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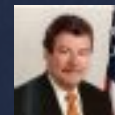
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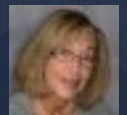
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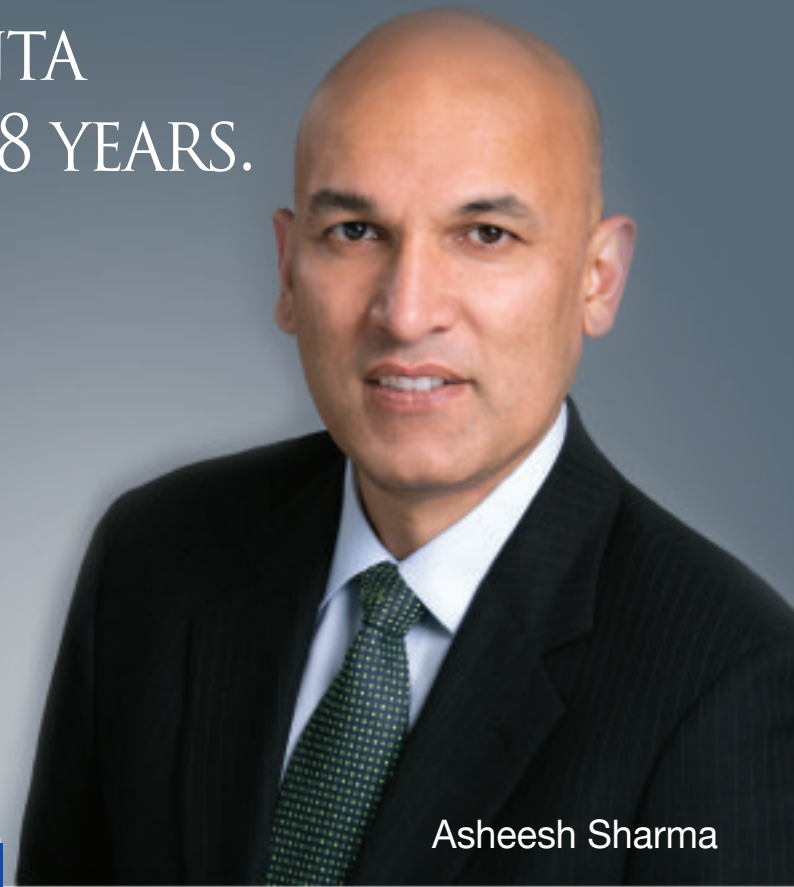
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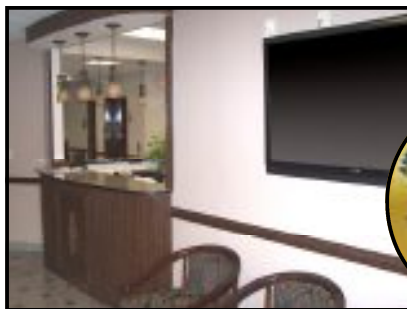
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CoverFeature

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INDIAN CULTURE: A GRAND OVERVIEW

Many volumes will be needed to unravel the many layers of India's heritage. How did our diverse traditions evolve, and how do we understand their complexity? But while plumbing the depths of its languages, arts, religions, cuisines, etc., can be a never-ending job, here's a concise summary of what's in the cultural DNA of Indians.



30

SO MUCH TO WATCH, SO LITTLE TIME

While streaming has opened up a big world of Indian shows, it can be overwhelming. Here's a handy guide.



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A wry take on why Daylight Saving Time may not be Daylight Cost-Saving Time, given the inefficiency.



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Building bridges is important for the writer; what she avoids is participating in divisive debates on identity.



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A conservative, Indian background needn't stop a guy from being an actor, a model, and an influencer.



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INDIA, LIKE THE U.S., IS AT A CROSSROADS

Not since Indira Gandhi has India seen such a polarizing and authoritarian leader like Modi.

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BJP has always been a “communal” party

In response to the editorial in February 2020's *Khabar*, revocation of 370 and 35A will not cause any demographic change in J&K. Demographic change occurred over the course of hundreds of years, with the latest being in 1990. January 19th of this year marked the 30th anniversary of the genocide and exodus of Kashmiri Hindu Pandits, when nearly 600,000 fled their home and became refugees in their own country.

The “communal” decisions that came in 2019 have always been part of the BJP's manifesto. It is a different matter that for 70 years, party manifestos gathered dust after the election. For the first time, a government is acting on its mandate.

The editorial's claims on the CAA are misleading. Only those non-Muslim citizens of neighboring Islamic countries that arrived in India *before* 2014 gain

a path to citizenship through the CAA. One must have citizenship of Afghanistan, Pakistan, or Bangladesh and have arrived before December 31st, 2014 to benefit from the CAA. And until the Supreme Court rules otherwise, the Act is as much part of the constitution as Article 14 is or “socialist secular” is.

India is at a fragile juncture today, much as it was in 1947. The parties that supported partition against Gandhi's pleas now quote Gandhi to attack the CAA. A protest leader urges his community to cut off the northeast from the rest of India. We need to question their intentions and the forces behind the protests. Are they anti-CAA, are they anti-Modi, or are they anti-India?

Tirth Shah
Commerce, GA

Sanskrit must be preserved and revitalized

I very much enjoyed reading the article “Sanskrit Language: Dead, Dying, or Dormant?” by Dr. Bhagirath Majmudar in the February issue of *Khabar*. Dr. Majmudar rightly lauds the Sanskrit-English dictionary by the late Sir Monier Monier-Williams, comprising 1,333 pages with 200,000 words. I just read about Oscar Pujol, a Catalan Indologist, who taught Spanish at Banaras Hindu University, India, and earned a PhD in Sanskrit. He has just published the first Sanskrit-Spanish dictionary, a work that exceeds 1,500 pages with more than 64,000 translated words, an essential tool for students of the Sanskrit language and “lovers of Indian culture.” In the *Sanskrit-Spanish Dictionary, Mythology, Philosophy, and Yoga*, a reader interested in the classical culture of India will find articles dedicated to the great characters and deities of the Sanskrit epics. “It is an encyclopedia of ancient India, and users can consult it without necessarily being great connoisseurs of the Sanskrit language,” says the author. Today, many people take interest in Sanskrit because of yoga, Ayurveda, and meditation.

On a personal note, having been born in Tanzania and grown up in Nairobi, Kenya, I had no opportunity to learn Sanskrit. I enjoyed listening to recitation of Sanskrit *shlokas* every morning and evening by my dad who was a BA (Hons.) graduate of the iconic Elphinstone College, Mumbai and a Sanskrit scholar. Because of my poor knowledge of Gujarati, I was scared to request him to teach me Sanskrit. In Atlanta, while

helping my granddaughter learn Spanish, I picked up a few Spanish words like *pelota* (ball), *bailar* (to dance), or *poquito* (a little bit), but gave up as I could not cope with grammar. Guess I lacked the tenacity and passion of perched-on-the-porch scholar Sir William Jones, so while my granddaughter graduated with Spanish, I forgot even a few Spanish words I had learnt!

While it is praiseworthy that Sanskrit is gaining popularity outside India, it is lamentable that in India, according to Dr. Majmudar only 24,821 Indians and 1,669 Nepalese people consider Sanskrit as their mother tongue.

But all is not gloom and doom. In September 2019, Uttarakhand Government has made Sanskrit compulsory across all grades from 3 to 8. To promote *Devbhāṣa* (divine language), recently Lok Sabha passed Central Sanskrit Universities Bill 2019 to convert three Sanskrit deemed Institutions, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, the Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in New Delhi, and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in Tirupati into central universities. In Karnataka, Mattur village with 5,000 residents converse in Sanskrit. I agree with Dr. Bhagirath that Sanskrit needs to be rejuvenated by CPR—Consistent Persistent Revival. Let us hope that the 18th World Sanskrit Conference in Australia in January 2021 gives the much needed boost to the *ajaramar* language, which it richly deserves.

Mahadev Desai
By email

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Should overstaying migrants be sent back?

I want to congratulate Khabar magazine for publishing a bold cover story in the February issue about undocumented (illegal) Indian population in America. I was not only shocked and infuriated just by reading the cover page "one of the largest undocumented populations in the U.S." but also ashamed of my Indian heritage. If Gandhi ji were alive today, he would have gone on indefinite fast and had not survived.

Most illegal Indians are scattered around big cities and they survive in an underground economy created by Indian businesses such as gas stations and motels. You can spot these people in most Indian cultural programs and temples.

It will be interesting to add that when I immigrated to America in 1965, my chief engineer and his wife had come to the airport to receive me and my family! Can it happen now?

It is our moral responsibility to send these illegal Indians back to India voluntarily instead of harboring them in our homes, or report them to ICE because they have ruined our reputation. If the illegal population is unchecked, soon the counties across America will be forced to name "Little India" towns since the Indian population will swell to 10 million in just five more years!

Rajesh Gandhi
Decatur, GA

Editor's comment: Sending all undocumented South Asians back is a "solution" that does not consider the nuances. It's the kind of rigid black and white thinking behind "What part of illegal don't you get?" that is a problem. Some of the people whose stories we tell in the cover story may be undocumented, but they are people caught in difficult situations, not necessarily people to be ashamed of.

It is a known fact that a large number of Indians are among the 10 million or so illegals in America. These people knowingly come to America with impunity, break the law, and get lost in the masses. As far as I know, there is no law in America that allows economic asylum. Most of these people lie and make unauthorized and illegal entry into United States. The safety and security of any nation will be in peril if the border is not secured. True for America and true for India. As the former attorney general (Jeff Sessions) said, if a country has no secured border, it cannot remain as a country. It is our responsibility to expose the illegals and turn them in to authority and ICE.

I do not see the Indians or other illegals creating a Shaheen Bagh situation in America [Shaheen Bagh is a Muslim working class neighborhood in New Delhi that has emerged as epicenter of anti-CAA protests across India]. Because, they know that America is a country of rules and everyone is required to carry proper ID. The administration is right in including citizenship question in the upcoming census.

Illegal entry into any country is especially dangerous when there is threat of Islamic extremism. True for America and even more so for India. Going unchecked, the metastasis of Islamic fundamentalism and Gajwa-e-Hind will be reality one day in India, and it will be too late then. Despite some opposition, the administration must

take strong action to protect the country and its citizens. India must make that correction or else there will be no India as we know it.

Andy N.
Suwanee, GA



What's on YOUR mind?

We welcome original, unpublished letters from our readers. You could either respond to a specific article in Khabar or write about issues relevant to our community. Letters may be edited for length and other considerations. We're always happy to entertain diverse viewpoints from readers, and longer submissions may be considered for the "My Turn" column.

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(3/1) With Chief Justice Carol Hunstein. Time: 3pm-4:30pm – at Ismaili Jamatkhanah, 4405-A International Blvd NW, Norcross, GA. Contact: 770-923-2934
(3/8) With Charlotte Nash, chairwoman of Gwinnett County Bd of Commissioners. By Kerala Women's Forum. Reporter

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Transcendent Deities Lecture: “Marketing Divinity in the Bazaars of Banaras” about Brand India for tourism, and the local bazaars, by Andy Rotman, Prof Religion & South Asian Studies at Smith College. Free. Time: 4pm – at Carlos Museum, Emory Univ., Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-6118

MONDAY

March 2



Voices Open Mic. By Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Time: 7pm – at Café Rothen, 3585 Peachtree Industrial Blvd #128, Duluth, GA. Sign up: tinyurl.com/voicesopenmic2019



Film: The Sweet Requiem. Award-winning Tibetan film, Q&A w/directors. Memories of escape across Himalayas. Time: 7pm – at White Hall Rm 206, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: emiaya.rogers@emory.edu

TUESDAY

March 3



Yoga for Beginners. Ages 7+. Contact: 678-390-4742
(3/3) Time: 10am-noon – at 2710 Barley Downs Cir., Cumming, GA.
(3/7) Time: 9am-11am – at Prime Combat Sports, 4415 Front 9 Dr #500, Cumming, GA.
(3/14) Time: 10am-noon – at DeKalb County Public Library, 215 Sycamore St, Decatur, GA.
(3/15) Time: 3pm-5pm – at Alpharetta Library, 10 Park Plaza, Alpharetta, GA.

THURSDAY

March 5



(to 3/26) Immigrant Rights Thursdays. By AAAJ Atlanta. Time: 9am – at Coverdell Legislative Office Building, 18

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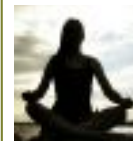
HEALTH ISSUES TODAY

Wed 6:30pm,
on WRFG 89.3 FM-Atlanta
Dr. Asha Bhoomkar
healthissuestoday@hotmail.com

Capitol Square SW, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-585-8446

FRIDAY

March 6



(3/6-8) CBCT Compassion Training: Spring. Time: 7pm – Contact: compassion.emory.edu



Bollywood Glow Party. In the spirit of Holi. Time: 10pm-2am – at Café Istanbul, 2880 Holcomb Bridge Rd, Roswell, GA. Contact: 917-543-1768



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Navin Shah, Vice Chairman (left)



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SATURDAY

March 7



(3/7-8) Pakistan Visa Camp.

Visa and other consulate services. Time: 9am-5pm Sat, 9am-noon Sun – at Ashiana Hall, Global Mall, 5675 Jimmy Carter Blvd, Norcross, GA. Contact: 678-207-9233



Interfaith Peace Symposium (Women's Only Event).

Hosted by Ahmadiyya Muslim Community-GA Chapter. Free. Time: 10am – at Baitul Ata Mosque, 1800 Willow Trail Pkwy, Norcross, GA. Contact: waamcga@gmail.com



Holi

(3/7) Rangotsav 2020 at Gokuldham.

Organic colors for sale, with water. Dance performances. Food, t-shirts for purchase. Free. Time: 11am-5pm – at 2397 Satellite Blvd, Buford, GA. Contact: 770-492-4346.

(3/8) By Ambaji Shree Shakti Mandir. Holi Puja Thali and colors will be available. Time: 7:30pm – near Sumant Center Ground, 1450 Huie Rd, Morrow, GA. Contact: 770-968-3490. [SEE DISPLAY AD]

(3/8) By Greater Atlanta Vedic Temple. Time: 6:15pm – at 492 Harmony Grove Rd, Lilburn, GA. Contact: 770-381-3662

(3/14) Festival of Colors. By North Indian American Cultural Assoc. Free. Time: 11am-4:30pm – at Yugal Kunj, 2769 Duluth Hwy, Duluth, GA. Contact: 678-920-6669

(3/15) Rang Barse By IACA. \$5 parking. Thandai, Pichkari, more. Time: noon-5pm – at 1281 Cooper Lake Rd, Smyrna, GA. Contact: 770-364-7068

(3/15) 15th annual Color/Holi Festival. By Sewa International USA-Atlanta. Time: 1pm – at Cumming Fairground, 235 Castleberry Rd, Cumming, GA. Contact: 708-872-7392

(3/15) By CMA. at 5511 Williams Rd, Norcross, GA. Contact: 678-615-7088



Yoga for Success. By Isha.

Ages 7+. Benefits memory & concentration, relieves stress, strengthens spine. Contact: 678-390-4742.

(3/7) Time: 2pm-3:30pm – at Yoga Studio, 8745 Dunwoody Pl, Sandy Springs, GA.

(3/14) Time: 9am-10:30am – at Prime Combat Sports, 4415 Front 9 Dr #500, Cumming, GA.



Meditation for Beginners. By Isha.

Ages 12+. Can be done in a chair. Contact: 678-390-4742.

(3/7) Time: 4pm-5pm – at Yoga Studio, 8745 Dunwoody Pl, Sandy Springs, GA.

(3/28) Time: 2pm-3pm – at Post Road Library, 5010 Post Rd, Cumming, GA.



Holika Dahan—Bonfire.

(3/7) By Greater Atlanta Vedic Temple. Time: 6:15pm – at 492 Harmony Grove Rd, Lilburn, GA. Contact: 770-381-3662

(3/9) By Gokuldham. Time: 6pm-8pm – at 2397 Satellite Blvd, Buford, GA. Contact: 770-492-4346

SUNDAY

March 8



(3/8, 21) Gita Chanting Competition.

(3/8) Time: 4pm – at CMA, 5511 Williams Rd, Norcross, GA. Contact: 678-615-7088

(3/21) Time: 1pm – at HTA, 5851 Hwy 85, Riverdale, GA. Contact: 478-213-6103



Carnatic 2.0 Live in Atlanta.

Experimental project, Mahesh Raghvan and violinist Shravan Sridhar, Carnatic compositions in modern style. \$10-40. Time: 5pm – at Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Rd NW, Lilburn, GA. Contact: facebook.com/carnatic2.0

WEDNESDAY

March 11



Product Market Fit. By TiE.

Free, \$35. Time: 6pm – at Roam Perimeter, 1151 Hammond Dr NE, Dunwoody, GA. Contact: 404-538-1879

THURSDAY

March 12



(3/12-4/27) Census 2020.

Census Public Service Announcements available in Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Nepali, and more. Contact: AAAJ Atlanta, 404-585-8446

FRIDAY

March 13



(3/13-6/28) Jitish Kallat Art Exhibition,

featuring a brief letter written by Mahatma Gandhi to Adolf Hitler – at Frist Art Museum, 919 Broadway, Nashville, TN. Contact: 615-244-3340



(3/13-15) 11th annual ChantLanta 2020, Sacred

Music Festival. Benefits The Learning Tea. For friends of chanting: bands, workshops, vendors, silent auction, more. Time: 7pm – at Church at Ponce & Highland, Atlanta, GA. Contact: ian@chantlanta.org

SATURDAY

March 14



Artful Stories: Amma, Tell Me About ... Durga Puja.

See an immense photo depicting Durga on her tiger, hear the story, learn about her weapons. Ages 3-6. Free. Time: 10am-11am – at Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-0519



TAMA Volleyball Tournament.

Time: 2pm-8pm – at Atlanta Extreme Volleyball Club, 811 Brogdon Rd, Suwanee, GA. Contact: 404-800-1987



Kundalini Yoga w/Hari Bhavan Kaur.

Time: 3:15pm-4:15pm – at ChantLanta, Church at Ponce & Highland, Atlanta, GA. Contact: ian@chantlanta.org

SUNDAY

March 15



Hunger Walk/Run. w/Hunger Mitao!

Time: noon-4pm – at The Home Depot Backyard, 1 Backyard Way, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-892-FEED



Movie Hungama House.

Comedy, free popcorn. Time: 1pm – at Gokuldham, 2397 Satellite Blvd, Buford, GA. Contact: 770-492-4346



Children's Workshop: Storytelling in Comics.

Explore Abhishek Singh's comics and graphic novels. Ages 8-12. \$15+. Time: 2pm-4pm – at Carlos Museum, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-0519



Ubhya Ubhya Vinod, Marathi comedy.

\$15+. Time: 2pm-4pm – at Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lilburn, GA. Contact: parnerkar.foundation@gmail.com



ATW 10th-year show. By Atlanta Theater Workshop.

