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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11049

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDIA'S NEW PRESIDENT,
FAKRUDDIN ALI AHMED

REF: NEW DELHI 8815


2. BOTH AHMED, 69 AND HIS WIFE 50, COME FROM THE HIGHEST STRATA OF MUSLIM SOCIETY IN INDIA. AHMED TRACES HIS LINEAGE BACK TO THE GREAT URDU POET, MIRZA GHALIB. HIS FATHER WAS ONE OF THE FEW INDIANS WHO MANAGED TO RISE TO THE RANK OF COLONEL IN THE PRESTIGIOUS INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE. THE BRITISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT REWARDED HIS SERVICE WITH CONSIDERABLE LAND AND WEALTH IN ASSAM, WHICH HIS SON LATER USED AS
A BASIS FOR A 30-YEAR CAREER IN ASSAMESE POLITICS.

3. AHMED WAS BORN IN NEW DELHI ON MAY 13, 1905. HE WAS EDUCATED AT NEW DELHI’S ELITE ST. STEPHEN’S COLLEGE AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY’S ST. CATHERINES’S COLLEGE IN ENGLAND. IN 1928 HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR FROM THE INNER TEMPLE. HE RETURNED TO INDIA THAT SAME YEAR, JOINED THE CONGRESS PARTY AND BEGAN PRACTICING LAW. HIS CONGRESS ACTIVITIES DURING THE 1930’S AND 1940’S BROUGHT HIM INTO CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH CONGRESS LEADERS JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND MAULANA AZAD. FROM 1937 TO 1966, EXCEPT FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD, HE HELD MINISTERIAL POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSA.


6. AHMED’S WIFE, BEGUM ABIDA, IS AN ARTIST WHO SPECIALIZES IN PORTRAITS. THEY HAVE TWO SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER. THE DAUGHTER, SAMEENA, IS MARRIED TO A DOCTOR AND LIVES IN FLORIDA.

7. MORE DETAILED BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PRESIDENT AHMED IS BEING POUCHED.

MOYNIHAN
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