

SUBSCRIBE

SATURDAY • 28 MAY 2016

SEARCH

Outlook

THE FULLY LOADED MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE

THE WEBSITE

THE NEWSWIRE

facebook.com/Outlookindia | twitter.com/outlookindia | digimag.outlookindia.com | instagram.com/outlookindia | youtube.com/user/OutlookMagazine

THE WEBSITE

NATIONAL | INTERNATIONAL | BUSINESS | SPORT | ART & ENTERTAINMENT | BOOKS & CULTURE | SOCIETY

23 APRIL 2015 | NATIONAL | IMPRESSIONS

A Journey To The Other Punjab

If only the Kashmir imbroglio would end, India, Pakistan, as well as the two Punjabs would see tremendous growth benefiting everyone.

MANOHAR SINGH GILL



PHOTO - TRIBHUVAN TIWARI/OUTLOOK

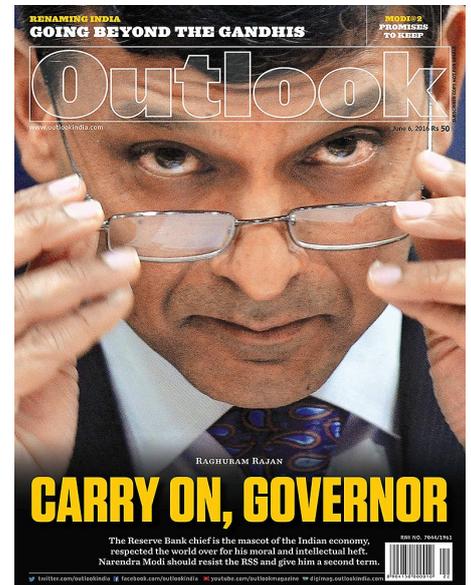
Mail | Print | Share

AAA INCREASE TEXT SIZE

On 18th August, 2014, the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan decided to confer on me an Honorary Doctorate for my work in Agriculture and Rural Development, in my Punjab, as Secretary, Agriculture India, as head of a huge programme of agricultural and rural development in Sokoto, Nigeria, and for my work and writings on our Punjab's Green Revolution. I could not



THE LATEST ISSUE



CLICK IMAGE FOR CONTENTS

PHOTO | NEWS | **BLOGS** | LATEST

- ◆ Baba Ramdev's Hairy Claims
- ◆ The Man Who Kept The Pink Panther "Alert"
- ◆ Selfies With A Dead-Duck Plane

go for the convocation and agreed to attend the 22nd Convocation of the University, on the 26th of March, 2015.

My wife and I, accompanied by Dr. Kaveri Gill crossed Wagah on the 24th of March. We went over only a few days after the Samba shootings on two separate days. I found little activity at the Attari integrated check post. There were only 200 trucks, mostly carrying vegetables. I found a similar number carrying cement and gypsum on the other side. The trade across the border is somnolent. Inside the elaborate new custom facility, I found many staff of every kind, and almost no passengers. I was told that at best about a hundred and fifty go across, and a similar number come over in a day. While we built a broad highway to the border, there is little economic activity on it, due to a half dead border crossing. On the other side too, Dograi remains the same, little rambling village, I saw after our unfortunate fight in 1965. Lahore has not expanded towards the border. The vast border check staff on both sides is a bored lot, yawning the whole day, and dying to have a passenger come by. Even the policemen, who stomp about at the evening's fake hostility, lounge about the whole day. Somehow, all the dialogues, high and low, front end and back channel, are invariably shadow boxing, bereft of any progress, towards good normal neighbourly relations.

In Lahore, we stayed at the British era Lahore Gymkhana. Funny enough, as a member of the Viceroy's Delhi Gymkhana, I can check in and stay there, as our mutual rights remain intact, never mind historical changes! The fact is, as I once said in Parliament, it was not the partition of India really, it was the Partition of the Punjab, total and brutal, and of Bengal. Even today, in states distant from Punjab, in the south or the east, people have little idea or interest, in the horrors of August, 1947 in the Punjab. We on the other hand continue to live that story. God forbid, if there is ever another fight, we in the Punjab will pay heavily.

The tensions that further developed in 1948, in Jammu and Kashmir, and continue today, have further impacted the Punjab, adversely. Numerous wars big and small, ensure that the Punjab remains in a frozen land locked corner. Industry was never encouraged in the Punjab, the border being the excuse, and now has logically moved away southwards closer to the ports and transport. Any Punjab products are taken in a circuit to Mumbai — Dubai and onto Pakistan at a higher profitable earning. The Punjab is bereft of any economic activity. The adverse result is known to all. If only the Kashmir imbroglio would end, India, Pakistan, as well as the two Punjabs would see tremendous growth benefiting everyone. Till then, our punishment continues.

