

# COMMUNITY NEWS IN BRIEF



FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
High: 85 Low: 67	High: 84 Low: 65	High: 82 Low: 64	High: 81 Low: 67	High: 83 Low: 68	High: 82 Low: 70	High: 85 Low: 71

## Metropolitan Museum to inaugurate 'Global Museum Leaders Colloquium'

BY A STAFF WRITER

Thomas P. Campbell, Director and CEO of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, recently announced the spring 2014 launch of the Global Museum Leaders Colloquium, a two-week pilot program created and hosted by the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Designed to stimulate and broaden international dialogue on museum management and collections care among directors from collecting institutions, it will bring together 12-15 directors, in particular from museums in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The colloquium will take place April 7-18, 2014.

Mr. Campbell commented: "The Met was founded as an international museum 143 years ago, and this global approach is now reflected in our collections, programs, and audience. Given the breadth and depth of our holdings, it is our responsibility to encourage a dialogue that can benefit museums worldwide, one that reinforces their relevance and encourages their appropriate stewardship. The Global Museum Leaders Colloquium has been designed specifically to address a broad range of museum management issues, and we look forward to welcoming our colleagues to the Met next spring."

The program, organized by the Office of the Director at the Metropolitan Museum, will include directors of institutions with collections ranging from archaeological and historic artifacts to modern and contemporary art. Participants will be based at the Metropolitan, meeting with the Museum's curators, conservators, and administrative staff and also participating in intensive dialogues about museum management.

The series of sessions held during the 12 working days of the colloquium will offer an overview of various aspects of museum operations—from curatorial research, collections management, and conservation to fundraising, education, governance, and digital communications—providing a 360-degree view of current museum practices,



Global Museum Leaders Colloquium is a two-week pilot program created and hosted by the Metropolitan Museum in New York

using the Metropolitan Museum's experts and experience as a springboard for discussion. Site visits to cultural institutions in New York and Washington, D.C., will complement the program.

A significant portion of the schedule will also be set aside for open dialogue among the visiting directors, who will discuss strategic challenges facing their institutions and engage in workshops to explore timely issues confronting museums worldwide, such as how to formulate cooperative policies and how to advocate effectively for institutions at a time of scarce resources. In this way, the colloquium will function as a laboratory for crystallizing viable approaches to common challenges in museum leadership.

András Szántó, a museum analyst and writer on arts institutions, has advised the Metropolitan on the development of the Global Museum Leaders Colloquium and will serve as its moderator. "There is a surprising lack of opportunity for museum directors, especially from developing regions, to come together for a sustained exchange of ideas and

expertise, said Mr. Szántó. "This global colloquium will be such a forum. It is founded on the premise that, despite our cultural and economic differences, institutions and their leaders have much to learn from each other."

At a time when globalization is rapidly reshaping museum audiences as well as programming mandates, the colloquium has been created to promote strong, well-informed, culturally sensitive museum leadership. A key aim of the program will be enhanced international collaboration for all of the participating institutions and their leaders.

Participation in the Global Museum Leaders Colloquium is by invitation. Most participants will be museum directors, although in some cases the program will accept deputy directors or chief curators who have oversight responsibility for their institutions, as well as public officials with jurisdiction over museums.

The 2014 participants of the program will be announced by November of this year.

## Congress leader blasts BJP president for 'violating spirits of India's constitution'

BY A STAFF WRITER

Juned Qazi, president of Madhya Pradesh unit of Indian National Congress (I), who is vigorously campaigning for a Congress (I) ticket from Aligarh Lok Sabha constituency, strongly criticized Rajnath Singh, BJP president, for violating the secular spirit of India's constitution in speeches made in New Jersey.

Qazi, who recently returned from a whirlwind Bharat Nirman Sandesh tour of Aligarh, UP, criticized Singh for advocating 'Hindu nationalism and Hindutva' as a political strategy at a public reception hosted by 'Overseas Friends of BJP' in Edison, NJ on July 21, 2013.

In a strongly worded press release Qazi pointed out that people of India can't allow religion-based politics any more. "Such politics clearly violates the fundamental values of our nation upon which our constitution is based", he said.