Three one-act plays. Time: 3:30pm-7pm – at Red Clay

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DISCOVER

Music Foundry, 3116 Main St, Duluth, GA.
Contact: 770-335-6338

TUESDAY March 17



Immigrant & Refugee Education & Advocacy Day. W/AAAJ-Atlanta. Learn about pending bills. Time: 9am-noon – at GA State Capitol, Room 125, Atlanta, GA. Contact:

404-585-8446



(3/17-4/21, 5:30pm) (3/19--4/23 8am) Transcendent Yoga. w/Anna Leo who studied at Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute in Pune. \$65+ for 6 weeks, Tues or Thurs. – at Carlos Museum, Emory Univ., Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-4282

FRIDAY March 20



(3/20-22) The ancient, scientific teachings of Kriya yoga. Time: 7pm Fri lecture, Sat-Sun initiation – at Stonehaven Pointe Clubhouse, 100 Town Manor Pl, Cumming, GA. Contact: 404-884-8670

SATURDAY March 21



Trinity Drama on the lives of the 3 Great Composers. By Carnatic Music Association of GA (CAMAGA). Time: 3pm-7pm – at Hindu Temple of Atlanta, 5851 Hwy 85, Riverdale, GA. Contact: 678-463-8729



Sangam 2020. Traditional & original music from across the globe with modern rendition, also contemporary Jazz, with Souryadeep Bhattacharya et al. \$25+. Time: 6:30pm – at Rialto, 80 Forsyth St NW, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-413-9849

SUNDAY March 22



Sunday FUNday: Rangoli. Free with registration. Time: 1pm – at Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-0519



“Feeding a Thousand Souls: an exploration of the Kolam” (Rangoli). w/Vijaya Nagarajan. Time: 4pm – at

Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-0519



Sukrutam cultural show. benefiting underprivileged children. With Bharathakala Natya Academy and Jaidev Sharma, vocals. Dinner. \$25+. Time: 4:45pm – at Mountain View High School, 2351 Sunny Hill Rd, Lawrenceville, GA. Contact: 470-485-5058



Abhishek Upmanyu Stand-Up Comedy: “Jealous of Subjiwala.” \$25-60. Time: 6pm – at Duluth High School, 3737 Brock Rd, NW, Duluth, GA. Contact: 425-786-7475

MONDAY March 23



(3/23-27) Tibet Week. Watch monks make an intricate sand mandala. Time: 10am-4pm – at Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-6118



Modi's India & the Planet: Climate Change. India will be one of the most important countries in determining how we respond. Time: 4pm-4:45pm – at White Hall 207, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-7363

TUESDAY March 24



Tibetan thangka painting lecture. Time: 4pm – at Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-6118

THURSDAY March 26



“Delusional States: Pakistan's Northern Frontier.” With noted scholar Nosheen Ali. Time: 4:15pm-5:45pm – at Bowden Hall 323, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: alexander.lee.compton@emory.edu

FRIDAY March 27



Navarasa, Concert by Aarohi. Ragas that evoke the 9 emotions, in Hindustani and Carnatic styles. Time: 7pm – at GA Tech Student Center

Theater, 353 Ferst Dr NW, Atlanta, GA. Contact: aarohigt@gmail.com



Community Kirtan. Share songs & chants so all may join in. Free, register. Time: 7:45pm – at Form Yoga, 533 West Howard Ave C2, Decatur, GA. Contact: formyoga.com



(3/27-28) Chaitri Navaratri Garba Celebration. By Ambaji USA. Time: 8:30pm-2am – at 1450 Huie Rd, Lake City, GA. Contact: ambajiusa.org

SATURDAY March 28



March of Dimes walk with BAGA. Time: 9am, gather at 8:30am – at 645 Mullinax Rd, Alpharetta, GA. Contact: bodchair.baga@gmail.com



Family Event: Sand Painting. Create your own before 2pm, then the monk's mandala will be withdrawn, illustrating impermanence. Time: 10am-2pm – at Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-6118



Bharat International Fair / Women of the Year awards. Benefits breast cancer patients. Vendors, food, entertainment. Time: 11am-8pm – at Gokuldham, 2397 Satellite Blvd, Buford, GA. Contact: 732-791-6546



Miss South Asia World 2020. By Rashmi Bedi & Mydream Entertainment. For Pre-teen, Teen, Miss, Mrs, Mr, Grandmom. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, International. Time: noon – at Gokuldham, 2397 Satellite Blvd, Buford, GA. Contact: 770-310-4652



Bollywood Beats 2020. By Access Life America to support kids battling cancer. Time: 4:30pm-7:30pm – at Mountain View High School, 2351 Sunny Hill Rd, Lawrenceville, GA. Contact: 678-799-7521



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SUNDAY**March 29**

GA APPNA Charity Fashion Show. \$45+. Time: 11am Bazaar, 1pm show, 3pm lunch – at Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel, 2450 Galleria Pkwy SE, Atlanta, GA. Contact: ga.appna.events@gmail.com

Upcoming Events APRIL 2020

FRIDAY**April 3**

Up Close & Personal w/ Salman Khan. Time: 8pm – at Infinite Energy Forum, 6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy, Duluth, GA. Contact: 470-400-show



Jaspreet Singh stand-up comedy. Time: 8pm – at Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Rd NW, Lilburn, GA. Contact: 408-505-7895

SATURDAY**April 4**

(4/4, 18) Yoga for Beginners. Ages 7+. Time: 9am-11am – at Prime Combat Sports, 4415 Front 9 Dr #500, Cumming, GA. Contact: 678-390-4742



TAMA Ugadi Utsavalu. Tollywood artists. Raffles. Math bowl, grades 1-7. Time: 2pm-10pm – at Denmark High School, 645 Mullinax Rd, Alpharetta, GA. Contact: tama.org



Ashrunchi Zali Phule, Marathi natak on tour. Written by legendary Late Prof Vasant Kanetkar. Time: 4:30pm – at Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Rd NW, Lilburn, GA. Contact: 248-525-5848

SUNDAY**April 5**

Children's Vipassana Course: Anapana Meditation. Time: 8:30am-5pm – at Lost Mountain Academy, 78 Citizen

Square Rd, Dallas, GA. Contact: 919-675-2040



Yoga for Success. By Isha. Ages 7+. Benefits memory & concentration, relieves stress, strengthens spine. Time: 2:30pm-3:50pm – at 115 Norcross St, Roswell, GA. Contact: 678-390-4742.



Ramnavami. By Greater Atlanta Vedic Temple. – at 492 Harmony Grove Rd, Lilburn, GA. Contact: 770-381-3662

MONDAY**April 6**

(4/6-10) Spring Break: Aru Shah and the Gods of India. With art exhibition and Roshani Chokshi's books. \$230+. Time: 9am-4pm – at Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-727-6118



Movie on Mental Health of Asian Americans. *Things I Never Said*, with director & producer. Time: 3pm – at GA Tech Student Theater, Peachtree Rm, 1st Floor, 350 Ferst Drive, NW, Atlanta, GA. Contact: sherron8@gatech.edu



Zakir Hussain, Kala Ramnath, & Jayanthi Kumaresh. Time: 7pm – at Savannah Culture Arts Center, 201 Montgomery St, Savannah, GA. Contact: 912-234-3378

WEDNESDAY**April 8**

TiE: Hiring the Rockstar Team. Time: 6pm – at Roam Perimeter, 1151 Hammond Dr NE, Dunwoody, GA. Contact: 404-538-1879

FRIDAY**April 10**

SAUPO 2020. Symposium on Asia-USA Partnership Opportunities. Largest Asia business conference in the USA. w/Nagendra Roy and Dr. Jag Sheth. \$249. Time: 7:45am – at Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel, 2450 Galleria Pkwy, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 470-578-2145

SATURDAY**April 11**

Meditation for Beginners. By Isha. Ages 12+. Can be done in a chair. Time: 11:30am-12:30pm – at 115 Norcross St, Roswell, GA. Contact: 678-390-4742.



Haasya Kavi Sammelan. Humor, laughter, and heart-warming recitals. Time: 3:30pm – at South Forsyth High School, 585 Peachtree Pkwy, Cumming, GA. Contact: 203-442-3120



Shashank Subbu Flute Concert. Time: 4pm – at Chinmaya Mission Atlanta, 5511 Williams Rd, Norcross, GA. Contact: 678-615-7088

SATURDAY**April 18**

(4/18, 4/25, 5/2) Vibha Champions Cricket Cup. Time: 8am 4/18+25, 9am 5/2 – at East Roswell Park, 9000 Fouts Rd, Roswell, GA. Contact: Vibha.atl@gmail.com



TYE University Program: Finals. Contact: <https://atlanta.tie.org/events/>



Carnatic Mela. By CAMAGA. Time: 11am-7pm – at Hindu Temple of Atlanta, 5851 Hwy 85, Riverdale, GA. Contact: 678-463-8729



Mahayajna. By Greater Atlanta Vedic Temple. – at 492 Harmony Grove Rd, Lilburn, GA. Contact: 770-381-3662

WEDNESDAY**April 22**

Georgia University Entrepreneurship Initiative. w/TiE Atlanta. Time: 9am-12:30pm – at Metro Atlanta Chamber; paid parking at 191 Building garage, 191 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 404-538-1879



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THURSDAY

April 23



TiE: Happy Hour. Network and get connected with the Atlanta entrepreneurial community! Free for members, with drinks, music, fun, but especially for prospective and new members (\$10). Time: 6pm-8:30pm – venue TBD.

FRIDAY

April 24



Community Kirtan. Share songs & chants so all may join in. Free, register. Time: 7:45pm – at Form Yoga, 533 West Howard Ave C2, Decatur, GA. Contact: formyoga.com

SATURDAY

April 25



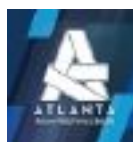
(4/25-26) Sadhguru in Atlanta. Inner Engineering Completion. \$575. Time: 1pm Sat, 7am Sun – at the Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 931-488-8448



Sriranjani Santanagopalan Vocal Concert. Time: 4pm - Contact: facebook.com/kishore.meduri

THURSDAY

April 30



(4/30-5/10) 44th annual Atlanta Film Festival. One of the '25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World' and one of '50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee' by MovieMaker Magazine. Usually has several films by Indians and South Asians. Time: various – at several theaters. Contact: 404-352-4225

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WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, & WHY

Shree Saini, as some will recall, collapsed the night before the Miss World America pageant last year. She recovered, just as she'd recovered from earlier health challenges, which included facial burns and a childhood heart surgery. But that hasn't stopped the 23-year-old Saini, an anti-bullying advocate. Recently crowned Miss World America Washington, she also received *Passion Vista* magazine's World Peace Award.

Mary Kom, one of the most successful athletes produced by India, has won a 2020 Padma Vibhushan. It's India's second highest civilian award, surpassed only by the Bharat Ratna, which is conferred less often and, sometimes, controversially. The only boxer to win eight World Championship medals, Kom, a Rajya Sabha (Upper House) member, is the only woman to become a World Amateur Boxing champion six times.

Arvind Krishna, 57, takes over as the CEO of IBM, a storied corporation that's over a hundred years old, though it has struggled in recent years compared to its rivals. The IIT-trained Krishna, who did his Ph.D. in Illinois, has been with IBM for three decades, most recently as the senior VP of its Cloud and Cognitive Software division. He's been instrumental in boosting IBM's profitability through his hybrid multicloud strategy.

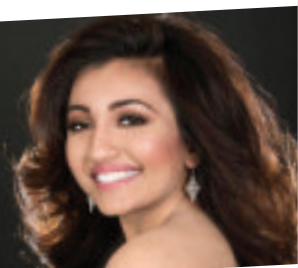
Sandeep Mathrani, 57, is the new CEO of WeWork. As a collaborative workspace startup, WeWork saw rapid growth until it tried to go public last year. When its management and finances came under wide scrutiny, WeWork's weaknesses became apparent. Now Mathrani, who was successful in turning around a global commercial real estate company, gets his turn. He earned his business and engineering degrees by age 20.

Leila Janah, a social entrepreneur who focused on tackling poverty, was only 37 when she died this year. The cause was a rare form of soft-tissue cancer. Through her initiatives, the Harvard-educated Janah oversaw the creation of low skilled digital jobs for thousands of poor residents in India and Africa. Author of *Give Work*, she founded Samasource, an AI company, and LXMI, an organic skin care company.

Azim Premji, founder of Wipro, made a remarkable gesture in 2019, putting him ahead of all philanthropists, not just Indian billionaires. Premji gave a \$7.6 billion stake in his Bangalore-based IT firm to the Azim Premji Foundation, his charitable organization. The only other philanthropist to donate over \$1 billion last year was Warren Buffet, whose contribution of \$3.6 billion in stock went to three charitable foundations.

Utkarsh Ambudkar, actor and singer, got his turn at the 2020 Oscars when he did a rap-style recap of the show. He made some uncanny references, without advance knowledge, and took a dig at "winners who don't look like me." The versatile performer, born in Baltimore 36 years ago, is the son of Indian immigrants. His credits include *Pitch Perfect*, *Brockmire*, and a rap-improv Broadway show called *Freestyle Love Supreme*.

Melissa Roy became the first South Asian woman to visit all 193 nations when she reached Bangladesh in December last year. Not only did Roy self-finance her trips, sometimes by working in the nations she visited, but she often traveled alone. Now 34, Roy had visited 100 countries and all seven continents by age 30. On her trips, which began in college, she realized that helping locals benefitted her as well.



Shree Saini



Arvind Krishna



Leila Janah



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HOW THE '20s JUMP-STARTED YOGA



This year in California, the first yoga university outside India is starting a postgraduate program. But the '20s above refers to the 1920s. When many people try to trace the roots of yoga in America, they think of the freewheeling hippie culture of the 1960s. And certainly—thanks to Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, B. K. S. Iyengar, Satchidananda and, among others, the Beatles—yoga did make a splash in the mainstream back then. Others

mention Swami Vivekananda's visit in 1893. But one could also make a strong case for Paramahansa Yogananda, who came to the U.S. in 1920 and went on to write the bestselling *Autobiography of a Yogi*. Moreover, he was an Indian-American (before there was such a

term) who lived here until his death in 1952. Known for bringing wide attention to Kriya Yoga, he was dubbed the "20th century's first superstar guru" by an American newspaper, and even got invited to the White House in 1927 by President Calvin Coolidge.

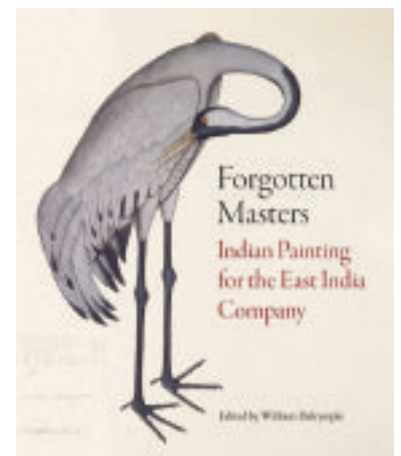
Yogananda wasn't the only Indian yogi who drew attention in the Roaring Twenties. Yogendra established the Yoga Institute in 1920. Despite restrictive immigration laws, Bhagwan Singh Gyane and Bhagat Singh Thind—known for their participation in India's freedom struggle—spread the gospel of yoga to small but rapt American audiences. Others included Yogi Wassan and Rishi Singh Gherwal, who were sometimes teaching in the same area and competing with each other. Then came the Great Depression, bringing economic distress and anxiety. As the 1930s wore on, Bishnu Charan Ghosh and Buddha Bose, among others, popularized Hatha Yoga, whose physical aspect made it appropriate for a more practical era. Vox Media founder Jerome Armstrong tells their story in *Calcutta Yoga*.

TREASURES FROM EAST INDIA COMPANY

If you're looking for a new, affordable, and handsome coffee table book that will be just as ideal on your night stand for bedtime reading, your search could end here. *Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company* (Bloomsbury) is a feast for art lovers and a treat for history buffs seeking to revisit early colonial India through the eyes of painters who worked from the 1770s to the mid-19th century. Enticingly, the book was edited by the formidable William Dalrymple, a historian who recently covered this territory in his highly praised *Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company*. British historians and curators have contributed informative, accessible essays to *Forgotten Masters*—the book complements the first U.K. exhibition of East India Company masterworks at the Wallace Collection—but it's the striking art that gets the spotlight. That makes the book appealing to nibblers and browsers as well.

It would be wrong to dismiss the project as Raj nostalgia, or think of the painters as colonialists in thrall of an "exotic" India ripe for exploitation.

The artists were, in fact, "drawn from a wide variety of Indian artistic traditions—Mughal, Maratha, Punjabi, Pahari, Tamil, and Telugu," notes the Wallace Collection's director. They included Shaikh Zain ud-Din, Bhawani Das, Yellapah, Shaikh Mohammad Amir, Sita Ram, and Ghulam Ali Khan. The early period of the Indo-British encounter is misunderstood, Dalrymple points out, because of the subjugation, brutality, and racism that came later. It was "far more ethnically mixed and culturally hybrid than we imagine," he writes in his fascinating essay. "*Forgotten Masters* aims to move the emphasis from the Company commissioners and shine the spotlight on the brilliance of its Indian creators. This is long overdue."



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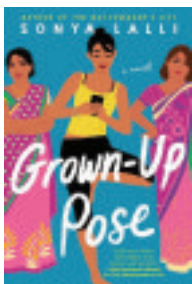


BOOK MATTERS



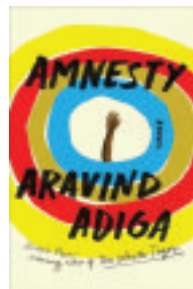
Lali's Feather (Peachtree Publishing) – by Farhana Zia. As the spring reading season kicks into high gear, the Atlanta-based children's publisher is bringing out not one but three books with an Indian angle. Zia, a retired teacher in Massachusetts, grew up in Hyderabad. Her new book for younger readers

(4-8 years) is set in India, and the dreamy story of Lali's search for the owner of a beautiful feather is vividly brought to life by illustrator Stephanie Fizer Coleman. Although Peacock, Crow, Rooster, and others decline the feather, Lali finds multiple uses for it. As for the readers, Lali could turn them into budding birders. Kashmira Sheth's *Nina Soni, Sister Fixer* is the second title in her middle grade series. Nina's little sister, Kavita, appeared in the first book (*Nina Soni, Former Best Friend*) as well, but here she gets a bigger role as the sisters work on an experiment. Another book for the younger set, *Feast of Peas*, also written by Sheth, features Jeffrey Ebbeler's gorgeous illustrations.



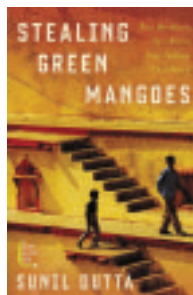
Grown Up Pose (Berkley) – by Sonya Lalli. In her new novel, the Toronto-based author, who also wrote *The Matchmaker's List* and *The Arrangement*, introduces readers to a not-so-young woman named Anu Desai. Lalli's fiction explores cultural identity, the tussle between tradition and modernity, family ties, and

cross-cultural romance—and this novel is no different. Separated from her husband, Neil, whom she married at a young age, Anu strikes out on her own and, to her surprise, buys a yoga studio. “Although her relationship with her husband is what spurs Anu to change, her relationship with her parents is at the heart of the book,” according to Kirkus. “They’re sweet, loving, funny, and, as Anu learns, they’re more open to change (and more complicated) than she originally thought. Anu’s struggle to find herself is wrought with obstacles and sometimes frustrating, but the resolution of her story is both satisfying and realistic.” Lalli studied law, but then went on to do an M.A. in creative writing at the University of London.



Amnesty (Scribner) – by Aravind Adiga. The Man Booker Prize-winning author of *The White Tiger* and *Selection Day*, among other works of fiction, is back with a novel about a topic that's on everybody's mind: migration. Or, to be accurate, it's about migration without documentation. India is the usual setting for

Adiga's fiction, but this time we end up in Australia, where Adiga immigrated with his family as a teenager. Though Adiga mostly lives in India now, he remains an Australian citizen and is therefore on home territory again. In the novel, Dhananjaya Rajaratnam, now called Danny, is a Sri Lankan migrant in Australia. Despite failing to secure refugee status, he is getting by as a house cleaner and has a Vietnamese girlfriend. When Danny gets crucial information about a murder, he's torn about approaching the authorities, because he knows that it could lead to his deportation. “Reading him you get a sense of having your finger on the planet's pulse,” writes Dwight Garner in *The New York Times*.



Stealing Green Mangoes (HarperCollins) – by Sunil Dutta. This widely praised memoir was published last year—but sadly, Dutta died just a few months before its release. In 2016, Dutta, who was an expert on terrorism but also a biologist with a Ph.D. from UC-Davis, discovered that he had terminal

lung and bone cancer. Not deterred by the death sentence, Dutta felt compelled to share his family's astonishing story. While Dutta, who met his U.S.-born Caucasian wife in India, became a scholar, poetry translator, and a sergeant with the Los Angeles Police Department, his brother in India became a fugitive and a murderer who went to prison. For the brothers, the trauma of India's partition hadn't ended with the previous generation. But unlike Dutta, who sought comfort in music, poetry, metaphysics, and science, his brother found meaning in terror camps and the camaraderie of Khalistani separatists. Dutta, confronting mortality, saw his subject as “the possibility of a life full of compassion and meaning in a broken world.” ■

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A GUIDE FOR BINGE WATCHERS



(Photo: Jens Kreuter)

Binge watching has reached new heights, with streaming platforms regularly offering up a slew of exciting Indian shows. The Big Three—Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hotstar—are producing excellent content, competing for your time and your already weary eyeballs. Here's a list of recent must-watch shows, along with some if-you've-got-nothing-else-watch-these shows.

As a bonus, we've included regional favorites that you wouldn't want to miss.

By **BAISAKHI ROY**

To say that the streaming space has blown up in the last five years is an understatement. Especially in India, where more than 35 OTT services, including American platforms Netflix and Amazon, are scrambling to get subscribers for their shows. Though Netflix and Amazon, with their original content that caters to a global audience, are still the most popular, there's growing competition from local Indian services like ZEE5, VOOT, Eros Now, and ALTBalaji.

In 2019, Netflix had five new original series and eight original films produced in India. For 2020, the streaming service has lined up a number of high profile projects that include horror zombie series *Betaal* (produced by Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment); *Mai*, a female-centric drama, (produced by Anushka Sharma), urban drama *Bombay Begums* centered around a group of women, written and directed

by Alankrita Shrivastava (of *Lipstick Under My Burkha* fame), and comedy-drama *Messy*, created by and starring Indian-American actor, Ravi Patel, among others. Not to be outdone, Amazon Prime released its 2020 line-up that includes *The Last Hour*, a crime thriller produced by Oscar winning director Asif Kapadia, starring Sanjay Kapoor; *Bandish Bandits*, a musical love story starring Naseeruddin Shah; and *Dilli*, a political thriller with Saif Ali Khan and Dimple Kapadia in lead roles, among other shows.

But while you wait, there's much to catch up on. Here are some of the most popular shows on streaming right now for your viewing pleasure.

On Amazon Prime:

Setting the bar high for quality content is the Amazon original, *Made in Heaven*. Created by Zoya Akhtar (*Gully Boy*) and Reema Kagti (*Gold*), the 9-episode web

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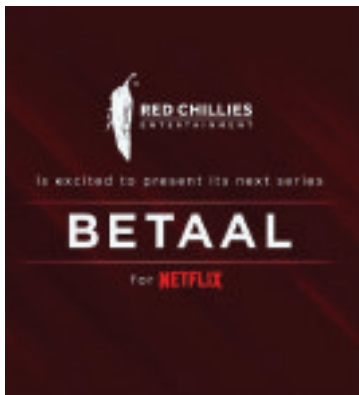


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series debuted on Prime in March 2019 and immediately made an impact. The series follows the personal and professional upheavals of Tara (Sobhita Dhulipala) and Karan (Arjun Mathur)—friends who run a wedding planning business in Delhi. Through the stories of their clients, we get to sneak a peek into the lives of seemingly normal folks who are dealing with, or are subject to, issues like ageism (a lovely cameo by Deepti Naval playing a 60-plus woman who marries against her children's wishes) and dowry (which still exists in modern Indian society). All this set against the glam and glitz of big, fat Indian *shaadis*. With its line-up of talented directors (Zoya Akhtar, Nitya Mehra who directed *Baar Baar Dekho*, *Umrika* helmer Prashant Nair, and Alankrita Shrivastava), astute writing, and anchored by standout performances from its two lead actors, the series is being hailed as India's best original content ever by critics across the spectrum and has received much love from viewers. Akhtar is reportedly penning the second season, so this would be a good time to catch up with the first instalment.

