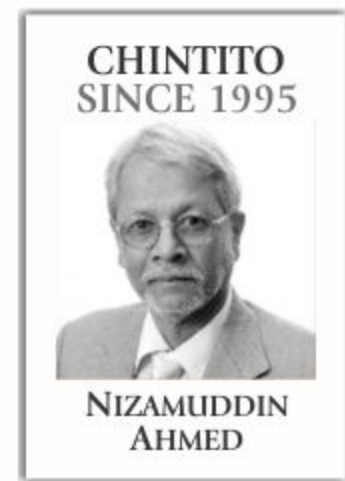


# Melania Trump for president



of the principle of electric charge conservation, Americans among other breakthroughs were first to discover petroleum jelly in 1859, propane in 1910, link between smoking and cancer in 1912, the planet Pluto in 1930, polio vaccine in 1952, DNA structure in 1953, Hepatitis B virus in 1964 and vaccine in 1976, the Rings of Uranus in 1977... the list never stopped.

They also "discovered" their country. How a continent that was already in existence with human habitation for centuries could again be found is a personal first for me. Then emerged George Washington, who not only was the first president of Uncle Sam, but the first of English descent; had to be. His great-grandfather had migrated to the new land mid-17th century.

For a mind-set that had its roots in 18th century slavery, the country of now 18 percent blacks took one hundred and fifty years since Abraham Lincoln, a vocal opponent of slavery, to elect a non-white president. Mind you, the American voters did not vouch for Obama because they were simply keen to see the first black man as their Supreme Commander. Michelle's charm, later climbing to rock star status, did help, and that gentleman Barrack would

readily agree. Attorney Obama would have won the 2009 race had he been Japanese, Icelandic or Fijian, pink or blue. He was an exceptional president and continues to glow in his unique personality, humble yet resolute, devoted family man but admired globally.

Former First Lady and lawyer Hilary Clinton almost made it as the first woman president but for the leaks at the crunch hour of the 2016 elections that, while serving as the Secretary of State earlier, she had unwittingly perhaps used her private server for official emails of sensitive and classified content; thus breaching departmental protocol. She would have been the first to reside in the White House in two different supreme roles. By the same coin, husband Bill was denied the ticket of becoming the "First Man" in the President's House.

In another first, Donald Trump's former personal attorney and fixer for nearly a decade Michael Cohen testified before a House Committee for eight hours early March and raised several issues implicating the president. The issues relate to the continuing investigations by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, which include Trump's business dealings, negotiations over the construction of a Trump Tower in Moscow during the 2016 campaign and his ties to Russia, hush money payments to women, his tax returns, insurance fraud, and possible obstruction of justice. Each or all of which are extremely damaging for an election candidate.

House Democrats, patient till now, "vowed to leave no stone unturned" and will sieve Cohen's statement for justification for further inquiry to pursue a challenge to the Trump administration, but Speaker of the US

House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D) is in denial mode about any reference to even thinking about Trump's possible impeachment.

The two-pronged trouble with attempted prosecution of the president is that the hullabaloo may dampen Trump's chances of his much-desired second term, or more worryingly for immigrants, the Mexican wall,

Hilary. In doing so Trump inadvertently (?) makes mockery of the most beautiful words uttered during the hearing. I would like to assert Mr President that there were a few other matters stated by his former lawyer and partner that were as true as he is the 45th head of the state.

While criticising the president as a racist, a conman and a cheat, Cohen was very sweet in a chivalrous way in stating



US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump during the Salute to Our Armed Services Inaugural Ball at the National Building Museum in Washington DC, January 20, 2017.

PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP

worldwide tariff war, acrimony with Europe, and love-hate with North Korea, among others, it may boost favourably his stake for 2020 for the self-proclaimed "most popular Republican President ever".

Last month, Trump asserted that in Cohen's congressional hearing, the only single truth was that there was no Russian collusion in his victory over

that the First Lady was "...a kind, good person" and greatly respected by him.

To her credit, she remained the loyal wife during all those claims by different women about their alleged cosy relationship with Donald and his handling of affairs. The First Lady did not utter a single word to fuel the fire and in reply to journalists after Cohen's congressional testimony, she brushed

them off by saying, "It is not a concern and focus of mine". The hounding media therefore could not print a Melania quote to add fuel to the fire. Sometimes women do that when they are upset and want to teach the husband a good lesson.

It is no secret that Donald Trump wants another term in office. While his popularity has not been great with 53 percent disapproval rating and dipping, and although the US elections are a different ball game, sceptics want to believe that despite the dollar's Yo-Yo performance and commendable low employment records, he will not make it.

The GOP's best option is to nominate Melania Trump as its candidate for the 46th presidency. For a nation swooning over "firsts", it will have the first woman, the first First Lady, the first non-native Slovenian-born and the first naturalised US citizen as president.

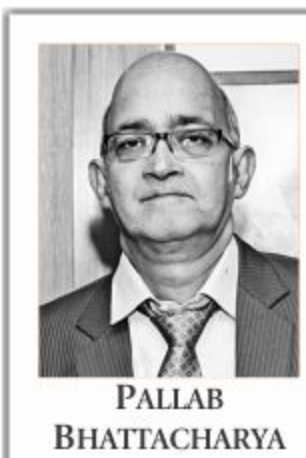
Assuming Melania's personality, aura and charm, and good housewife image will see her stave off Democratic opponents, fears remain about Donald's backseat driving and claim that she won because of his fantastic work as Commander-in-Chief. I can see Melania again shrugging off his hand at her own installation ceremony on Capitol Hill at the eastern end of the National Mall in Washington.

As for Donald, he can continue to reside in the White House, another fulfilment of his many desires, but more importantly he could become the first First Man.

The world is again peaceful.

Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed is a practising architect, a Commonwealth Scholar and a Fellow, a Baden-Powell Fellow Scout Leader, and a Major Donor Rotarian.

# Wooing women voters in poll-time India



THREE separate announcements in quick succession by bachelor Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee on

March 10 and 11 regarding the number of nominations given or proposed to be given to women in the forthcoming Indian parliamentary elections have brought one of most crucial segments of India's nearly 900-million strong electorate into the spotlight. On March 10, Patnaik said his party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) would reserve 33 percent of the total 21 parliamentary seats in Odisha for women. Two days later, Mamata Banerjee went a step farther and came out by nominating 41 percent women as her party Trinamool Congress' candidates for the total of 42 seats in West Bengal. Not to be outdone, Congress Party President Rahul Gandhi, during his interactions with students of a women's college in Chennai on March 13, said his party, if voted back to power, would pass a constitution amendment Bill to reserve 33 percent of seats for women not only in parliament and state legislatures, but the same quantum of quota for them in federal government jobs.

Naveen Patnaik's popularity among women voters is one of the key reasons attributed to his party's uninterrupted rule in Odisha for the last two decades. It was he who was behind the passage of a resolution in the state assembly recommending 33 percent of seats be reserved for women in parliament and state assemblies. It was Naveen's father Biju Patnaik as Chief Minister who had brought in 33 percent reservation for women in the three-tier panchayat

administration in the state several years ago. Naveen Patnaik as Chief Minister took forward his father's legacy by increasing that quota to 50 percent in 2012. But interestingly, Naveen is yet to specify if his promise of reserving 33 percent of the BJD's nomination would be extended to state assembly elections which would be held along with the coming parliamentary polls.

Parties can ill afford to ignore the

biddat) was to secure gender justice for Muslim women.

There are strong reasons why parties are rushing for women voters. The number of India's women voters for the coming national elections has registered an increase from 47 percent in the previous such exercise five years ago to 48.13 per cent this time around. Out of the total of nearly 90 crore voters eligible to exercise their franchise in the

turnout of men (67 percent) and women (66 percent) in 2014 when the overall voters' turn-out was pegged at 66 percent.

While most of the political parties publicly speak in favour of women's quota in legislatures, ironically the Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill to implement 33 percent reservation for women in parliament and state legislatures has somehow or the other,



PHOTO: PTI

The number of India's women voters for the coming national elections has registered an increase from 47 percent in the previous such exercise five years ago to 48.13 per cent this time around.

women voters. In fact, all political parties are vying with each other to woo women voters. The thrust of many of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government social welfare schemes Swaach India (cleanliness and an end to open defecation), Ujjwala Yojana (cooking gas cylinder supply), Maatru Vandana Yojana and Awaas Yojana (housing project) is aimed for women. The Bharatiya Janata Party declared that the objective of its the Bill to criminalise instant triple talaq (talaq-e-

parliamentary elections to be held in April-May, 43.13 crore are women and 46.47 crore are men, according to the statistics of the Election Commission. The rest belong to third gender category. The increase in the total electorate from the last national polls in 2014 was about 8 crore and women constitute more than half of that with 4.35 crore million voters registered. More importantly, more and more women are exercising their franchise. That was why one saw the narrowing of the gap between the

ran into severe resistance from some parties several times in the last years, reflecting the deeply patriarchal tendency unwilling to cede ground. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha, upper House of parliament, in March, 2010 but failed to get the nod of the Lok Sabha, the lower House. According to one estimate, none of India's parties come anywhere near the 33 percent mark when it came to nominating women as their candidates in six parliamentary polls since 1996.

## QUOTABLE Quote

**MAHATMA GANDHI**  
LEADER OF THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT AGAINST BRITISH COLONIAL RULE

*You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.*

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

1 Place for a clam-bake

6 Scientist Curie

11 U.S. national symbol

12 Tip over

13 Salivate

14 Backyard barrier

15 Sheet music symbol

17 Suede shade

18 Tennis star Novak

22 Days long gone

23 Sign up

27 Steer clear of

29 Walk like a crab

30 Experience anew

32 Detective's find

33 "Isn't anybody interested?"

35 Funny fellow

38 Vitamin-rich

green vegetable

39 Suspect's defense

41 Boise's state

45 "Eat up!"

46 Hue

47 Bee attack

48 Come in

**DOWN**

1 Sleep spot

2 Lobed organ

3 In the past

4 Started one's work shift

5 Phone greeting

6 Bakery buys

7 Orangutan, for one

8 Tenant's fee

9 Machu Picchu native

10 Genesis garden

16 Genesis woman

18 Fabric worker

19 Another name for Jupiter

20 Spoken

21 Selected, on a desktop

24 Not busy

25 Disparaging remark

26 Golf pegs

28 Bringing to mind

31 Seventh Greek letter

34 Wonderland visitor

35 Gum masses

36 Stepped down

37 Leslie Caron movie

40 Storage site

42 PC key

43 Garden tool

44 Hockey's Bobby

Write for us. Send us your opinion pieces to [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									
13									
				15		16		17	
18	19	20					21		
22					23		24	25	26
27					28		29		
30					31		32		
				33			34		
35	36	37		38					
39				40			41	42	43
45							46		
47							48		

3-11

## YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

B	A	N	A	L		V	I	S	I	O	R
U	S	A	G	E		A	R	E	N	A	
S	T	R	O	M		T	A	C	I	T	
W	A	R	G	O							
A	G	O			N	E	L	S	O	N	S
Y	E	W			C	R	I	E	R	S	
			S	T	R	O	D	E			D
			S	T	R	I	P	E	S		O
			O	R	E		S	T	A	T	E
			F	A	M	E		O	V	A	L
			A	F	O	R	E		N	O	R
			R	E	R	A	N		E	N	D

## BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

## BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT