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VERMALAND RAISES THE REAL ESTATE STAKES BY OFFERING INCENTIVES TO BUSINESSES TO HELP BUILD ARIZONA'S ECONOMY

Land offer to Tesla Motors signals effort to bring new companies into the Grand Canyon State

Scottsdale, AZ. April 25, 2014—Vermaland, one of Arizona's largest owners of raw land, has met the growing pains of the state's economic future head-on, by offering land to companies interested in expanding into the East and West Valley, it was announced today by KuldipVerma, CEO, Vermaland.



Recently, in an Arizona Republic article, it was revealed that Vermaland offered property to luxury carmaker, Tesla Motors to build its planned new battery plant. The offer was a combination of free land and reduced parcels, all in an effort to stimulate the economy

In making the announcement, MrVerma commented:

• More on P03

Vaisakhi Mela Phoenix, Arizona: A Unique Event of its Own Kind



Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev

There is a common saying among the Desi people that where ever there are more than two Punjaibeas, a trouble is likely to ensue. Well! It might have been true at other occasions. But fortunately for the Punjabi community and unfortunately for those who believed in this oft-repeated saying, such a thought did not keep its promise and nothing of that sort happened on April 5, 2014 at Phoenix Vaisakhi Mela 2014. On the contrary, all those who attended this well-planned function organized by the Phoenix Desi Sports and Cultural Club (PDSCC) of Arizona at Hammers Park in Avondale, stayed not only peaceful, but were rather ecstatic. They enjoyed

• More on P22

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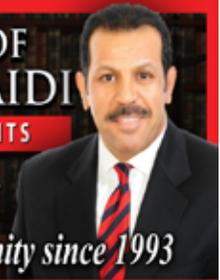


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Sarb Sanjhaa Vaisakhi Kirtan Darbar & Sikh Awareness Nagar Kirtan in Downtown

Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev

Truly speaking Arizona Sikh population stands nowhere compares to State of California, Washington DC, New York or Texas when it comes to the number of its people. But to have almost close to 1000 Sikhs arrive on April 20th in Blue and Kesri Turbans, Chunnis or Patkaas, not only listen to attend Kirtan Darbar but then become part of an unusual Kirtan Darbar through the street of Downtown Phoenix, was indeed, a miracle. The event was unusual, to say the least, given that not only the highest attendance of Sikhs ever in this kind of event but also due to the degree of emphasis placed on the Sikh identity through the decoration inside of the hall as well as during Nagar Kirtan. In fact, this was evident by a large statement affixed on the podium that clearly mentioned, "A Turban is to a Singh What a Crown is to a King."

The Kirtan Darbar was held in the massive auditorium of Downtown convention Center Phoenix, Arizona where the walls were decorated all along with

over 60 specially prepared banners from India, each 4 feet X 8 feet, all in English. They highlighted Sikh Identity and Sikh Religion including Sikh Philosophy, Sikh presence in North America, Sikhs in WWI and II as well as hate crimes against Sikhs.

Another important item on the agenda was to honor the Sikhs who had taken Amrit this year as well as those who once again decided to re-embrace the Sikh identity with the grace of Akaal Purukh after having earlier cut hair or beards. Overall, there were 12 such souls. They were greeted with Jaikara while being honored by the esteemed Ragi Jethas. The mayor of City of Phoenix who arrived to be part of the program was also honored on the stage likewise.

Two interesting speeches by teenagers, one in Punjabi by Sardarni Manmeet Kaur and other in English by Sardar Anhad Singh were primarily targeted towards the gradual deterioration of Sikh identity and the urgency of its preservation. The sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and his family as well

as many other Sikh Shaheeds in the cause of Sikh faith for the preservation of Sikh identity were recalled by these two young Sikhs through a passionate and mind piercing message. They were able to make a very strong case for adopting the path of Gurus through a humble reminder to the Sikhs about their Sikh roots and the sacrifices of their predecessors for the preservation of Sikh identity, the Sikh faith and Sikh culture.

Starting with Japuji Sahib and followed by sweet shower of Gurbani Kirtan, first by the children of Punjabi Schools of all the Gurdwaras and then by a marathon session of two and half hours by four local Raagi Jethas, the program continued inside the hall until 2:30 PM. Ongoing Snacks consisting of several Indian delicacies were continuously served outside to all those who came, in plenty and in abundance.

During the Nagar Kirtan, the banners that initially decorated inside of the hall were then carried by several pairs of two people each. They were

taken around in the streets of downtown Phoenix, in front of Guru Granth Sahib Ji's Swari placed high atop an elegantly decorated 18 wheeler. Behind Guru Granth Sahib, the entire Sangat slowly walked while singing Gurbani and religious songs.

Langar was served across the street at a park like shady setting in a beautiful lawn after people returned from the parade. Once again several dishes prepared by many volunteers who had been working hard for several days and nights relentlessly in the name of Guru, were greatly appreciated.

This was the third time Sarb Sanjha Vaisakhi Kirtan Darbar was arranged in downtown Phoenix, whereas the Nagar Kirtan this year, like the one last year, was arranged for the second time in this unique way to aggressively highlight the Sikh identity. All the three Sikh Gurdwaras were instrumental in helping arrange the events in almost all the aspects. The excitement and reverence was all too obvious in the air and was full to the brim.

The average person spends most of their life establishing their sense of identity. There are many outlets and factors that contribute to finding one's self, including ownership. The relationship between ownership and sense of one's self develops character and reflects one's personality, no matter if the possession is tangible or intangible.

For example, when I was younger, my room was filled with all things swim-related, from trophies to posters; these tangible things that I owned illustrated my love for the sport and shaped how my personality related to it at that age. These things described who I was then and were a piece of me and sense of self. This shows that some tangible things that

we own can develop character and pull together our identity.

Some people, such as Plato, believe that owning objects is detrimental to a person's character because it brings out materialism and insignificance. On the contrary, what we own tells us and even other people about who we are and what our character is filled with. Everything we own has some sort of significance, whether it is big or small.

Not only can tangible objects develop our character, but intangible things have the ability to as well, such as skills and talents. They make you who you are and can show

you and other people what you are capable of. Not only that, but a talent or skill can get you a long way in the future if you take proper advantage of it, as well as lead you to great achievements and accomplishments throughout your entire life.

These special parts of your character allow you to realize your passion and self-worth along with where you can go and what you can do with that passion. For example, I recently attended the IIFA Awards in Tampa Bay, Florida and the number of actors and actresses who own that certain talent and passion was unbelievable to see. To see these stars take the

skills and talents that they are good at to the highest level of Indian cinema proved that ownership of character can allow you to accomplish everything. This certain ownership was shown through them when they won their award for owning up to their talent and passion and sharing it with the world.

The relationship between ownership and identity is a major part of our lives and is experienced throughout every day of it.

-Sammy Mallik



Sense of identity

VERMALAND RAISES THE REAL ESTATE STAKES BY OFFERING INCENTIVES TO BUSINESSES TO HELP BUILD ARIZONA'S ECONOMY

Continued from page 1 "Too often, businesses depend on the kindness of state governments to offer incentives and tax deals and sometimes, the states hit their ceiling. They need to have more coming in than going out and no matter how well intentioned it is, it doesn't always work out."

Vermaland believes that is where private business can help. Those private companies with resources, such as Vermaland, can help incentivize others to do business because, as Mr. Verma noted: "at the end of the day, a healthy economy helps everyone. It's a

simple equation. A company offers land as an incentive to build a factory or community. That brings construction jobs. That brings people spending money at restaurants, bars, hotels, drug stores etc. as I said: Businesses incentivizing other businesses with less reliance on state offers."

Vermaland based its business out of Arizona in the early 90's. Phoenix is the 6th most populated city in the US and is the second fastest growing metropolitan areas. The state's location and the Vermaland holdings offer proximity to large cities such as Los Angeles, San Diego, and Las Vegas. They also

have strategic placement along the Mexico/NAFTA corridor, which allow international trade and business opportunities. Additionally, Arizona has a lower cost of business, a strong transportation infrastructure, and an educated and skilled workforce.

Mr. Verma concluded: "Arizona needs to put more effort into attracting new business to the state. Our policies need to be favorable and we need to offer incentives to attract business to pick Arizona over neighboring states. We need to come and do all that we can to be the location where businesses want to move to. The states' success is OUR success."



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A Life Driven by Checklists

I think there was a time where a life was driven by feelings, emotions, relationships, but the more I look around the more I realize that we are starting to get into a world where a life is driven by checklists. Checklists may make sense in some environments, say professional for example. You may have a checklist of items to complete or maybe you have a checklist of items that determine if a product or vendor is the right fit. Even in those environments, there was a time where people relied on their gut and intuition and even if everything crossed off on the checklist, they would not accept the candidate, product, or vendor if their gut said no or vice versa, accept it if their gut said yes but not everything checked off.

If it wasn't for someone's reliance on that gut intuition, I don't even know if I would have ever gotten my first job in the IT industry. I still remember the hiring manager's words, "You have no experience. But you have the drive, the passion, and the tenacity – my gut says you won't let me down." Every time I was stuck or struggling with something, those words of faith made me want to try and not let the person that gave me a chance down. In a professional environment, that story may be rare (and I am glad if I was the exception) and I can see why people rely on strict checklists to guide decisions. Honestly, if their gut feeling is wrong, they are going to impact a lot more than themselves. However, I see more and more of this starting to reflect in people's personal lives and that is where it is concerning. Personal relationships shouldn't be based on a checklist – otherwise, they are not personal at all.

For example, as I look at people choosing friends, it is becoming more and more the norm to choose those in the same social and financial status as you. As people start looking for life partners, there is a checklist of age,



Editor's NOTE

marital status, children, financial capability, etc. If you don't believe me, look at all the South Asian matrimony sites out there and the questions they ask of yourself and your respective life partner? Questions are along the lines of: Age? Marital Status? Children? Salary? Siblings? It is all about people crossing off an ideal checklist to see if this person is suitable. Honestly, if all those items align but there is no feeling

between the two of you, are you going to have a fulfilling life together? Or worse, did you never even look at the person that could have fulfilled your desires and needs to an extent you couldn't even imagine because the filters you set never even surfaced the possibility. It is easy to see how this can happen in the virtual world of social media and the internet. But, subconsciously, we are also starting to do it in live interactions. If you have a pre-disposed checklist of what you want in a friend, a partner, a lover – when you cross someone that may not fit the bill, you probably won't even invest the energy to get to know them better because you let that filter guide what level of energy you invest into it. In the end, you are probably just doing an injustice to yourself because maybe that was going to be the greatest friend you ever made.

If you truly want to live life to the fullest, you need to remove your checklists and filters in the virtual world and the real world. Give everyone you meet a fair shot without trying to pre-determine where they are and are not allowed to fit in your life and let the pieces naturally fall in place. When you do so, where life leads you may even surprise you. Hope everyone had an amazing Month of April and wishing all the kids and parents all the best as they wind down the school year in May and getting ready for another spectacular summer vacation.

Deepa Kaur Walia
Editor, Asia Today,
editor@asiatodayaz.com

The month of April was full of festivals. Vaisakhi was celebrated full of joy and the entire Arizona got a chance to meet Dr. Rajesh Daulat, who is President of Jain Temple. I was also invited to visit the temple to cover the event celebration of Mahaveer Jayanti.

It was my first visit to the temple and it is difficult to describe the beauty of the temple in words.

I am grateful for the opportunity to see the beautiful temple and participate in its festivities. Immediate-



Marketing Director NOTE

ly after that event, we had the pleasure of being a part of another event organized by the Sikh Community - the Vaisakhi celebrations. Last, but not least, we had the Bollywood Extravaganza of the Atif Aslam Show.

Many thanks to Mr. Jamshed Sani for capturing the beautiful moments from all the events.

-Manju Walia
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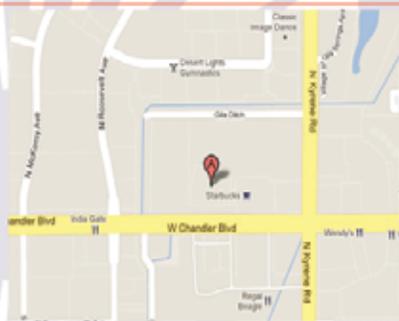
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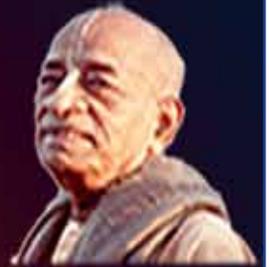


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Jain center Mahavir Jayanti celebrations

This year Jains all over the world celebrated 2612th birthday of Lord Mahavir. He was born on Chaitra-Sud 13th, (usually in April) in the city of Kundalpur. Jains believe and worship 24 tirthankaras Omniscient lords. Lord Mahavir is the 24th tirthankar. Jain Center of Greater Phoenix (JCGP) celebrated the Mahavir Jayanti at their temple on April 14th.

According to Jains, a Tirthankar is born as a human being and with his efforts purifies his soul and gets detached from the cycle of karma - obtaining omniscience. He has obtained complete and pure knowledge and is passionless. He delivers discourses of experienced knowledge from the Samosaran (the assembly of the Lord, created by heavenly angels). This includes sermons of non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, celibacy and non-possession and leading the disciples to realize their own soul and start walking on the pathway for liberation. When the time is ripe, Lord separates his pure soul from the mundane physical body, never reborn, staying forever in absolute happiness. Lord Mahavir obtained nirvana at age 72 on Diwali day, at Pavapuri, which usually falls some times in October.

At JCGP the main event was "In Communion With Jainism" (ICWJ) exhibition. Eleven stalls were set up explaining different aspects of Jainism:

- * Meaning of Namokar Mantra
- * Stories of Tirthankaras and saints
- * Practical aspects of Dharma in action
- * Puja rituals
- * Karma theory
- * Journey of the Soul to 4 'gatis'
- * 8 different karmas one acquires
- * Jain 'Tirth' pilgrimage
- * Key festivals
- * 18 doors of sin - how to avoid them
- * Jain cuisine with food pyramid.

The unique feature was that these stalls were staffed by their Patshalla children who explained the



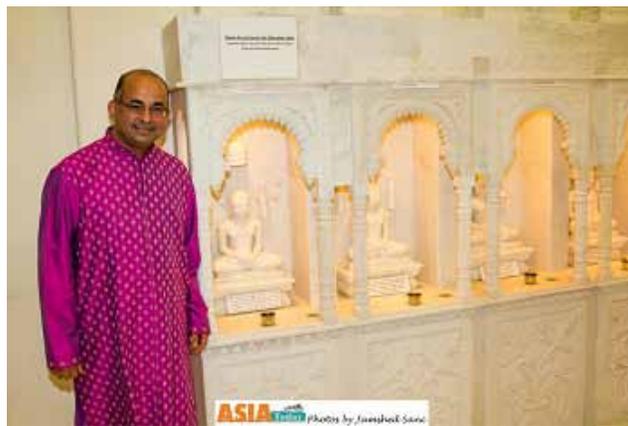
difficult and complex Jain principles in an easy-to-understand manner using colorful banners, detailed wall charts, and fun interactive games. The children created innovative games on iPad, computers and interacted with the visitors in a fun and practical way.