From *Made in Heaven*'s plush, upper-class Delhi, take a sharp turn to the dusty badlands of Uttar Pradesh, the setting for Karan Anshuman and Puneet Krishna's *Mirzapur*. Another winner from the Excel Entertainment stable, this crime thriller is a bloody and messy roller coaster ride that shocks and engages from the get go. Akhandanand Tripathi (a menacing Pankaj Tripathi) is a ruthless don who runs a carpet business that's a front for his illegal activities. He employs brothers Guddu (Ali Fazal) and Bablu (Vikrant Massey) to take care of his gun-running business much to the chagrin of his son, Munna (a brilliantly maniacal Divyendu Sharma). The ensuing jealousies and rivalries result in mayhem, peppered with predictable gore and *gaalis*, both served up with aplomb. The series was panned by critics for its overwhelming depiction of violence but proved to be a hit with audiences, becoming one of the most watched shows of 2019. Season 2 is expected to

arrive with a bang this year.

The *Family Man* is for die-hard Manoj Bajpayee fans who don't see enough of him on the big screen. For this series created by the kings of quirk, Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K. (the brains behind *Go Goa Gone* and *Happy Ending*), Bajpayee plays Srikant Tiwari, an undercover intelligence officer who must also deal with the day-to-day problems of his middle-class existence. The story meanders a bit, but some of the episodes pack a punch, dealing with issues that are reflective of the current mood in India. Bigoted politicians provoking violence against a certain community, college students being beaten up for not wearing their patriotism on their sleeve, and other similar instances touch a chord with the viewer. Performances by Sharib Hashmi and Priyaman, who plays Bajpayee's wife Suchi, are especially on point. Sumit Arora's (*Stree*) sharp writing elicits a lot of laughs. Combine that with Bajpayee's stellar acting skills and his ability to say nothing and yet steal a scene, and you have a delectable cocktail of high-tension sequences and funny situations. Season 2 is being shot this year!

Give it a shot:

Afsos: A suicidal man hires a professional killer to finish him off because he fails at it himself, repeatedly. If this premise doesn't intrigue you, nothing will. Directed by Anubhuti Kashyap (yes, very much related to Anurag Kashyap), this black comedy has some laugh-out-loud moments and is superbly acted by some of the best talent in India that includes Gulshan Devaiah in the lead, Heeba Shah, and Ratnabali Bhattacharya, among others.

Inside Edge (1 and 2): Panned by critics for being overtly sensational, the series was a big hit with fans and there's talk of a third season too. This was Amazon's first original series out of India and is centered around a fictional T20 cricket team. Cricket fans will especially enjoy the high-octane action and some fine acting by Richa Chadha, Aamir Bashir, and Siddhant

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Lessons from Nature

After installing Sugreev as the King of the kingdom named Kishkindha, Lord Ram and Lakshman camped on the hills outside the kingdom. The rainy season had set in and it was getting difficult to continue the journey to find Mother Seeta. They decided to wait out the season camping in the mountains. During this time, Shri Ram would give discourses to his younger brother, Lakshman, on devotion. Many of the examples that Shri Ram gave to Lakshman were taken from Nature. Some of these lessons are as follows:

- Just as mountains endure the heavy downpour, a Saint tolerates the comments and behavior of a non-believer.
- Just as water coming from various directions gathers into a pool, virtues find their way into a devotional heart.
- Just as the water of a stream becomes still once it merges into the ocean, so does the individual soul find eternal bliss on attaining God.
- Just as it becomes dark during the day because of rain clouds, the light of wisdom can be very easily obscured by wrong association.
- Just as fish are very happy in deep water, so a devotee is very happy once he takes refuge in God.
- Just as the small rivulets rush with great speed towards the river, so does the soul that does not love God feel elated even with a small worldly fortune.
- Just as the water becomes muddy the moment it descends on earth, the soul is enveloped in Maya as soon as it is born.

'Words of Wisdom' are inspirational messages shared by Siddheshvari Devi Ji (Didi Ji). Didi Ji is the founder of Radha Madhav Society, a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to spreading the authentic teachings of Hinduism.

Didi Ji inaugurated Yugal Kunj (a Radha-Krishna temple and Community Center) in 2015 in Duluth, Georgia, and resides there approximately six months in a year, guiding Sunday satsangs and delivering discourses. All Hindu festivals are celebrated there. During the academic year, Yugal Kunj also offers a Gurukul program for children of all ages that teaches them about Hinduism. Enrichment classes in yoga, dance, music and languages are also offered for children and adults.



For more information about Didi Ji and her mission,
visit <http://www.radhamadhavsociety.org>.
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Chaturvedi, among others.

Mind the Malhotras: If comedy's your jam, this laugh riot starring Mini Mathur and Cyrus Sahukar is exactly what you need. The series is about a married couple who consult a therapist as a preventive measure against the possibility of a divorce. Produced by Dia Mirza, the situations and writing sometimes falter. Strictly "time pass," as they say.

Breathe: Madhavan plays a father who resorts to desperate measures to save his dying son. Gripping and at times macabre, this one's an engaging watch. Abhishek Bachchan is all set to headline the second season, with a completely new set of characters and storyline.

On Netflix:

Fun, cute, and very millennial, *Little Things* is centered on a young couple in Mumbai who go through the usual rigors of a live-in and sometimes long-distance relationship. The couple, played by Dhruv Sehgal (*Filter Copy*) and Mithila Palkar (*Karwaan*), navigate various challenges that crop up during the course of their relationship, from professional one-upmanship, to dealing with ageing parents, to being attracted to other people while being in a committed relationship. The writing is honest, straightforward, and non-judgmental, allowing both protagonists to come into their own at their own pace. Three seasons of this very charming show are currently streaming on Netflix. It makes for a great weekend watch with the younger members of the family.

One of the most acclaimed Indian series on Netflix, *Delhi Crime* is based on the investigation that followed the 2012 rape in Delhi, where a young woman was brutalized and gang-raped while travelling in a bus with her male friend. Directed by Canadian director Richie Mehta, the riveting drama garnered praise from critics and audiences alike for its portrayal of the Delhi police force, which was under immense pressure to apprehend the perpetrators of the brutal crime. Aably

supported by a fantastic team of actors including Rajesh Tailang and Rasika Dugal, Shefali Shah plays DSP Vartika Chaturvedi, the officer in charge of the investigation, with just the right amount of heft, empathy, and fragility. Watch this one for her.

If you've been a fan of the book or the series *The Handmaid's Tale*, you will catch on to the similarities with *Leila*, but Shanker Raman, Pawan Kumar, and Deepa Mehta's dystopian tale will still manage to make you uncomfortable. The year is 2047 and India is now Aryavarta, a Hindu totalitarian *rashtra* where children who are "mixed bloods" (of Hindu-Muslim parents) are taken away from their parents and women are second-class citizens subjected to purity tests. Huma Qureshi plays Shalini, whose affluent existence is shattered after her husband is killed and her daughter, a "mixed blood", is taken away by the powers that be. Shalini embarks on a harrowing journey to find her missing child and all hell breaks loose. The series is a disturbing watch, mainly because the setting is Indian and there's always that nagging question at the back of one's mind—*what if?* What if India is heading this way? The brooding visual palette of the film, coupled with fine performances by Huma and Siddharth, make for compelling drama.

Give it a shot:

Horror buffs, rejoice! Three distinctly different spooky stories will scare the living daylights out of you. Fans of the glorious Radhika Apte will love *Ghoul*. After *Sacred Games* and *Lust Stories*, Apte takes center stage as Nida Rahman, a military officer on a covert mission to interrogate a dreaded terrorist. The twist? It is set in a dystopian society and said terrorist ... we won't reveal more! You've got to watch it to believe it.

Dibakar Banerjee, Karan Johar, Anurag Kashyap, and Zoya Akhtar are back with their latest anthology of stories, *Ghost Stories*. Their *Lust Stories* and *Bombay Talkies* wowed critics, but this one falls short of both drama and the scares. Watch it if you are a fan of one or all four directors.

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Entertainment

Set in picturesque Bardez, Goa, *Typewriter* is Sujoy Ghosh's latest directorial for Netflix, featuring three adorable kids who are also wannabe ghostbusters. They are looking for the ghost that resides in a haunted villa and in the course of their adventures, things get really, really serious. *Typewriter* has a Secret Seven, Famous Five vibe to it. Don't watch it alone!

If you loved Season 1 of *Sacred Games*, you may feel a bit let down by the second season. The story line goes awry more than once. Also, the first season's tense,

pulsating rhythm is less in evidence here. Plus, there's too much Pankaj Tripathi in everything, everywhere. Watch it if only to see how it all ends.

Baisakhi Roy is a Toronto-based writer and editor who loves to write about ordinary people and their extraordinary stories. A lifelong fan of Hindi movies, she cohosts *KhabardaarPodcast*, a weekly podcast on all things Bollywood.



OTHER NOTABLE SHOWS ON STREAMING PLATFORMS:

Hotstar:

Criminal Justice

The Office

Out of Love

TVF:

Kota Factory

Though there may be a dearth of limited series in various Indian languages, some of the best films from all over India are currently streaming on both Amazon and Netflix. Catch them before they are gone!

Amazon Prime:

Malayalam

- *Helen*: A nail-biting thriller starring Anna Ben (of *Kumbalangi Nights*) and Aju Varghese, this is a moving survival drama with some top-notch performances.

- *Virus*: No time like the present to watch this one, when panic around the coronavirus is flying hard and fast. Set in the backdrop of the 2018 Nipah virus out-

break in Kerala, this tale about a group of doctors trying to get to the source of the outbreak is part thriller, part social commentary. Plus a who's who of the Malayalam film industry including Parvathy Thiruvothu, Tovino Thomas, and Revathy star in this must-watch film.

- *Jallikattu*: Lijo Jose Pellisery's frenzied tale of a bull gone amok and the entire menfolk in the village trying to hunt it down, created a stir at major film festivals around the world last year. And while you are at it, also catch Pellisery's *Ee.Ma.Yau*, a hilarious satire on death set in beautiful, coastal Ernakulam. Malayalam film at its best!

- *Kumbalangi Nights*: This intricate family drama is Madhu C. Narayanan's directorial debut, which makes it doubly impressive. Set on a small island near Kochi, this family drama is about love and loss and what it means to be a man. Malayalam films are all about mood, nuance, and delicacy. Take in the lush beauty of gorgeous Kerala while savoring this beauty of a film.

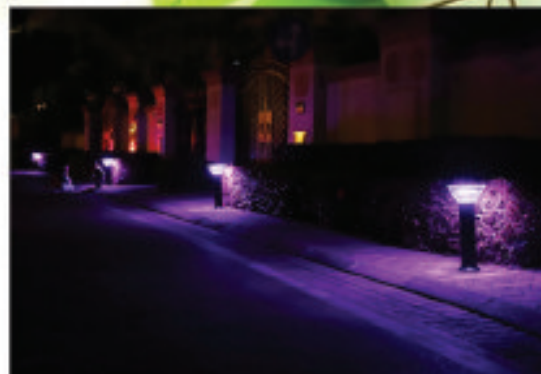
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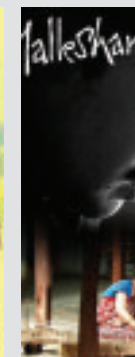
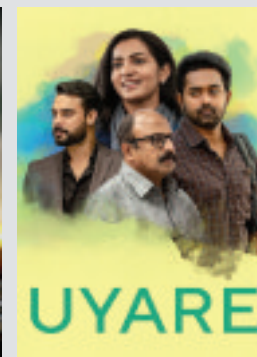
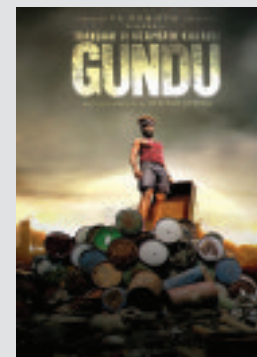
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Tamil:

• *Asuran*: If you enjoyed the cinematic delight that was *Vada Chennai*, then you will definitely savor some of the brilliant sequences and performances in director Vetrimaaran's latest saga. The director reunites with the enigmatic Dhanush for this story of a farmer trying to protect his son who has murdered an upper-caste landlord. The plot is based on the Kilvenmani massacre of 1968 when Dalit laborers in Tamil Nadu were murdered by upper caste landlords.

• *Irاندام Ulagaporin Kadaisi Gundu*: Another movie that tackles class and caste, this directorial debut by Athiyan Athirai has all the elements of an entertainer—comedy, thrills, and romance—with a sharp social message about societal inequality. The film's story, though fictional, is inspired by true events from, wait for it ... World War II!

• *Peranbu*: Tamil cinema is not all blood, gore, and thrills. Director Ram tells a moving story of a single father and his daughter with cerebral palsy. Starring the ever reliable Mammooty, this film is a visual delight and a balm for the soul.

Telugu:

Agent Sai Srinivasa Athreya: Hailed by critics as the best comedy-thriller to come out of the Telugu film industry in decades, this Swaroop RSJ directorial follows the story of a detective based in Nellore who unexpectedly courts danger after discovering a dead body. Starring Naveen Polishetty (of YouTube's AIB fame) and Shruti Sharma, this is an absolute fun ride!

Brochevarevarura: It's raining comedies in Telugu cinema! This quirky kidnap drama has been praised for its natural performances and taut story line and has made it to many Best Film lists last year. Written and directed by Vivek Athreya, it stars Sree Vishnu (from the 2013 hit

Prema Ishq Kaadhal) and Nivetha Thomas among others.

Other notable films available on Amazon Prime include Kannada films *Gantumote* (a coming-of-age film from the female perspective), *Katha Sangama* (an anthology of 7 short stories), and *Kavaludaari* (a pacy, investigative thriller). Indian National Award-winning Assamese film *Village Rockstars*, by self-taught filmmaker Rima Das, is another hidden treasure.

Bengali:

Professor Shanku o El Dorado
Ghawre Baire Aaj

Netflix unfortunately doesn't have an exhaustive collection like Amazon, but sample these gems that are currently streaming:

Malayalam:

Uyare

Bengali:

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Tamil:

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Game Over
KD Engira Karuppudurai

Telugu:

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LOSING TIME OR SAVING TIME?

On March 8th, we change to Daylight Saving Time (DST). That means, notes **HEMLATA VASAVADA**, we won't recover our precious hour of lost sleep for eight long months. And then there's the question of efficiency. Is the seasonal switch really worth it, she asks?



Last year, after the dawning of the DST in March, I saw a picture of a Native American with a caption: "Only the government would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of the blanket, sew it to the bottom and have a longer blanket." Instead of the American-Indian man, I imagined an Indian-American woman cutting one end of her sari and stitching it to the other. If she repeated the process twice a year, her six-yard silk would become a mini skirt. What a waste of time, energy and material! In adjusting from Standard Time to Daylight Saving Time and vice-versa, our clocks must suffer some wear and tear. And how much time do we lose in fiddling with our timepieces?

I took a survey to find out. Unlike the man on the news who owned 4000 timepieces and spent several hours to change time, my survey dealt with households with average clocks/watches. Some friends told me it took seven minutes, while others said it took fifteen. My husband bragged that he changed our clocks in five minutes. A quick inspection around the house showed several unadjusted clocks.

"Why do they call it Daylight Saving Time when we lose an hour, and then several collective hours to reset our clocks and watches?" I asked a science professor.

"The 'saving' doesn't stand for time but for energy," he said. "Congress followed the European Summer Time practice to move the clocks ahead. Scientific research proves this shift conserves energy."

My unscientific mind silently argued: If we move our clocks forward to use the sunlight in the evening, aren't we wasting electricity in the morning? Shopping malls are brightly lit morning or evening, so their consumption of electricity is the same during DST. If some industries save energy by starting an hour earlier, they should simply move their work-hour ahead during summer instead of making us all bounce back and forth. Originally, farmers protested DST, probably because they couldn't persuade their cows and hens to produce milk and eggs earlier. It is my unscientific assumption that since farmers start at dawn, they use more energy during forwarded time. Surveys have

shown that there are more traffic accidents and loss of productivity on Mondays after springing forward to Daylight Saving Time.

Perhaps that is why some states have refused to jump on the DST bandwagon. And yet, most people are sold on the energy-saving virtues of Daylight Saving Time. It has been extended twice. Standard Time has now been reduced to four months. With this forward march, we'll soon be in continuous DST.

A permanent move might stop our chronological seesawing, but can we ignore Greenwich Mean Time? If we ignore GMT, why advance just once? We could keep marching forward and catch up with the International Dateline. This would give us the opportunity to become the first to welcome the New Year and the first to open the stock market. On the other hand, some people have suggested we permanently change to DST. We see the forward moving trend in many industries. Thanksgiving-themed decorations are in the stores in October and Christmas items are displayed after Labor Day. New car models for 2020 were marketed in the fall of 2019. Magazines are usually distributed "before their time." At least we have the newspapers to verify the actual date.

If we change one hour, why not keep moving forward? Since we Americans like to be ahead of every country, the forward move will help us catch up to the land of rising sun. It might be exciting to be the first to celebrate the New Year or check the stock market, but how will we get the lost hours back? And, if we keep chipping away at our time, we will never regain our precious hours. Switching from Standard Time to Daylight Saving Time and back again is draining our time and energy. Our metaphorical blankets and saris are losing their fabrics after repeated cutting and stitching in hopes of extending them.

Hemlata Vasavada's novel, The Cascade Winners, was published in 2014. Her personal essays, articles, and humor pieces have appeared in magazines and newspapers. She lives in Pullman, Washington.

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India's beautiful and secular legacy is worth fighting for

Massive protests throughout the country against the Citizenship Amendment Act is a sign that the nation's conscience has been stirred against the increasingly polarizing actions of the ruling party.

By K.M. VENKAT NARAYAN

Spontaneous, nonviolent, and peaceful protests erupted against The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) immediately after its passage into law on December 11, 2019. The anti-CAA movement—largely led by women and students—has since continued

nonstop, gained in peaceful solidarity, grown, and swept across the length and breadth of India.

It is important to understand all sides of the argument without allowing the polarizing and political high-voltage rhetoric to drown out logic.



JMI students and locals protesting against the CAA and NRC. (Photo: Creative Commons)

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If the honest intent of CAA is humanitarian and to protect people who have fled religious persecution, then the correct approach will be to treat all persecuted people seeking refuge as equals (regardless of their religion) and then use a fair vetting process (like for any naturalization). Allowing six religions and three countries to gain citizenship with minimal proof, while specifically excluding Muslims from this process, appears political and is what makes the intention behind CAA open to cynicism.

The CAA amends the Citizenship Act of 1955 to grant a swifter path to Indian citizenship under the assumption of religious persecution to any individual belonging to the specific minorities of Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Jains, and Parsees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, who arrived in India before December 31, 2014.

The government of India has argued that the intention behind the CAA is two-fold: (a) a humanitarian gesture to protect persecuted minorities from the three countries; and (b) to prevent illegal immigration from these countries.

If the honest intent of CAA is humanitarian and to protect people who have fled religious persecution, then the correct approach will be to treat all persecuted people seeking refuge as equals (regardless of their religion) and then use a fair vetting process (like for any naturalization). Allowing six religions and three countries to gain citizenship with minimal proof, while specifically excluding Muslims from this process, appears political and is what makes the intention behind CAA open to cynicism. Moreover, it threatens the wonderful legacy of secular India.

The founding of the modern Republic of India was a moment of great hope for the entire world as a beacon of freedom and as a model of inclusivity, peace, and a forward-looking march of human progress. It was a moment that placed freedom, equality, fraternity, and justice as universal principles, regardless of age, gender, caste, religion, and any other attribute. It is this that the world has admired about India, and what has given the country enormous “soft power.” Violating these principles can not only cause major internal strife within India, but can cost the country a lot of her friends internationally.

Examining the recent demography of India, about 5.5 million people in India reported their last residence outside the country (Census 2011), which is roughly 0.4% of the population of India (1.339 billion). Of these, 2.2 million reportedly came from Bangladesh, 0.7

million from Pakistan, and only 6,596 from Afghanistan. The vast majority of migrants (>90%) arrived soon after 1971—after the war creating Bangladesh—and so have lived in India now for nearly 50 years or two generations. Privileging some of these people for rapid process to citizenship, while denying others this legal path on the basis of their religion, runs against the norms of India’s pluralistic and secular principle.

Additionally, the idea of a potentially massive nationwide exercise to identify “illegals” through, for example, a National Register of Citizens (NRC) or a National Population Register (NPR) is a logistical and costly nightmare. The numbers of “illegal” immigrants are tiny: 0.2-0.3% (estimated from Census 2011). In a population as large as 1.4 billion, finding them will be like searching for the proverbial needle in a haystack. Importantly, it will also put innocent Indian citizens at risk to have to prove their belonging (as has been the experience with the NRC in Assam). Invariably, Indian Muslims and poor people without birth records or other documentation will be vulnerable to harassment and disenfranchisement.

It is this existential fear that has aroused protests across India, by not only those directly threatened (the country’s religious minority and poor citizens), but also by advocates of civil rights, equality, and justice. What is important is that these protests have been spontaneous, apolitical, and decentralized in their organization and leadership, and have maintained the high ideals of the Gandhian nonviolent social movement—a great gift which India gave to the modern world.

For the government’s part, it has tried to explain that the CAA per se is not about India’s 200 million Muslim citizens. This may technically be correct. However, a number of factors create distrust between the government and the country’s minority Muslims, poorer classes, and liberal secularists. The past several years have witnessed a growing and toxic atmosphere characterized by Hindutva muscle power and a blatant Islamophobia agenda. When viewed against this

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backdrop, the CAA, by specifically excluding Muslims, is understandably seen as a political ploy, besides its clear violation of the secular constitution of the land. An added fear is the precedent it would set, and worse still, should it ever get linked to the NRC or NPR. True, the government says that the CAA and the NRC/NPR are separate instruments, but these two moves must be seen collectively for what they are. In fact, the Home Minister linked the CAA, NRC, NPR on various occasions, including in the Parliament, and even spoke of the chronology in which they would be carried out – generating the flashpoint for the spontaneous protests.

