

# KHAASBAAT

A PUBLICATION FOR INDIAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA

APRIL 2022

WWW.KHAASBAAT.COM

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813-758-1786

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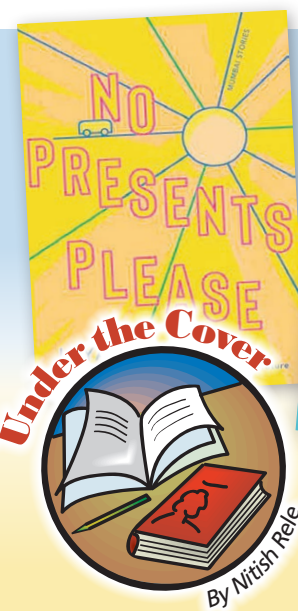
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## EKAL VIDYALAYA DONOR APPRECIATION VIRTUAL CONCERT SET FOR APRIL 30

Ekal Vidyalaya Florida region chapters will present "Ekal Geet Mala," a virtual concert at 7:30 p.m. on April 30, featuring Hemant Kumar Musical Group as a token of appreciation. The online mega show promises to be one of its kind with more than 50 musicians, including singers Ishita Vishwakarma ("Sa Re Ga Ma Pa" Winner), Priyanka Mitra, Dr. Gauri Kavi, Alok Katdare, Mukhtar Shah and Saurav Kishan.

To make a donation or pledge, visit <https://www.ekal.org/geetmala>

Ekal empowers people in rural India by providing basic education, digital literacy, skill development, health awareness, learning modern and productive agricultural practices and rural entrepreneurship so they can help themselves. Since 1989, Ekal has reached 100 million people living in over 100,000 rural villages with your help. For more details, refer to [Ekal.org/us](http://Ekal.org/us) or reach out to local chapter volunteers.

For information, Florida Region - Dr. Umesh Choudhry at (727) 507-0584; Tampa Chapter- Jaimin Amin at (813) 283-8125; Lakeland Chapter - Nilesh Patel at (863) 513-6505; Ocala Chapter - Nagesh Kohil at (352) 427-1542; Tallahassee Chapter - Santosh Dixit at (850) 559-1080; and Fort Myers Chapter - Senthil Kumar at (786) 245-1959.



## OVER 9,000 ATTEND MELBOURNE INDIAFEST

More than 9,000 people attended the 25th Indiafest March 5-6 in Melbourne. Apart from the daylong cultural shows on the stage, vendors set up food, clothing, jewelry, henna and more under perfect weather conditions. Part of organizer Manav Mandir's philosophy is to support deserving charities locally and nationally and assist in disaster relief in the U.S. and overseas. This year, the group presented an endowment of \$100,000 to the Eastern State Florida College in Cocoa to assist about 10 deserving students per year with tuition.

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**TAMPA COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES RAM AND RASHMI JAKHOTIA**  
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# WHO'S WHO

Khaas Baat is a monthly publication that has been in circulation since August 2004. Issues are direct mailed to subscribers and also are available at South Asian grocery stores and restaurants. It presents exclusive, informative and relevant news about the Indian American community in Florida to its readers.

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## APRIL 2: RAMADAN BEGINS

## APRIL 10: RAM NAVAMI

## APRIL 14: BAISAKHI

## APRIL 16: HANUMAN JAYANTI

### EVENTS

#### TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER



Shankh Lahiri

**APRIL 3: CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT;** presented by Shruti Foundation and Shanti Heart Sanctuary; Abhik Mukherjee and Shankh Lahiri on tabla; 4 to 6 p.m.; 18101 Boy Scout Road, Odessa; \$30 single, \$50 couple; for information, call (813) 549-9288 or email shrutifoundationtampa@gmail.com

**APRIL 6-10: 3rd PATOTSAV (ANNIVERSARY) CELEBRATION;** 9 a.m. daily; Sanatan Mandir, 311 E. Palm Ave., Tampa; for information, call (813) 221-4482 or visit [www.sanatanmandirtampa.org/](http://www.sanatanmandirtampa.org/)

**APRIL 9: SRI RAM NAVAMI CELEBRATIONS;** organized by ISKCON; Hindu Temple of Florida hall, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; 4 to 8 p.m.; kirtan, kids contest, Sri Ram Katha, etc.; free; kids coloring and spiritual fancy dress contest; for information, call Sudhir at (813) 523-5458.