Each visitor was given the ICWJ sheet and received a sticker for visiting the stall. Winners were

selected from the drawing of these ICWJ sheets and Raffle prizes were awarded to the lucky winners. The ICWJ event was followed by a short cultural program, honoring of Chief guests, Mr. Prem Jain, President, JAINA (National Jain Association), and Mr. and Mrs. Amit Bhandari, CEO, Bio Urja, of Houston, followed by 4 Aartis and Swamivatsalya lunch. Over 300 people attended the event.

The JAINA President, so impressed by ICWJ Exhibition - banners, kids' presentation and creativity with the games for each stall, said "This is the first of its kind in North America and we should write a book to spread this message at all centers". Jain Center President, Dr. Rajesh Daulat (whose two kids participated) was awed by the entire thing and did not know where to start. He said, "First of all, congratulations are due to all the kids. They did their homework. They were so good at explaining difficult concepts that even I was not able to answer. They were on their feet, talking and explaining for the entire 2 hours. There was a sense of achievement that we have not seen in these kids before. I think our Patshalla is ready to go to the next level." We heard praises from parents and visitors who were blown away by the exhibition, learnt a great deal about Jainism and were impressed by kids' knowledge and enthusiasm. Some comments: "Great job - You all deserve a pat on the back." "The kids had an amazing time presenting and displaying the knowledge in a fun interactive way. So different from the way we would normally expect learning of religion! The parents were not only proud, but so much wiser today." People felt that this was one of the best Mahavir Jayanti celebrations. The ICWJ concept, and banners were provided to JCGP by Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur and Pujya Gurudev Shri Rakesh Bhai.

Jain Center of Greater Phoenix temple is located at 6250 S. 23rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85041. For temple visit, please contact Mr. Hemal Modi at Jain_phoenix@hotmail.com or visit JCGP.ORG



Sri Rama-navami festival at Hare Krishna Temple Chandler



Sri Rama-navami is the glorious appearance day of Lord Ramachandra. Being prayed for by the demigods, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the Absolute Truth Himself, directly appeared with His expansions and expansions of the expansion. Their holy names were

Rama, Lakshmana, Bharata, and Satrugna.

These celebrated incarnations thus appeared in four forms as the sons of Maharaja Dasaratha. The Lord descends on this material world out of causeless mercy and displays various transcendental

pastimes as a human being so that human beings can become attracted to Him, associate with His devotees, and become able to go back to Godhead.

On Rama-navami, Lord Ramachandra's pastimes were narrated by HG Jayaguarasundar Prabhu.

An abhisheka for was performed at noon and in the evening.

Deva Deva Prabhu presented a drama to celebrate Lord Rama Lila. A sumptuous prasadam feast was served after arati and ecstatic bhajans for the pleasure of the devotees.

Asia Today would like to congratulate Mr. & Mrs. Krishan Kumar Gupta & Aritu Gupta for welcoming the 3rd generation of Gupta Family. Mr. Arin Gupta (son of Manish & Aradhana Gupta) were blessed with their son and due to their excitement they did prayers and a ritual at Arizona Sikh Gudwara on Sheldon St. Here are some of the pictures captured of Manju Walia at the family and friends gathering.





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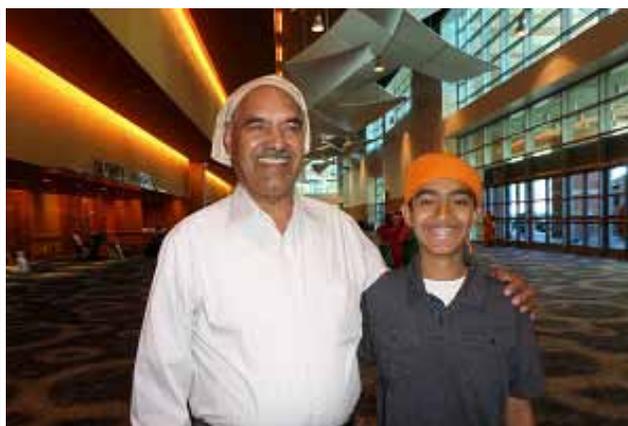
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Glimpse Of phoenix nagar Kirtan



Glimpse Of phoenix nagar Kirtan



INDIAN SENIORS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA (ISAA)



On April 01, 2014, a unique audio/visual show on a variety of "Bollywood" movie themes was presented by Prakash Gandhi. It was sure attention grabbing. Many thanks to Prakash for putting together such an extraordinarily most entertaining show. Everyone enjoyed it very much. Many happy returns of "Happy Birthdays" to Geetaben's daughter-Amita, grandson of Jyotiben Gandhi and Umang's father -Sharad shah, and Surinder Aggarwal. The serving of bhel was sponsored by Geetaben and Jyotiben. Ice cream and chocolate bars were supplied by Anjanaben. ISAA wishes "Happy Ugadi" to all those who celebrate Hindu New Year starting with Chaitra month.

On Apr 08, 2014, Ramnavami-Chaitra shukla paksha (bright fortnight) means Lord Rama's birthday. Today it was that day of celebration. Beautiful arrangements were made with a small

1. Mannubhai – the first Bingo winner receiving the "Go-Green" winning goodies 2. ISAA celebrated Sumanben's 75th birthday with family in attendance 3. ISAA celebrated Ram Navami "badi dham dhumse" 4. Unique, creative and outstanding entertainment presented to ISAA by Prakash Gandhi 5. Umang came to ISAA to join in the joy of Sharadbhai's birthday with Anjuben 6. Geetaben Vora and Jyotiben Gandhi were the joint luncheon sponsors on April 1st

temple on a table, with all kinds of decorations around with fresh colorful flowers with beautiful fragrant, garlands, lamps and essence. The ISAA hall surroundings became alive producing atmosphere as if the seniors were truly in Ayodhya Nagari. There were music and devotional songs by several devotees in praise of Lord Rama. One did not realize how fast the hour and half was over. Offerings of various food items were made and Aarti followed. The luncheon and prasad was enjoyed by over seventy members and guests. Thanks to Deviben and Babubhai for sponsoring the event.

On April 15, 2014, it was a beautiful day and people were slow coming in. Some started with card playing, for others socializing was the name of the game. As the number of ladies gathered, "anthaxari" got going. It proved to be a good test for wireless microphones recently added to the toolbox. Colorful morning was topped with "hanuman chalisa". The delicious luncheon was sponsored by Sitaben and Amrutbhai which was enjoyed by over fifty five members and guests.

On April 22, 2014, it was a "bingo" day all the way. Some did prefer to go with their dear card games. Socializing

is always popular at the same time. The winners were- Mannubhai, Lataben, Umaji and the guest Mr. Khanna. Congratulations to all. Prafulbhai and Chandrakantbhai conducted the show. The celebration today was the seventy fifth birthday of Sumanben, and fifty fifth wedding anniversary of Sumanben and Bhisambhai. Many happy returns of the same. Their two sons and daughter-in-laws joined in wishing them happy birthday with a beautifully done cake. Over seventy members and guests enjoyed the luncheon treat on this occasion. Our best wishes and thanks to Bahl family.



Waheguru ji ka Khalsa! Waheguru ji ki Fateh!
GURDWARA MONTHLY
 A Monthly digest of Gurdwara Programs and Events

MAY 2014 Programs & Events
 18 Vaisakh – 18 Jeth, 546 Nanakshahi Era (NE)

- May 2 (Fri) – Parkash Siri Guru Arjan Dev Ji (1563)
 (Actual: May 2)
- May 4 (Sun) – Shahidi Day: Chall Mukte (1705)
 The 40 Liberated Ones (Muktsar Sahib) (Actual: May 4)
- May 11 (Sun) – Sirhind Fatch Day (Baba Banda Singh Bahadur)
 (Actual: May 14)
- May 14, Jeth 1 (Wed) – Sangrand & Monthly Sehj Path
 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM.
- May 18 (Sun) – Chhota Ghalughara; Smaller Holocaust (1746)
 Over 10,000 Sikh men, women and children died in this Holocaust.
 Please google and read, e.g., www.searchsikhism.com/holo1.html.
 (Actual: May 17)
- May 18 (Sun) – Homeless Dinner Seva.
 Call 602 741 8021 for more info.
- May 23 (Fri) – Parkash Siri Guru Amardas Ji (1479)
 (Actual: May 23)
- May 25 (Sun) – Bhagat Namdev Ji's message and life
- May 30 - June 1 (Fri-Sun) – Shahidi Siri Guru Arjan Dev Ji (1606)
 Akhand Paath Arambh: Fri, 10:00am
 Akhand Paath Bhog: Sun, 9:00am



Guru Arjan Dev Ji dictating
 Adi Granth



(Guru) Amar Das Ji,
 Perfect Sevak, Perfect Guru

Regular Programs:

Main Kirtan Diwans on Fridays (7 PM – 9 PM) and Sundays (10 AM – 1 PM).
 Morning Banis: 5:30 AM – 6:30 AM followed by ASA-DI-VAAR to 8:30 AM.
 Evening Banis: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
 Sukhmani Sahib every Wednesday: 10:30AM - 11:30AM
 Please check Gurdwara notice board for latest details of all Programs and Events

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Arizona Malayalees Association- Annual Athletics Day & Picnic 2014

A crisp March morning at the Coronado High School was the setting for the first Arizona Malayalees Association Athletics Day. Soccer, cricket and badminton matches through the months of February and March culminated in the track and field events on March 15.

The beautifully laid out track looked inviting. As the day warmed up so did the competition. With events ranging from 50m, 100 m, 4*100 m, 200m to long jump, and participants ranging from 5 years and up, the mood was upbeat, the participants intense and the competition fierce! Family members and friends looked on and cheered.

Notwithstanding the heat, the participants gave it their all, emerging as champions not only for their athletic prowess but for their sportsman spirit.

The event then moved onto the El Dorado Park, which was the venue for the Arizona Malayalees Association's annual picnic. The picnic proved to be a greater success. People who couldn't make it to the track showed up to support the community. Grilled chicken and tortillas, chips and salsa and fresh fruit completed the picnic.

The serious competition over, here the games were of a more lighthearted nature - candy picking for the little ones, musical chairs for the little and not so little, pop the balloon and relay races for couples and a rousing game of bingo to cap it all. The evening concluded with a prize giving ceremony. Cheering members lauded the effort and all the hard work that everybody put in. Everyone had a great time and a lot of fun memories are made!

The picnic and athletics events were coordinated by Jose Vadakara (President of the Association) and other committee members. Kiran Kurien and Vinu Thomas managed the registration desk. Satheesh Ambadi was the general captain for the Athletics event. Special thanks to Srikumar Nambiar for preparing the delicious picnic lunch. Joseph Vadakkel, Jayan Nair and Sajith Thaivalappil respectively were the chief coordinators for the Badminton, Cricket and Soccer tournament. Prakash Mundackal, Vidya Warriar and Manju Pillai did a magnificent job arranging the fun games for the picnic. The current committee received outstanding support from ex office members and other volunteers.

Like all events do, this one had to end too. But there are sure to be more, and with the community showing its strong support, even better!



Murti Sthapna at the Hindu Temple of Arizona



On May 23rd & 24th, 2014

Please join us on this historical event of Pran-Pratishtha for Satyanarayan Ji, Padmavati Ji, and Nav Graha's

Friday, May 23rd 2014

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Shanti Path, Maha Sankalap, Lord Ganeshji Puja, Swasti Punya Vachan, Raksha Bandhan, Aja Divas, Dhanya Divas, Bimba Shuddhi, Aarti & Prasad

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Shanti Sankalap puja, Agni Pratishthapana, Sarva Devta Havan, Jala Divas, Ksheera Divas, Dhanya Divas, Aarti & Prasad

Saturday, May 24th 2014

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Shanti Sankalap Puja, Murti Utapana, Abhishek, Havan, Prana Pratishtha, Purnahuti, Maha Puja, Vedokta Aarti, Mantra Pushpa, Maha Aarti & Prasad

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Rohit Tripathi @ (480) 330-8107

Madhu Aggarwal @ (520)730-5764
Venkat Madduri @ (212) 518 1142

Monthly programs schedule

Maata Jagran	Friday May 9 th , 2014	7:00pm-9:00pm	Venkateswara Swami Puja	Every Saturday	10am- Noon
Satyanarayanji Puja	Monday May 14 th , 2014	7:00pm-9:00pm	Rudra Panchamrit Abhishekam	4 th Sunday Puja	11am-1:00pm
Hanumanji Puja	Every Tuesday	7:00pm-9:00pm	Ganeshji Puja	5 th Sunday	11am-1:00pm

New Temple hours starting May 1st, 2014

Week day	9:00am-12:00pm, & 5:00pm-8:00pm	Saturday/ Sunday	9:00am-1:00pm, & 4:00pm-8:00pm
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Atif Aslam Live in Phoenix



**Article by Deepa Walia,
Photos Courtesy of Jamshed Sani
April 13, 2014**

Atif Aslam, accompanied by Shalmali Kholgade (the playback singer with hit songs like Lat Lag Gayee from Cocktail and Balam Pichkaari from Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani), an amazing dance troupe led by Rishi Kejriwal, and a rocking live band, set the stage on fire in downtown Phoenix at the exquisite Symphony Hall on the evening of April 13. A well-known singer and performer, the crowd was expecting a rocking show by Atif which he delivered. However, Shalmali known for her enchanting voice, pleasantly shocked the audience by also proving herself to be a phenomenal live performer that had the crowd on its feet singing and dancing.

While Atif and Shalmali sang their hit numbers, they also paid tribute to

music from back in the day, getting everyone on their feet with hits like Zeenat Aman's Hare Krishna Hare Ram from the 70s.

Members of the band also frequently jumped into the audience making them feel a part of the show, while exquisite dance sequences added to the ambience and magic of the show. Everything from the music to the dances to the singers to the outfits was perfectly aligned to give Phoenix one of the most amazing live performances it has seen in a very long time.

The show brought to you by Desi Jhatka, a name that is becoming synonymous with quality entertainment in the Valley, was possible due to the gracious support of Manish and Aradhna Gupta, Deepika and Ravi Bhalla, Satish Kosuri, Subhash Thati, and Nitin Jain. The organizers would like to thank major sponsors Solar Topps,

Chennai Chettinaad Place, and Bamboo Gardens and their media partners AZ India, Asia Today, Pakistan West, and Radio Khushi for their support of

the show. Last, but not least, we are grateful to the amazing audience without whose attendance shows like this would not be possible.

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Hundreds of Telugu speaking people from the valley gathered to celebrate Ugadi festival in Phoenix, AZ, USA



The event was organized by Arizona Telugu Association (AZTA) at Indo American cultural center on April 19th, Saturday. This year's Ugadi marks the beginning of Telugu New Year called 'Jaya', which means Victory.