Alarmingly, the space for democratic dissent appears to be shrinking amongst government and public vitriol, and actions against the protestors. The government has not directly and peacefully engaged with the concerns of the protestors or provided opportunities for dialogue or found ways to understand their apprehensions. Even more worrisome is the fact that in many states controlled by the BJP (notably, India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh), there have been belligerent and oppressive approaches to stop the peaceful protests, sometimes involving gross police aggression, arrests without warrant, and intimidation. Police have entered some university campuses to aggressively stop protestors, and have passively watched militant gunmen shoot at protestors in some places.

Peaceful protestors, such as famous historian Ramachandra Guha and Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan, were taken into temporary custody. A German student and a Norwegian visitor were asked to leave the country because they joined a peaceful protest. In Karnataka, a school teacher and a parent were arrested and charged for sedition for staging a play about the CAA, and the police have interrogated children about this. *These actions clearly violate civil and human rights and suppress dissent in the world's largest democracy.*

Several state governments (e.g., Kerala, Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, others), under non-BJP rule, and representing nearly 60% of the country's population,

have issued resolutions opposing the CAA. Many notable academics, writers, Bollywood stars, civil society groups, international groups, human rights' organizations have spoken against the CAA. Several thoughtful

members of the Indian diaspora in the U.S., including Satya Nadella, Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft, and Abhijit Banerjee, winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize for economics, have been outspoken against the CAA. Prominent media channels in the U.S., Europe, Australia, and others have raised serious concerns about the CAA. The United Nations has called the CAA discriminatory. Several friendly foreign governments, such as the European Union,

are discussing resolutions against the CAA. The CAA now clearly adds to the growing perception that India is turning into a majoritarian Hindu state, and one in which the most sizeable minority feels threatened, and where freedoms and rights are being increasingly trampled upon. India's ranking in the Global Democracy Index has plummeted in the past few years.

The notion that India can afford to violate the rights of her 200 million strong Muslim citizens, allow injustices to occur to them, ignore their well-being as equal citizens, segregate them, and yet hope to build a proud, great, new, and united Hindu India is naïve. Moreover, this communal orientation is fraught with danger to all Indians and to the world. Smaller nations, such as Yugoslavia, attempting coercive unification and homogenization across ethnicities, failed and broke into civil war and split into several parts.

What has been remarkable about India is that it has very ably held together its vast and diverse multireligious, multilingual, and multicultural population with the civil threads of democracy and freedoms. As the protestors and their growing supporters understand, India's beautiful and secular legacy is worth fighting for.

K. M. Venkat Narayan, M.D., a professor of Global Health and Medicine at Emory University, Atlanta, and director of the Emory Global Diabetes Research Center, is regarded as a national and international leader in diabetes and chronic diseases. He also writes on current events and issues.



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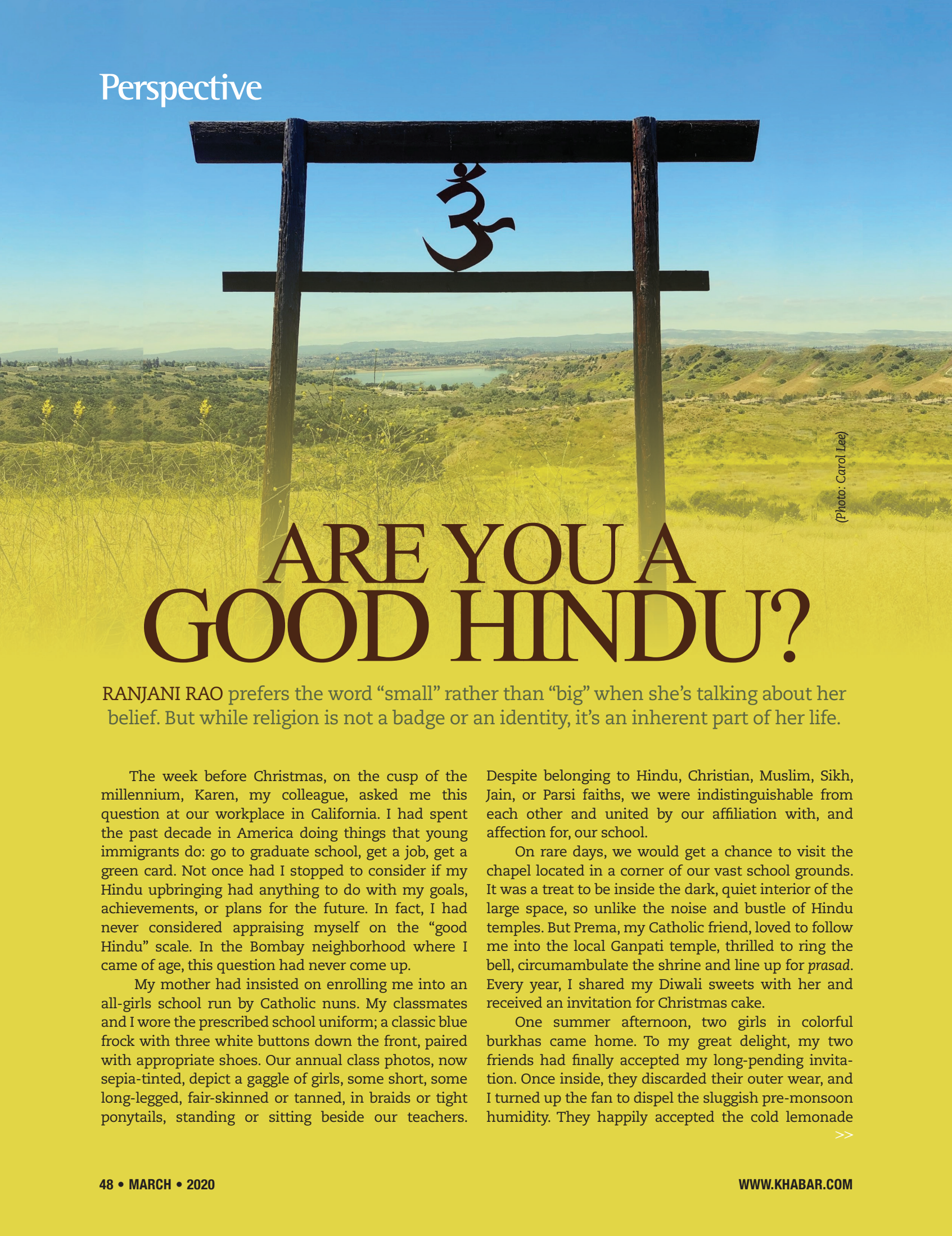
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ARE YOU A GOOD HINDU?

(Photo: Carol Lee)

RANJANI RAO prefers the word “small” rather than “big” when she’s talking about her belief. But while religion is not a badge or an identity, it’s an inherent part of her life.

The week before Christmas, on the cusp of the millennium, Karen, my colleague, asked me this question at our workplace in California. I had spent the past decade in America doing things that young immigrants do: go to graduate school, get a job, get a green card. Not once had I stopped to consider if my Hindu upbringing had anything to do with my goals, achievements, or plans for the future. In fact, I had never considered appraising myself on the “good Hindu” scale. In the Bombay neighborhood where I came of age, this question had never come up.

My mother had insisted on enrolling me into an all-girls school run by Catholic nuns. My classmates and I wore the prescribed school uniform; a classic blue frock with three white buttons down the front, paired with appropriate shoes. Our annual class photos, now sepia-tinted, depict a gaggle of girls, some short, some long-legged, fair-skinned or tanned, in braids or tight ponytails, standing or sitting beside our teachers.

Despite belonging to Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Jain, or Parsi faiths, we were indistinguishable from each other and united by our affiliation with, and affection for, our school.

On rare days, we would get a chance to visit the chapel located in a corner of our vast school grounds. It was a treat to be inside the dark, quiet interior of the large space, so unlike the noise and bustle of Hindu temples. But Prema, my Catholic friend, loved to follow me into the local Ganpati temple, thrilled to ring the bell, circumambulate the shrine and line up for *prasad*. Every year, I shared my Diwali sweets with her and received an invitation for Christmas cake.

One summer afternoon, two girls in colorful burkhas came home. To my great delight, my two friends had finally accepted my long-pending invitation. Once inside, they discarded their outer wear, and I turned up the fan to dispel the sluggish pre-monsoon humidity. They happily accepted the cold lemonade

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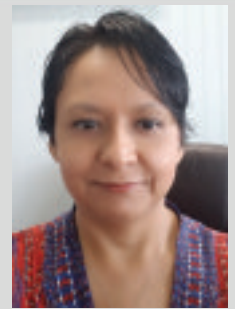
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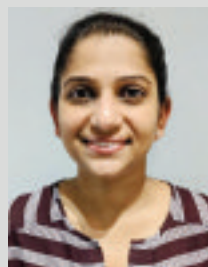
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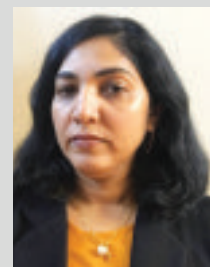
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Having called cities within and outside India as home, and having made friends from faraway lands, I choose to intentionally cultivate faith in people—to look beyond the differences, to refrain from participating in divisive debates, to build bridges to understanding.

that my mother offered, oblivious to the disapproving gaze of my grandmother. We giggled and laughed, exchanged books, and gossiped about movie stars.

“Why do you have Muslim friends?” My grandmother’s question, asked a few minutes after they left, wasn’t entirely unexpected. She knew that I went to a different school than my brothers, that my classroom was full of girls, but she hadn’t expected me to bring home friends of other religions. She had a way of setting me off by constantly questioning the length of my hair, the cut of my dress, and the absence of the bindi on my forehead. Inwardly seething, I chose not to reply.

“Your brothers don’t bring home boys from other religions,” she continued, unaware of my rage.

“How would you know? All boys look the same,” I replied. My words caught her off guard.

My mother had always encouraged my brothers and me to bring our friends home, a smart move that allowed her to keep an eye on who we were hanging out with and what we talked about. She had not placed any restrictions of gender or religion on any of us.

My grandmother stood at the door to the kitchen, stunned into silence by my retort. Behind her I could see the altar holding photos and idols of Hindu gods. Our parents prayed there each morning, and so did we, repeating *shlokas* and rituals we had observed a thousand times before. By the time I was ten, I could recite the Lord’s Prayer in school and *shlokas* in praise of Ganesha and Saraswati at home.

Were my parents good Hindus? I do not know. I was not told or tutored to be one. Did they take us to temples and places of pilgrimage? Yes. Did my parents live peacefully with their neighbors and get on with their lives without fanning hatred and division? Absolutely yes.

My parents took my brothers and me to the Golden Temple in Amritsar and other gurdwaras when we were kids. In later years, I took them on a holiday to Goa where we admired the historic churches. More recently, I found myself awestruck by the beauty and majesty of the Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri. I have contemplated silently at the Bahai Temple in Delhi and

found peace in Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh.

My rituals form the framework of my daily discipline. I take a few minutes each day to mindfully acknowledge a higher power whom I entrust with my wellbeing. Over the years, I have forgotten some of the Sanskrit chants I once recited, but I have made it a point to say one English prayer giving thanks and one *shloka* seeking forgiveness each night—practices that give me the strength to be human, to accept my mistakes, and to strive to be better.

But my faith is more than a single-minded pursuit of religious symbols and rituals. Having called cities within and outside India as home, and having made friends from faraway lands, I choose to intentionally cultivate faith in people—to look beyond the differences, to refrain from participating in divisive debates, to build bridges to understanding.

A few months ago, guests representing ten different countries attended a Deepavali party at our home in Singapore. I do not know what their religious affiliations were. It didn’t matter. What mattered was that our festival gave us an excuse to meet and have a pleasant evening, and for a short while, disregard the artificial separation brought about by our geographic borders.

What would my grandmother have said? Would she have considered it sacrilegious?

What would Karen say? Would she consider me a good Hindu?

All I know is that by opening my home to the people who are within my circle, with each of us so far from home, I am just expanding the circle that was built decades ago in a girls’ school in a Bombay suburb, a circle whose epicenter was that small apartment where my mother welcomed my friends, regardless of their religion or the disapproval of her mother. I have learnt that being a good Hindu is nowhere as important as being a good human. I am sure my mother would agree.

Ranjani Rao, scientist, writer, wife, and mother, originally from Bombay, now lives, reads, and works in Singapore and writes at Story Artisan Press.

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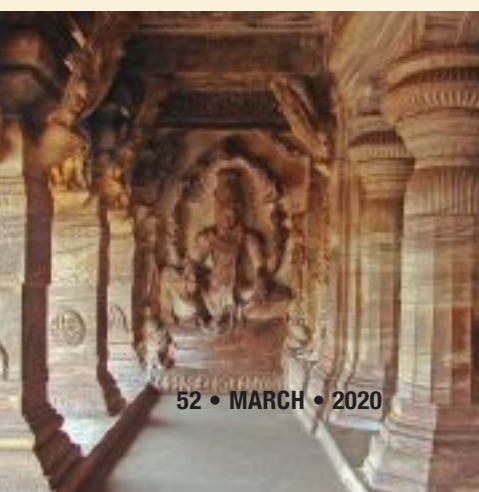
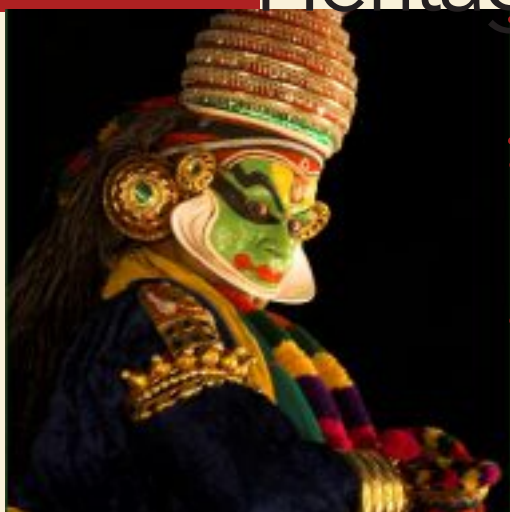
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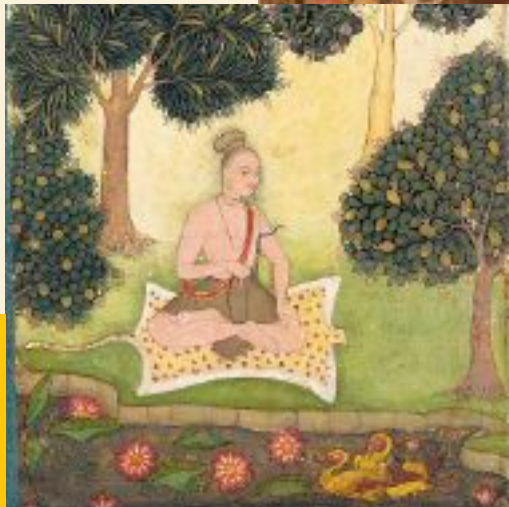
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The massive diversity of Indian culture and its abundant riches are taken for granted by its people, while they are a source of wonder and bewilderment to others. How and when did this vibrant profusion of languages, faiths, artistic expressions, and culinary traditions evolve?

By JAIDEV DASGUPTA

Twenty-two major languages and 720 dialects. All the major religions of the world. Stunning art and opulent architecture. Happy, colorful festivals that celebrate the glory of life. Customs, rituals, dance forms, and textile traditions—India's diversity is breathtaking to some and mind-boggling to others!

Growing up in the historical city of Jhansi in India, amongst a vibrant, mixed population of Sikhs, Hindus, Parsis, Muslims, and Christians, I was exposed to a variety of patterns of living. Where did they come from? How did they arise? People, including me, took this profuse multiculturalism for granted and lived it as a fact of life, without any need for exploring it further.

In later years, however, with growing interest in history I discovered that India was ethnically diverse even in its ancient past. The *Rig Veda* mentions people—named *dasas* and *panis*—of non-Aryan origin; they were aborigines or the local inhabitants, known as *Adivasis*. Their religion and culture were different from that of the Vedic people.



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Manuals such as the *Natyashastra*, *Kavyadarsha*, *Shilpashastras*, *Vastushastras*, and *Kamashastras* were written, setting down rules and standards for practicing various arts. These richly detailed texts promoted waves of creativity and intellectual activity across the centuries that evolved into the profusely diverse culture that India is known for today.

According to historians, there were social, cultural, religious, and economic variations even in the vast Mauryan empire of King Ashoka, in the 3rd century BCE. Apart from the prominent languages, namely, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, and Tamil, there were perhaps several other local languages spoken in that period. The Upanishads were written in Sanskrit, the Buddha preached in Pali, and the Sangam literature was composed in Tamil.

However, it was roughly between the 7th and 15th centuries that various dynamic and creative forces—political, religious, and cultural—converged to shape the future of the Indian subcontinent. Distinct regions of the land asserted their cultural identities, building the foundation for diversity to flourish as a way of life. During this period, cultural diversification influenced the growth of regionalism. At the political level, while the ambitions of regional kings and their dynasties to establish empires led to division of the land into multiple kingdoms, the backdrop of cultural uniqueness of each region also likely emphasized regionalism. Concurrently, the rulers' patronage of the arts and architecture helped reinforce local identities.



Shiva ("Nataraja"), as the Lord of Dance, has been revered in the *Natyashastra*. The variety of art forms that flourished prompted manuals such as *Natyashastra* (for the classical dances), *Kavyadarsha* (poetry), *Shilpashastras* (sculpting), and *Vastushastras* (Feng shui) that still inform those arts even after centuries. (Photo: LACMA.org)

A cultural flowering

Culture includes everything related to people: customs, traditions, rituals, behavior, knowledge, beliefs, purpose of life, food, morals, religion, law, and so on. And culture expresses itself through various forms—visual art (architecture, sculpture, painting), literature (poetry, writing) and the performing arts (dance, drama, music, singing, etc.), for example. The Sanskrit term for art is *kalā*. Ancient texts tell us that India had 64 forms of *kalā* or art, the long list of which includes, in addition to what is mentioned above, flower arrangement, personal grooming, head dressing, gardening, sensual arts, sleight of hand, magic, archery, gymnastics, logic, chemistry, minerology, and more. Essentially, *kalā* means "the right way of doing something," and with so many forms of it, virtually every aspect of Indian

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A painting of Adi Shankaracharya by Raja Ravi Varma, the late 19th century painter whose work is included in the current exhibition "Transcendental Deities" at Emory University's Carlos Museum.

life was considered imbued with art. Manuals such as the *Natyashastra*, *Kavyadarsha*, *Shilpashastras*, *Vastushastras*, and *Kamashastras* were written, setting down rules and standards for practicing various arts. These richly detailed texts promoted waves of creativity and intellectual activity across the centuries that evolved into the profusely diverse culture that India is known for today.

Rising popularity of literature in regional languages

Two important factors that come to mind when people define their identity, and differentiate themselves from others, are the language they speak and

the religious beliefs they hold in common. Though other factors such as food, clothes, and art are also important characteristics of a culture, common language and religion bind people closely to give them a social identity. And as this binding is possible and effective when people live in the same region, the region also becomes another important factor in defining people's identity—they see themselves hailing from a specific geographic location.

In ancient India, while the spoken local languages evolved over a long period of time, the adoption of scripts for writing in them spurred the tendency to move away from Sanskrit, the language of the elites. Although Sanskrit maintained its established status with illustrious authors such as Banabhatta, Bhavabhuti, Kalhana, including kings such as Harshavardhana, Someshvar, Krishnadevraj, and Amoghavarsha, from the 9th century onwards, an increasing number of literary works, both religious and secular, started appearing in regional languages such as Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Gujarati, Punjabi, Marathi, Bengali and others. The sacred epics—*Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*—were translated in these languages. In southern India, the Nayanar and Alvar saints wrote devotional songs, hymns, and poems in Tamil for the deities Shiva and Vishnu. Other poets of this period, hailing from different regions, such as Allama Prabhu, Narsimha Mehta, Jnaneshwar, Baba Farid, Amir Khusrow, Kabir, and Guru Nanak were also mystics and religious leaders.

Religion and philosophy

In the early part of the 7th – 15th century period, the surge in the production of religious literature was due to the rise of the devotional or *Bhakti* movement. Although Shiva and Vishnu were worshipped even in earlier centuries, *bhakti* as a way of developing a personal relationship with one's favored deity caught people's

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Sant Kabir (Photo: Medium.org), Narsinh Mehta (a sculpture in present day Vadodara, Gujarat) (Photo: Wiki Commons), and Allama Prabhu (Photo: i.pinimg.com)—three of the many luminaries of the bhakti movement.

imagination during this period; it seemed to fulfill people's spiritual aspirations. While the movement is seen as a reaction against institutionalized Vedic Brahminism steeped in rituals and the caste system, it also attracted people away from the heterodox religions of Buddhism and Jainism. The convergence of Vedic Brahminism, the Bhakti movement, and local cults with beliefs in multiple deities and diverse practices gave rise to Hinduism. It also absorbed Shakti or the Mother Goddess in her various forms as consorts of Shiva and Vishnu.

Even as the major religions existed side by side, there were adverse relationships among them, too. Politics played a role in their jostling for dominance. While some kings supported multiple sects, there is evidence

that others persecuted Buddhists. The Pala kings of Bengal supported Buddhism. However, it gradually declined, leaving only a small population of Buddhists in India. It is believed that the spread of Vedantic thought—based on the philosophy of Advaita or non-dualism conceptualized by the 8th century theologian-philosopher Adi Shankaracharya—played a significant role in the decline of Buddhism in India.

Furthermore, Ramanuja and Madhava formulated and championed qualified nondualism and dualism, respectively. Other schools of philosophy—Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Yoga, and Mimamsa—were also recognized.

In the 15th century, Sikhism appeared as yet another religion. A few centuries prior to that, Islam had entered north India as a political force, although Christianity, Islam, and Judaism came to South India many centuries before that with merchants and ship-pers. Thus, by the end of this period, all the major religions of the world were present in India. The subcontinent had

Left to Right: Jaisalmer Fort (Rajasthan), Gwalior Fort (Madhya Pradesh), and Qutub Minar (Delhi). Each dynasty and each region had their own set of architectural nuances and landmarks. (Photos: Wiki Commons).