In Lahore, I always visit the Lahore University of Management Sciences. It is an outstanding school, set up by Syed Baabar Ali,



- ◆ Trafu**ed In Delhi
- ◆ What Twitter Had to Say About Amma, Didi And Rahul
- ◆ Behind VK Singh's Fascination For Roads

MORE>>

OUTLOOK ON TWITTER

Tweets from

<https://twitter.com/Outlookindia/lists/outlookers>

POLLS



Are Liberal, 90%-Plus Marks Making Indians Dumb?

The results for ISC and CBSE class XII exams have just been announced and it seems that under both boards, the percentage of students scoring above 90% marks — regardless of stream — just keeps increasing with each year. And with that increases the cut-offs in Delhi University. Old-timers will recall that in their time a perfect score was only possible in Mathematics. So it is quite

who was a class fellow and friend of Harcharan Singh Brar, the former Punjab Chief Minister. The students, boys and girls and staff, quizzed me on every possible curiosity. I have never hesitated to answer. I had tea in the canteen, not in the Vice Chancellor's office, as I wanted to see how the students mix. I felt as if I was in JNU, with no gender oppression. In the evening, I saw the same, in the quadrangle with groups in easy, comfortable discussion.

The next day we travelled to Faisalabad, the Lyallpur of the British. It was the richest canal colony, heavily pioneered by Sikhs, and with a new well laid out district city, complete with a clock tower. At the end of March, I saw miles and miles of rich wheat fields. Our people lost them, and got little land of an inferior quality in the East, while those who went west became "land rich". I heard stories of people from Jalandhar, bastis, who had little land, grabbing hundreds of acres there. That is life. They are going to have a bumper harvest in the West, but unlike in the East, there is no minimum support price, nor any compulsory procurement. The Government will buy some grain, very likely that too from the Vadheras.

The tenants and the small farmers mostly live in mud villages, which have disappeared in the East. The big owners all live in Lahore, and spend the summers in London. I noticed that all these small farmers kept a large number of buffalos for milk. I was told that this milk is sold to Lahore, not through organised milk cooperatives, or privately owned milk units, but sadly, by milk vendors carrying brass milk pots on heavily laden motorcycles. I have a dream of visiting Jhang and the graves of Heer and Ranjha. Sadly, today's Ranjhas are reduced to selling milk on over-laden motorcycles. This is no way of encouraging a worthwhile milk production industry for the benefit of the farmers. The Amuls and Punjab Milk Federations Verka butters are unknown there.

The Agriculture University of Faisalabad, was started, as a small B.Sc. college in 1905 by Lord Curzon. Many of our stalwarts are from there, and the Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana was set up by the migratory staff of 1947. Today, Faisalabad is a comprehensive university, teaching all subjects, with an impressive campus on 500 acres, and with 20,000 students. What really struck me was the fact that 10,000 of these are girls, studying everything from agriculture to physics and chemistry, all the way to Ph.Ds. At the end of March, the University celebrates the coming of spring. We went around everywhere. Many girls were wearing 'Naqabs', but this did not surprise me. After all some Sikh girls too wear turbans; Hindu girls sometimes wear saffron in various ways. One should accept all. The girls, all of them were happy to talk to me. I simply saw no difference between the Faisalabad University and the Punjab University, Chandigarh. I

surprising to find students score 100 in Humanities subjects, especially in those where answers are necessarily subjective, like History or Sociology.

POLL STARTED ON: MAY 24, 2016

QUIZ



The Game Of Thrones Quiz

The super-popular HBO series *Game of Thrones* based on the fantasy novels by George R. R. Martin has achieved epic proportions, not just in terms of production but also in terms of fan following, making it an integral part of popular culture. Some of the world's most influential leaders count themselves among the fans of the show, including US President Barack Obama and the British Prime Minister David Cameron. Needless to say, its fandom is ranked as the most devoted, much ahead of Harry Potter and Star Wars. Take this ultimate GoT quiz to find out if you if you belong to the cult.

QUIZ STARTED ON: MAY 18, 2016

MOST VIEWED | MOST COMMENTED



- ◆ Conversations With Ten Successful Civil Service Candidates
- ◆ Behind The Italian Marines Deal
- ◆ "The Data Is Too Good To Be True"
- ◆ When Marriages Turn Sour

MORE>>>

just saw vibrant young people pursuing education and interacting freely. In my speeches last year, and this year, at the University, I expressed my happiness at the large number of girls pursuing higher education. I stated boldly, that these girls would carry Pakistan, to high levels of development and progress. I also said cheekily, that the girls would drag the boys too, to the heights of progress. 3,000 girls sitting there, cheered me on. I suppose they have never heard such a strong endorsement of their cause. My wife and Dr. Kaveri Gill had a separate meeting with a hundred odd ladies from the faculty and girl students, where they freely discussed, the problems of women in this world. They were most interested to know our experiences. Vinnie and Kaveri explained our ways, in a family of strong willed ladies, and me in a minority of one. My situation evoked great sympathy.