The celebration was dazzled by ladies wearing beautiful sarees, kids in cute colorful dresses and many men wearing traditional Indian outfits. It was an evening filled with non-stop Indian music, Bollywood dances and other cultural programs presented by kids and grown-ups as well.

Many kids participated in the costume contest and drawing competition conducted by AZTA.

Telugu association president Venkat Kommineni distributed prizes to the winners.

The audience also enjoyed a captivating movie dance performance by

Indian students attending Arizona State University (ASU).

Venkat Invited India Association President Murugan Patham and IACRF president Nate Bhadriraju on to the stage, Dr. Vasu Atluri honored them by giving bouquets to them. Murugan stated that, this year Discover India has the theme, one of the areas selected as Telugu Speaking people.

He requested active participation from all Telugu people to show case the area. Later Nate said " We understand that Telengana State was formed for political and social reasons but we all Telugu speaking people absolutely need to together".

He also mentioned that, As for the Unity and Diversity, IACRF was formed with the mission of bringing all of the Asian Indians under one roof with a Community Center and Ekta Mandir

to have them socialize and worship and continue to preserve and promote their diverse cultures as Indians from different regions of India but "United without uniformity" and "Diverse without divisions".

The ladies put on a colorful fashion show, showcasing cultures of different states in India, which was the program highlight.

The crowd enjoyed listening to live Telugu karaoke songs while savoring a mouth-watering Indian delicacies for dinner.

After dinner, everyone had fun dancing to the beats of popular Indian music. The event clearly demonstrated kids' enthusiasm and parents' interest in keeping up with Indian tradition, language and culture.

The AZTA executive committee (Venkat Kommineni/ Anand Sabapa-

thy/ Laxman Peela/ Dr. Vasu Atluri/ Sudhakar Gopal/ Suresh Pathipati) and volunteers (Janardhan Gurram/ Srinivas Gottipati/ Praveen Reddy Nandikonda /Sagar Mitta/ Jaya Rayaprolu/ Radhika Gandikota/ Padmaja Katikaneni/ Kamalakshi / Khannan/ Syam Prasad/ Rao Bonda/ Narasimharao Lakhamsani / Geeta Kolla/ Samar Da/ Showbha Bonda/ Sahithi / Vijay Kommineni/ Sekhar Kolla worked hard to make this event a grand success.

Special Thanks to our sponsors

Venkat Nallapati, Jayaram Kode, Sekhar Kolla AZIndia, Satish Kosuri, Murali Samanthapudi, Sarit Kommineni, Nataraj Badriraju, Shyam Byra, Satya Koka, Srinivas Modukuri (Chowdary), Venkat Kommineni, Suri Gunnala, Kiran Vedantam, Chandra Ambadipudi, Dr. Vasu P Atluri, Praveen Reddy Nandhikonda & Laxman Peela.

Ayurveda for Everyday Living

by Ankit Chander, MD(H), ABIHM

Have you noticed how scientific journals frequently change their opinion on food? One month a product is good for you, and then in a few months the situation changes. What is going on?

The explanation in my opinion is that scientific research will never clearly understand the effects of food on people without first understanding that people have innate, subtle differences, and that these differences influence what foods and activities are optimal for them.

Ancient Indian sages called the study of this science “ayurveda,” with the roots “ayu” meaning life, and “veda” meaning knowledge. They discerned three fundamental “mind-body types,” which they named doshas: vata, pitta, and kapha. The doshas can be thought of as qualities or forces which combine to influence our individual constitution, and thereby contribute to how our bod-

ies and mind function.

Vata is related to motion, and has been referred to “that which blows.” Individuals with a predominant vata mind-body type may have the following characteristics: move quick, thin, cold, dry in skin/hair, with a varying appetite and digestion. They tend to be creative and learn quickly, but may feel restless. Ayurveda teaches that foods that may benefit Vata-type include salty (sea salt, seaweed), sour (yogurt, lemons), and sweet (almonds, raisins) foods. Activities that may benefit overactive Vata include calming activities such as yoga, naps, and massage.

Pitta is related to digestion, and has been referred to as “that which cooks.” Individuals with a predominant pitta mind-body type may have the following characteristics: warm, larger appetites, strong digestion, and higher energy levels. They are ambitious to the point of perfectionism, and may have feelings of irritation. Foods that

may benefit Pitta-type include sweet, bitter (green leafy vegetables, lettuce), and astringent (apples, cabbage) foods. Activities that may benefit overactive Pitta may be calming routines and introspective activities.

Kapha is related to structure, and has been referred to as “that which sticks.” Individuals with a predominant Kapha type may have the following characteristics: wider body frames, thick hair, small-regular appetites, and potentially difficulty losing weight. They often have good memory, and are calm and content. Food choices that may serve this mind-body type include: bitter, pungent (ginger, garlic), and astringent foods. Activities that may benefit overactive Kapha include stimulating activities such as aerobic exercise.

Most individuals are a combination of all mind-body types. The idea is to use ayurveda as a guide to find the best food and lifestyle choices for you.

In uncovering this, may it serve both your physical and mental health to the utmost.

There are now several recent studies published in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine on “Ayurvedic genomics,” which discuss how as our understanding of the human genome progresses, ayurveda will be better understood as the correlation of the doshas with the human genome is revealed.

Dr. Chander is an integrative medicine physician in Scottsdale, AZ. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Integrative Holistic Medicine. He completed his MD and residency at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, and then a fellowship in integrative medicine at the Tennant Institute in Dallas, TX.

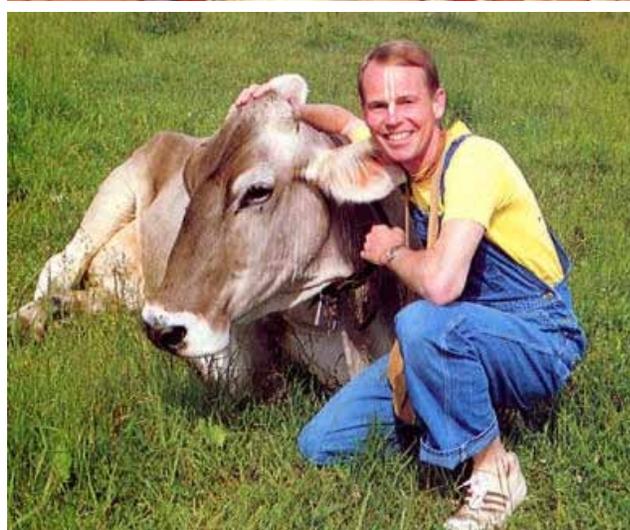


Arizona's Goshala Team Hosts HG Suresvar Prabhu May 10th/11th weekend

His Grace Suresvar Prabhu joined Srila Prabhupada's movement in 1970, serving as a preacher and book distributor across the U.S. He is currently teaching with MIHET in Sridham Mayapur. He is one of main contributor to Back to Godhead Magazines.

As the main book distributor for half the year at ISKCON Honolulu, he comments, “I daily experience the joy of giving the greatest gift: Vidya-dana, the gift of knowledge in the form of Srila Prabhupada's books. The whole world comes to Hawaii to enjoy, and people finally do when they receive one of our beautiful, Krsna conscious books. I teach and write as well in Hawaii and Mayapur but there's nothing quite like meeting people in the Bhava-sindhu, the ocean of birth and death, and lighting up their faces with the lifeline of Prabhupada's books.” He continues, “Charity begins at home. I encourage all devotees of all means to come forward to help the devotees flood the world with Srila Prabhupada and Lord Chaitanya's matchless gifts of love and light. As dark karma continues to ravage our beleaguered planet, I can imagine no greater fortune for anyone the donor, the distributor, or the gifted. Hare Krishna!”

Recently Suresvar Prabhu conducted several



seminars all over the world on “Srila Prabhupada, Our Founder-Acarya.” It celebrates Srila Prabhupada's preeminent position and his foundational relationship with every follower. Every one of his followers has a unique relationship with him. The seminar com-

prises eleven lessons that progress through three stages: Sambandha (deepening our knowledge of Prabhupada's relationship with us as the founder-Acarya), Abhidheya (acting in that relationship by identifying and improving our main contribution to his mission) and prayojana (deepening our love for him).

It's a great opportunity to be able to hear directly from legendary personality him Face to Face on this topic and on Krishna. All are welcome to join free prasadam is served at all venues.

Dates & Venue :

- Saturday, May 10th 7 – 8.30am – Bhakti Vrksa “Bhagavat Gita Class” in Ahwatukee.
- Saturday, May 10th 6pm - Home program in Scottsdale.
- Sunday, May 11th 5pm – Sunday feast at Hare Krishna Spiritual Center in Tempe, Address: 11832 E 71st Street, Tempe, AZ 85284

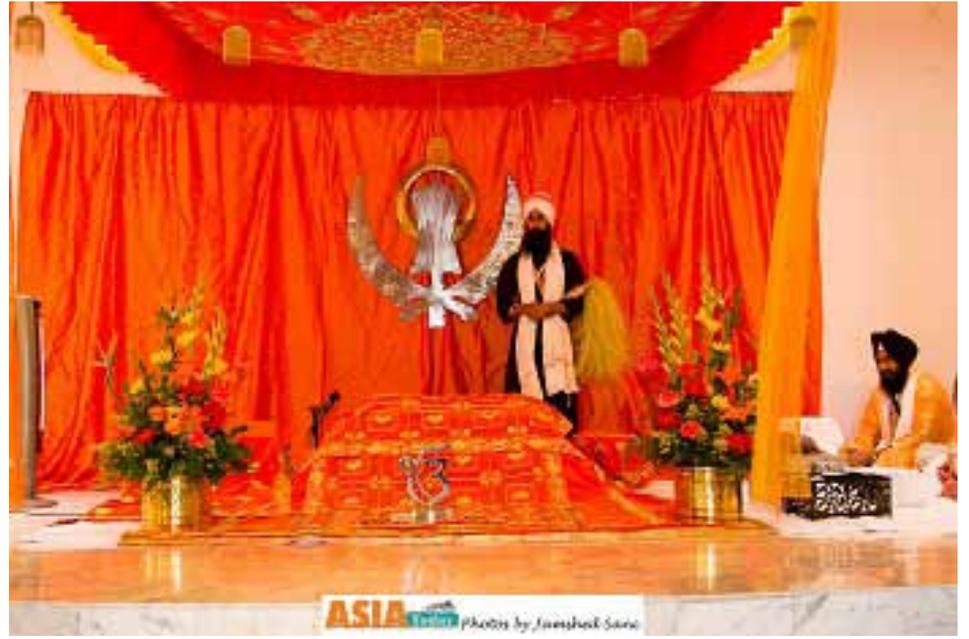
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Please contact us by Phone or email to receive details of the Ahwatukee and Scottsdale programs. More details : www.azgoshala.com or www.facebook.com/azgoshala

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Vaishakhi celebration in Guru Nanak Gurudawara



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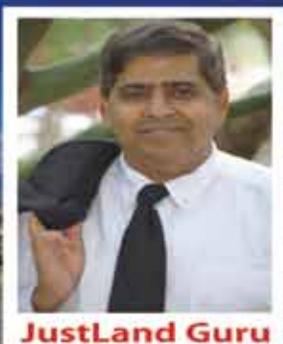
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Vaisakhi Mela Phoenix, Arizona: A Unique Event of its Own Kind

the occasion to the full, much more than what one could have ever imagined. And why should they not have?

After all, a yearlong planning by organizing and executive committee of PDSCC and a score plus selfless volunteers who helped set up the event including onsite cooking or several hours without any remunerations, all played a tremendous role. Freshly cooked Punjabi snacks including fresh Jalebis as well as several other mouth watering sweets, Goleppas, Samosas and Chhole Bhathure were all available for free and in plenty. If that were not enough, free full hot lunch followed by a gourmet dinner going on till 9:00 PM, much more than what the hungry Punjabi tummies could have ever asked for, was served aplenty to a crowd of estimated 1000 to 1500 attendees from different faiths, colors, creeds and countries.

PDSCC, an active sport and cultural club that officially came into being about five years ago, has been arranging this event ever since its inception. The present Executive Committee team consisting of Suminder Singh, Harminder Singh, Darshan Singh and Jagdeep Singh along with other team members, volunteers and supporters did a yeomen's job. They deserve not only the credit but also the gratitude of the Punjabi, Indian and local community for providing us with a unique variety show. 67 children ranging from age 4 through 20 who have been practicing for months, took parts in 21 items of Bhangra, Gidda, (including three items by professional visiting teams from California) and plays, as well as vocals lasting till 7 PM. Rasaa Khichnaa and other popular Punjabi sports such as discuss throw were also included. The excellent job in handling the stage professionally by different expert M.Cs was an additional icing on the cake.

However, the highlight of the event was the presence of the main anchor of one of the most popular programs, "Ajj Daa Mudda" broadcasted daily on weekdays by Jus Panjabi, a local American TV channel from New York. He was accompanied by Jagtar Jaggi, the host of an evening comedy show "Jaggi De Jalve" who showed his comic skills on the stage and entertained all. They not only came all the way from New York, especially for this event, but spoke highly of the event and taped the program that was subsequently shown on their channel. It is a blessing to note that the organizers have been putting in all the efforts regularly, relentlessly and selflessly every year for this event. They want to make sure that Punjabi Children stay connected to their language and culture in accordance with the stated mission of PDSCC, i.e. "To organize and sponsor sports, cultural and social activities for the benefit of people of Indian Origin." What a truth!





Only love can heal hate



by Imam Shamshad A. Nasir (Baitul Hameed Mosque - Chino)



March was not a good month for religious minorities in Pakistan. But now days it can be said without fear of error that no month is safe for religious minorities in Pakistan -- it's just that some months are worse than others. Here's a sample of what should not have happened in March in Pakistan:

March 15th - A Hindu allegedly desecrates a Holy Quran in Larkana, Sindh province. Within hours a mob of enraged Muslims storms the Hindu temple where the reported desecration occurs and sets the temple on fire -- after first looting and vandalizing it, of course. Luckily, no one is killed. . .

March 27th - Yet another Christian is sentenced to death for blasphemy by a Muslim judge in Pakistan. The sentence is delivered to cheers from a courtroom packed with fanatic Muslim clerics and their zealous followers. . .

March 28th - In Islamabad, Pakistan's capitol, an Ahmadi Muslim college professor and his mother are viciously attacked and stabbed to death in their home by unknown assailants. The fact the murder victims are well-known Ahmadis, that there are no suspects, and no police investigation has begun leads observers -- especially the victims' Ahmadi family and friends -- to the sad realization that these latest inhumane atrocities against Ahmadi Muslims will go unpunished, as usual. . .