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It's worth noting that a few centuries before the Mughal emperor Akbar propounded Din-i Ilahi—combining elements of different religions, mainly Islam and Hinduism—in 1582 CE, a syncretic tradition, known as *Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb*, developed in the *Doab* (two rivers) region in the north. It arose from the blending of elements of Hindu and Muslim cultures to promote peaceful and harmonious coexistence of the two communities.

absorbed a range of diverse orthodox and heterodox philosophies.

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differences and focus on common humanity resonated in the preaching of saints such as Nanak and Kabir.

Splendor in stone

Historical texts tell us that it became important for regional kings and large organizations supported by land grants to prominently display their religious affiliations. They funded the erection of massive and spectacular temples. While employing a large number of artisans, sculptors, painters, priests, dancers, musicians, and other workers, the opulence of these temples also spoke eloquently of the image, glory, and wealth of their patrons.

Though temples were built according to the rules laid out in the *Vastu-shastra*, regional variations flourished in terms of architectural style. There was the Nagar style of the north with a curvilinear tower (*shikhar*) with *amalak* (ornamental stone disk) and *kalash* (metal pot symbolizing creation) on top; the *Dravida* style of the south with a pyramidal tower (*viman*), *stupika*, and *kalash*; the *Vessar*, or the blended form found between the Vindhya mountain range and the river Krishna; and the unusual forms found in Kashmir and Bengal. These regional forms had further stylistic differences within themselves. Thus, a range of



Kailasa Temple, the largest of the rock-cut temples at the Ellora Caves, Maharashtra. (Photo: Wiki Commons)

Chausath Yogini Temple, 10th Century AD, is the abode of Goddess Durga along with 64 yoginis. (Photo: Wiki Commons)



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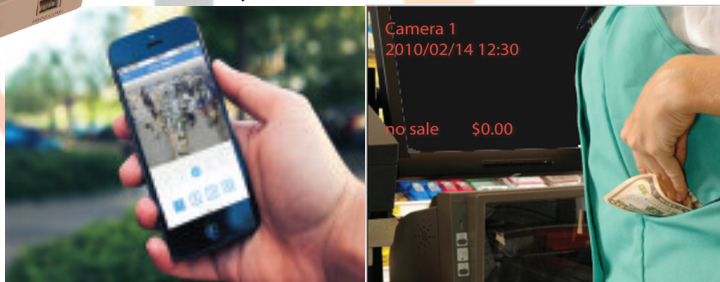
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Top: The Vishvanatha Temple is a part of the Khajuraho Monuments, a UNESCO World Heritage site. (Photo: Wiki Commons).

Bottom Left: Brihadeeswara (or Brihadishvara) Temple, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, one of the largest South Indian temples, is an exemplary example of Dravidian architecture. (Photo: Wiki Commons).

Bottom Right: The Shree Jagannath Temple of Puri in Odisha is a major pilgrimage destination. (Photo: Wiki Commons)

styles—Chalukya, Chandra, Chola, Hoysala, Kalinga, Kashmiri, Pallava, and Pala—came into existence. While many temples were erected on the ground, others were sculpted out of large rocks (Kailashnath temple of Ellora) and carved in caves (the Ajanta and Ellora caves near Aurangabad and the Elephanta shrines near Mumbai). These buildings were further enhanced with dance rooms, anterooms, space for circumambulation around the deity's images, secondary deities, assembly halls, and residences for monks.

Both inside and outside, these temples and caves were richly decorated with murals and sculptures, reflecting regional styles, with gods and

goddesses, scenes from the epics, forms of Devi the Mother Goddess, Shiva's moods and dances, Vishnu's ten incarnations, Buddha and Bodhisattvas, Tirthankaras, mythic beings, mythological and Jataka tales, secular life, amorous couples and sensual scenes, dancers and musicians, animal figures, and more.

As the union of the artist's vision with craftsmanship reached its peak in the previous era of the Gupta period that

ended in the 6th century, rules for sculptures were canonized in the *Shilpashastras*, which helped artists fulfill the high demand for large scale production of temple art. New ideas and mediums were explored, giving

rise to regional styles and metal works, such as bronze sculptures. These images displayed heavy ornamentation and accentuated body movements. With the large-scale production of art, the focus shifted from symbolism to representation. Some scholars believe that this is when Indian art descended from the divine to the human plane.

Certain kings practiced religious tolerance and hence, promoted the building of temples belonging to multiple faiths. Khajuraho, for instance, has Shiva, Vishnu, and Jain temples and the Kapalika tradition (dedicated to Bhairava, a fierce form of Shiva).

Architectural creativity also found its expression in the building of spectacular forts such as the 8th century Gwalior Fort in Madhya Pradesh and the 12th century Jaisalmer Fort in Rajasthan.

The arrival of Arabs and Turks introduced new architectural and art forms in India with their emphasis on

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Various characters of Kathakali dance (Kerala). (Photo: Wiki Commons)



Manipuri dance, or Jagoi, from the state of Manipur in northeast India. (Photo: Wiki Commons)

calligraphy, geometric and abstract patterns, floral and vegetal forms, domes and arches, tiling and tessellation, and so on. Qutub Minar in Delhi and Sufi Shrines in the Multan region are some of the Islamic monuments of this period.

Distinct forms of dance, music, and painting

Dance, drama, and music have been associated with religious rituals since ancient times. Temples, being cultural centers, held dance and music recitals.

Now collectively known as the classical dance of India, multiple dance forms—Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Manipuri, Sattriya, and Mohiniyattam—flourished in different regions. These forms follow the *Natyashastra*, which codified rules for evoking specific *rasas* (sentiments) in the audience through the dancer's portrayal of different *bhavas* (gestures, postures, and mudras). Essentially, these are dance-dramas in which the dancer uses gestures and movements to act out a story based on Hindu mythology.

Additionally, there were regional folk and tribal dances as well in different socio-economic environments. Unlike the classical dances, folk dances are lively and simple forms, unfettered by codified rules. They are usually per-

Sangit-Ratnakar, a 13th century treatise by Sarangadeva, discusses *swara*, *tala*, *raga* (note/pitch, beat, melodic pattern), instruments, etc. Various genres of music including Hindustani (from northern India) and Carnatic (from southern India) classical music, *khayal*, *thumri*, *bhajan*, *qawwali*, *ghazal*, and others developed in this period.

formed during festivals and accompanied by folk songs. Some of the tribal dances are also associated with fertility cults. Local variations in both classical

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Kuchipudi (originated in Andhra Pradesh). Seen here is dancer Nitya Yelamanchili. (Photo: Wiki Commons)



and folk dances added to the story of growing regionalism in art and culture.

Along with dance came music, a combination of three arts—recital (*vadya*), melos (*geeta*), and dance (*nritya*). The *Natyashastra*, from around the turn of the era (400 BCE-200CE) and ascribed to the sage Bharata, is at the foundation of Indian music and dance. *Sangit-Ratnakar*, a 13th century treatise by Sarangadeva, discusses *swara*, *tala*, *raga* (note/pitch, beat, melodic pattern), instruments, etc. Various genres of music including Hindustani (from northern India) and Carnatic (from southern India) classical music, *khayal*, *thumri*, *bhajan*, *qawwali*, *ghazal*, and others developed in this period. Additionally, different musical instruments came into existence. Alongside, folk music based on themes of love, nature, and philosophy also flourished.

The temples, besides promoting the performing arts, were also decorated with reliefs, sculptures, and paintings displaying dancers and musicians. Elevated interest in both religious and secular paintings gave rise to distinct regional styles such as the Vijayanagar or Chola paintings. These paintings documented contemporary life including styles of jewelry, headdresses, hairstyles, clothes, and the textile traditions of those times.

Miniature painting was yet another form of art that developed in this era. Apparently, this style of painting started in the 8th century during the Palas rule in eastern India. Its origin, believably, lies in the small images of Buddha painted next to the religious texts on palm leaves. Later, paper was also used. Colors were derived from vegetables, indigo, precious stones, gold, and silver. In the 10th century, this style was introduced in the western part of the country during the Chalukya dynasty. Usually the themes were religious or mythological. Miniature painting reached its zenith during the Moghul era, and new themes were introduced. Subsequently, many schools of miniature painting—Deccan, Jain, Moghul, Odisha, Pala, Pahari, and Rajasthani—flourished, each developing their own styles, color combinations, and themes.

A culinary smorgasbord

With so much going on during these centuries in terms of religious beliefs, the arts, and architecture, could cuisine be far behind? The huge diversity characteristic of these fields is equally the hallmark of Indian cuisine, which, in itself, is a collection of many regional cuisines that are influenced by cultural traditions and religion. The Jain cuisine, for instance, is completely vegetarian and even excludes using the root vegetables

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Mallika Sarabhai, a leading contemporary exponent of the ancient dance form of Bharatnatyam, which originated in Tamil Nadu. (Photo: courtesy, Darpana Academy of Performing Arts)





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A typical Gujarati thali (platter) is a generous spread of 3 to 4 shaaks (vegetable entrees), a variety of flatbreads like rotli, thepla, puri, savorys like dhokla and khandvi, sweets like mango ras and shrikhand, rice, daals, kadhi, and an array of accompaniments like sweet and spicy chutneys, chaas (buttermilk), papad, pickles, and a lot more.

Furthermore, the food is also classified as sattvic (pure), rajasic (active, passionate), and tamasic (dull, heavy, slow) based on its effect on body and mind.

Regional food traditions obviously started out of locally available vegetables, fruits, grains, pulses, spices, dairy products, meat, and cooking medium. Each region has its distinct favorite dishes, staple food, side dishes, snacks and sweets, level of spiciness, and cooking styles. However, the large network of trade routes and migrations also meant that regional cuisines traveled to other parts, including regions overseas such as Southeast Asia, and influenced the local cuisines. The reverse is equally true; settlers from other parts of the world introduced their own cuisines into the melting pot of Indian culture—for example, Zoroastrians brought the Parsi food. The Portuguese left an undeniable influence on Goan cuisine, too. They also introduced vegetables such as chili peppers, potatoes, and tomatoes.

A much bigger and broader enrichment of Indian cuisine occurred with the arrival of Arabs and Moghuls, especially due to their distinctive culinary tradition of nonvegetarian delicacies. Kababs, kormas, biryanis, pilafs, baked breads, dates and nuts, apricots, melons, peaches and plums, and much

such as potato, onion and garlic.

more joined India's vast food platter. An interesting example of how food travels and changes its form is the samosa, a highly popular Indian snack, which travelled a long distance from the Middle East and Central Asia—where it originated around the 10th century and was known by slightly varying names such as Sanbosag, Sanbusak, Sambosa—to India around the 13th century. Amir Khusrow, a scholar and the royal poet of the Delhi Sultanate, is said to have written about royals and nobles enjoying samosa. Though originally it was filled with minced meat, almonds, pistachios, walnuts, and spices, Indians gave samosa a twist by filling it with peas and potatoes.



Kerala cuisine offers spicy coconut-based curries, seafood, a variety of rice dishes, and desserts like cherupayar payasam.

Thus, what meets the eye as the deeply variegated culture of modern India had its framework laid out between the 7th and 15th centuries, its development powered by rising regional consciousness, intellectual and political dynamism, and the creativity of its people. These forces created a society with a richly diverse culture, which was further enriched as foreign settlers brought their own beliefs, values, traditions, cuisines, and art forms.

Jaidev Dasgupta is the author of *In Search of Immortality: An Introduction to Indic World-Views* (New Delhi, India: Manohar, 2015). He writes on topics in Indian education, culture, and philosophy. He has been a scientist (M.S. in Physics, Ph.D. in Biology), technologist, and entrepreneur.

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From “Mr. India Global” to Influencer

“Do anything but that” was Dhaval Panchal's parent's response when he expressed an interest in modeling. But once success arrived in the way of glitzy titles and propitious career opportunities, the 28-year-old fashion model earned his family's wholehearted support. As well as winning Mr. India Global 2017/18, Mr. South Asia 2015, Mr. East Coast 2014, Panchal has appeared in films—*The Hunger Games*, *The Internship*, *Let's Be Cops* and *The Mule*, and TV shows like *Homeland* and *Necessary Roughness*. Panchal is also a brand ambassador for Express (fashion retailer), an Instagram blogger, an emerging entrepreneur, and a DJ who goes by the moniker DJ Ka\$h by Dhaval.

By REETIKA KHANNA

A scout for a modeling and acting school spotted you when you were studying at the University of South Carolina. Had you considered casting yourself in the spotlight before that?

I used to suffer from insecurity. People used to make fun of me, and I was always worried about other people's perspectives. When this opportunity came my way, I just took it and reassured my parents that I would not fall into bad things, and modeling would just be a hobby. But it turned into a career.

Many actors start as models. Were you also interested in acting when you embarked on a career as a model?

I hadn't given acting much thought, but I got an opportunity through the modeling agency I was with. And I absolutely loved it. I feel free in front of the camera. I am not shy. I can be myself. It bolsters my confidence, and I want to do a lot more of that. My agent is talking to some directors in Atlanta.

Can we expect to see you in Bollywood productions as well?

Yes! I am working towards that, too.

How did you get into blogging? Is it merely a platform to showcase yourself, or do you enjoy the experience?

Blogging and being an Instagram influencer is something I did on my own. I love my fans. I really enjoy it, and I like to connect with things I love and look



up to. That's how Express came about. They saw my Instagram and asked me to represent them. As a model, I have always wanted to represent something I personally like.

You have an Amazon storefront, and you are in the process of opening your own company for drop shipping in partnership with your friend. How did the idea for a commercial enterprise take root?

Honestly, I did not know much about the concept of drop shipping until recently. My partner Rushang (Ryan) Patel and I thought, “What's the best way not to work hard but smart?” We hired overseas employees for our Amazon Storefront business that we opened just a few months ago, and we are in the process of opening our own company for drop shipping. It's online e-commerce, and we contract almost entirely with Home Depot, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Wal-Mart.

On your website, you talk about a long journey that brought you to where you are today. What were the most significant hardships along that journey?

A lot of people did not support me. People made fun of me and said hurtful things. But I learned to stop worrying about what others think and kept pushing

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Talk Time



myself. I had to stay positive and show my talent.

What advice would you give an aspiring South Asian model?

Put yourself out there. Be confident. Never give up. Keep working hard. Stay focused. Sometime family won't support you. "This will not get you anywhere," they will say and tell you to focus only on education. That's when you have to prove yourself and make it happen, no matter what. It's not easy, but it's always possible.

Your ethnicity is not instantly evident in your features; did you nonetheless encounter veiled directives to limit yourself to agencies representing diversity?

I am proud of my roots and my community, but I did not focus on my ethnicity. I applied everywhere. I have emailed thousands of agencies, and thousands did not get back to me, but I persevered. It comes down to what each agency is looking for, that's it.

In addition to pursuing acting opportunities in the U.S. and India, what's currently stirring in your world?

I am very excited about a project in the works—with TikTok stars, but I can't name them at the moment. I recently created an Instagram Filter for "Old Bollywood Classic Movie." It's in the process of being approved by Facebook. And also ... there is the possibility of going to the Oscars as an Instagram influencer. That would be great.



Author of *Kismetwali & Other Stories*, Reetika Khanna is an Atlanta-based freelance writer who likes to spotlight people with purpose. She has worked with ELLE as a senior features writer, and as an associate features editor with ELLE DÉCOR, Mumbai. For more, go to ReetikaKhanna.com

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IS INDIA AT A TURNING POINT?

Not since Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's infamous Emergency rule, back in the mid-1970s, has Indian democracy been under such severe stress. By TINAZ PAVRI

Since the resounding re-election of Prime Minister Modi and the BJP, India has been roiled by a number of events that have effectively overturned decades-old policy, practice, or simply existing reality, related to its citizens, its largest minority community, Muslims, and to democracy itself.

Very soon after re-election in 2019, the constitutional special status of Kashmir under Article 370, giving Kashmiris wide-ranging rights and privileges in the state from property ownership to jobs, was revoked. The autonomy that article 370 guaranteed to Kashmiris has long been unpopular with the majority in India. It was part of the BJP's 2019 re-election manifesto, and the election mandate allowed moving forward on it. At the time, I wrote that although the move had far-ranging support with the Indian public, what was surprising to me was the general quiescence in the face of the way in which the deed was done. I noted that the operation included the preemptive closure of normal life in Kashmir—schools, colleges, tourist sites, businesses; the steady increase of troops in the region, to the tune of hundreds of thousands; the blanket of silence that pervaded through the blocking of all phone and internet service; and the arrest of hundreds of former and current state legislators including former Chief Ministers. Yet, the majority of Indians appeared to be ok with this.

In November 2019, a second momentous event occurred. India's Supreme Court weighed in with finality on the Babri Masjid issue, clearing the way for a temple to be built on the site of the demolished 16th century mosque. The decision carefully stipulated some land ownership for all three groups represented in the case, and did not delve deeply into the controversy itself about whether temple or mosque existed before the other. Again, many supported, others celebrated, and Muslim leadership and citizenry accepted.

Then, in December, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was passed, which proposed to benefit a number of religious and historically religiously-persecuted minorities, including Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, and others from three neighboring countries, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. If these refugees had fled to India prior to 2015, they could seek citizenship. However, the act left out Muslims from protection, ostensibly because it was presumed that Muslims would not bear the brunt of oppression in Muslim-majority and/or sharia-law practicing countries. In tandem, a proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), piloted

years ago in the state of Assam, would be expanded throughout India. Everyone residing in India would provide documents that would establish their Indian citizenship. The refugees protected by CAA could be added to this registry. But if you were an Indian citizen, and especially a Muslim, without the requisite papers, you could be out of luck.

With the enactment of this law, something seems to have changed in India. Those who had been accepting and quiescent as rapid changes to long-established laws and norms were enacted, now started taking to the streets in protest. This law was seen to discriminate potentially against a large swathe of Indian citizens who did not have papers, including the poor and minorities who may not have had access to the requisite documentation and had been living their lives in a country they never realized would ask them for proof of their existence. Demonstrators called it unconstitutional, in contravention of article 14 which guarantees equality to all Indians.

Protests broke out through the length and breadth of India, and ignited the participation of students and youth, many of whom quoted the constitution in opposing both the CAA and the NRC. There were riots between police and demonstrators at many of the venues, including at national universities, and many were injured in the violence that ensued. Hundreds have been arrested and dozens have died.

Protests have also spread to countries of the Indian diaspora. I was surprised to see, while passing the famed (to all Atlanta Indian Americans) Patel Plaza in Decatur a few weeks ago, over a hundred protestors. Indians in alliance with Americans of different ethnic groups, marched carrying anti-CAA signs. Passersby honked in solidarity. Granted that many of the honkers may not have known the nature of the protest, but its existence underlines that Indians and diasporic Indians are taking the CAA/NRC seriously and see them as a threat not just to those they leave out, but potentially to all Indians, and eventually the constitution and the state itself. There is a dawning sense of "and then they came for me." The tide may be turning.



Tinaz Pavri is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Asian Studies Program at Spelman College, Atlanta. A recipient of the Donald Wells Award from the Georgia Political Science Association, she's the author of the memoir Bombay in the Age of Disco: City, Community, Life.



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INDIA'S FIRST FEMALE PRO SOCCER PLAYER

Ngangom Bala Devi, 30, has become the first Indian woman to play soccer professionally after signing an 18-month contract with Scottish club Rangers FC.

The Manipur-born Devi, the leading scorer on India's national team, was also the top scorer in the Indian Women's League over the past two seasons. She scored 26 goals for Manipur Police Sports Club in 2017-18, and 12 goals for KRYPHSA Football

Club the previous year.

A trial stint with Rangers FC in November led to her professional contract. It's the culmination of a long journey for Devi, who has been kicking balls since she was a little girl, inspired by her soccer-playing father.

"I really liked the sport," she told BBC News. "I used to play with local boys every day. And I used to beat them!"



BADMINTON COACH RECEIVES IOC HONOR

India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand recently received an honorable mention in the male category of the 2019 International Olympic Committee's Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his role in developing badminton in the country.

"To be recognized by the IOC is something really huge," Gopichand told *Outlook* magazine.

The 46-year-old coach, who won the All England Open championship in 2001, founded the Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad in 2008. He has helped develop top players such as Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu, and Kidambi Srikanth.

HELPING KITES FLY AGAIN

Two decades ago, brothers Mohammad Saud and Nadeem Shehzad founded a bird rehabilitation organization called Wildlife Rescue in New Delhi. Since then, they've dedicated much of their time to treating more than 2,000 birds of prey a year. Most of these birds are kites, injured when they become tangled in *manja*, the abrasive string coated with powdered glass that's often used to fly paper kites in kite-fighting competitions.

The brothers spend as many as a dozen hours a day treating the birds, neglecting other responsibilities.

"We have destroyed our family life," Shehzad told the *New York Times*. "We have destroyed our relations with our friends, our relatives, our wives, our parents, even our 2- and 4-year-old children."

And yet the brothers keep trying to save the helpless birds.

"It's some kind of sense of duty," Shehzad said. "If not us, then nobody's going to take care of them."



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“ QUOTA of QUOTES



“India should not lose its secular democracy. That is what separates it from other countries.”—Congressman **Ami Bera** of California, on India’s controversial new Citizenship Amendment Act, which offers citizenship to immigrants fleeing persecution from

Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, unless they are Muslim. (India West)

“The meaning of a ‘student’ is not only about reading a history book and learning what Hitler did. A student is one who understands things and finds similarities in our country.”—**Aishe Ghosh**, president of Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union, who became the face of India’s student protest movement after she was recently beaten up by a gang of Hindu nationalists. (Times of India)



“We miss them dearly and their memories are going to stay fresh in our hearts and minds for the times to come.”—

Vick Singh, remembering his uncle and aunt, **Pratap “Paul” and Mayuari “Mary” Singh**, a couple from metro Atlanta who died from burns suffered in the volcanic eruption on New Zealand’s White Island on Dec. 9, 2019. Mary, 42, died on Dec. 22 and Paul, 49, on Jan. 28 at Middlemore Hospital in Auckland, leaving behind twin 6-year-old daughters and an 11-year-old son.



