک عنایت کی نظر ہونے تک  
یک نظر بیش نہیں فرصتِ ہستی غافل!  
گرمی بزم ہے اک رقصِ شرر ہونے تک  
غمِ ہستی کا اسدا! کس سے ہو جو مرگِ علاج؟  
شمع ہر رنگ میں جلتی ہے سحر ہونے تک

دلِ ناداں تجھے ہوا کیا ہے  
آخر اس درد کی دوا کیا ہے  
ہم کو ان سے وفا کی ہے امید  
جو نہیں جانتے وفا کیا ہے  
ہم ہیں مشتاق اور وہ بیزار  
یا الہی یہ ماجرا کیا ہے  
جب کہ تجھ بن نہیں کوئی موجود  
پھر یہ ہنگامہ اے خدا کیا ہے  
جان تم پر نثار کرتا ہوں  
میں نہیں جانتا دوا کیا ہے

مرزا غالب

## مرزا غالب

بس کہ دشوار ہے ہر کام کا آسان ہونا  
آدنی کو بھی میسر نہیں انساں ہونا  
گریہ چاہے ہے خرابی مرے کاشانے کی  
در و دیوار سے چپکے ہے بیباں ہونا  
وائے دیوانگی شوق کہ ہر دم مجھ کو  
آپ جانا ادھر اور آپ ہی حیراں ہونا  
جلوہ از بس کہ تقاضائے نگہ کرتا ہے  
جوہر آئندہ بھی چاہے ہے مڑگاں ہونا  
عشرتِ قتل کہ اہل تمنا مت پوچھ  
عیدِ نظارہ ہے شمشیر کا عریاں ہونا  
لے گئے خاک میں ہم داغِ تمنائے نشاط  
تو ہو اور آپ بہ صد رنگِ گلستاں ہونا  
عشرتِ پارہٴ دل زخمِ تمنا کھانا  
لذتِ ریشِ بگڑ غرقِ نمکداں ہونا

7

جس نے مجھے جلاو تھے ہیں کج نعتِ دل کے  
کوئی لے کے رو رہا ہے کوئی دے کے رو رہا ہے

کسی دشمن نے یہ عزت مجھے اب تک نہیں بخشی  
ہمیشہ دوست ہی کا ہاتھ پہنچا ہے گریباں تک

بدلتے موسم پہ اپنی امیدیں نہ رکھنا۔۔۔  
دن بہاروں کے بڑے مختصر ہوا کرتے ہیں