March 31st - In Tando Allahyar, a town near Hyderabad, an Ahmadi prayer center is attacked and vandalized by a mob of Muslims on allegations of desecration of the Quran. The Ahmadi missionary in charge of the prayer center, Imam Tahir Ahmed, is brutally beaten by the mob, and when the police eventually arrive, the Ahmadi missionary and another Ahmadi man are promptly arrested on blasphemy charges. No one is arrested for viciously assaulting the Ahmadi missionary. . .

The common elements of cruelty, injustice and blatant disregard for the human rights and lives of others that characterize all four of these incidents can be summed up in one word: "blasphemy."

Since 1974, when Pakistan's Constitution was amended under pressure from the Muslim ulema (scholars) to officially declare Ahmadi Muslims to be outside the fold of Islam, the lives of Ahmadis, Shias, Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and anyone else deemed an apostate or enemy of Islam (as de-

termined by the Muslim ulema) have been in jeopardy from religious extremism and intolerance. And this situation is only getting worse.

Virtually all secular and religious scholars in Pakistan acknowledge it was the government's 1974 Constitutional 2nd Amendment declaring Ahmadis non-Muslims, along with the 1984 penal codes known as Ordinance XX, that created and now foster the draconian environment of religious hatred, persecution and violence directed against Ahmadis, Shias, Christians, Hindus and others.

A fitting analogy is the "boiling frog" scenario, where a frog is placed in a pan of cold water on a stove. The heat is then turned on very low, so the frog thinks the water is only getting a little warm. The frog accepts and adjusts to the gradual rise in water temperature without realizing -- until it's too late -- that his warm home is also his coffin.

This is exactly what is happening in Pakistan to those who support or deny or ignore the persecution and murder of the innocent, be they religious minorities or not. And this is exactly how Hell becomes an accepted way of life and how (like the frog in hot water) very few people wake up and recognize the seriousness of their plight. By the time the fire is raging at its hottest, it's usually much too late to escape the inevitable.

Not everyone is waiting patiently in their ignorance or denial while they slowly get cooked. Some are trying to stand up and fight the blasphemy laws. These people include the surviving victims of the blasphemy laws, secular and interfaith human rights workers, journalists with both conscience and backbone, and anyone else who

can clearly see the moral, social, cultural and spiritual extinction that awaits Pakistan if the cancerous evil resulting from its blasphemy laws is not dealt with forcefully and soon.

But I have not lost hope, in spite of all that I know about Pakistan, its history and its people. This is because I am an Ahmadi Muslim who still believes that Pakistan and its citizens can become what its name promises: the Land of the Pure. And I also still believe in a living God Who has all Power to change Pakistan and its people into an expression of the highest Good instead of a manifestation of the lowest Evil.

But, as God Himself says in the Holy Quran, He does not change the condition of a people until they change their hearts. This seemingly impossible requirement actually reflects our God-endowed ability to willingly choose to do good rather than evil. Islam brings the good news that man is born pure and sinless and can return to that state with sustained effort to love God and His creation, and by striving to become more and more righteous.

In short, it means that reformation and redemption from evil is possible -- in fact, it is God's fundamental purpose for our existence here on Earth. We are designed by God to be capable of embodying most of His divine attributes so we may attain righteousness and nearness to God in this very life.

All that is needed to start this process is for us to want that reformation and redemption -- for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our country and for the world. We can start by praying for the people of Pakistan to want one thing: that God should love them and that, by their actions, they become deserving of God's Love. We can all start with

that one, simple step -- seeking God's Love by repeating regularly this prayer of the prophet Da'ud (David):

O God! I ask for Your Love and for the love of those who love You, and love of the actions which brings me close to Your Love. My Lord! Make me such that Your Love is more pleasing to me than myself, and my wealth, and my family, and cool sweet water.

[Tirmidhi Kitabudda'wat]

In this modern age of the internet and the ability to communicate with almost anyone anywhere in the world, let us use the power of social media and the power of prayer to start a positive change in the world by changing ourselves: "O God, I ask you for Your Love..." Pass it on.

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For more information about Islam or the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, please call the Baitul Hameed Mosque at 909-627-2252 or Imam Shamshad directly at 909-636-8332 or via Email at: Shamshadanasir@gmail.com, or visit the Community's websites at: www.AIslam.org or www.TheChinoMosque.org.

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About the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community: The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a peaceful, non-political and fast-growing international reform movement within Islam. Founded in 1889 in Qadian, India by Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908), the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is now established in over 200 countries with membership numbering in the tens of millions. Their motto is: "Love for All -- Hatred for None" and they can be reached in the U.S. and Canada toll-free at 1-800-WHY-ISLAM. (In Southern California, please call 909-627-2252 or 1-866-WHY-ISLAM.)

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About Imam Shamshad A. Nasir: Imam Shamshad A. Nasir currently serves as the southwest US regional missionary for the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (est.1889). He has devoted his life to serving Islam since 1973 after graduating from Jamia Ahmadiyya, an intensive, multi-lingual, seven-year missionary training seminary in Rabwah, Pakistan.

A Calmer You: Hamara neta kaisa ho?

I never thought I would live the day to see Chaddha ji saying anything sensible, ever. But yesterday, he said something that set me thinking. Seeing him in a crisp white kurta pajama, I jokingly asked if he was planning to turn politician, now that election fever is at its peak. "Oh nahi ji. Badi Thankyou less life hai politicians ki," he said. 98% of my attention immediately and involuntarily turned into this desperate urge to correct 'Thankyou less' to 'thankless' but then it's Chaddha ji. Unko kaun aaj tak correct kar saka hai.

He went on. "Everyone is out to criticise politicians. They are all supposed to be of one type. Even in the way they dress up. Now, look at you. Simply a white kurta pajama made you mock politicians." 'I didn't poke fun at politicians. But then, aren't they all the same type? And don't they all try and dress pretty much the same?' I tried to reason. "Hum unhe kisi aur tarah se dekhne ko ready hi nahi hain," said Chaddha ji. "Not really. Look at Priyanka Gandhi. She turned up in a sleek brown kurta to cast her vote. Her husband was wearing pink pants. Now that's bold," I said. "So you noticed the pink pants nah? You discussed it with friends when TV and newspapers splashed the photos, right? Abhi toh he's not even a politician, still everyone has an opinion on how he should or shouldn't have dressed. The day someone actually becomes a politician and decides to contest election, imagine the pressure to look a certain way. Poor politicians can't be seen relaxing in a pair of jeans and a bright t-shirt," he said.

I didn't know if I agreed completely with Chaddha ji. I mean, all our top politicians do look and dress different. Whether it's Modi's half sleeve kurtas or MMS's blue turban or Kejriwal's mufflers. But what's common is a clear attempt at trying to deflect any undue attention on how they look. Politicians cringe at any compliment on their looks, as if being good-looking and



being dedicated to the nation have to be mutually exclusive. "Is it really our fault?" asked a young politician when I mentioned this to him one day. "The day I entered politics, I was advised to dress plain, because that's the most outward indicator of us leading a simple life. I dress like a person twice my age. All my favourite denims are now for get-togethers where I am sure there won't be any press photographers," he sighed. Well, vanity is a vice if you're in public life but that conversation made me realise that it's not just about clothes or looks. How, we as a nation, are so ready to judge and stereotype politicians as a 'breed' that we forget to allow them the simple pleasures of life that we all very proudly and openly enjoy. Many years back, I was assigned to do a photo feature on candidates from various political parties, relaxing, at last, a couple of days after the polling got over. Three out of the five wanted to be photographed playing with their pet dogs, one at the dining table with his wife and kids, and one, on the couch, reading a book and listening to Indian classical music. "What is the first thing he does to relax, after

a tough day of campaigning?" I asked the PA of one of the politicians while he was getting into a 'whiter' kurta for the shoot. "He opens a chilled beer," the PA replied. I asked the politician if we could photograph him with a mug of his favourite beer in his hand, and he looked at me the way I normally look at Chaddha ji. "Have you lost your mind?" he just said.

I know there's very little sympathy ever in peoples' minds for politicians, and maybe for valid reasons, considering the extent of rot in the system. But just look at the stress they, too, are under, because of our over-aggressive tendency these days to have an opinion on everything they do.

Because of certain buffoons in their profession who have a perpetual foot-in-mouth disease, making irresponsible statements every now and then, most politicians live under tremendous stress of analysing and reanalysing their statements before saying anything. "I don't know when the social media, and all others, would pounce on me for a simple statement or a tweet. It's a perpetual paranoia," says a politician.

Politicians, and their families, have to live with hearing the most favourite remark of anyone and everyone in our country — 'sab ke sab politicians chor hain'. Anywhere, anytime. Now, I know you are itching to lecture me on how this statement has a strong basis, but that's not the point I'm making here. I'm talking about the stress of having to bear with the torture of generalisation. Trust me, no doctor's child would be happy, either, to hear his classmates say 'All doctors in this country are corrupt.' I'm assuming politicians also get hurt when everyone in their profession is bunched together for the purpose of making loose remarks. One of my friend's college-going sister fell in love last year with a young man who seemed absolutely perfect in every sense, till he revealed that he wanted to join politics, like his maternal uncle who is an MLA. "Oh God, uncultured, gundey jaisi family hogi uski. Get anyone else as a boyfriend and we are okay, but not a politician," said my friend's mom. Just like most of us, she has a Bollywood-created image of netas in her head. It is sad that a lot of them indeed have a criminal background, but then again, what about those who are clean, educated, and genuinely want to take up politics as a perfectly valid profession? We have political science as a much sought-after subject, but most of us would laugh or faint if our child wrote 'I want to grow up to be a politician' in a school essay. Sad, isn't it?

It's not easy to live a life that's constantly under public scrutiny. Yes, the politicians have chosen it for themselves, and yes, there is enough wealth and power in this field to make up for all things lost, but next time, think twice before saying something general and vague like, 'haww, desh mein log mar rahe hain and this politician is busy looking stylish at an awards show.' Especially when you're watching FTV on the television, and have a well-earned drink in hand.

-Sonal Kalra

Are you worried about the way your smile looks in a photograph or a selfie? Here are a few tips to ensure you get that picture-perfect grin:

- Relax your face and smile gently. Keep your mouth slightly opened, and align your lower lip so that it matches the curve of your upper teeth.

- Don't bend your head forward while smiling to avoid showing your double chin. Turn your head slightly and drop your chin so your face is not completely square with

How to get a perfect smile



the camera.

- Lipstick shades like cherry red, wine, berry, plum, and rose pink make your teeth look whiter.

- Practice makes perfect, so stand in front of the mirror and get your posture and smile right. The ideal grin is one that shows the upper teeth and not too much of the gums.

- Run your tongue over your teeth just before the picture is taken. This moistens teeth and makes them sparkle.

Real-estate sector in Arizona

Hello Friends,

Easter egg hunting and one of the last months of the year with warm temperatures but usually not yet in the triple digits, Enjoy the April while it lasts. Its is also typically the month where the valley real estate gears up for the summer and as always, we are see-ing some trends in this direction.

The city of chandler is redeveloping one of the older neighborhoods, along Arizona Avenue by extending Washington Street through the historic south Chandler neighborhood. The city has already invested approx. \$2.3 million to purchase land, demolish houses and relocate residents to extend Washington street and build a park. The city already own two-thirds of the 28 properties it needs and will nearly own one-fifth of all non-commercial lots in the neighborhood. Although Chandler has a park in Morelos Street, the proposed larger park and roadway is required for the anticipated population increase in the near future.

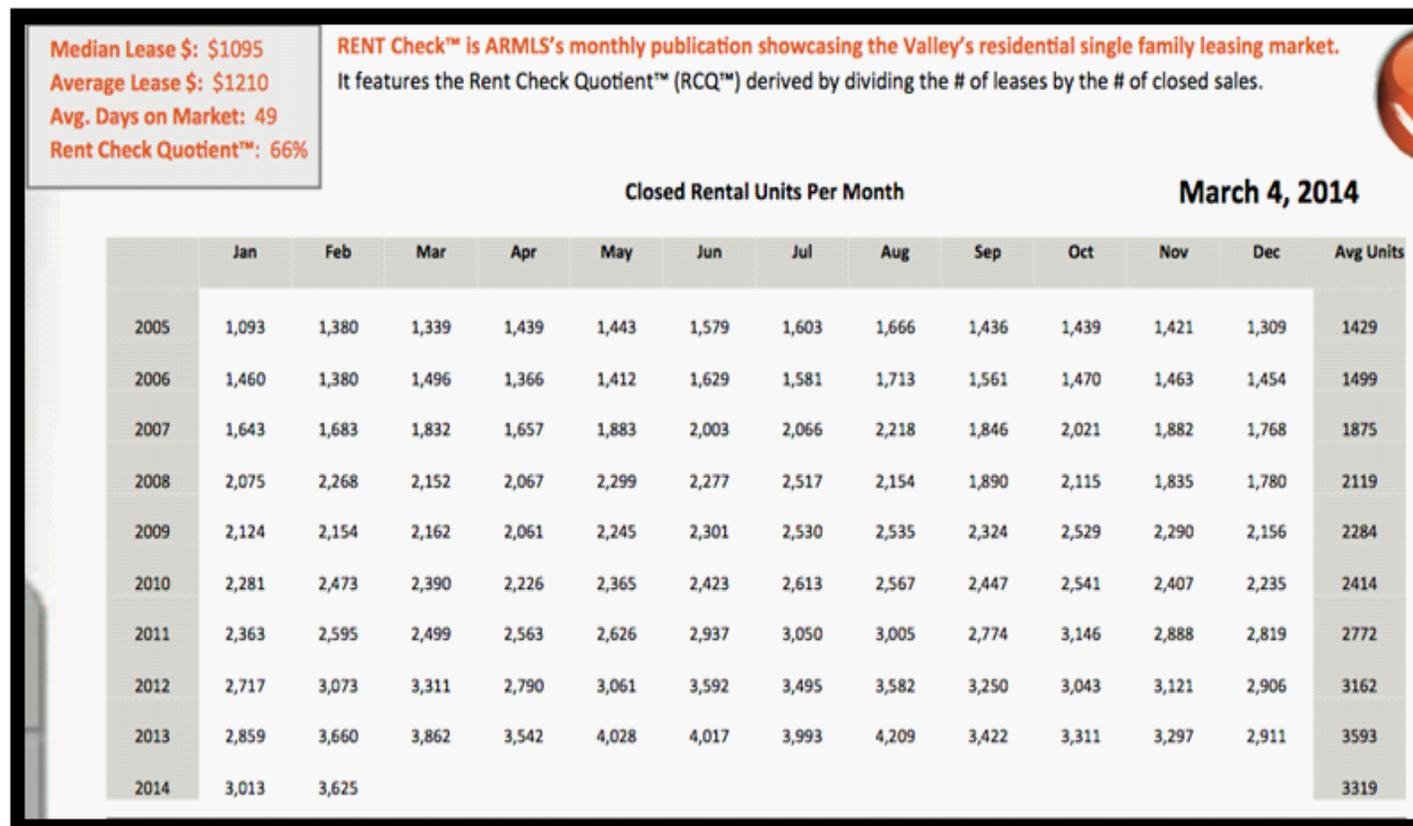
Arizona's improving bankruptcy trend continued in March and stable loan delinquencies at the national level suggest the positive direction could persist. New bankruptcy filings in the Phoenix metro area of 1,396 in March were down 9 percent from March 2013, and statewide filings of 1,894 were 10 percent lower, reported the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Phoenix. For both measures, filings have dropped on a year-over-year basis for 38 straight months.