“What a stunning endorsement of the managerial capabilities of Indian-origin managers. Satya, Sundar, Shantanu, & Arvind running four US tech giants. This places a responsibility on Indian managers to demonstrate that they can take Indian companies to the top as well.”—Tweet from **Anand Mahindra**, chairman of Mahindra Group, responding to the appointment of Arvind Krishna as CEO of IBM, joining Sundar Pichai (Alphabet), Satya Nadella (Microsoft) and Shantanu Narayen (Adobe) as CEOs of major tech companies.

“People care too much about looks. If I have any spare time, I want to work on my books.”—**Usha Prabakaran**, 64, author of the pickle recipe book “Usha’s Pickle Digest,” explaining why she didn’t have reconstructive surgery to correct a dimple on her forehead where a tumor was removed. (New York Times)



DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN?

1. Hours after a Sikh temple in Orangevale, California, held its grand opening, someone spray-painted a swastika and the words “white power” on a sign at its entrance.

2. By a 5-0 vote, the City Council of Seattle, Washington, approved a resolution condemning India’s new Citizenship Amendment Act and the planned National Register of Citizens.

3. India responded to the Seattle resolution by threatening an import tax hike on Starbucks coffee.

4. Asked to name her favorite Indian food at a presidential forum in Iowa, Elizabeth Warren confused many by responding, “Oh ... It’s like big tapioca. ... And you serve it with dal and it’s so good.”

5. Following Warren’s appearance at the forum, fellow candidate Bernie Sanders said to her, “We have a serious disagreement on Indian food.”

(1, 2, 4, and 5 really happened.)

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Do you ever make decisions with your gut? I certainly do. My gut tells me, for example, what types of food to fill it up with. When I go to a buffet, my gut instinct is to eat all the foods that make my gut bigger and completely ignore the salad bar.

My gut also helps me decide what types of clothes to wear. Some pants, for example, are a little too tight for my gut. Unfortunately, my gut doesn't tell me to exercise. It's usually my brain that tells me that exercise is good for me, but my gut instinct is to sit on the couch and watch football. This may not be a bad idea, especially if I use my gut to predict the scores of football matches.

A new British study, published in the *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, shows that people who rely on gut instincts make better decisions than people who second-guess themselves. My gut tells me that this was quite a gutsy study.

Three British economists looked at how well 150 people predicted the final scores of all 380 football (soccer) matches during the 2017/18 season of the English Premier League. As reported in the *Washington Post*, the 150 individuals made their predictions through a popular sport betting website, a total of 57,000 predictions.

The users were allowed to change their predictions up to the moment each match began, but only 6 percent of them did this—second-guessing their initial predictions. These users changed 15 of their 380 predictions on average, perhaps relying on new information, such as an injury to a top player.

The researchers found that the revised forecasts were accurate 7.7 percent of the time, whereas the unaltered forecasts were accurate 9.3 percent of the time. That may not seem like a big difference, but it means that the revised forecasts were 17 percent less accurate



than the unaltered ones.

"Game players would have been better off sticking with their first judgments rather than ever revising," the authors write.

One of the biggest mistakes that second-guessers made was to expect scoring to be higher, changing a final score of 2-1 to 3-2, for example. It's almost as if they hadn't watched football regularly. If they had, they would have realized that the best score to predict is a 0-0 draw. (It's so hard to get the ball into the net, especially since the goalkeeper keeps using his

hands. Someone needs to remind him that the game is called "football," not "handball.")

As the *Post* reported, the 150 bettors predicted a scoreless tie only 1.5 percent of the time, but it actually happens 8.4 percent of the time. In other words, there's a one-tenth chance that spectators who attend an English Premier League match will enjoy a 90-minute nap.

So here's the lesson for all football bettors: (1) Stick with your initial "gut" prediction; (2) If you must change your prediction, go with zero-zero.

One interesting finding in the study is that bettors who changed their forecast within a few minutes were more accurate than those who made the change after a longer period. This seems to indicate that overthinking or over-analysis is not wise in predicting football matches.

But how does this apply to life in general? Should you rely on your gut, your brain, or even your heart when making important decisions, such as whether to marry the doctor your parents have matched you with or the co-worker who makes your heart beat faster?

While the study doesn't provide a conclusive answer, what's clear is that you shouldn't discount gut feelings and gut instincts, especially if you're making a gut-wrenching decision.

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HONK MORE, WAIT MORE

Drivers in India are accustomed to using their horns liberally, whether they're warning another vehicle to speed up or move aside, berating a driver who didn't follow proper etiquette, expressing annoyance at a traffic jam, or merely greeting a friend. The constant honking and beeping creates such a loud sound in big cities that earplugs are almost a necessity.

Thankfully, one city is trying to do something about this noise pollution. Mumbai police recently installed decibel meters at a few intersections, along with signs that said, "Honk More Wait More."

If noise greater than 85 decibels was detected during a red signal, the signal did not turn green. The police shared a video showing the frustration of motorists as their honking backfired on them.

"This is what we wanted to tell them: Honking or



making noise doesn't move the traffic," Pranaya Ashok, a Mumbai police spokesman, told the *New York Times*. "The traffic takes its own time to move, O.K.?"

After testing the decibel meters in November and December, the police are discussing how to implement it on a wider scale.

"Honking is a very bad and indisciplined traffic act," Ashok said. "It sours the ears of a normal person."

CAN SOMEONE PLEASE SAVE AIR INDIA?



India's central government is eager to sell Air India to a private entity, but no one has yet shown any interest in the airline, except for Piyush Goyal.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum 2020 in Davos, Switzerland, the Union minister for Railways and Commerce said, "If I weren't a minister today, I

would be bidding for Air India."

The solution, then, is simple. Prime Minister Modi needs to relieve Goyal of his ministerial duties, so he can buy Air India. It would be a great service to the country. And it would be a great benefit to Goyal. After all, would any reasonable person choose to be "Union Minister for Railways and Commerce" when they could instead be the "Maharajah of Air India"?

Despite Goyal's pitch, it won't be easy for the

government to find bidders for Air India. Indeed, the government did not attract even a single bidder in 2018, when it was willing to sell a 76-percent stake (majority ownership) in Air India. This time, it's willing to part with the entire company—100 percent of Air India, down to the last fading poster of the Maharajah.

The problem, of course, is that Air India has been losing a lot of money. In the past decade, it lost Rs. 69,575 crore, according to Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Most companies would have gone bankrupt by now, but Air India had the government to keep it afloat. Not anymore, apparently. The government is so serious about finding a buyer that it has reduced Air India's debts by Rs. 63,113 crore, bringing it down to Rs. 23,286 crore. The government has also reduced the required net worth of the bidder from Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 3,500 crore. If you ask nicely, the government may even be willing to reduce the cost of landing fees for the next decade or so.



Compiled and partly written by Indian humorist MELVIN DURAI, author of the novel *Bala Takes the Plunge*.

[Comments? Contributions? Please email us at melvin@melvindurai.com. We welcome jokes, quotes, online clips, and more.]



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Pay Attention

Spirituality happens only because you paid attention to your life and you saw that you don't know where it begins and ends.

By SADHGURU

The only reason why someone is a mystic, or not, is lack of attention. Someone is an artist, someone is not. Someone can shoot straight and someone cannot. Why? Lack of attention.

Whatever attention level you have right now, there is more. But it is still in an unmanifest state where you do not have access to it. So, at least you must pay all of what you have. But even with your mental attention, you are at different levels of attention at different times of your life and at different times of the day. If you are doing work, you are in one level of attention. If you are in meditation, you are in a different level of attention. If you are eating something that you like, you are in a different level of attention. Your levels of attention are different at different times, and whatever peak attention you have had in your life at any time, that is still not all of it. You are capable of much more.

A few years ago, I took a small group of people on a trek, on a railway track between Subramanya and Mangalore. This stretch has over 300 bridges and 100 tunnels. You are either on a bridge or in a tunnel most of the time. Some of the tunnels are over a kilometer long. Even in the day it is pitch dark. You cannot see your own hand in front of you. Even starlight gives you some sense of vision. But in those tunnels, after some time, you do not know whether your eyes are open or closed, it is that dark.

I made them walk in those tunnels without any torches. Initially, people were terrified but slowly, they

started walking and enjoying the whole experience. In a place like that, your attention becomes really heightened. If you can keep your attention like this every moment of your life, then you will glow. You will really glow.

At the ashram, I am constantly pushing people to notice even little things—not just about the cleanliness or aesthetics of the place, but to be absolutely attentive to every little thing. If a pebble has turned over, you must notice it. It is not the pebble, it is that you are attentive. If you bring this attention to a peak, and learn to have a heightened sense of atten-

tion, then we can teach you what you must and what you should not attend to within yourself.

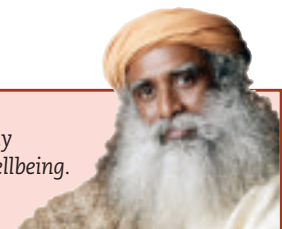
Right now, we are still working on people to get them to a certain level of attention. If you become very attentive, we can look at how to make use of that attentiveness.

Spirituality happens only because you paid attention to your life and you saw that you don't know where it begins and ends. You are going about as if whatever you are doing is the be all and end all of life. The moment you pay a little attention, you understand "This is not it."

So, the very first step of even thinking spiritual came to you only because of a certain level of attention. If you pay much more attention to everything, if you heighten your ability to be attentive, that could be used in miraculous ways.

Your levels of attention are different at different times, and whatever peak attention you have had in your life at any time, that is still not all of it. You are capable of much more.

Sadhguru is a yogi, mystic, and visionary, and a prominent spiritual leader. An author, poet, and internationally renowned speaker, Sadhguru is the founder of Isha Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to human wellbeing. (www.isha.sadhguru.org)



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The SECURE Act

Long-established retirement account rules change.

Provided by RAJESH JYOTISHI

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act is now law. With it, come some of the biggest changes to retirement savings law in recent years. While the new rules don't appear to amount to a massive upheaval, the SECURE Act will require a change in strategy for many Americans. For others, it may reveal new opportunities.



Limits on Stretch IRAs. The legislation “modifies” the required minimum distribution rules in regard to defined contribution plans and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) balances upon the death of the account owner. Under the new rules, distributions to nonspouse beneficiaries are generally required to be distributed by the end of the 10th calendar year following the year of the account owner's death.¹

It's important to highlight that the new rule does not require the nonspouse beneficiary to take withdrawals during the 10-year period. But all the money must be withdrawn by the end of the 10th calendar year following the inheritance.

A surviving spouse of the IRA owner, disabled or chronically ill individuals, individuals who are not more than 10 years younger than the IRA owner, and child of the IRA owner who has not reached the age of majority may have other minimum distribution requirements.

Let's say that a person has a hypothetical \$1 million IRA. Under the new law, your nonspouse beneficiary may want to consider taking at least \$100,000 a year for 10 years regardless of their age. For example, say you are leaving your IRA to a 50-year-old child. They must take all the money from the IRA by the time they reach age 61. Prior to the rule change, a 50-year-old child could “stretch” the money over their expected lifetime, or roughly 30 more years.

IRA Contributions and Distributions. Another

major change is the removal of the age limit for traditional IRA contributions. Before the SECURE Act, you were required to stop making contributions at age 70½. Now, you can continue to make contributions as long as you meet the earned-income requirement.²

Also, as part of the Act, you are mandated to

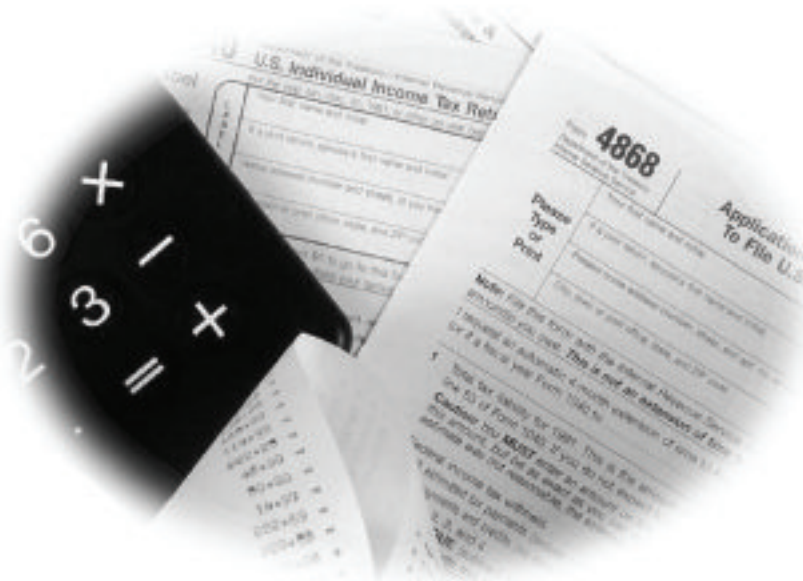
begin taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from a traditional IRA at age 72, an increase from the prior 70½. Allowing money to remain in a tax-deferred account for an additional 18 months (before needing to take an RMD) may alter some previous projections of your retirement income.²

The SECURE Act's rule change for RMDs only affects Americans turning 70½ in 2020. For these taxpayers, RMDs will become mandatory at age 72. If you meet this criterion, your first RMD won't be necessary until April 1 of the year after you reach 72.²

Multiple Employer Retirement Plans for Small Business. In terms of wide-ranging potential, the SECURE Act may offer its biggest change in the realm of multi-employer retirement plans. Previously, multiple employer plans were only open to employers within the same field or sharing some other “common characteristics.” Now, small businesses have the opportunity to buy into larger plans alongside other small businesses, without the prior limitations. This opens small businesses to a much wider field of options.¹

Another big change for small business employer plans comes for part-time employees. Before the SECURE Act, these retirement plans were not offered to employees who worked fewer than 1,000 hours in a year. Now, the door is open for employees who have either worked 1,000 hours in the space of one full year or to those who have worked at least 500 hours per year for three consecutive years.²

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While the SECURE Act represents some of the most significant changes we have seen to the laws governing financial saving for retirement, it's important to remember that these changes have been anticipated for a while now. If you have questions or concerns, reach out to your trusted financial professional.

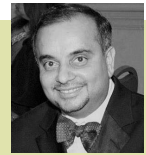
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Citations.

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Immigration

New Policies for 2020, Part 2

Provided by HUMERA SUBHANI

Public Charge Rule now in effect

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Department of Homeland Security could implement their new rule relating to the "public charge" ground of inadmissibility. DHS announced that the rule would go into effect on February 24, 2020. Adjustment of Status (I-485s) applications postmarked before February 24, 2020 will be adjudicated under policies in place before the new rule.

Grounds of inadmissibility are reasons that a person could be denied admission into the United States, a visa, or a green card (lawful permanent residence). An immigration officer must now decide whether a person is likely to become dependent on certain government benefits in the future, which would make them a "public charge" and therefore inadmissible.

The public charge rule does not apply to everyone applying. U visa holders, T visa holders, asylees, refugees, and many more categories are exempt. It also does not apply in the naturalization process, through which lawful permanent residents apply to become U.S. citizens. It mainly impacts those seeking permanent resident status through family member petitions.

Change or Extension of Non-immigrant Status

A new DHS rule requires applicants for change or extension of their nonimmigrant status (COS/EOS) to demonstrate that since obtaining that nonimmigrant status, until the date USCIS adjudicates the COS or EOS application, they have not received one or more of the listed public benefits for more than 12 months in the aggregate within any 36-month period. DHS will only consider public benefits received on or after February 24, 2020 for petitions or applications postmarked on or after that date.

The COS/EOS standard, although it refers to the new definition of public benefits, is a new standard introduced by DHS to get around the fact that COS/EOS applicants are not in the statutory grouping of applicants for a visa, admission, or adjustment. DHS notes, "Neither the NPRM nor this final rule is intended to apply the public charge ground of inadmissibility to extension of stay or change of

status applicants. Instead, DHS is exercising its statutory authority to set [this] new condition."

Revised Forms I-539/I-539A and I-129 will elicit the information needed by asking both if the applicant has received or is currently certified to receive (by the benefit-granting agency) any of these benefits, and also asking for the date the alien started receiving the benefit, or if certified, the date the alien will start receiving the benefit, and the date the benefit ended or expires.

APPLICATION FINAL ACTION DATES—MARCH 2020

FAMILY	India	Pak/Bangladesh
1st	08Oct13	08Oct13
2A	Current	Current
2B	15Sep14	15Sep14
3rd	15Dec07	15Dec07
4th	08Dec04	01Jul06
EMPLOYMENT	India	Pak/Bangladesh
1st	01Mar15	01Mar19
2nd	22May09	Current
3rd	15Jan09	01Jan17
Other	15Jan09	01Jan17
4th	Current	Current
5th	22Oct18	Current

DATES FOR FILING VISA APPLICATIONS—MARCH 2020

FAMILY	India	Pak/Bangladesh
1st	08Jun14	08Jun14
2A	01Jan20	01Jan20
2B	15May15	15May15
3rd	15Aug08	15Aug08
4th	08Aug05	22Jul07
EMPLOYMENT	India	Pak/Bangladesh
1st	15Mar17	Current
2nd	01Jul09	Current
3rd	01Feb10	01Jan19
Other	01Feb10	01Jan19
4th	Current	Current
5th	Current	Current

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By GITANJALI CHAK

December wedding for Ranbir, Alia?

The biggest buzz this time is that Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt have set a date for their much awaited nuptials. Grapevine has it that the couple's extended families have already been asked to block the dates for the wedding functions to be held in December. It is being said that the two will tie the knot any day after December 4, the day their movie *Brahmastra* releases.

It is quite apparent that



Alia has already become a part of the Kapoor family. She even accompanied Ranbir to New Delhi when Rishi Kapoor had to be hospitalized while he was shooting there.

Kiara Advani, Sidharth Malhotra dance the night away

Armaan Jain and Anissa Malhotra's wedding reception was one starry affair! Well, it had to be, as Armaan is the first cousin of Ranbir, Kareena, and Karisma Kapoor. Though the glitzy function was attended by the biggest Bollywood stars, the ones who stole the limelight were rumored lovers Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra, who burnt the dance floor grooving to the beats of peppy Bollywood numbers.



Tara Sutaria also grabbed eyeballs as she danced with her beau Aadar, who is Armaan's brother. Another highlight was Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri dancing to *Kajrare Kajrare*.

Deepika Padukone honored with Crystal Award at Davos

After Priyanka Chopra Jonas, it was the turn of Deepika Padukone to be felicitated. The 34-year-old beautiful actress was honored with the Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, for her work towards raising awareness about mental health. Deepika runs the Live Love Laugh Foundation in Mumbai which seeks to help those struggling with mental health issues.

By the way, Priyanka also

attended the Davos summit and spoke about issues like global poverty and climate change.



Twinkle, Kareena, and Rani bond at K Jo's party

Karan Johar's twins, Yash and Roohi, turned three on February 7 and the doting father hosted a grand bash on February 5 ahead of their birthday. A host of star kids and their celebrity parents were seen having a great time at the party, but the highlight turned out to be the warm camaraderie that was witnessed between Kareena Kapoor, Twinkle Khanna, and Rani Mukherjee. The

three actresses are good friends of Karan Johar, not to forget Kajol, who was also there.





MOVIE UPDATE



The biggies slated for a March release are Janhvi Kapoor starrer *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl* and *Angeezi Medium*, featuring Irrfan Khan and Kareena Kapoor.



The biopic of Shakuntala Devi is also scheduled to hit the screens in March. It stars Vidya Balan in the eponymous role.



After *Love Aaj Kal*, Sara Ali Khan will be seen opposite Dhanush in a movie titled *Atrangi Re*, to be directed by Aanand L. Rai. Akshay Kumar also stars in a special cameo. The movie is scheduled to release on February 14 (Valentine's Day) next year.



Pooja Hegde, who was last seen in *Housefull 4*, will be seen opposite Salman Khan in his upcoming movie *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali*. The film is slated to release on Eid in 2021.

MOVIE REVIEW



Malang: Unleash the Madness

Starring: Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur, Disha Patani, Kunal Khemmu

Director: Mohit Suri

Music Directors: Mithoon, Ankit Tiwari, Asim Azhar, Ved Sharma, The Fusion Project

What could have been a crackling thriller turns out to be, at most, a watchable revenge drama, which is a pity really because the performances are good and the camerawork stunning. Also, though there are two twists in the tale, they aren't as big a surprise as they should have been.

Malang begins well with a power-packed action scene. It then goes into flashback mode full of Advait (Aditya Roy Kapur) and Sara's (Disha Patani) beach-swept romance in Goa! Five years down the lines, Advait has become a killing machine and has two Inspectors, Anjaaney Agashe (Anil Kapoor) and Michael Rodrigues (Kunal Khemmu) hot on his trail. Things actually pick up only in the second half, which is pretty slick.

Clearly, Anil Kapoor is having a great time playing the cocaine-snorting cop here. The underrated Kunal Khemmu as the seemingly righteous officer has some interesting moments, especially in the scenes with his wife, played by the ever dependable Amruta Khanvilkar.

Aditya Roy Kapur is impressive and gets ample opportunity to flex his muscles. What's more, he shares a great onscreen chemistry with Disha Patani, who flaunts her perfectly toned body to the hilt. Together they set the screen afire.

TOP 10 SONGS

1. Muqabla (*Street Dancer 3D*)
2. Shaitan Ka Saala (*Housefull 4*)
3. Malang Title Track (*Malang*)
4. Dheeme Dheeme (*Pati Patni aur Woh*)
5. Sauda Khara Khara (*Good Newwz*)
6. Shayad (*Love Aaj Kal 2020*)
7. Don't Be Shy Again (*Bala*)
8. Ghunghroo Song (*War*)
9. O Saki Saki (*Batla House*)
10. Dil Ka Telephone (*Dream Girl*)



TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
2. Good Newwz
3. War
4. Bala
5. Housefull 4
6. Malang
7. Street Dancer
8. Panga
9. Chhapaak
10. Jawani Jaaneman



Transcendent Deities of India at Emory's Carlos Museum

The exhibit, featuring the work of three artists, also included a live painting session by Abhishek Singh, one of the featured artists.