"India is a secular country which clearly

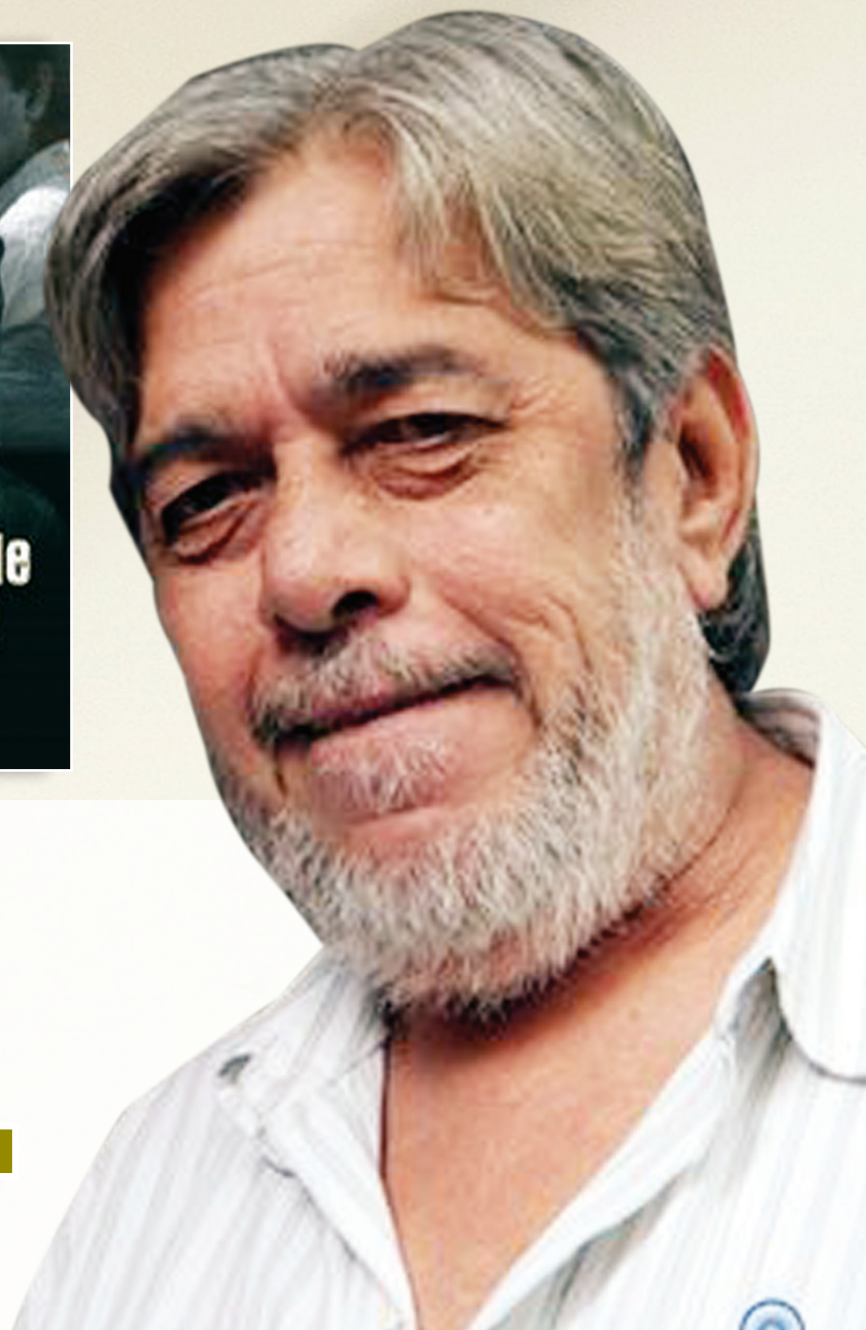
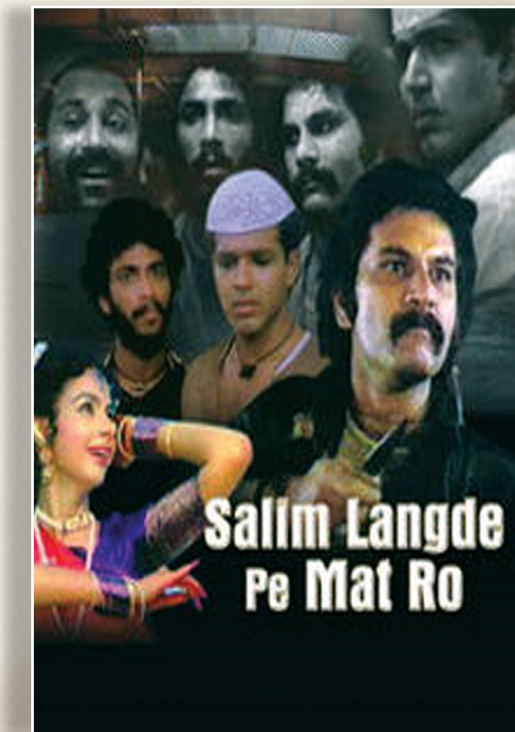
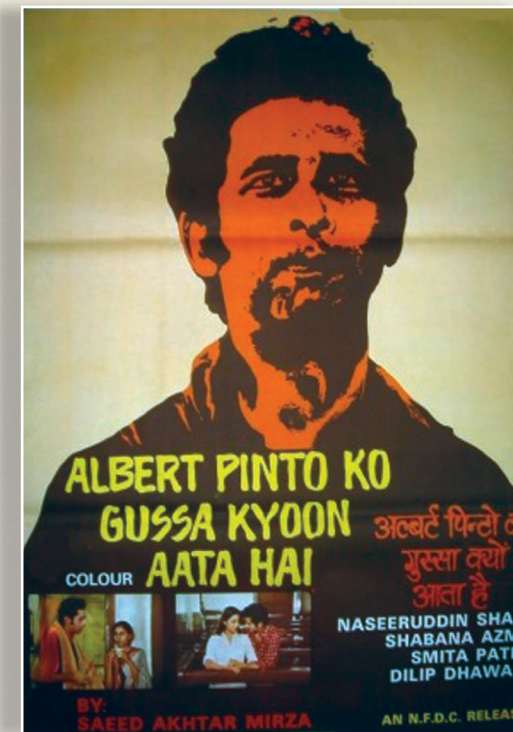