Now let's look at the march sales of residential homes in Maricopa county-

- Total sales for Single Family, Town homes, Condos for March were 5,842 whereas February was 4,744 and January were 4,095
- The Active listings for March were 30,864 February was 24,719 and January was 23,420
- Pending sales for March were 6,451 whereas February was 5,883 and January was 4,660

Rental Market is picking up in the valley, the table below will give you a peak of how the market was from 2005-2014. The average days and the price depends on the area and neighborhood demand.

NAR's 2014 Survey covering existing- and new-home transactions in 2013, shows va-cation-home sales jumped 29.7 percent to an estimated 717,000 last year from 553,000 in 2012. Owner-occupied purchases rose 13.1 percent to 3.7 million last year from 3.27 million in 2012. Growth in the equity markets has greatly benefited high-net-worth households, thereby providing the



wherewithal and confidence to purchase recreational property. However, vacation-home sales are still about one-third below the peak activity seen in 2006. Vacation-home sales accounted for 13 percent of all transactions last year, their highest market share since 2006.

Can't afford 20% down payment? Here are some tips how to get a loan-

I often get questions on how to start climbing the property ladder without having to come up with 20% down payment upfront. Most people may not have \$60,000 laying around in a bank account to make a 20 percent down payment on a \$300,000 home or may not want to wait to accumulate 20% before looking for a home, specially with the market improving everyday.

Using your existing home- For the 2nd time home buyers, you do have equity in your existing home and When you sell that home, you can use the equity to pay for your next home. The key is to write an offer that's contingent on the sale of your current home. This is a contingency that your real estate agent will easily be able to include it in your contract. And typically, the seller shouldn't balk as well, unless you're in a very competitive market.

FHA loan-The Federal Housing Administration, or FHA, insures loans for qualified first-time homebuyers. The FHA itself doesn't issue the loan. Rather, a financial institution such as a bank or credit union issues the loan, which is then insured by the FHA. This protects the lender from loss. Because the lender carries less risk, it can offer the loan at rock-bottom interest rates. You get a

mortgage loan at a low interest rate with as little as 3.5 percent down.

VA Loan- Qualified military veterans can obtain a mortgage with zero down payment, this program is offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Like an FHA loan, a VA loan is a federally insured loan that's issued by a traditional financial institution, such as a bank. VA loans are given to veterans who maintain good credit, meet income requirements and have a "certificate of eligibility" through the VA.

USDA loan-Not an urban-dweller? You may be able to take out a loan that's insured by the Department of Agriculture. These USDA loans are designed to encourage homeownership in rural areas. To qualify for a USDA loan, your income can't be more than 115 percent of the median income within the area in which you reside.

Also, there are several programs HUD is offering for lower income level to qualify for a loan.

Now let's take a look on commercial side-

- Airport Business LLC sold the industrial building at 2328 E Van Buren St in Phoenix, to WLA Investments Inc. for \$2.05 million, about \$52 per square foot. The 39,287-square-foot, multi-tenant warehouse building was constructed in 1982 on 2.4 acres in the North Airport Industrial submarket of Maricopa County, at the northwest corner of N24th Street.

- Nexius Solutions recently negotiated a lease to occupy a 20,982-square-foot facility at 377 SHamilton Court in Gilbert. The company, which provides wireless services to car-riers, will relo-

cate to the Elliot Commerce Park site from its current location at 2601 S 37th St. in Phoenix later this month.

- Jet Enterprises sold the Glenrose Medical office building at 1526 WGlendale Ave in Phoenix to Urban Pointe Properties for \$1.35 million, or about \$121 per square foot.

The 11,170-square-foot medical property was built in 1985 on almost one acre in Mari-copa County, to the west of the northwest corner of N15th Avenue.

The Valley saw more job-growth momentum than previously estimated, powered by in-dustries like education, finance, business, and healthcare services, according to RED Capital Group research guru Dan Hogan. Of course, this fuels real estate especially multifamily. New apartment construction has certainly been robust, with nearly 42,000 units completed nationwide in the fourth quarter of 2013, according to forecasting firm REIS Inc. That was the highest since 2003 and a harbinger of things to come in 2014.

Hope this article gives you a peek in what's happening in our valley. As always, I love all the questions, comments & feedback. Please keep them coming at arti@artiier.com or call me at 480.242.8573

Disclaimer: This article makes no representation or warranties of any kind as to the accuracy of the data. The source of data has been taken from several sources such as Armls, cromford report, Costar, Globest, BizJournal, Newsgeni, Realty times, azcentral, wall street journal.

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CHHOTU N. PATEL – High Honor Recognition - Fifty Years Outstanding Professional Service

It is a great pride and privilege with high honor to say a few words about an individual who is well accomplished with distinguished career academically, professionally and socially whose contributions to both industries especially auto-industries and also to the Indian community are significant and remarkably noteworthy. I take personal pleasure in submitting this profile of Mr. Chhotu N. Patel who is an outstanding human being and highly knowledgeable and is a positive individual. He is always a willing to help type of a person. He is an inspiration to his friends and colleagues. He is a man of integrity, honesty and humbleness possessing an extremely pleasant personality. He is an engineer with high level of leadership skills. His community spirit and family values are truly adorable. He is a solid concrete pillar to ISAA as its supporter serving as its Treasurer.

Chhotubhai was born in Livingstone, Zambia. He is currently of seventy-eight (78) years of age. He possesses an MS degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri (1963)

He worked for Ford Motor Company (1966 – 1995) in the position of a Manager of Climate System, Heat Exchangers Components Division Design and also Automotive Climate Systems.

His major contributions were in training young engineers at Ford Motor Co. He has fourteen (14) United States Patents under his name dealing with Heat Transfer and Two-Phased Fluid Transfer Systems. His last patent was registered at the age of 72 jointly with a young engineer he mentored.

He was fortunate to work for FORD MOTOR COMPANY for 29 Years from 1966 to 1995. The work experience and contributions moved him from engineer level to Manager of Climate Control System for all Ford TRUCKS programs. He demonstrated expertise in creating value added thermal comfort systems for FORD and Non FORD (OEM) customers. He was successful in structuring and building the most effective program management team in conceptualizing, developing and implementation efficient solution. During his career with Ford Motors, he was honored with several recognition awards inclusive of the General Manager's Excellence Award for the Customers New Vehicle Quality Performance.

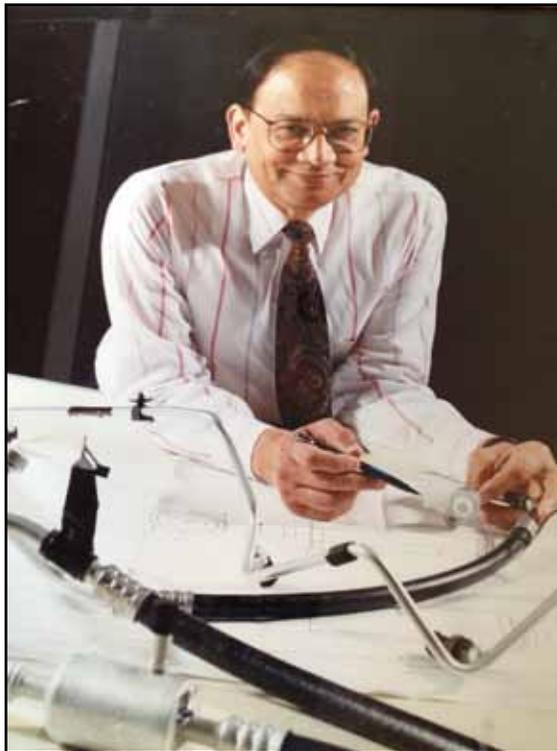
After retirement from Ford, he joined supply-base HUTCHINSON FLUID TRANSFER SYSTEM INC, in Troy, Michigan from 1995 to 2009.

Wisdom of courage and confidence to whatever he wants to accomplish. He has numerous examples of his R & D projects, which moved with great success from concept to main production.

All projects have been a great learning process for him on How to Manage the Team Spirit, technical requirements of customers, systems, suppliers, products and processes.

His best memorable experience has been in the field of reduction of refrigerant leak rate in automotive air conditioning connector. Typically, minimum of eight connections are made to close the air conditioning system. He had been dreaming about this project since 1987. It was his desire to reduce refrigerant leak rate to "zero" under all customer usage. During the calendar year 1997, two platforms (2001 KJ and 2001 RS) expressed to Hutchinson their interest in improving the reliability of A/C connectors for their platforms. His team members were customers and four suppliers of Hutchinson. The technical team met regularly with all suppliers. Customers scheduled these meetings and the four suppliers were involved in the open forum discussions.

Motivation is the assimilation of various stages of knowledge. Assimilation is a step beyond mere learning process begun with this assimilation. You incorporate the learning from within yourself. He practices a learning process to assimilate whatever he needs to know in any creative process. He believes, there is no stop clock. His motivation theory is simple. Stick to the fact, be truthful, and be responsible for his actions. He must be willing to walk through the wall without hurting others. His dream in R & D was and still is preservation of this universe, which provides an abundance quality of wind, water, light, fire, and land. He wants to continue to working on new prod-



ucts and process them for his customers, whom he wants to delight and provide feeling of great success. He will be working with lots of boundary layer limitations of real life situations. He must weave success through thinking process. He certainly will need help from his team members. He will be spending a great deal of

time thinking about automotive air conditioning systems and customer practice because he enjoys his work very much. He is for improving the planet earth environment. He tries to understand about the difficulties and find that on balance, he is confident and optimistic about Hutchinson, where he works. His responsibility is to keep moving little by little for humanity. He delighted various customers of Honda Motor Co., Chrysler Corporation, Nissan Motor Co. and General Motors presenting the know-how of the best climate control systems.

His father taught him that every creation has a creator. A supreme power, we call God, who created this universe where we all live together. Among all forms of lives: we have been gifted with a voice and a thinking mind and ability to understand our surroundings. His father was a risk taker to seek a better life for himself and his family. He was 22 years old when he went to Africa in 1927. He moved to a couple of places and spent a good part of his life in and near Livingstone, Zambia. He supported his joint family in India and Africa. His father took a major risk after separating the twenty years of business partnership. He built a new retail shop at 59 years of age, 220Km from the Victoria Falls. Chhotubhai's grandmother inspired him to pray every day since he was six. He met my grandmother for the first time when he went to India from Africa after the end of World War II. He went to elementary school in his village of 1,000 people

and he enjoyed his childhood with his uncle and grandmother. His parents supported his education plan.

He loves to engage himself in community services just as his father. He is passionately involved extensively in charity program of his father's well-established education center - RATANBEN SWAMI NARAYAN HIGH SCHOOL, Italva, Navsari, Gujarat, India, supporting 575 High School Tutoring Program students from the Trust Funds of 15 lakhs Indian Rupees (equivalent to about US\$30,000). The objective of the program is to provide education to poor kids of India and the world around in giving them opportunity for Innovation and New Technology for the betterment of their future as I believe that the Past is a History but the Future counts.

He enjoys travelling round the world and learns from different culture the values that they have to offer! In giving back to the community, he offers his time and services as a volunteer to the seniors program offered by a non-profit organization called Indian Seniors Association of Arizona (ISAA) providing the support as a member of its Working Committee by performing the responsibilities of holding the office of a Treasurer.

ISAA seniors are extremely happy to note that Chhotubhai was recognized by the American Society of Mechanical Engineering for his fifty years of professional services making significant contributions in auto industries especially for pioneering work in designing and development of leak-proof air conditioning systems for automobiles. As a fellow and the ambassador of the ASSE and also as an international health, safety and environmental specialist, I personally can authoritatively state that this well deserving accomplished dream by Chhotubhai surely has helped a lot in preservation of environment significantly and that too globally by its application on millions of vehicles on the road.

He is a proud father of two sons of age 63 and 42 respectively and a daughter age 60 with four beautiful grandchildren. My wife Panna and I are extremely proud of Chhotubhai. We feel fortunate to be humbled to be closely connected with him and Gitaben as family friends and as his fans and followers for nearly eight years. It is a great honor to be working with him at ISAA. We wish the couple for a continued good health and happiness.

Submitted by: Jitu C. Patel, CPEA

May 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Anaamika PREMIER SHOW ONTIME@ Pollack Tempe Cinemas - Telugu Movie (Starts @ 7:30 PM)	2 * Carnatic Vocal Concert *Empowering the Women of the Ummah- Skill Development center *Friday Night Unwind @ MIM * Anaamika @ Pollack Tempe Cinemas - Telugu Movie (Starts @ 9:30 PM)	3 * Bhadrachalam Sri Seetha Rama Kalyanam * Anaamika @ Pollack Tempe Cinemas - Telugu Movie (Starts @ 9:30 PM) * Kotha Janta @ Pollack Tempe Cinemas - Telugu Movie (Starts @ 9:45 PM)
4 * Free Health Fair @ Indo- American Community Center * Carnatic Vocal Music Concert @ Pima Hall	5	6	7	8	9 * Maha Kumbhabhisekam @ Maha Ganapati Temple of Arizona * LIVE Concert at Gilbert Yoga!	10 * Maha Kumbhabhisekam @ Maha Ganapati Temple of Arizona *A night of Indian Classical Music * Acarya Life Teachings
11 * Maha Kumbhabhisekam @ Maha Ganapati Temple of Arizona Carnatic Vocal Concert @ Pima Hall, ASU	12	13	14	15 * The Happiness Program	16	17 * HSS Arizona Family Camp *Art of Meditation * Enlightening Talks in English ** YOGA** By Swami Mukundananda
18 Words of Wisdom from Graduating Seniors	19	20	21	22	23	24 Save the Date announcement for the Community Forum/meeting @ INDO- AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
25	26	27	28	29 Jaya Lakshmi & Ananda, & the Bhakti Bliss Band!	30	



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Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you. Don't let your family put demands on you. You can write beautiful love letters this month. Self-deception is likely. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

ARIES



Mar 21
to
Apr 20

An older loved one may be having problems. Get back to basics and reevaluate what is important in life. You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities. You need to concentrate on solving existing problems. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS



April 21
to
May 20

Driving too fast or double parking will result in difficulties with officials. Tempers could boil if someone you work with has not been pulling their weight. You may find yourself changing crowds. Put your efforts into physical fitness programs or competitive sports. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI



May 21
to
June 21

Loans will be attainable and legal matters easily taken care of. The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Don't let others know about your private affairs. Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CANCER