I gave away a Ph.D to a girl on the subject of water engineering. Later I quipped that we could use her services more than they. Actually, both Punjabs have water worries and both need a constant dialogue — between the two universities of Ludhiana and Faisalabad — to learn from each other, and find solutions to our common problems, of soil, water, water logging, salinity and many more. I would even urge an exchange of some students and staff for short term visits. Much will be learned and many closed doors of the mind will be opened.

On the Mall Road we visited the historic museum, where Kipling's father Lockwood worked. It has a remarkable collection of Buddhist relics, as well as fine miniatures. Kim's Zam Zama Cannon, actually 'Bhangian Di Tope', the gun last owned by the Bhangi Misl Sardars from Amritsar, stands in front of the Museum. I visited the Government College, Lahore, which is now a University. The British Gothic building is undergoing extensive repairs. At the Gymkhana, having breakfast one morning, I heard an elderly gentleman ordering a 'Pakistani Omelette'. I was surprised and asked him. He replied "Jee Saade Omelette Vich Rajj Ke Mirchan Paiyan Jandiyen Ne (Our omelettes are stuffed with chillies)". I ordered one too. I hope nobody here minds.

READ MORE IN:

AUTHORS: MANOHAR SINGH GILL

PLACES: PAKISTAN, PUNJAB

TAGS: EDUCATION, PARTITION 1947, INDO-PAK, INDO-PAK: PEOPLE

SECTION: NATIONAL

SUBSECTION: IMPRESSIONS

OUTLOOK 23 APRIL, 2015

DOWNLOAD THE OUTLOOK MAGAZINES APP. SIX MAGAZINES, WHEREVER YOU GO! [PLAY STORE](#) AND [APP STORE](#)

FROM OUTLOOK

FROM THE WEB

FROM WIRES



EDUCATION

Leave The Kids Alone

Harsh corporal punishment is contributing to high drop-out rates...

SOMA WADHWA

MORE FROM OUTLOOK>>>

OPINION

The Truth Beyond Modi's Degrees

There is a tendency by some people to snigger at s

ANOO BHUYAN

MORE FROM WEB>>>

AIIMS turf-war may hot up again

New Delhi, Jan 3 (PTI) The AIIMS turf-war is set t

MORE FROM WIRES>>>

POST A COMMENT

You are not logged in, please [Log in](#) or [Register](#)

DAILY MAIL

Nostalgic feelings of a retired old man about a place left behind is understandable. But his naive understanding of reality questions how he managed to perform as a senior bureaucrat.

When a group of people chooses to separate from others with almost similar cultural identity in the name of religion and fosters the communal hatred as justification of their difference there is never any hope for reconciliation. I also socialize with Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. And we are different in spite of the similarities.

APR 27, 2015 10:47 PM | DC, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

[REPLY](#) | [LIKE\(5\)](#) | [DISLIKE\(0\)](#) | [REPORT ABUSE](#)

Very interesting and very fair comment on Indo-Pak people to people relations.I was nostalgic about Mr Gill's wish to visit Heer Ranja Kabars.I enjoyed the annual Fair there around 1942 when I was about 5/6 years of age.

APR 27, 2015 05:31 AM | , ,

[REPLY](#) | [LIKE\(0\)](#) | [DISLIKE\(0\)](#) | [REPORT ABUSE](#)

Musings of an old man who wants to return to the mirage of the past sipping tea in Lahore.

the love and affection he saw is seen everyday as molten lead by our soldiers and civilians on the LOC.

I have lived with Pakistanis in the gulf for ten years there is too much hate sown in their blood.

Mr Gill Has done good in his life he should now retire in peace.

does he even know who controls Pakistan.its army needs conflict to exist.

APR 25, 2015 01:54 AM | , ,

[REPLY](#) | [LIKE\(8\)](#) | [DISLIKE\(1\)](#) | [REPORT ABUSE](#)

One and only one immutable truth stands.

Genocide of Hindus and Sikhs in W Pakistan , by muslims and Islam, from 22% of population in 1947 to 1% today.

(In startling MONUMENTAL contrast , muslims , not subject to government sponsored extermination, are now 15% of population, up from 8% in 1947).

Rest , is all fictional and fleeting.

APR 24, 2015 05:37 AM | , ,

[REPLY](#) | [LIKE\(11\)](#) | [DISLIKE\(1\)](#) | [REPORT ABUSE](#)

VARUN, ARUN :

Both of you are missing the point. If India joined Pakistan as one country all our problems

with terrorism would be solved. The terrorists would vanish because the Pakistanis would no longer need them. We would all be one and the same, brothers under one roof. No need to fight any more !