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states the establishment of a secular, socialist and democratic nation", Qazi said. "With its religion based politics, BJP is tempering with the secular nature of our constitution."

Qazi said that India is fortunate to have a very progressive and modern constitution, which is capable of taking the nation to new heights in 21st century. "We are a nation of young people who have no interest in promoting the bogey of religion for serving the political needs of outdated politicians. India's constitution was created under the leadership of visionaries such as Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar who wanted to build India as a strong nation based secular and democratic values", he pointed out.

"BJP is a narrow-minded party whose leaders foolishly mislead the people of India by dragging religion in politics", Qazi commented adding that BJP president Rajnath Singh spoke in USA as if he was speaking to people ignorant of outside world.



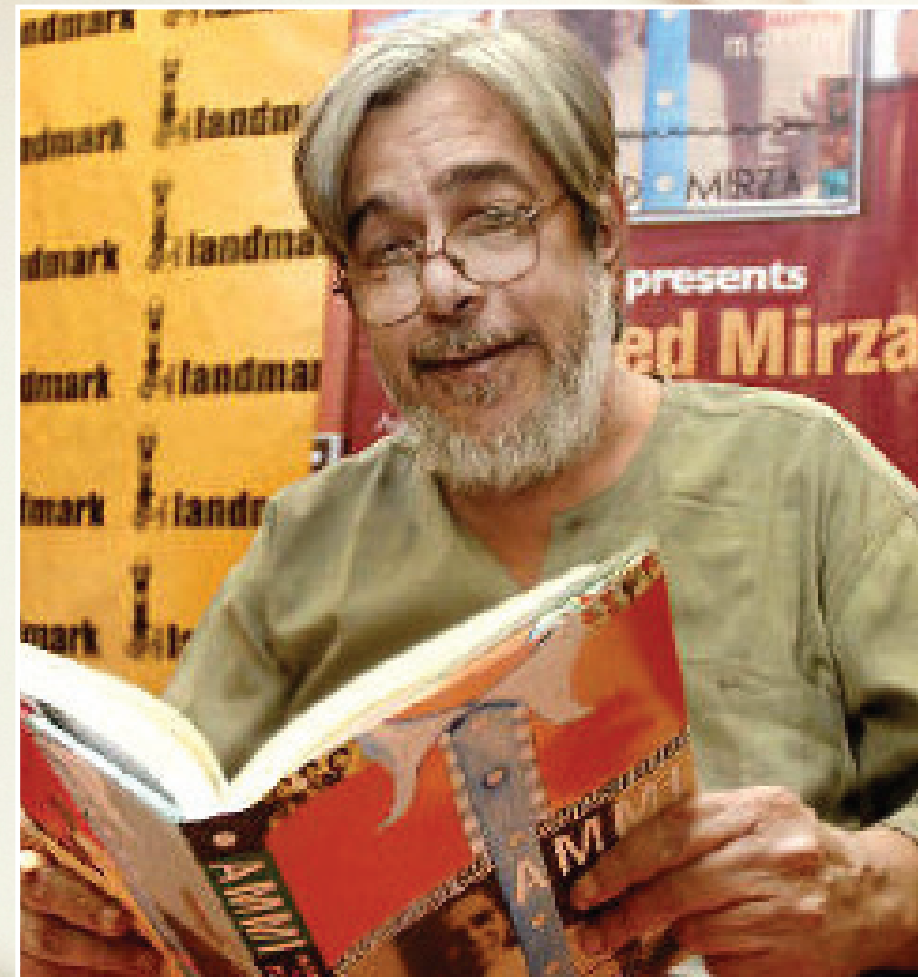
## SAEED AKHTAR MIRZA'S DEBUT NOVEL TO BE LAUNCHED IN NEW YORK CITY

BY BIDISHA ROY

The Indo-American Arts Council will launch Saeed Akhtar Mirza's book Ammi: Letter To A Democratic Mother on September 24th from 7-9 pm at the Aicon Gallery, 35 Great Jones Street, New York City. Saeed will read from his novel and then discuss the book and his experiences. He will be available for sale and signing. Ammi: Letter To A Democratic Mother is an autobiographical novel that brings pre-independence India to life in vivid detail.

Saeed Akhtar Mirza has been a film director, producer and author since the 1970's. Born into creative household, his father Akhtar Mirza, a noted and respected screenwriter in Bollywood with a Filmfare award to his name for his work work in Waqt, exposed him to Chinese, Urdu, Telegu, African and Latin American literature from an early age. Saeed credits this diverse, multicultural upbringing as a vital creative influence that helped him to breathe life into his stories and characters for both film and literature.

A graduate of St Xavier's College, Bombay University with a BA in