Jun 22
to
Jul 22

Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Be discreet and don't reveal any personal information. This will not be the day to lend money to friends or family. Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

LEO



Jul 23
to
Aug 23

You need to concentrate on your business ventures more than on your relationship this month. Enjoy some socializing this month. You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Romance and social activity will be a promising combination. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO



Aug 24
to
Sep 23

Groups and organizations that indulge in social events to raise money will be conducive to meeting new and exciting lovers. Job changes are in order. Go for interviews or send out resumes. You can help other people with their financial problems by setting up a budget for them. Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA



Sep 24
to
Oct 23

Minor health problems may lower your vitality. Relatives will be happy that you dropped by. You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups. Social functions will bring you in touch with new lovers. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

SCORPIO



Oct 24
to
Nov 22

Your attitude is changing rapidly and your plate is overloaded. Changes will not be easy for the youngsters involved. Get together with friends and catch up on reading and letter writing. You may want to invest in something that will grow in value. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS



Nov 23
to
Dec 21

Emotionally, things may not run so smoothly. Get involved in volunteer work that will bring you satisfaction, not an empty wallet. Social events may lead to a romantic interlude. You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CAPRICORN



Dec 22
to
Jan 21

Catch up on overdue phone calls and correspondence. Deception will play an important factor in relationships. Get involved in groups that will help you meet established individuals. Things are looking up. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS



Jan 22
to
Feb 19

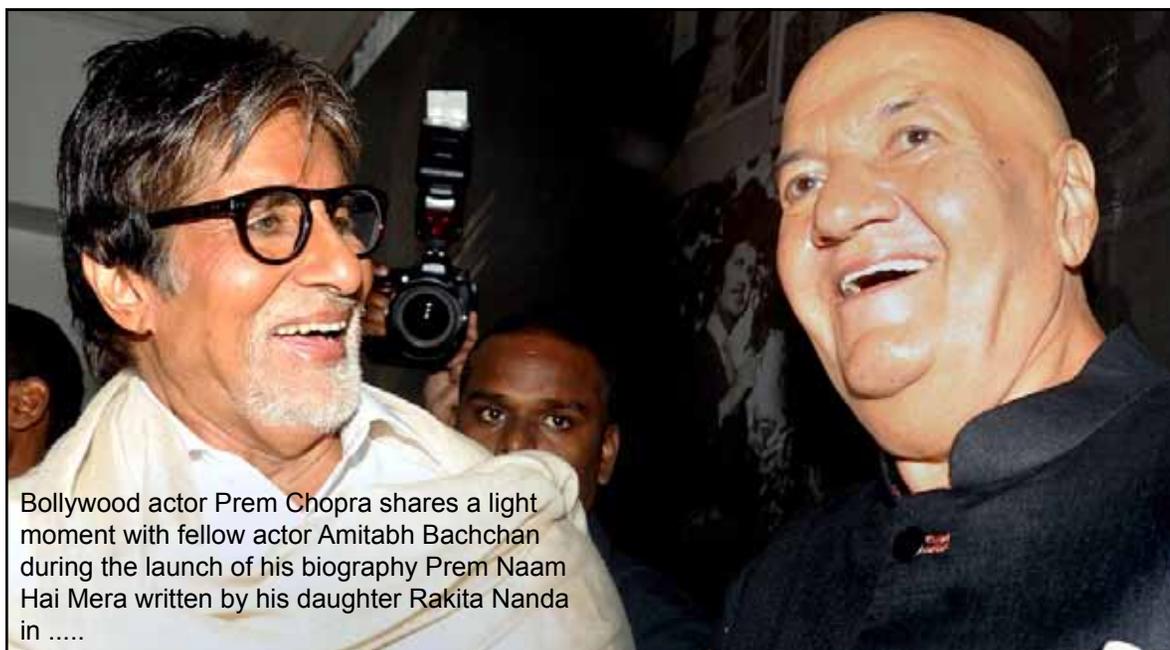
You can make successful moves. This might not be a day for hasty decisions. If you're uncertain of your feelings, keep your opinions to yourself. Don't count on others to cover up for your shortcomings. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

PISCES



Feb 20
to
Mar 20

Book review: Prem Naam Hai Mera, Prem Chopra



Bollywood actor Prem Chopra shares a light moment with fellow actor Amitabh Bachchan during the launch of his biography Prem Naam Hai Mera written by his daughter Rakita Nanda in

Book: Prem Naam Hai Mera, Prem Chopra
Author: Rakita Nanda; Publisher: Rupa & Co
Pages: 248
Price: Rs. 499

He never needed any special costumes or makeup. Just his trademark lascivious sneer and a voice that could switch from silken menace to wheedling entreaty was all it needed to establish him as villain in the viewer's mind. But when Prem Chopra embarked on his film career, it was with the intention of becoming a hero! A director's illness, a small role in a film that went to be a hit and the need to establish himself ruled otherwise.

He has worked with (and got pounded up by) by every Bollywood superstar - Manoj Kumar, Sunil Dutt, Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand, Rajendra Kumar, Shammi Kapoor, Dharmendra, Rajesh Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan, Jeetendra, Rajinikanth, Rishi Kapoor while casting lecherous eyes on Hema Malini, Nutan, Asha Parekh, Saira Bano, Sharmila Tagore, Dimple Kapadia, Rekha... to mention a few.

And then shifting to roles more positive - and in line with his advanced years, he worked a newer generation - or many cases second or even third generation of his former co-stars - including Bobby Deol, Abhishek Bachchan, Hrithik Roshan, Saif Ali Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Kajol, both Karisma and Kareena Kapoor, Preity Zinta, Twinkle Khanna and Sonam Kapoor - a record unlikely to be surpassed!

But establishing himself in Bollywood was not easy.

As he recalls in this biography by his daughter Rakita Nanda, his wish to try his luck in films - when he was waiting his graduation results in 1955 - failed to impress his parents and his initial foray to Bombay the same year was unsuccessful.

It was not till 1960 that he was emboldened to return to Bombay and films - but on the advice of his father, searched first for a job to sustain himself, eventually landing up as supervisor in Times of India's circulation department.

His first appearance as hero was in Chaud-

hary Karnail Singh (1960) - a Punjabi film - and though some small roles came his way, a break was still far off. Legendary director Mehboob Khan offered him an important role in his next film but the project was delayed due to his illness.

Meanwhile, Chopra accepted a small but villainous role in Manoj Kumar starrer Woh Kaun Thi (1964) and its success sealed his fate.

After the film's premiere, an angry Mehboob Khan chided him for his impatience, prophesying he would now be labelled a villain. Chopra met Filmistan studio chief Tolaram Jalan but his right-hand man Bakshi advised him that if he wanted to be a popular actor, to make money, to have a house and a car, he should forget being a hero and continue as a villain.

Thus was born one of the abiding screen presences of Bollywood - an actor who invented and re-invented himself as villain, interpreting each role with subtle nuances.

The real-life Chopra is a far cry from his reel-life persona. All his colleagues testify to his warm and considerate nature, his humour and above all, his professionalism. Also his poetic skills that led Dharmendra to dub him "Prem Awaargi".

This is well brought out in the biography, based by Nanda on a series of interviews with her father and reminiscences of various on-screen colleagues - old and new. She writes she chose the first person device as the "best way to put his story across would be as if he was narrating it in his own way".

A mix of chronological and thematic approaches, it gives a nuanced portrait of Chopra - both at work and at home - the latter including the tough task of explaining to his young daughters why he is evil onscreen and gets beaten up or even killed.

It includes his insightful views on portrayal of villainy and his experiences of rape - the simulated, onscreen version he became notorious for. But simply as a view of Bollywood over the years, the book makes for a most absorbing and enthralling read.

POET OF MONTH Tarfia Faizullah

Tarfia Faizullah is the author of Seam (Southern Illinois University Press, 2014), winner of the 2012 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award. Her poems appear in Ploughshares, The Missouri Review, The Southern Review, Massachusetts Review, Ninth Letter, New England Review, Washington Square, and elsewhere. A Kundiman fellow, she received her MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and is the recipient of an AWP Intro Journals Project Award, a Ploughshares Cohen Award, a Fulbright Fellowship, a Copper Nickel Poetry Prize, a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Prize, scholarships from Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and Sewanee Writers' Conference, fellowships from the Kenyon Review Writers' Workshop and Vermont Studio Center, and other honors.



En Route to Bangladesh, Another Crisis of Faith
 —at Dubai International Airport and ending with a line by César Valléjo

Because I must walk
 through the eye-shaped
 shadows cast by these
 curved gold leaves thick
 atop each constructed
 palm tree past displays
 of silk scarves, lit
 silhouettes of blue-bottled
 perfume—because
 I grip, as though for the first
 time, a paper bag
 of french fries from McDonald's,
 & lick, from each fingertip,
 the fat and salt as I stand alone
 to the side of this moving
 walkway gliding me past dark-
 eyed men who do not look
 away when I stare squarely
 back—because standing
 in line to the restroom I want
 only to pluck from her
 black sweater this one shimmering
 blond hair clinging fast—
 because I must rest the Coke, cold
 in my hand, beside this
 toilet seat warmed by her thighs,
 her thighs, & hers.
 Here, at the narrow mouth
 of this long, humid
 corridor leading to the plane,
 I take my place among
 this damp, dark horde of men
 & women who look like me—
 because I look like them—
 because I am ashamed
 of their bodies that reek so
 unabashedly of body—
 because I can—because I am
 an American, a star
 of blood on the surface of muscle.

Film Review **Kaanchi's** old school vibe fails to keep audience hooked, tests patience

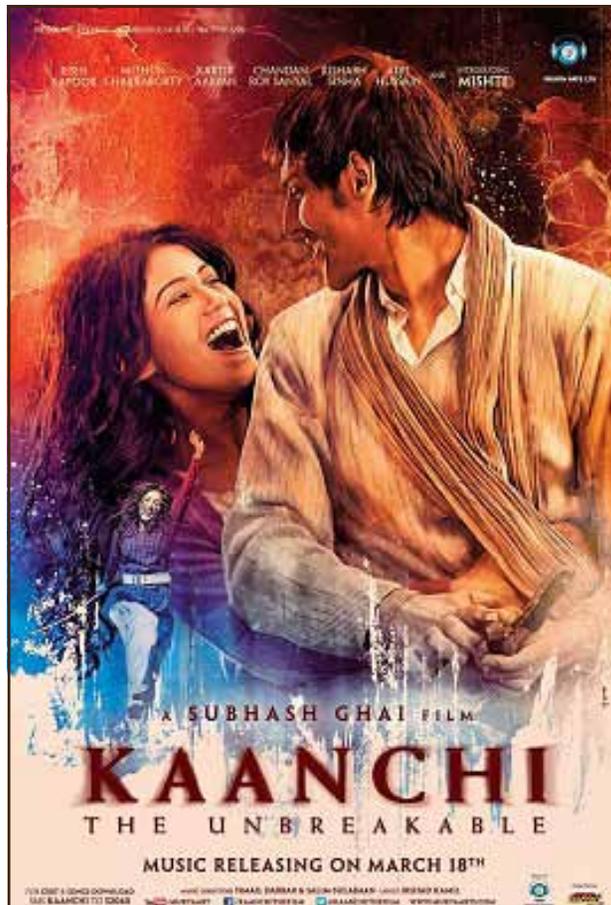
Taking us back to the 90's, veteran film maker Subhash Ghai attempts to use the same formula that made films of that era work. Unfortunately in 2014, long drawn conversations, over the top loud costumes, characters that screech and scream to express emotions don't hold any ground. In a time when less is more, Ghai's story of Kaanchi (Mishti) a girl wanting to bring in social reform by seeking revenge for the wrong that has been done to her seems very out of place. Her journey from a small village up north to the hustle and bustle of Mumbai seems abrupt and the love story that seemed to have an interesting premise gets nipped in its bud early on.

Film Review
Director: Subhash Ghai
Rating: **

Ghai then uses vigil marches, corrupt politicians, and unrest among the youth to somehow try and make the subject look relevant. The attempt misses the bullseye by miles!

What's hot

There is an old school vibe to the film, which might seem refreshing in a time when even close ups are digitally enhanced. Kaanchi and Bindu's (Karthik Tiwari) pairing is fresh and the two manage to create some sizzle in their romantic scenes. Cinematography captures the lush locales, especially in the Sab Kuch songs which has been picturised beautifully. Among the cast Chandan Roy Sanyal comes as pleasant surprise in a badly written yet colorful role of an untrustworthy and unpredictable police officer. Mishti is no Madhuri Dixit or Manisha Koirala, yet she shows promise in the playful scenes and has potential to work on her diction and delivery to give a better performance next time. Karthik too is likeable and plays his character with the right boy



next door meets loverboy charm.

What's not

Kaanchi's biggest flaw it fails to adapt to the changed sensibilities of today's viewer. In an effort to paint a grand picture it misses on the minor details. Naming characters Kakda and Bagola sounds very primitive. Even though the story is set in a quaint

town in the valleys, the characters of this place have loud jarring personalities that do nothing to make the plot believable. It's too long, with songs that pop out of nowhere and dialogues that sound like lines you would hear from a 90's TV show. Rishi Kapoor and Mithun are wasted in caricatures they would want to forget having ever played. Mishti's make up is as uneven as her diction. She screams and screeches every time she wants to make a point! The Kambal ke Neeche song is a sad attempt on Ghai's behalf to remind us of his legacy and getting Mahima Choudhary to make that cameo makes it look even worse. Writing is shoddy and the editing in the second half looks like a bad cut paste job. Just when you think the climax is about to wrap up its business, the film breaks into a patriotic song that tests our patience beyond limit. Had the story been a revenge drama with some element of thrill, Kaanchi might have had a different end.

What to do

Standing out like a sore thumb in today's crowd of smartly written scripts and performance driven films, Kaanchi struggles to make her own identity.



'2 States' continues to be favourite of audiences

Arjun Kapoor and Alia Bhatt-starrer "2 States" is in its second week and it has raked in about Rs.70 crore at the domestic box office. Close on its heels is "Revolver Rani", which came out this weekend.

"Samrat & Co." and Subhash Ghai's "Kaanchi" haven't struck the right chord yet.

According to sources, "2 States", which released April 18, has earned Rs.69.83 crore net in the country.

Based on a bestseller by author Chetan Bhagat, it is directed by first-timer Abhishek Varman.

"2 States" is still leading. Among the new releases, 'Revolver Rani' is doing the best. It has minted approximately



Rs.3.25 crore in two days. 'Kaanchi' has collected about Rs.1.25 crore and 'Samrat & Co.' must have earned not more than Rs.50 lakh," Rajesh Thada-

ni of Multimedia Combines told IANS.

Though Kangana Ranaut-starrer "Revolver Rani" has done relatively better than the other two films that

released April 25, the movie's performance at the box-office is not as good as her previous film "Queen".

"The buzz wasn't that great. Even the songs are not good and promotions didn't create much hype," said Thadani.