In Indian history until the Britishers spoilt it all Muslims were the best friends of the Hindus. Never was there a conflict.

Let us reunite with Pakistan and Bangladesh!

APR 23, 2015 06:54 PM | , ,

REPLY | LIKE(0) | DISLIKE(7) | REPORT ABUSE

Agree Varun. It would be "Alice in Wonderland" like to believe Pakistan actually wants a resolution to Kashmir. I would think it staying boiling suits them best (at least their Governing Class and Military establishment). And if by stroke of genius and luck, it is resolved without the "as-is-where-is" disturbed there will be something else. Even the much vaunted Mush-Vajpayee deal was short on how it achieved "as-is-where-is" and yet worked for both - so we never know except at the 60000-ft level that they came close to a deal.

Peace can come when economic inter-dependence is the topmost for the two countries, both countries actually give primacy to economy over anything else, both countries are matured and comfortable with themselves and their place in the "sun".

APR 23, 2015 06:16 PM | , ,

REPLY | LIKE(1) | DISLIKE(1) | REPORT ABUSE

"If only the Kashmir imbroglio were solved..."

Forget about it. Pakistan's ideology and behaviour has been totally discredited and denounced, for a very long time long time. I would contend that the ideology was shown up as obnoxious garbage, even before independence. What's been going on after that, including all the violence directed against India, is pure mendacity and slimeyness, to keep India occupied, and to prevent India's pluralistic, Indic ethos from influencing too many other countries.

Don't ever think that there's something legitimate and honourable about this whole so called "Kashmir imbroglio". Or about Pakistan itself.

APR 23, 2015 05:33 PM | , ,

REPLY | LIKE(5) | DISLIKE(1) | REPORT ABUSE

ABOUT US | CONTACT US | SUBSCRIBE | ADVERTISING RATES | COPYRIGHT & DISCLAIMER | COMMENTS POLICY

OUTLOOK TOPICS: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 or just type initial letters

Search with Lette

Go



HIMACHAL PRADESH: TI ...

The Dolanji Bon monastery at Solan, Himachal Pradesh, is the headquarters-in-exi ...

A SHORT HISTORY OF W ...

Waist packs have always been more about convenience than fashion



9 BEST WAYS TO CELEB ...

Here's a list presenting 9 superb ideas for a joyous summer birthday celebration

AUSTRALIA: GREAT OCE ...

Take the scenic route out of Melbourne—the Great Ocean Road; a highway that me ...



WEST BENGAL: THE FLO ...

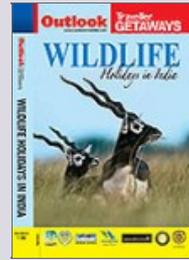
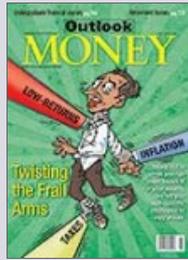
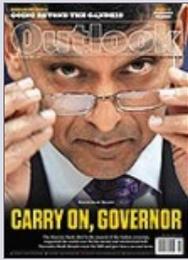
The colonial air at The Flower Patch Lodge in Kalimpong, West Bengal, brings out ...

HIMACHAL PRADESH: A ...

Nalagarh (less than 300km from Delhi), the gateway to Himachal Pradesh is perfec ...

OUTLOOK | TRAVELLER | BUSINESS | MONEY | HINDI

OUTLOOK PUBLICATIONS: CURRENT ISSUES



OUTLOOK: THE WEB EDITION

DAILY UPDATES

- WEB ARTICLES
- BLOGS
- PHOTOS
- NEWS

MAGAZINE

- CURRENT ISSUE
- BACK ISSUES
- SPECIAL ISSUES
- SUBSCRIBE PRINT EDITION
- SUBSCRIBE DIGITAL

INTERACTIVE

- LETTERS
- POLLS
- QUIZ

SECTIONS

- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
- BOOKS
- BUSINESS
- INTERNATIONAL
- NATIONAL
- SOCIETY
- SPORTS

FEATURES

- BOOK REVIEWS
- COVER STORIES
- DOCUMENTS
- ESSAYS
- EXTRACTS
- INTERVIEWS
- OPINIONS
- PORTRAITS
- PROFILES

REGULARS

- 10 QUESTIONS
- BIBLIOFILE
- BULL'S EYE
- DIARY
- GLITTERATI
- LETTERS
- POLSUTRA
- SECRET DIARY
- SHOW TIME

RESOURCES

- ARCHIVE
- AUTHORS
- LOG-IN
- REGISTRATION
- MOST POPULAR
- TOPICS: A-Z