Economics and Political Science, Saeed went on to gain two diplomas in Advertising from the Bombay College of Marketing and Advertising and in Film Direction from the Film and TV Institute of India in Pune.

Saeed started out as a documentary filmmaker in the late 1970's and went on to produce several critically acclaimed works including: The Rickshaw Pullers of Jabalpur, which won the National Award for Best Documentary, The Third Voice, a movie about the Urdu poet Akhtar-ul-Iman and A Tryst With The People of India, a 16 part travelogue on the occasion of the 50th year of India's Independence.

After thoroughly exploring the art of documentary filmmaking, Mr. Mizra moved on to making feature films with his debut movie Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan (The Strange Fate of Arvind Desai) (1978). The film, about an idealistic youth and the ups and downs in his life, Om Puri gives a bravura performance as the title character's Marxist friend. The film won the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Movie.

His next effort, the groundbreaking Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyun Aata Hai (What Makes Albert Pinto Angry) (1980), which dramatized middle class

Saeed Mirza's vision of the world and his genre busting approach to story telling has been an inspiration to his legion of fans

life in 1970's Bombay, won Mr. Mirza his second Filmfare Critics Award for best movie, National Award for Best Film and was screened at several Indian and International film festivals including the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Saeed Mirza went on to win the National Award for Best Film for his next movies Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho (A Summons for Mohan Joshi) and Salim Langde Pe Math Ro (Don't Cry Salim The Lame) in 1984 and 1989 respectively.

Mr. Mizra has spent his career exploring every aspect story telling, and his influence stretches across the Indian creative landscape from the movie theatre to television and even the advertising industry. With the launch of his new book he is once again breaking into unexplored creative territory. The autobiographical story is told in the form of letters to his mother, who passed away from cancer, and has already garnered critical acclaim for its vivid depictions of pre independence India and Pakistan.