What does it mean to see the divine in new ways? If a picture is worth a thousand words, a lot about beauty and divinity is conveyed through the 70 majestic works of art by Raja Ravi Varma (1848–1906), Manjari Sharma, and Abhishek Singh in the exhibition titled, “Transcendent Deities of India: The Everyday Occurrence of the Divine,” at Emory University’s Michael C. Carlos Museum.



Artist Abhishek Singh at one of his live painting sessions at Emory.
(Photo: Geeta Mehrotra)

The exhibition, which is on view till May 17th, explores the gods and goddesses through photographs, digital works, drawings, paintings, and modern chromolithographs. Each artist offers a unique style, medium, and perspective.

The paintings of the late Raja Ravi Varma (1848–1906) are considered to be among the best examples of the fusion of Indian traditions with the style and techniques of European academic art. Varma may have been ahead of his time in creating prints of his work through chromolithography. This reproduction and the resulting wide distribution of his prints in homes and businesses have given him enduring popularity. Several of his prints of deities, such as Ma Lakshmi, Ma Saraswati Devi, and Shiva’s family, and images from epics, such as the popular story of Nala and Damayanthi from the *Mahabharata*, are on display at the exhibition.

Manjari Sharma, who moved to the U.S. to earn her MFA in photography, chose to turn her lens to the deities she had grown up with in India. Her “Darhsan” series is a collaboration with a team of Mumbai-based artisans, sculptors, and painters, whose sets, costumes, and styling transform models into archetypal

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Raja Ravi Varma's work titled *Chandra*. Lithograph with fabric and embellishments. (Lent by OJAS Art/Ramchander Nath Foundation. Courtesy Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University.)



Lord Vishnu. A Chromogenic print by Manjari Sharma. (Lent by the artist. Courtesy Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University.)

representations of Hindu deities, which Sharma captures in photos. Sharma's large-scale photographs of deities in elaborate temple-like settings invite visitors to contemplate these photographs as a means for *darshan*—spiritual engagement.

Visually stunning. Mystical. Multilayered. Ancient, yet stylishly contemporary. These are some apt descriptions for the stunning paintings of Abhishek Singh. The young, dynamic artist was in residence at Emory in conjunction with the exhibition, and conducted speaking and live painting sessions. According to the formal introduction of Singh offered on the Emory site, "Singh's dynamic contemporary perspective incorporates graphic novels and animation and reflects conceptual concerns around the intersection between the temporal and the sacred by rendering traditional subjects anew." Cumulatively, his comics have sold over half a million copies and have been translated in Italian, Spanish, French, and English, receiving critical acclaim for their artistic interpretation.

Meeting Abhishek Singh was a grand experience not only for the visual senses but also for his profound, thought-provoking conversations that invoked the spirit within. His spiritually inspired paintings, his

humility, and his passion for contemporary issues created a sacred space which helps one go within and be still.

It is from this sacred space that he creates an image of Ma Kali, who is usually shown as expressing either anger or embarrassment—but Singh's depiction reveals the contemplative Ma who must reflect after the war. The colors he chooses reflect the emotions of the image that he is conveying. Tears of grief, joy, relief have different colors and he chooses accordingly. His research is scientific, and he incorporates the latest digital technology and animation in his work.

Hundreds of students, children, and adults had the opportunity to watch him draw, even as he encouraged participants to draw with him. The live painting that he created was named *The Rain Maker*, a contemporary reimagining of Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God. The intent and offering of his art was to help relieve the distress caused to billions of animals during the wildfire of Australia. "The elephants are integral to the creation of the forests. After visiting the mountains for more than a decade, I was stirred to go and see the elephants that are recurring

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Maa Laxmi. A Chromogenic print by Manjari Sharma. (Lent by the artist. Courtesy Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University.)



A digital print titled Let Go from KRISHNA: A Journey Within, by Abhishek Singh. (Lent by the artist. Courtesy Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University.)



One of Abhishek Singh's many sketches of Ganesha. (Photo: Geeta Mehrotra)

in my dreams and paintings. I worked with various elephant organizations to educate myself on their state of affairs. In the process they welcome me into their sacred space.” His love for elephants and their role in the ecosystem is evident in the sketch pad full of elephants that he drew during his flight.

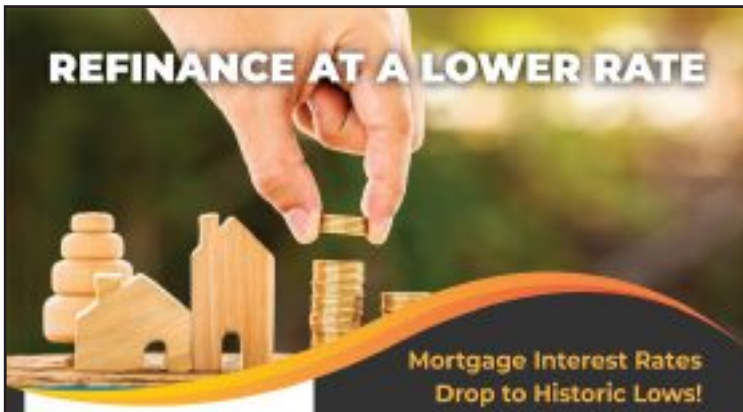
In addition to live painting with artist Abhishek Singh, there was also exhibition-related programming for adults and children: Transcendent Yoga in the exhibition galleries led by Marck Maroun of The Yoga Source and Anna Leo of Emory’s Dance Department; “Guising as God,” a conversation with Emory professors Drs. Joyce Flueckiger and Harshita Mruthinti Kamath; talks by Singh and Sharma; a workshop featuring fabrics that adorn Hindu gods and goddesses; a workshop where children looked closely at the block-printed fabrics such as Durga’s beautiful red sari in the complex images of the exhibit, and then made their own printed textiles from blocks carved in India; and many more related events.

The exhibition was made possible through generous support from the Michael C. Carlos Museum Visiting Board, Chai Pani Restaurant Group, and the City of Atlanta, Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs

—Geeta Mehrotra

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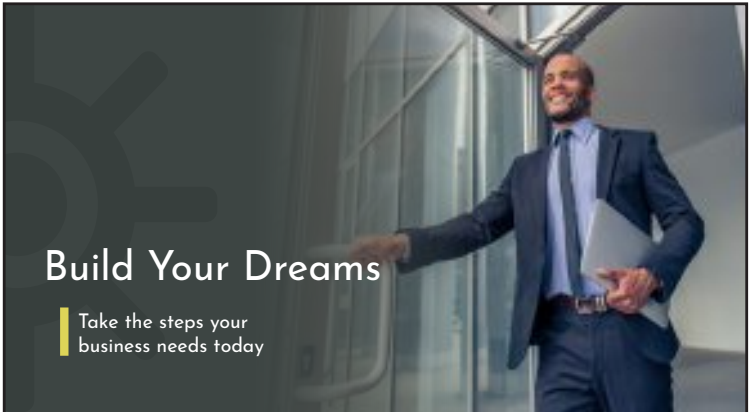
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Rallies in protest—and support—of India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

On December 11, 2019, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was ruled into law in India. It extends the right of Indian Citizenship to refugees from Hindu, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, and Parsi communities fleeing religious persecution from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh, who entered India on or before December 31, 2014—that is, it grants citizenship in those cases except for Muslims.

On January 19, 2020, in Atlanta, a multifaith, multicaste group of South Asian organizers in collaboration with Equality Labs brought together over 150 people who were outraged by India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Registry of Citizens (NRC). They claim that the Act threatens to drive 1.4 billion people deeper into the grips of casteist and religious nationalism. It creates an unconstitutional religious-based criteria for Indian citizenship, and in combination with NRC and the National Population Register (NPR), lays the legal foundation to denaturalize millions of Indian minorities to create the largest network of concentration camps in the world.

The protestors met at the Whole Foods 365 in Decatur. The speeches by organizer Nidal Karim, Ambedkarite Anil Wagde, and CAIR's Murtaza Khwaja were powerful reminders to the crowd as they gathered together to protest for India's secular identity—one that has been central to the nation and is enshrined in the Constitution. The protest organizers were intentional that there are parallels between Islamophobia in India and the United States. Global islamophobia and xenophobia is one of the main planks that unites White Nationalism and Hindu Nationalism. The group of 150 people then marched on the sidewalk, with signs and chants all the way to nearby Patel Plaza.

Then on Republic Day, January 26, 2020, over 200 people of Indian origin assembled at the Consulate General of India in Sandy Springs for a rally in support of the new CAA.

The lively crowd assembled in the front lawn of the consulate amidst a sea of Indian and American



About 150 protestors marched from Whole Foods in Decatur to nearby Patel Plaza. (Photo: Courtesy ATLRejectsCAA)

flags. They raised rousing cries supporting the CAA, interspersed with chants of “Bharat Mata ki Jai” (Victory to Mother India!) and “Vande Mataram” (We bow to the Mother). The gathering consisted of participants from across Atlanta's Indian communities who raised slogans in several Indian languages including Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati, and Hindi. The demonstrators were carrying placards and posters reading “CAA inclusive not discriminatory” and “CAA grants asylum to persecuted minorities.”

According to Rajeev Menon, one of the organizers of the rally, the support rally was aimed at dismissing the “false information and myths about the CAA and to counter the propaganda of hate and lies by the anti-India organizations and media in the US.” He also stated that, instead of having a civil debate on the act, some of these organizations are determined to subvert the truth and by doing that, they are ignoring the plight of those people who had already suffered enough in these countries and had to flee for their life. “We are going to be here to defend India's freedom, constitution, and democratic values whenever they are challenged,” he said.

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A rally supporting CAA at the Consulate General of India in Sandy Springs. (Photo: SFA Productions)

Suresh Krishnamoorthy, one of those present at the support rally, dismissed the protesters as “not serious.” “Look at the language they are using,” he remarked. “They are calling it a genocide and a sign of fascism. That is an insult to the memory of the victims who were killed in real genocides—the Holocaust, and at the hands of dictators like Pol Pot, Idi Amin, and the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia or the genocide in Rwanda. Comparing a law that grants asylum to persecuted minorities with genocide means they either don’t know their history or they are deliberately being provocative by using inflammatory terms. Either way, we cannot take them seriously.”

The supporters were met by anti-CAA protesters who “seemed to be reflexively opposing it using inflammatory rhetoric without knowing the details,” according to the supporters. One protester was Ms. Nabilah Islam, a 29-year-old Democrat running



A second rally protesting the CAA, outside the CNN building in downtown Atlanta, drew 1,500 people.



Sign at the protest at CNN claims that genocide does not start out with gas chambers, but with Hate Speech. (CNN photos: Courtesy Inderpreet Singh)

for election to the U.S. House to represent Georgia’s 7th Congressional District. The rally oncluded with a rendering of the Indian National Anthem by the participants.

Meanwhile, on the same day, a second protest rally was held in downtown Atlanta at the CNN Center; it drew a large crowd of over 1,500 people. The speeches by organizers were fiery and passionate and underlined the importance of standing up when Muslims, Dalits, poor people, and queer people’s rights are being threatened. With chants of “Azadi, Azadi” (freedom), the crowd marched all the way around Centennial Park and ended with a strong commitment to keep working together in resistance to the CAA.

—**Anna Kurien and Selina Mustafa (protesting CAA) and Rajeev Menon (supporting CAA)**

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They See Blue Core Team with Leader Stacey Abrams: Anu Banerjee, Uma Pulendran, Vyanti Joseph, Stacey Abrams, Suresh Kolichala, Viju Rao, Anjali Enjeti. (Photo: Nancy Helene)

They See Blue Georgia's 2020 Election Kickoff

On Saturday, February 8, 2020, the Georgia chapter of They See Blue, a national organization for South Asian Democrats working to flip seats blue, held their 2020 Election Kickoff at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Atlanta. The event celebrated the birth of one of the first groups for South Asian Democrats in the Southeast. Despite the morning snowfall, some 150 attendees filled the sanctuary and spilled into the lobby.

The emcee for the program was Feroza Syed, a They See Blue Georgia member and trans activist.

Former Georgia Minority Leader and Founder and Chair of Fair Fight Stacey Abrams served as the keynote speaker. Leader Abrams talked about her 2018 campaign, the importance of building coalitions across communities, and getting out the vote. "We can change what happens in 2020," she said. "We can show up." Abrams also addressed the upcoming Census, and warned of a possible under-

count in communities of color. Some 300,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are expected not to be counted. "The census is more than a count," she stressed. "It's about money and political power."

Three of the candidates running for Republican U.S. Senator David Perdue's seat, former Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, Sarah Riggs Amico, who ran for Lieutenant Governor in 2018, and Jon Ossoff, who ran for Congress in 2017, spoke about why they decided to run for office, the experiences they would bring to the table, and the impact they hoped to make in Washington should they win the primary on May 19. All three promised to send Senator Purdue packing, and were particularly keen on restoring inclusivity and respect for all people in the U.S.

State Senator Sheikh Rahman closed the program. Rahman is the first Muslim and first Bangladeshi elected to the Georgia legislature, and the first South Asian and first immigrant elected to the state senate.



Stacey Abrams addressing the room.

>>



Around Town

Rahman talked about the diversity of the district he represents, District 5 in Gwinnett County. Several times during his speech the crowd erupted in cheers. "I tell people I represent the United Nations," he said. There are people from more than one hundred countries, who speak more than one hundred languages. "My friends," he said, "this is no time to stay on the sidelines." He then explained how one vote can make a difference. "When I got elected to the Democratic National Committee, I won by one single vote," he said.

"We can make a change," Rahman said. "We can make a difference. Do your civic duty. Come out and vote."

They See Blue, an organization for South Asian Democrats, began in the Bay Area in August 2018. The Georgia chapter opened in August 2019, and is nearing 200 members. Six people make up the core team: Anu Banerjee, Anjali Enjeti, Vyanti Joseph, Suresh Kolichala, Uma Pulendran, and Viju Rao. The chapter welcomes South Asian Democrats from the entire state, as well as noncitizens. Since its inception, They See Blue Georgia has held meetings about municipal elections, voter suppression, and the Georgia



Emcee and They See Blue member Feroza Syed with U.S. Candidate Jon Ossoff. (Photo: Nancy Helene)



U.S. Senate candidate Mayor Teresa Tomlinson and State Senator Sheikh Rahman. (Photo: Nancy Helene)

legislative session. They See Blue Georgia does not endorse candidates until after the primary elections.

Suresh Kolichala is one of the co-founders of the chapter. "Many South Asian Democrats keep quiet about their politics because we live in a red state," says Kolichala. "They See Blue Georgia empowers South Asian Democrats to get vocal about their progressive politics."

The chapter prides itself on its diversity. "What's unique about They See Blue Georgia, is that we are an inclusive, anti-bigotry coalition," says core team member Vyanti Joseph, a Cobb County resident. "Our members are multinational, multiethnic, multifait, as well as nonreligious. Having political spaces that seek to unite, rather than divide, is crucial in the current political climate."

"They See Blue Georgia's kickoff made me feel energized and proud as an Indian-American voter," says Saif Issani, a resident of Gwinnett County. "It's my goal to get as many people in our community involved to fulfill their civic duty by voting, and flip our state blue!"

"As a South Asian Democrat and a professor, who understands the importance of diversity for scientific research and business, which will ultimately enable the United States to maintain its super power status, I believe that the work They See Blue Georgia is doing is significant," says Pamela Dembla, a Cobb County resident. "South Asians are some of the most influential immigrants in the United States and can have significant impact in redefining the cultural fabric of this country. The Senate candidates on Saturday spoke about a multitude of issues affecting the community."

Upcoming events for They See Blue Georgia include meet-and-greets with state, congressional, and senate candidates, and voter registration drives. There are no membership fees. For more information on how to join, email tsb.georgia@gmail.com.  >>



Governor Brian Kemp with representatives of Indian media.

Governor Brian Kemp Meets with Local Indian Media

On Tuesday, February 4, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp met with journalists from local Indian media. The meeting, facilitated by Kartik Bhatt, who was recently appointed by Governor Kemp to the Board of Examiners for the Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, was attended by journalists representing Khabar magazine, NRI Pulse, TV Asia, Rashtra Darpan, India Tribune, Atlanta Dunia, and others. The event was also attended by Ritesh Desai and C.B. Yadav, who are both on the Governors “Georgians First”



At the State Capitol Building. From left: Ritesh Desai, Neera Bahl, Kartik Bhatt, and C.B. Yadav.

Commission, and Neera Bahl who was among the 25 Georgians appointed by Governor Kemp to the Judicial Nominating Commission.

During the 30-minute meeting, the Governor spoke about some of his accomplishments so far—such as the reduction of the number of standardized tests in public schools, school safety grants, a pay raise of \$2,000 to teachers, creating a task force to tackle street

gangs, and more. He also answered questions from the journalists.



—Geeta Mehrotra

Consulate celebrates India’s 71st Republic Day



Dhol and Tutari (trumpet) at the morning festivities at the Consulate. (Photo: Magic Dust Photography)

The 71st Republic Day observance and celebrations were carried out on January 26, 2020 with dignity and pride by the Indian Consulate for the Southeastern United States. The morning rituals began on time at the Consular lawns with the Indian national anthem and playing of dhol and tutari. The unfurled Indian flag shed rose petals, a typical Indian welcome, covering the green lawn with a tint of the rose red. After paying homage at the Gandhi bust outside, Consul General Dr. Kulkarni read a synopsis of Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind’s speech. The gathering of about 150 people dispersed after enjoying the refreshments catered for the occasion.

For the evening’s elegant reception, the Consulate organized a packed affair for over 500 guests at the >>



Consul General Swati Kulkarni (towards center, in sari) along with dignitaries who graced the event. (Photo: Magic Dust Photography)



Children sporting the Tiranga and Stars & Stripes. (Photo: Magic Dust Photography)

City of Sandy Springs's Performing Arts Center. Attendees, in their formal finery, were treated to appetizers. Present in the packed hall was a huge number of dignitaries, including Consul Generals Aishatu Aliyu Musa of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Vincent Hommeril of France, Nadia Theodore of Canada, Young-jun Kim of Korea, Jorge Lopez of Argentina, Shane Stephens of Ireland, Vice Consulate General of Israel Alex Gandler, GA Representative Karen Handel, GA Senator Sheikh Rahman, GA State Senators Gloria Butler and Kay Kirkpatrick, GA House Representatives Mike Glanton and Angelika Kausche, Henry County Board Chair June Wood, Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul, Sandy Springs Police Chief Kenneth DeSimone, Padma Bhushan Dr. Jag Sheth, Bollywood actor Ajinkya Deo, Hartsfield Jackson International Airport director Elliot Paige, faculties from various universities in Alabama and Georgia, Atlanta Council on International Relations president Robert Kennedy, and teams from the World Trade Center Atlanta and TiE Atlanta.

The hall was decorated with banners of Incredible India, and two large screens on either side of the stage played video footage of the actual Republic Day Parade at Rajpath, New Delhi, India. To view the screened parade was simply breathtaking: the pageantry of

people, the gallantry of the Armed Forces' march-past saluting the President, the colorful floats representing each Indian state displaying the respective state's uniqueness—all was excellent to watch.

Consul Asim Kumar, Head of Chancery, was emcee. In his humble and humorous manner, he recognized the star attendees present and greeted the audience with a classic Indian welcome. Besides giving excerpts from the President Ram Nath Kovind's address, the Consul General also delivered spell binding statistics of India's meteoric growth and current dominance in the world, about India's rise in Indo-U.S. bilateral trade and education. A cultural bonanza of four dance performances was presented by students of Subhatra Sudarshan (Bharathakala Naatya Academy), Neeta Surange (NG's Dance Group) representing Maharashtra Mandal of Atlanta, and NNKB, with elements of folk, Kathak, Bollywood, etc. While some attendees spoke to performers and others took photos with the Consul General, the rest of the crowd bee-lined for the delicious spread catered by Narendra Patel of Madras Chettinaad.

It was a superbly executed presentation by the Indian Consulate in Atlanta.

 **Viren Mayani**



Dancers from Bharathakala Naatya Academy. (Photo: Magic Dust Photography)



Dancers from Nritya Natya Kala Bharti.



Dancers from NG Dance. (Photos: Magic Dust Photography)

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Submitting your report:

Please send your Around Town event reports to AroundTown@khabar.com. Publication is based on several criteria including the volume of reports submitted for a given issue. **Deadline: 15th of each month**—and within 3-5 days of the event.



First Muslim Centennial in America

The first Muslim community in America was the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, established in 1920 after its missionary arrived in Philadelphia. On February 15, 2020, the Georgia chapter at Baitul Ata Mosque began its year of celebration and outreach with a special program. “We have been here 100 years, deeply love this country, and have a track record of serving this nation ... We invite Americans to meet us ... and collaborate to make this country the best it can be.”



A sweet, fun day for NKK's Sankranti

Sweets like *Ellu & Bella* (Sesame & Jaggery) and fun activities like Rangoli competitions, Antakshari, Karaoke, Super minute, chess, carrom, *chowka-bara*, and art competitions were the highlights as Nrupathunga Kannada Koota (NKK) celebrated Sankranti Sambrama on Saturday, January 18, 2020. The day brought people together for a great blend of nostalgia, camaraderie, and entertainment. India's first female ventriloquist was a big hit.



Bhajans for 9 ways of devotion

Chinmaya Swaranjali, the musical wing of Chinmaya Mission, explores the mystical world of Indian classical and devotional music to discover its hidden joy. CM Alpharetta organizes concerts on the third Sunday of every month, with local artists performing Hindustani and Carnatic music. The January 19 concert was a *bhajan sandhya* by Sujatha Rayburn, with Amitava Sen on harmonium, Anjaneya Sastry on tabla, and Sujatha's senior students providing supporting vocals. The nine forms of *bhakti* were described and sung: *Shravanam* (hearing the names and glories of the Lord), *Keertanam* (chanting), *Smaranam* (remembering), *Paada sevnam* (serving the Lord's feet), *Archanam* (worshipping), *Vandanam* (obeying), *Daasyam* (serving the Lord), *Sakhyam* (friendship with the Lord), and *Aatma Nivedanam* (surrender).



(Photo: Suzanne Sen)

Heart Health Seminar by TANA/TAMA

On February 1, for Heart Health Month, about 200 people attended TANA Atlanta and TAMA's heart health seminar presented by Dr. Srini Gangasani along with Dr. Amarnath Kommuri, and a free bone density checkup by Dr. Nandini Sunkireddy. Heart disease is the leading cause of death here, affecting 1/4 of Americans, but South Asians are even more prone to heart disease than Caucasians and can be struck with it even in their twenties. Early detection (e.g., Calcium Score, etc.) and lifestyle changes for prevention are important.



TAMA's grand Sankranti festival

TAMA (Telugu Association of Metro Atlanta) celebrated Sankranti on January 18 in a grand gala way, with around 1,450 Atlantans. Chief guest Lohith Kumar enthralled the audience with his mesmerizing mimicry and jokes, and Tollywood singers Damini and Dhanunjay got everyone dancing. TAMA's 'Go Green' initiative is an enormous shift, which avoided a lot of plastic usage.



Chinmaya Niketan family celebrates Republic Day

Chinmaya Niketan's Bal Vihar session on January 26 began as usual with chanting Om—but then, something different! A 7th grade teacher addressed students and all about Republic Day: strength in standing united; freedom struggle before independence; Delhi parade; and Jalianwala Bagh (gave goosebumps). Then about the Census in March and why all Indians in USA should be involved, vote, and have their voices heard. Rajiv Satyal's “I am Indian” video told of Indians' contributions. A poem, the Indian national anthem, and an enthusiastic “Jai Hind” were followed by birthday celebrations and aarti. One mother said that the day helped her children “see the love we all share for India. They may understand better why their mother can never get through the national anthem with dry eyes.”



All these reports are available online at www.khabar.com, with more information, more photos, etc.



Community Newsmakers

Padma Bhushan for Dr. Jagdish Sheth



Dr. Jagdish Sheth, Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Business at Goizueta Business School, Emory University, was honored with the Government of India's Padma Bhushan award on the country's Republic Day, January 26, 2020. The Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award in the sphere of literature and education, was conferred upon Dr. Sheth for his lifetime work in the fields of industry, academics, government, and his contributions to Indian communities worldwide. Dr. Sheth has mentored TiE Atlanta for over 20 years and is founder of the Sheth Family Foundation. He remains active at age 81 in the fields of business and academics. Dr. Sheth will formally receive the award from the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, at a ceremony in March.

Neha Devineni receives a Prudential award



Neha Devineni, 17, from Atlanta, a high school senior at Riverwood International Charter School, is the founder of ASA ("Aspire, Serve, Achieve"), a non-profit she started in 2017 to help underprivileged children with nutrition, sanitation, and education. The organization now has chapters in Georgia, Texas, Michigan, and India. She was selected as one of two top youth volunteers in Georgia for Prudential's Spirit of Community Awards (2020). *Atlanta InTown* has also recognized Neha's work—she is a finalist among this year's 20 Under 20 honorees, chosen from among 80 nominations, to recognize student volunteers working in the areas of environment and social justice.

Team Atlantis shines at its first robotics tournament



Atman Singh, Ayyan Vellore, Arav Dash, and Sammy Shalim (L to R)—13-year-old eighth-graders from Johns Creek—are the brains behind the robotics team Atlantis 17456 that partnered in a 3-team alliance to win the First Tech Challenge's Central Georgia League Tournament in January. A total of 26 teams from the North Atlanta region, stretching from Marietta to Lawrenceville, competed in the Challenge. Team Atlantis also received the Collins Aerospace Innovate Award for their "ingenuity and creative robot design solution," and they placed second in Design and third in Controls. The team hopes to progress through the Georgia State Championship to World Championship, to be held in Houston this year. 📺

CREATE-X bags Amazon's Alexa fellowship



CREATE-X, an entrepreneurship teaching program at Georgia Tech, will partner with Amazon to mentor and fund student start-ups in the fields of voice technology and conversational AI. Amazon's Alexa Fund provides up to \$200 million in venture capital to spur research in voice technology innovation. Georgia Tech is the fifth university to be supported by this program. Raghupathy "Siva" Sivakumar, director and co-founder of CREATE-X, says the funding will empower students in the program to translate their ideas in the field of voice technology into viable businesses. CREATE-X has mentored several AI-based start-ups such as Highview, Pelori, Career Blitz, and Next Century Farms.



Sharvil Patel wins entrepreneur award from Emory

Emory University student Sharvil Patel is the founder and Executive Director of OmniMed, a nonprofit run by students that uses technology tools to make access to healthcare more equitable. Sharvil's unique venture leverages his experience in data analytics and bioinformatics and has garnered the Emory Entrepreneurship Award (2019). The Emory Entrepreneur Network annually selects alumni entrepreneurs who, as founders of fast growing organizations, demonstrate a high degree of innovation. The winners were felicitated at The Hatchery.



means Go to www.khabar.com for more on these Newsmakers. Please send news on local achievers to CommunityNewsmakers@khabar.com



Horoscope

March 2020



ARIES. March 21 to April 20.

You will realize that some of your beliefs are not based on the reality of your life. Readjusting your thinking could have long-term benefits.



TAURUS. April 21 to May 20.

Meditation will calm you and lead your thoughts in a more constructive direction. There is no need to make big changes in your life until you are ready.



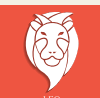
GEMINI. May 21 to June 20.

The edge in a close associate's or loved one's voice should tell you that something you don't know is going on with that person. Probe gently to find out more.



CANCER. June 21 to July 22.

You don't have to be European to support European traditions, just as you don't have to be Asian to support Asian tradition. Celebrate the spirit of multiculturalism.



LEO. July 23 to August 22.

Consider whether this might be the time to defer to someone else instead of trying to be in charge of the matter. Pay attention to what others are saying.



VIRGO. August 23 to September 22.

Let your playful personality play a role in difficult situations. Humor can bring relief in stressful situations, but resorting to stereotypes in humor can be hurtful.



LIBRA. September 23 to October 22.

Matters of work, money, and love are turning in your direction. But don't just ride the wave, because you need to play a part in keeping good fortune flowing.



SCORPIO. October 23 to November 22.

Spring is a time of new life, and that includes new life for that idea that has been languishing in the back of your mind. Take advantage of opportunities.



SAGITTARIUS. November 23 to December 21.

Relationships with friends are important to you. Show that you care about them and they will care more about you. A phone call could work if they are busy.



CAPRICORN. December 22 to January 19.

Financial pressures are taking their toll, but you will be able to work things out if you have a definite plan. Take charge and don't be influenced by others.



AQUARIUS. January 20 to February 18.

When your workload is heavy, remember that you may not be able to do it all by yourself. Try to get proper advice from your boss or a trusted co-worker.



PISCES. February 19 to March 20.

Your creativity has reached a peak. Let your ideas flow and leave the details for later. It could be the start of something big if you don't lose your commitment.

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Newly Renovated 17 room motel for sale in Summerville, GA in good condition with manager apartment. Call 706-799-5477 or 706-857-0039.

100 units Economy franchise motel for sale in Atlanta Airport area with managers apartment Serious Inquiry only. Call 678-665-8241.

Hotel Sites - I-459 & Hwy 150 at new development Stadium Trace Village in Hoover, AL. Call Ed at Willcoxon Properties. 205.957.7756. edwillcoxon@gmail.com

C-Store: Only \$75K plus inventory. Great Neighborhood Store. Low rent! Contact: Mark McKernan 770-584-8130 - gasdistributor12@aol.com - KW Realty.

Conv. Store w/gas & laundromat for sale Waycross, GA. recently added hunt bros. pizza, nice neighborhood store w/ good extra income. \$400000. + inv. 2nd store for \$ 275000. (no coam) owner finance avail for both stores. Call Sam Patel 912-614-6444.

High Volume Gas Station/C-Store for Sale or Lease in heart of Gaffney, SC. Neighborhood store on a busy street with brand new pumps!! Call 704-726-7544

Business for Sale - Award Winning Pizza & Wings restaurant in Suwanee, GA. Franchise documents are complete, & ready to sell franchises. Location nets \$160,000 to owner / operator. Priced at \$345,000. Contact Mark Werbalowsky at 404-277-3400 or mwerb@sunbeltatlanta.com.

Reputed Wings franchise Restaurant in Lawrenceville Ga for sale. Please call or text me at 678-848-0406 or 770-331-5395

Two Subways For sale/manage/operate (#1) Milton (Publix Shopping Center), Base Rent 1350, approx CAM 350, 2019 sales \$282K, asking \$125K cash. (#2) Marietta (inside Walmart) rent+ utilities +CAM 8% (aprox) of sales; 2019 sales 348K asking \$225K cash. Contact BK after 7 pm 678-551-4414 or my39895@gmail.com

Subway for Sale in North Fulton/Cumming. Great locations. Need owner/operator. Please contact Parimal 678-357-1065 or email at subwayatlanta@gmail.com

For sale/lease: grocery store - Dothan AL - sales \$90,000/mo; make an offer; gas station - Ozark AL - \$40000/mo inside -monthly rent only gas station - Daleville AL - currently closed - monthly rent only; Contact - 804-502-6837

Salon for Sale Est. since 2013 in Duluth GA. Offers Beauty, Hair, Nail, Tan services. Price \$15000. Better than new Salon. Only pay for equipment & get existing clients & build out for Free. Bz season is here. Call 404 663 6793.

Free Acworth Pickup Dry Cleaning business Located off Highway 92 & I=75. Approximate annual sales 100k. Just sign new lease All Equipment remains 404.579.3777

Dry cleaners for sale Full Plant near Mall of Georgia Annual Sales: \$190k; asking \$120k. Low Priced Established business in a growing area. For details call: 678-488-3858

Dry cleaner two drop stores grosses \$200k; net \$60k will help ideal buyer add several locations. Call Jay 864-350-2571 jerif1960@gmail.com

Liquor Store: Including Real Estate. Atlanta Area. Contact: Mark McKernan 770-584-8130 - gasdistributor12@aol.com - KW Realty.

HELP WANTED

Business development/Marketing Specialist req. in a Wholesale Jewelry Co. located in downtown Atlanta. Proficient experience w/ digital technology & editing software packages like Adobe Photoshop preferable. Benefits include Health insurance, paid leave & incentives. Please call at 404 577 8218 or email resume: accounts3@jewelrylandatlanta.com

Help wanted in Electronic Assembly plant. SMT & thru hole parts soldering, Stockroom, QC dept. Also a handyman in maintenance & as a machine operator. Working knowledge of English & a high school diploma is a +. Will train. Excellent benefit package. Apply in person or email resume to hr@pcc-i.com 5295 Webb Parkway NW, Lilburn, GA 30047

Need Care givers / Certified Nursing Assistants in all Metro Atlanta counties. Driving skills are a must. If you do not have certification, we can help you to get it. Contact Agility Home Care: 678-957-0871 / 404-993-4044

Looking for certified medical assistant in Lawrenceville, GA Please email resumes to kelly@gafamilycare.com

Payroll associate needed for CPA Firm. Required good written, phone, and computer skills. Bachelor's degree. Proficient in Microsoft Office. Experience preferred. Email norcrosscpafirm@gmail.com

Accounting/ data entry/multiple positions open in a Wholesale Jewelry Store located in downtown Atlanta. Accounting & QuickBooks experience preferred. Benefits include Health insurance, paid leave & incentives. Call at 404 577 8218 or email resume: accounts3@jewelrylandatlanta.com

Sales tax associate needed for CPA Firm. Required good written, phone, and computer skills. Bachelor's degree. Proficient in Microsoft Office. Experience preferred. Email norcrosscpafirm@gmail.com

Looking for 2 couples, one for front desk (fluent in English) & another one for housekeeping, for a franchise motel. Legal status required. Please call (770) 995-4285.

Manager needed for limited service hotel/motel in Rock Hill, SC. Please call 803-517-4662.

Need single/couple for front desk & housekeeping in Durham, NC. Must speak fluent English, have computer & Hotel exp. accommodations provided. Legal status required. Call 919-452-3131.

CLASSIFIEDS

Front desk for evening shift & Laundry/housekeeping couple needed for a franchise motel in Atlanta. Accommodation provided. Please call 770-969-0110 or 678-200-6131.

Full Time Night Shift & Housekeeping needed for Franchise motel in Atlanta. accommodations provided (Fully furnished apt.) contact between 10:00am & 7:00pm 404-200-7065

Front Desk, Night Audit, Housekeeping, Laundry Position Available at Multiple Location including Norcross, Stone Mountain, Lithonia, Forest Park and Smyrna, GA. 404-500-9097.

Urgently seeking housekeeping couple/Front Desk Clerk for hotel in Lagrange, GA. offering accommodation w/ good package. Candidates should have some relevant experience. Please contact Naveed at 678-761-7683 for further details during 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday.

Need help in hotel near Atlanta. Couple for housekeeping. Must be legal. Accommodation provided. Call 706-248-5590 \$4.25 per room.

Couples needed front desk & housekeeping Legal status requires & English for independent motel in Greenville SC Contact: tel 864-517-9587 Or 864-376-7543.

Looking for GM, FD at Anderson, SC and Montgomery AL big property. Please contact 619-592-2504.

Housekeeping and front desk couple needed immediately for 60 room hotel in Atlanta, GA. Accommodation provided Call Amin @ 770-742-9680

Hotel front desk help Quality Inn Loganville, GA. Need single or couple for Front desk/laundry. good Computer Skills & English a must; & other duties. 770-310-5005.

Need couple for housekeeping in Virginia Motel. Call 706-260-9495.

EXXON and Subway in Lilburn 1 mile from BAPS Mandir Full time/ Part time in Both. Call Singh 404-316-5595. Must have work permit

Help wanted Full time for Gas station in Douglasville Ga I-20 Exit 34. Call Paul Singh 404-513-3853

Casher, day shift Exxon, 4185 Braselton Hwy, Hoschton, GA 30548. If needed walk in 2 bed room house available. 770-480-1937

Looking for an experienced, & hardworking cashier for gas station in Dallas GA. Good pay & sufficient hours provided to right candidate. Contact Rahim 404-277-3155

Looking for a young single male or couple for 7-11 Convenience store. After 6 months free 25% profit shares. Contact: Cell # 561-339-7638, Email: dp33430@gmail.com.

Looking for help at convenience store w/o Gas in Macon, GA 31204. Call 404-664-9226.

Help wanted for Gas Station @ Grannys Store 4820 Dawsonville Hwy Gainesville, GA 30506. Pay \$13 with Benefits. Phone #678-517-2118

Front Desk Receptionist Needed. M-F 9-5. Answer calls, Lite bookkeeping & Misc office work. Paid Holidays, 401K Benefits. Call MJ at (678) 525-9195.

Software Company located at Cumming is looking for a highly energetic person for its HR / Front Desk work. This is an entry level position. Individual must be good in communication, must have knowledge of MS Office. Competitive salary & benefit. Please send resume to hr@apeiro.us

Looking for an energetic Office Assistant in Lilburn, GA. Thorough knowledge of MS Office and fluent in English. Working knowledge of Accounting or QuickBooks is a +. Will consider training a right candidate. Good benefit package. Email your Resume to hr@pcc-i.com No phone calls

Full time Sales Manager needed for selling AT&T products in Fayetteville, GA. Please send your resume to alvisatellites@gmail.com or call at 678-466-7868.

Looking for a FT Sales Manager in a Wholesale Jewelry Store located in downtown Atlanta w/ experience in reporting, management, analysis, marketing & good communication skills. Benefits include Health insurance, paid leave & incentives. Call at 404 577 8218 or email resume: accounts3@jewelrylandatlanta.com

Administrative associate needed for CPA Firm. Required good written, phone, and computer skills. Bachelor's degree. Proficient in Microsoft Office. Email norcrosscpafirm@gmail.com

Sales Representative Needed. M-F 9-5. Pay plus Commission. Opportunity to Grow. Paid Holidays, 401K Benefits. Call MJ at (678) 525-9195.

P/T or F/T customer service/receptionist needed for Wholesale Co. in Suwanee/Buford. Must have transportation. Good English, basic computer skills, sales & phone skills required. 404-993-8871.

Need Office Assistant: MS Office proficient, Good communication skills, some accounting or financial or Insurance knowledge- Multitask handler Email: vijay@domyinsurance.com apply at www.financialservicecenter.net

Inside Sales Representative req. for Wholesale Jewelry Co. Must have good communication skills & have basic computer knowledge. Good pay + commission. Benefits include Health insurance & paid leave. Please call at 404 577 8218 or email resume: accounts3@jewelrylandatlanta.com

Salesperson needed with fluency in English for retail clothing store in downtown Atlanta. Call 404.522.6738.

Looking for a FT Store Assistant in Wholesale Jewelry Co. located in downtown Atlanta. Benefits include Health insurance, paid leave & incentives. Please call at 404-577-8218 or email resume: accounts3@jewelrylandatlanta.com

Computer literate person with good typing and English communication skills for eCommerce website tasks and customer service. Call 404.522.6738

Looking for tandoor and curry chef in Tandoor restaurant in Fort Lauderdale. Living facility available. Walking distance from restaurant. Call 954-649-3374.

Help wanted in kitchen and cleaning. Please contact Rasoi Restaurant 3230 Caliber St. Suwanee GA 30024 Kishor Desai 334-538-8695; Hemant Patel 678-644-3071.

Dunkin Donuts, looking for managers in Atlanta, Lawrenceville & Sugar Hill. Need some management experience. Must be legal. Please contact Jay 470-261-6661.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Dunkin Donuts Suwanee Hiring night bakers. Good Pay/ Good hours; Call: 404-731-6234

Hiring Restaurant employees for two Captain Ds locations (Acworth, GA & Norcross, GA). Full Training will be provided. If interested please call Anil at 678-665-6814

Now hiring managers & crew for checkers drive in restaurant at 2775 Panola Road, Lithonia, Ga 30058 will be suitably paid with bonus & incentive. Please contact Amir 404-409-7463.

Subway has employment available for different positions. Must be legal, motivated, and speak English. Call 770-843-8744.

Hiring Eyebrow Threaders/Stylists, Multiple Locations Full Time / Part Time positions available. Starting Pay \$10 hourly plus good tips. Call 404-992-3474.

Salon hiring eyebrow threading specialist! Full time or Part time \$10 to \$14 per hour + Good Tips & Commission Fast Paced Location. Contact: (678) 964-4144

Hiring Eyebrow Threader in salon for Full Time or Part Time Position Available. Starting pay \$10 to \$13 per hour + Good Tip. Call (470) 350-4373

Now Hiring Full time cashier for Liquor store in Marietta, GA. Experience required, pay based on experience. Please call Ankit @ 770-973-7140 for more info.

HOUSEKEEPING/NANNY NEEDED

Help wanted – home-based care for elderly woman in Atlanta area Bathing, dressing, laundry, tidying, Indian cooking. English/Hindi/Telugu 404-889-1788 bnyshadham@gmail.com

Looking for P/T or F/T help needed for 2 kids & light housekeeping/cooking in Suwanee GA. Reliable transportation & experience required. Preferable to work on weekends as well. Good pay. Call 404-993-8871

Looking for an Indian vegetarian cook for a family of 4 in Smyrna, starting March 2020, 3-4 days/wk. Off exit 16 on I285. Must have own transportation. We are flexible on rates. Please call if interested @ 704-804-0892.

Pt/Ft help for vegetarian cooking / kitchen work required in Alpharetta / Roswell area Call 770-756-3988

Looking for Live in Nanny for household work and cooking For Gujarati Family on Marietta, GA. Contact 678-520-1438.

Looking for Live-in nanny for a small family in Duluth, GA. Cell ph: 678-680-3155.

Looking for live-in/out nanny in Suwanee-Buford area for a baby starting soon. Please call at 678-793-0807.

Telugu speaking family in Marietta (E. Cobb) is looking for live-in nanny. duties include: cooking, kitchen cleaning, other light household work & little help w/ taking care of a newborn starting around March 1st. Please call 678-644-8659.

Live in/out housekeeper needed for vegetarian physician family in Duluth area call 678-469-4672

Household help Wanted (Live In) - All Household & cooking work for Gujarati Vegetarian Family in Duluth, (Atlanta), Georgia. Call 770 714 6327 or 770 315 9763

After school Nanny needed in Johns creek GA. Must be driving. Looking for childcare + Cooking help for Gujarati/Vegetarian Family. Contact# 678-462-0879

Patel family in Decatur, looking for nanny for 2 little girls. Also help with basic household, cooking, laundry. Be honest, energetic and hardworking. Call 770-861-2780.

ROOM FOR RENT

Room available for rent in Lilburn for Working or retired female. Affordable rent call Dave at (404) 819-8502.

HOME FOR SALE

Palatial style home ideal for Multi-generation family in Sandy springs; best schools, excellent investment opportunity! Appraised \$915K priced to sell \$715K. Call 678-427-8240

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Seeking well placed professional Settled in Atlanta for a 35 year old 5' 3" Well settled attorney in Atlanta Send bio and photo to Sonalimports@yahoo.com

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Parents seeking for Handsome Engineer son well settled in Atlanta. 30 years 6' 1". Cast no bar but Gujarati vegetarian preferred. Send Bio-data to Dili_2k@yahoo.com or call 404-704-6509



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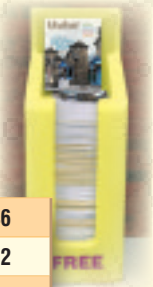
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