Tagged as a "complete B-grade entertainment" by its producer Tigmanshu Dhulia, the film presents Kangana shooting guns and acting more like a male hero.

While "Samrat & Co." shows Rajeev Khandelwal as an investigator in the detective movie, women empowerment-based "Kaanchi" is Ghai's directorial after six years.

'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', Farhan Akhtar, Deepika Padukone win big awards at IIFA 2014

Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', a biopic on legendary athlete Milkha Singh, has become the top prize winner at the 15th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards, taking home five major honours including best actor, best director and best picture.

Farhan Akhtar, 40, who hosted the ceremony with Shahid Kapoor, bagged the best actor trophy for his powerful portrayal of Singh in the sports drama.

Deepika Padukone, 28, nominated in the best actress category for three of her films, won the award for 'Chennai Express'.

The Flying Sikh, who attended the awards gala, got a standing ovation as the biopic on his life received the best picture honour.

Director Mehra handed him the award, saying, "I don't deserve this."

Milkha, who was actively involved during the filming of the biopic, got emotional and said, "I am thankful to IIFA for bringing me here and giving me respect. I have cried three-four times in my life... Whenever I see the film I cry.

When I was sitting here now I was in tears seeing the love and recognition the film got."

'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' also won in the best story category along with best supporting actress for Divya Dutta, who played the role of Milkha's sister.

Deepika's 'Ram-Leela' co-star Ranveer Singh handed her the best actress award for her



performance in Rohit Shetty's blockbuster.

"2013 was a lucky year for me and I think I have proved 13 is not an unlucky number. I thank my parents as they allowed me to pursue my dream. I left home with one suitcase when I was 18-year-old. I think I have a long way to go but I do feel I am on the right path," Deepika said after receiving the award.

Deepika was also honoured with the best entertainer of the year award, which was handed to her by Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey.

Kangana Ranaut: Sonam Kapoor needs to get her facts right!



Sonam Kapoor's statement on the recently-concluded Koffee With Karan Season 4 has got her backlash from the most unexpected quarter. Kangana Ranaut, who hasn't seen the episode recently heard that B-town's fashionista said in the episode, "If you're not good looking, they think you are a good actor. Just because you look ordinary and you talk loud doesn't mean you're a good actor." While many in B-town who consider themselves good actors (everyone does) were miffed with this statement, it is only Kangana who had reacted strongly to it.

Kangana says, "Sonam has said that people who act well are ugly, I have heard. So, do I get the crown of the ugliest person? Because after watching Queen, people have been telling me that I act really well. So according to Sonam, I am the ugliest actor in Bollywood today. And well, I accept that with all the gratitude and humbleness."

Kangana goes on to say that it's high time that Hindi films have real people on the screen, "I feel that Sonam really needs to get her facts right about acting. Actors aren't models. It's a different technique to convey expressions and emotions and it has got nothing to do with the looks. And we should have a variety of actors just for the sake of casting. We don't have right casting in our country. It's high time we get rid of this six-pack brigade and glamorous looking people. We should get real people in because the stories we show on-screen are about real people. And that's how the movies will be genuine and heartfelt. Story telling needs to get honest." That's not all. Kangy also held Sonam responsible for our cinema not being so genuine today. "If at all our cinema is not good today, people like Sonam should be held responsible. There are people out there, who might not fit into that Vogue kind of space, but they have all the right to be an actor," she adds.

Kangana is completely in her Revolver Rani avatar, and she is firing away from her mouth!

"Actors aren't models. It's a different technique to convey expressions and emotions and it has got nothing to do with the looks. And we should have a variety of actors just for the sake of casting. We don't have right casting in our country. It's high time we get rid of this six-pack brigade and glamorous looking people"

Gurmeet Choudhary bags a three-film deal with Vishesh Films

Gurmeet Choudhary is the latest TV actor to make the big leap to films. The actor, who has been talking about making a Bollywood debut, has been signed by Vishesh films. Gurmeet has bagged a three-film deal with the banner that has snapped several TV actors including Karan Kundra and Jay Bhanushali among others. Says Gurmeet, "I am very happy and excited with my role. The Bhatts have successfully launched so many actors till date.

Mukeshji and Mahesh Bhatt are guiding me like a family. I am not at liberty to talk about the projects but I am sure the audience will approve of my choice." The actor best remembered for his roles as Maan in Geet Hui



Sabse Parayi and Yash in Punarvivaah had showcased his dancing skills in Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 5 which he had won. He is currently seen in Khatron Ke Khiladi 5 with

wife Debina Bonnerjee. For the last one year, there have been speculations about Gurmeet's Bollywood entry, the film-deal puts a rest to it.

Chai with... Artian and Prakash Shah of Khaana Khazaana

Article by Deepa Walia, Interview by Manju Walia
April, 2014

This month, Asia Today, had an interview that was filled with discussions about such amazing food that I am sure it will make your mouth water as you read this, just as it did for us when we were having these conversations. Arti and Prakash Shah of KhaanaKhazana spared some time to talk to us about their restaurant endeavor and passion.

Arti, originally from Gujrat, India is an engineer by trade who feels she is in the wrong industry because cooking and food are her true passion. Having over 450+ recipes, she is entertaining the idea of writing a recipe book in the future. Arti, who is the main chef and the magic behind the scenes of the success of KhaanaKhazana, believes her extremely supportive husband, without whom she cannot imagine even starting a day, and two children are the reason behind her success. Both children, Sameer and Simi, are studying pre-med in Tucson, Arizona but do not miss an opportunity to come home and help their parents when it is needed. Even though she has a fast-moving, jam packed life with taking care of her family, her career as an engineer, and her passionate endeavor as a Chef, she is extremely happy and satisfied with her full plate of duties.

Prakash, originally from Rajasthan, India, is the man behind the unique customer service this environment offers. The mentality behind the service is simple – treat the customers as guests that are coming to their home. As Arti works her magic in the kitchen, Prakash dutifully takes notes



to remember each customer's names and likings so he can greet them by name and recollect their orders before they even say a word, making the customers feel very much at home. As wonderful as he is at taking care of the customers, once the food arrives and the customers taste it, many want a glimpse of the Chef herself and will ask Arti to come out and praise her food. Arti recently recollected an incident where a family of 12, including grandparents, came in during a weekend. The grandfather especially called her out to say how amazing the food was and how his wife used to cook like that and he hasn't had food like this in a very long

time, filling Arti's heart with joy.

A well-matched pair where Prakash loves to eat and Arti loves to cook, Arti further developed and nurtured her skillset after meeting him. Specialized in cooking Gujrat food, she took on the initiative to learn Rajasthani food to please Prakash.

And now due to this, and many other educational endeavors, KhaanaKhazaana's specialties include a special KhaanaKhazaanaThali, a RajasthaniThali, and a KatiawadiThali from Gujrat. In addition, they also specialize in specialty items such as Chaats, Indo-Chinese, Milk Shakes like their infamous Dry Fruit Milk Shake

and Cheeku Milk Shake, Bengali sweets, and home-made ice creams. While all these items can be found at their restaurant, they also provide catering for groups starting from 25 up to 1,000 people. For more information, please visit KhaanaKhazaana's website at <http://www.khaanakhazanaaz.com/>, visit them at 4929 W Chandler Blvd, Chandler, Arizona, or call them at 480/893-0030.

Asia Today is grateful to Arti and Prakash for their time and encourages all their readers to pay them a visit. We wish them, their beautiful family, and extraordinary restaurant much success in all their future endeavors.



After AAP caves in, will 'Modi Waves' win?

The sweeping act of the AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) has ultimately left the Delhites weeping! For most of us, an honest party winning at the local level came as a pleasant surprise, and little did many of us believe it to be a tall order for the aam aadmis to sustain this power unless it was the supporting party's withdrawal folly. And then, the folly took a backseat, but this tall order became evident when the bade babus of the Aam Aadmi Party decided to end their apparent fiasco over the non-passage of Janlokpai Bill owing to its non-constitutionalism, and remained oblivious to the fact that contesting the matter in the Supreme court of India could have been one of the more appropriate and wiser decisions as echoed by many. Mr. Kejriwal recently admitted that it was a wrongly made unilateral decision unlike his previous rendezvous with the people before coming to power but also justified it as a sacrifice which the people could not comprehend. And speaking of the current national elections, the pre-polls have showed high favorability statistics for the BJP in the Lok Sabha, and once again, all eyes are hooked on the strongest contender for the office of the Prime Minister.

In Rajat Sharma's Aap Ki Adalat Television show, the support for Mr. Narendra Modi was conspicuous from the applauds and chants of the informal audience amidst more humorous quotes read by Mr. Sharma that are circulating in the social media such as these

'Twinkle Twinkle little star, ab ki baar Modi Sarkar'
Rahul Gandhi ne khaayi chocolate baar, ab ki baar aayegi Modi Sarkar

Paratho ke saath khaao achar, ab ki baar Modi Sarkar.

Dil ki bhavar kare pukar, ab ki baar Modi Sarkar
When Sonia Gandhi tells Mr. Manmohan Singh, Ab to apna maun thod do sardar, to which PM Manmohan Singh says, ab ki baar Modi Sarkar.

Last, but not least another text goes, Bhaayiyo



mat maro chaata baar baar, ab ki baar Modi Sarkaar.

On a more serious note, Modi is the current chief minister of Gujarat and contesting from two seats, Vadodara, Gujarat and Varanasi, UP. He is a member of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS - National Volunteer Association), and was a key strategist in the 95 and 98 Gujarat State Election Campaigns. He forayed into politics in 2001-02 as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, and in 2007 became the longest serving Chief Minister in the history of Gujarat. Since then, Modi has emerged as a crowd puller in terms of delivering both passionate speeches and economic policies. Gujarat under Modi's government is believed to have made huge strides in the economic arena and is debated as being a potential center stage model for India's growth and development.

In keeping with the above rhetoric, here are some statistical excerpts from the Financial Express newspaper about Gujarat's performance under Narendra Modi from 2001-02 until the last fiscal.

Gujarat has done well in agricultural production from 9000 crores to 1,12,000 crores. The milk production has gone up from 58.76 lakhs metric tonne to 103.15 lakh metric tonne.

School dropout rates from grades one to five went down from 20.50% to 2.07%. It was interesting to uncover one of the 2004 interviews of Modi with the Editor in Chief of the Indian Express, Shekhar Gupta, in which Modi says he was appalled to know that the girl child's education in his state ranked 19th in the country, when other areas were doing pretty good comparatively. To resolve this, he says his government ensured they sent a team of 200 ministers and top officials to talk to people every year before the school reopened and hence 100% enrollment was achieved, and also a reduction in the dropout rate was encouraged through 'Vidya Lakshmi Bond'. Once enrolled, a bond of Rs.1000 would be given, and when the girl child completed seventh grade, the accumulated interest could be used for helping her complete

high school too. All these were in addition to providing free cycles to poor girls and 10 kilograms of free food grains to their families food grains. This is just one of the instances in which the Modi government has demonstrated a surefire plan for governance in Gujarat. Having highlighted for some of these performances, Modi is equally criticized for initiating and causing unrest in the state which is believed to have led to 2002 Gujarat communal violence. He was recently given a clean chit by the Supreme Court after the Special Investigation Team finished probing into the Godhra incident. In spite of the economic growth in Gujarat, poor numbers in the Human Development Index in terms of hunger and malnutrition, is another hugely criticized area in Modi's governance.

To sum it all up to suit the tastes of the 'Pro Modi' social media, all we can say is,
Jaldi hi pata chalegi Sir,
Ki Ab ki baar Hogi Modi Sarkar
Ya Phir wahi Intezaar!
-Deepa Badrinath



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Imphal's heritage trails: war memorials, airfields

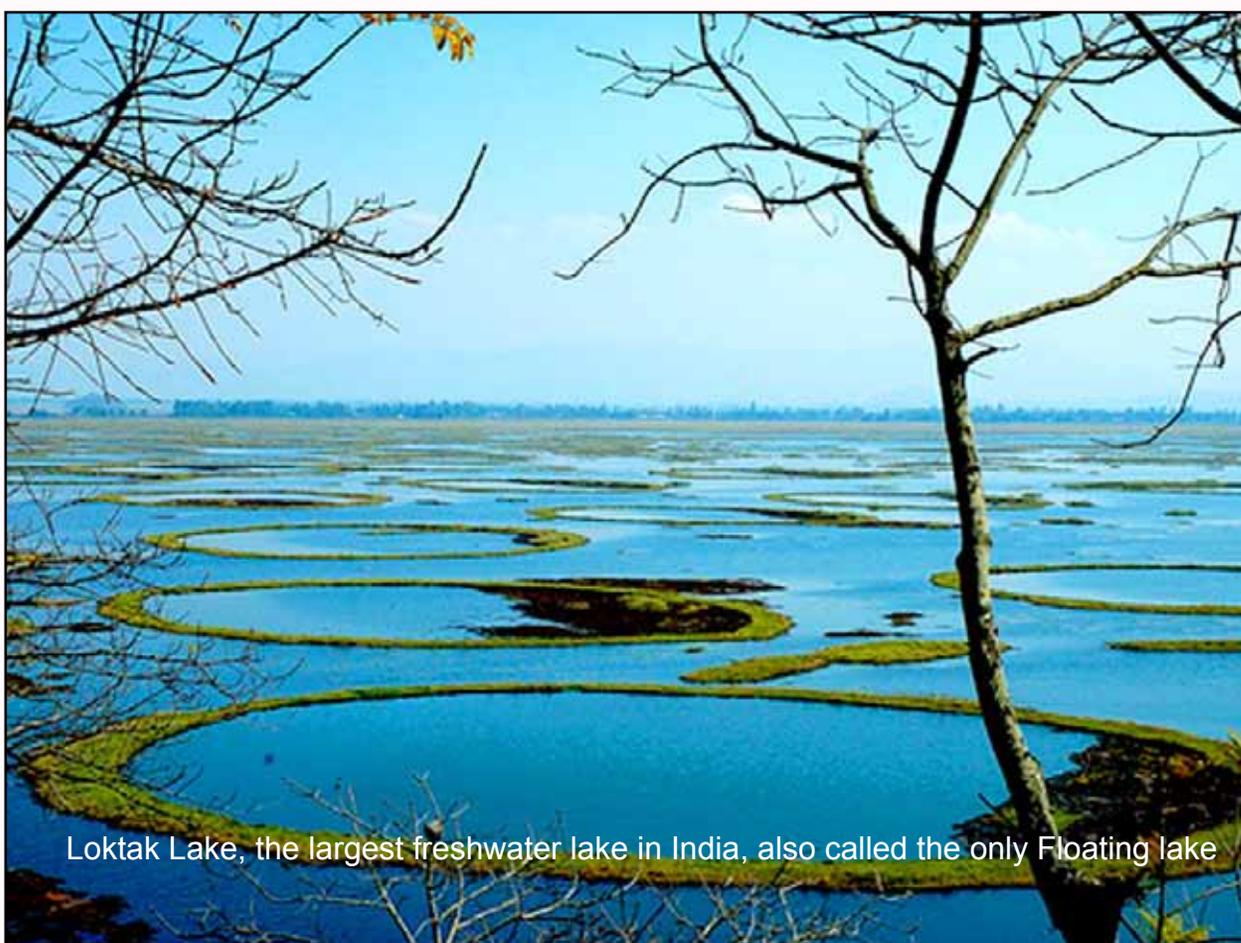
On March 8, the Battle of Imphal, which saw the United Kingdom and British India take on the Japanese and the Indian National Army (INA), completed 70 years.

