

# Dossier India

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Doc.1



***George Clive and his Family with an Indian Maid***

**Sir Joshua Reynolds**

1765

Oil on canvas, 140 x 171 cm

Staatliche Museen, Berlin

Web Gallery of Art, <http://www.wga.hu/frames-e.html?html/r/reynolds/family.html>

## Delhi to London, it's a sister act

By Arun Kumar Das, 7 July 2002

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/15278423.cms>

Chicago, London, Moscow, Tokyo, Seoul, Ulan Bator, Kuala Lumpur.... Now, before you jump to conclusions, this isn't a geography lesson. Rather, it's a tale of more than two cities with which the Capital is all set to play sister-sister. Officially-speaking, the Delhi government has formalised in black and white twin-city pacts with major metropolises across the globe.

"We have already signed twin-city pacts with Chicago, Moscow, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul and Ulan Bator. This makes them Delhi's sister cities," informs Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, "The necessary groundwork is ready and another 10 cities, including London, will soon be added to the list."

Of course, there's more to a twin-city pact than sibling revelry. Elaborates Dikshit, "The idea behind tying up with so many cities is to share expertise in the fields of science, information technology, transport, environment and civic infrastructure. Now that pacts have been formalised with certain cities, there will be frequent exchanges of cultural troupes between Delhi and its sister cities. This will afford greater exposure to our artists. Besides, the food, art and crafts of Delhi will be showcased on a global platform."

While Delhi's netas are known to fly off to foreign destinations to attend seminars and conferences, ostensibly to find solutions to Delhi's problems, the recent initiative offers the opportunity to learn more than a few lessons. "While we have strengthened our ties with Asian cities such as Seoul and Tokyo, we are concentrating on our bond with Western cities such as Chicago and London. This will prove beneficial in that there is much we can learn and adopt. Waste products, for instance, are crushed and used as road toppings in the West. Then, we would like to model our public-transport system and environment-protection structure according to the Western pattern," maintains a senior official of the Delhi government.

Apart from interacting at a government-to-government level with its sister cities, Team Dikshit intends to benefit from the largesse of the huge NRI [*Non Resident Indian*] population abroad. "There is a proposal to set up a hospital dedicated to liver-related treatment in the Capital aided by the Indian community in Chicago. Besides, we intend to construct a truly international school in the city with the help of NRIs. An advisory committee is currently working on the possibilities."

Possibilities, of course, there are aplenty. Hopefully, now that the government has found sisters in leading cities worldwide, the proverbial 'Ab Dilli Door Nahin' [*Now Delhi is not far*] could prove to be true.

Doc.3

In Moulmein, in lower Burma, I was hated by large numbers of people – the only time in my life that I have been important enough for this to happen to me. I was sub-divisional police officer of the town, and in an aimless, petty kind of way anti-European feeling was very bitter. No one had the guts to raise a riot, but if a European woman went through the bazaars alone somebody would probably spit betel juice over her dress. As a police officer I was an obvious target and was baited whenever it seemed safe to do so. When a nimble Burman tripped me up on the football field and the referee (another Burman) looked the other way, the crowd yelled with hideous laughter. This happened more than once. In the end the sneering yellow faces of young men that met me everywhere, the insults hooted after me when I was at a safe distance, got badly on my nerves. The young Buddhist priests were the worst of all. There were several thousands of them in the town and none of them seemed to have anything to do except stand on street corners and jeer at Europeans.

All this was perplexing and upsetting. For at that time I had already made up my mind that imperialism was an evil thing and the sooner I chucked up my job and got out of it the better. Theoretically – and secretly, of course – I was all for the Burmese and all against their oppressors, the British. As for the job I was doing, I hated it more bitterly than I can perhaps make clear. In a job like that you see the dirty work of Empire at close quarters. The wretched prisoners huddling in the stinking cages of the lock-ups, the grey, cowed faces of the long-term convicts, the scarred buttocks of the men who had been bogged with bamboos – all these oppressed me with an intolerable sense of guilt. But I could get nothing into perspective. I was young and ill-educated and I had had to think out my problems in the utter silence that is imposed on every Englishman in the East. I did not even know that the British Empire is dying, still less did I know that it is a great deal better than the younger empires that are going to supplant it. All I knew was that I was stuck between my hatred of the empire I served and my rage against the evil-spirited little beasts who tried to make my job impossible. With one part of my mind I thought of the British Raj as an unbreakable tyranny, as something clamped down, *in saecula saeculorum*, upon the will of prostrate peoples; with another part I thought that the greatest joy in the world would be to drive a bayonet into a Buddhist priest's guts. Feelings like these are the normal by-products of imperialism; ask any Anglo-Indian official, if you can catch him off duty.

[...]

George Orwell, 1936 "Shooting An Elephant and other essays"

**Doc.4 (audio)**

Durée : 1 minute 28 secondes

**Akon Goes to Bollywood :**

International recording artist Akon meets the media in Mumbai to talk about recording a song for Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming movie, 'RA. One.'

*Source:* Associated Press, 11 March 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB4ACroPYUg>