

# HUMOR

## Gateway to America

Musafir”



In Mumbai, on average, the local traffic moves at 15 miles an hour. It gives the passenger plenty of time to chat with the driver. My driver’s name was Hanif, a middle-aged Muslim guy who lived alone in Mumbai. His family, wife, and 5 children lived in a village in Uttar Pradesh, a state in India.

I hired Hanif to chauffeur me for all five days that I stayed in Mumbai. It’s more convenient than looking for taxis every day. Mumbai’s taxis are cheap. It costs around 50 US dollars for the whole day plus tips

Hanif’s taxi had a set of rules printed on a card placed on the back of the seat. The rules were “Don’t sit with your legs apart; don’t look at unknown women; don’t use curse words; cover your body with your bag; don’t let your undershirt show.” This last rule cracked me up. I asked Hanif to explain that to me.

“If you’re riding public transport, you won’t like the woman next to you showing her bra strap. A random woman may even say, “Excuse me, madam, your bra strap is showing.” And that to me has been so annoying, because men have three buttons

open, they're showing their chest hair and undershirt."

On the second day, Hanif asked me how much a taxi driver earned in the U.S. Though I never cared to know that, I guessed a number and said, "They earn around \$50,000 a year."

Hanif wanted me to convert that to Indian rupees. "That would be around 4,100,000 rupees," I answered.

"Well, that can't be; that is almost equivalent to how much the president of India gets paid," Hanif reacted.

I somehow assured Hanif that that was true. Hanif was shocked to hear that and immediately asked me to take him to the U.S.

"See Hanif, you cannot go to the U.S. legally because most folks from India either go there for higher studies or they have to be highly qualified in technical fields. "

"So, how can a person like me go there?" Asked Hanif.

I thought for a while and said, "The easiest way for you to go there will be like an illegal alien,"

"What's that? Asked Hanif,

"See Hanif, our president, Mr. Biden allows the illegals to enter the USA from the southern border. Those illegals become a part of his future vote bank." What you should do is get a ticket to Mexico and come to the US border and just walk inside the United States"

Hanif was amused by my answer, "But what will happen once I enter the U.S.?" Hanif asked.

"Once you enter the U.S. illegally, you'll be fed and sheltered. You may be bussed to bigger cities like New York, Los Angeles, Denver or San Francisco. They will allow you to work and earn money. It's that easy."

"Did you go to America like that?" Hanif asked.

"No Hanif, I was not that fortunate. I was educated and trained as an engineer, so I had to wait for my turn in India for five years. Not only that, I had to show that I had enough money with me to survive there for a month so that I didn't become public charge."

"Looks like it is difficult to go there legally, especially for an educated person like you," Hanif said sympathetically.

"Yes Hanif, you are a fast learner." By then I had reached my destination.

Hanif is planning to come to the States and bussed to New York city where he'd drive taxi and will earn more than the president of India. My only hope is that Hanif, some day will give me a free ride or maybe not.