Though there were heavy casualties on both sides, the British-led Allied forces emerged victorious in what is now considered as one of the turning points of the Second World War. So much so, that in April 2013, the National Army Museum in the United Kingdom named the Battle of Imphal, along with the one fought in Kohima, Nagaland, as the British Army's greatest battle.

Yet, in Imphal and other parts of Manipur, where this extraordinary conflict took place, memorials, museums and airfields dedicated to the bitter battle go unnoticed. We are the only visitors at the INA Memorial Complex at Moirang, where the in-charge is surprised to see people walking in. The India Peace Memorial, not too far from the complex, needs maintenance while the Japanese memorial just nearby could do with some sprucing up as well.

But for a state combating modern-day insurgency, along with other issues like an increasing feeling of alienation amongst the locals and rising unemployment, promoting tourism is the last thing on its mind. In 2004, The INA Memorial was damaged in an insurgent attack when the statue of the Springing Tiger at the entrance was blown up. Several monuments and temples still house soldiers from the armed forces, while others can be seen patrolling the city streets at night.

Yet, for tourists looking to commemorate this anniversary, there are activities planned till July, the month when the Allies emerged victorious in 1944. Some tour operators, like the Eastern Heritage Trails, are planning The Battle of Imphal tours that allow people to relive history. Visitors could head to



Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in India, also called the only Floating lake

the Khurai Thangjam Leikai Memorial, the site of an air bombing in April 1943, or visit the Koirengei Airfield, which was the most important of six airfields constructed in the Imphal Valley during the war.

Incidentally, the world will mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War in August 2014. Across the globe, millions will introspect

on the lessons learnt, relive the victory and reflect on the loss of human lives. Several will visit sites that were once battlegrounds and where history was written.

But unless we make it a point to celebrate it, the Battle of Imphal may just remain a chapter in history books.

Extreme travel ideas for daredevils in 2014

Adrenaline junkies looking for their next travel adventure may want to consider consulting a new list of extreme destinations for 2014 that includes bungee jumping into the belly of an active volcano in Chile and touring a war zone. The adventure travel ideas proposed by Cheapflights aren't for the faint-hearted. But they may set many a thrillseeker's heart aflutter with trips that span Fiji, Mexico, Africa, Oman and Bolivia.

Here's a selection of Cheapflights' adventure travel idea hotspots for 2014:

Volcano bungee jumping in Chile: This stunt involves jumping into the mouth of an active volcano from a helicopter, within 700 feet (213 meters) of molten lava, after which you stay suspended upside down traveling 130 km above the simmering crater.

Swim with the sharks in Fiji: On Beqa Island, divers plunge into the ocean and get to see sharks up close



and personal -- that is, without the protection of a cage. Divers can expect to meet largely harmless species like the Tawny Nurse Shark and Blacktip Reef Shark. But here's where the dive description may lose a few people: "The Bull Sharks and the Tiger Sharks how-

ever are clearly a class in their own. They are Apex Predators who grow to an impressive size and have a notorious reputation for attacking humans." Happy diving.

Cycling the Death Road in La Paz, Bolivia: It's been dubbed the

world's most dangerous road: a treacherous downhill stretch of 64 km that starts on snow-covered plains and descends to the Amazonian jungle. Oh, and it also includes a 3.6-km drop down a sheer cliff face.

Base jumping in Mexico: The Cave of Swallows is deep enough to house a high-rise building and has inspired kamikaze adrenaline junkies to jump into the belly of the earth with a parachute.

Tour a war zone: This one's for anyone who's ever dreamed of being a hard-hitting war correspondent or photojournalist from the trenches. War Zone Tours offers guided tours in areas of conflict and past war zones like Iraq, Beirut and Africa led by 'High Risk Environment Guides'.

Sandboarding in Oman: Desert sand dunes in parts of Oman can run as high 100 meters. Instead of snow, travelers hit the desert slopes with their boards, toboggans or quad bikes.

Quick tips: get pretty feet for summer

It's time to expose your feet! To help get your tootsies looking and feeling summer-ready, here are some quick tips to pamper your feet. This will ensure that whichever style of footwear you are flaunting, your immaculate feet will make you stand out.

1 Wash up daily

Summers are the time when you sweat a lot and so do your feet, thereby attracting a lot of dirt and dust. So make sure that before going to bed, you wash your feet thoroughly with cold water. This will clean off all the dust from your feet, and then scrub using a pumice stone.

2 Moisturise well

Use a good quality lotion or foot cream and make it your daily routine



to apply it on your feet, to get soft feet. But do not over-moisturise, especially between your toes, as it might cause fungal infection. You can even apply coconut oil on your feet and keep it overnight wearing a pair of cotton socks to wake up with beautiful and soft feet.

Also, it is essential to take care of chapped feet. To scrub away the dryness, soak your feet in a tub of warm water with a teaspoon of shea butter in it. This will leave your feet glowing and smooth.

3 Comfort over style

Opt for comfortable footwear and do not keep your feet tightly packed. Give them space to breathe by wearing breathable footwear, preferably made of mesh fabric.

Fitness tips: Fakhri on battling the bulges

Bored of working out at home or balking the long drive to your gym to shed some kilos? Just put on your

outdoor shoes and get set to battle the bulge under the blue skies.

All you need is a mat, a

bottle of water and a spot in the shade to begin your fitness session, believes actor Nargis Fakhri.

The Bollywood glam-bod actor swears by her outdoor fitness regime.

A self-confessed tennis and volleyball aficionado, she says, "I prefer outdoor activities over the gym any day."

The actor, who recently shot for Reebok's fitness campaign, is also a fan of quick exercises for people on the go.

"Yoga and stretching is

a must everyday first thing in the morning. Also, if you can just do anything for 30 minutes that's high on cardio to get your heart rate up, say dancing or a workout video, your entire day will change and you will continue to burn calories all day."

The 34 year-old also keeps a tab on her diet. "I try and monitor my diet as much as possible. But I also cheat, and treat myself!

I absolutely love chocolate!" says Fakhri, who also uses a special app that cal-

culates her calorie intake. "It helps me realise what I'm adding to my body. So, on the days I can't work out, I make sure to watch what I eat," she says.

For Fakhri, "fitness is not a fad, it's a lifestyle change".

What's her advice to those aiming to achieve fitness? "Be patient and work towards your goal to live happy and stay fit," says the actor, adding that there is no real substitute to working out. "It's like having breakfast. You can't do without it," she says.



NARGIS AND THE GUYS...

Nargis Fakhri with actor John Abraham (left) and cricketer MS Dhoni



(MS) Dhoni and John (Abraham) are so fit themselves. It motivates me. Watching them eat healthy while shooting with them was fun. I learnt that it is healthier to pack your own food. I shared almonds with John instead of feasting on chips

Nargis Fakhri, actor

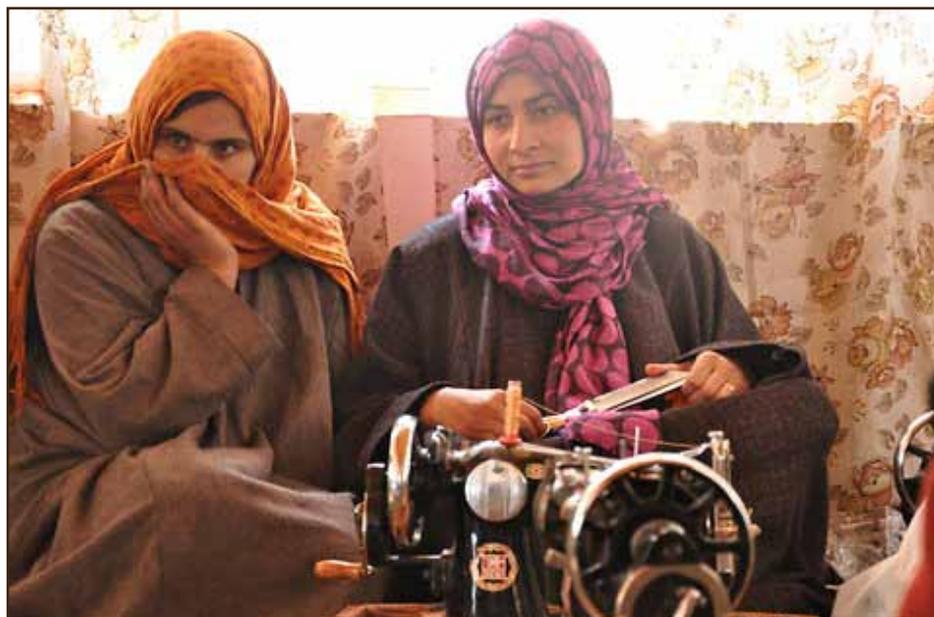
India Too Has Disabled People!

Several of the Dharmic faiths of this world have their roots and origins in India. India has given birth to many religious Gurus, prophets, mahatmas, saints, and philosophers as well as morally supreme men and women, many more than might have originated in the rest of the world. Over a period of time, several spiritual souls have guided not only the people of India but also the world about living a morally supreme and clean life. Their guidance has been acting like a beacon of spiritual life through the centuries. Yet, when it comes to the need of the people with disabilities, not many among the people of South Asia have taken to their advice or truly paid attention to the plight of the people with disabilities.

For one, the caste system, which many Indian people have been mired in, has blunted our sensitivity towards our fellow human beings. Our self-centered concerns limit our abilities and our imaginative flights to the needs of other. Our vision often doesn't cross and reach beyond where people with disability happen to reside, resulting in an attitude as if disabled people just don't exist. The government and the authorities that control the civic facilities are constituted and chosen by individuals who are like us with same kind of attitudes. Therefore, the habits of the people sitting on seats of authorities and their concerns for the disabled are likely to be limited, much like the people who have chosen and allowed them to occupy those seats in the first place.

In fact, people with disabilities in India and perhaps in other South Asian countries have not been given due consideration for the challenges they face each day. The resources for the people with disability unfortunately don't and perhaps will never match with their needs in that part of the world.

To prove the point, let us first consider the railway system of India which is owned and operated by the government of India. It is most prevalent, essential, and important mode of transportation for an average Indian citizen. As a result, this system has become one of the largest and busiest rail networks in the world and traverses much of the country. According to facts on Wikipedia, every day it transports approximately 20 million passengers and 2.5 million tons of freight to over



7000 stations across 65,000 km. Not only does it happen to be the common mode of travel, but for many it is the only form of transportation. Despite its capacity for moving large numbers of people and cargo, the railway system is not accessible to many travelers with physical inabilities or disabilities.

Since 1972, I must have made more than thirty trips back home to India. Every time I visited, I had an intense desire to travel within India by train but I was not able to fulfill my wish because of my physical disability. And yet obviously, I am not alone; there must be and there are significant numbers of people like me who couldn't utilize this mode of travel for similar reasons.

The first and the most important difficulty, that I and many other people like me encounter, becomes apparent right at the platform, when one has to cross the railway tracks to get to another platform via the overhead bridges. These bridges have good numbers of steps of stairs that require significant climbing. Individuals with difficulty in ambulation from one or the other cause cannot ascend that many steps. At least until several years ago, there never was a provision for a "lift" or an "elevator" on the railway platform. The escalators or "people movers" also didn't exist then in that part of the world save for few metros that could be counted on hand. A person with resources could take an alternative mode of travel but what about a large section of physically challenged residents of India who would have no other means? How do they get access to the train if it happens to stop on the opposite platform?

Even if a person with disabilities

is able to reach the right platform, the entry doors of the railway bogies or for that matter, even of the buses on the roadsides are intentionally kept high which makes an entry extremely difficult. A huge rush to get ahead of others in order to hold on to a scarcely available empty seat doesn't help the situation either. One could go on and on, but it is important to note that this complacency or negligence cannot be assigned to the government alone. Even on the social front, one could also come up with thousands and thousands of examples all over the country and in almost any and every field where the disabled and helpless individuals are found relegated to the bottom of society as if they just didn't exist.

Many historical religious sites of India despite their excellent income, have consistently failed in paying attention to the needs of the disabled. As a Sikh, I make it a point to pay a visit to Golden Temple during any and every opportunity I get to go to India. Those who have visited this shrine must have come to realize that over a period of time, the number of visitors has exponentially gone up. In order to reach the sanctum sanctorum one must circumambulate quite a distance around the Pool of Nectar in the walkway known as Parikarima (circum-ambulation). Imagine an elderly or disabled visitor who has difficulty getting from one place to another. How on Earth such a person will ever be able to walk through that long distance, especially when wheelchairs etc are looked down upon?

Should we simply ignore a disabled individual's need to visit such places?



Why should not the management of this most sacred and supreme shrine of the Sikhs provide relief to those who cannot walk, especially when there is no dearth of donations and when an access to technology doesn't infringe upon the prescribed religious codes? Why not install simple "people movers" for the use of disabled individuals having difficulty in ambulation in order for them to seek respite for getting around Parikarima (circum-ambulation) and have Darshan (spiritual visitation) inside rather than not entering in at all?

One might respond that these are not matters of much importance in a country teaming with billions where many other urgent issues are in dire need of attention. Indeed, India is a poor country compared to many countries in the West but does that mean that its disabled citizens should be ignored and made further helpless? Historically, even in advanced countries of the West, the laws for equal access to the disabled are not that old. In fact, close to a quarter of a century ago, there wasn't much concern about the disability issues even in many advanced countries of the world. But once mistakes were realized and laws were established, the countries and people of the West put their all efforts to make sure that deficiencies are corrected at the earliest.

To my own people, I wish to repeat once again this often heard statement, "It is never too late." Let us listen to the inner desires and needs of the helpless and disabled and attempt to grant them equal rights at least in the land of rishis, Gurus, mahatmas, and saints. This is the best way to seek their true blessings and ultimately achieve that highly sought-after salvation, rather than simply performing empty rituals and that too under the garb of religion.

*Author of 1. "Square Pegs, Round Holes" www.SquarePegsRoundHolesBook.com and 2. "Sikhism: Points to Ponder; Perspectives of a Sikh Living Abroad," as well as a recently published masterpiece about the cross-cultural dilemma of Indian subcontinent diaspora, 3. "One Coin, Two Sides," For details of the this new book, please go to the LINK <http://inkwellproductions.com/one-coin-two-sides.htm>

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