**APRIL 10: BIG COMMUNITY SALE & EXHIBITION OF INDIA'S ARTS, COSTUMES AND MORE;** proceeds benefit Mount Kailash Preparatory Academy; Rose Pavilion, India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; for information on donating items, call Nainan Desai at (813) 245-8417 or visit [www.mtkailashpreparatoryacademy.org](http://www.mtkailashpreparatoryacademy.org)

**APRIL 20: ICC SENIORS GET-TOGETHER;** India Cultural Center, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; free seminar, lunch and entertainment; no age restriction; for information, call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

**APRIL 23: "VASANT UTSAV;"** hosted by Academy of Odissi Dance; classical dance, Odissi, along with bhangra and Bollywood production, "Yaadein;" King High School, 6815 N. 56th St., Tampa; \$15 ticket (via Eventbrite); for information, call Gopa Rautray at (813) 992-5234.

**APRIL 29: ARTS LEGACY REMIX;** showcases pageantry of India's New Year celebrations; 7 to 9 p.m.; live music, dance, art and vendors on the Straz Riverwalk stage; for information, call (813) 229-STAR or visit [www.strazcenter.org](http://www.strazcenter.org)

**APRIL 30: EKAL DONOR APPRECIATION VIRTUAL CONCERT;** Hemant Kumar Musical Group to perform "Ekal Geet Mala;" 7:30 p.m.; To make a donation or pledge now, visit <https://www.ekal.org/geetmala>

#### ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY

**APRIL 2: MUSICAL CONCERT;** Guru Randhawa and Kanika Kapoor; special guest Iulia Vantur; presented by Krish Patel; 8 p.m.; Orange County Convention Center, 9800 International Drive, Orlando; for tickets and sponsorship, call Patel at (407) 454-3334 or visit [www.bollywoodeventsfl.com](http://www.bollywoodeventsfl.com) for online purchase.

**APRIL 3: HSCF NEW AGE GROUP SEMINAR MEET;** 1.30 to 5 p.m.; HSCF community hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry; seminar topic is common diseases of seniors and prevention by primary care physician Dr. Rajan Kapoor; snacks, tea/coffee; free for 2022 paid members with prior RSVP to [hscfnewagegroup@gmail.com](mailto:hscfnewagegroup@gmail.com); for information, call Madan Arora at (407) 971-9259.

**APRIL 30: INDIA FEST;** organized by Hindu Society of Central Florida; free admission; \$5 parking; songs and dances, as well as booths for clothes, henna, jewelry and food; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at HSCF, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry; to register for cultural programs, visit <https://fs9.formsite.com/hscftechnology/Indiafest2022/index.html>; for questions, call HSCF President Sampath Shanmugam at (407) 782-3007.

**MAY 15: MYSHADI BRIDAL EXPO;** presented by Desh-Videsh Media Group; Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway; noon to 5 p.m.; free admission, parking; several booths to showcase latest trends and products for weddings; for information, call (954) 784-8100.

#### GAINESVILLE

**APRIL 2: INDIA FEST;** presented by the India Cultural & Education Center; Bo Diddley Plaza, 111 E. University Ave., Gainesville; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Indian food, music/dance, fashion, jewelry; for information, email [Indiafest@icec-florida.org](mailto:Indiafest@icec-florida.org) or visit [www.icec-florida.org/](http://www.icec-florida.org/)

#### JACKSONVILLE

**MAY 14: "TRIBUTE TO LEGENDS;"** presented by Indian Cultural Society of Jacksonville; salute to Lata Mangeshkar and Bhappi Lahiri; 11 a.m.; for information, visit [www.jaxics.org](http://www.jaxics.org)

#### SOUTH FLORIDA (WESTON)

**MAY 1: MYSHADI BRIDAL EXPO;** presented by Desh-Videsh Media Group; Bonaventure Resort & Spa, 250 Racquet Club Road, Weston; noon to 5 p.m.; free admission, parking; several booths to showcase latest trends and products for weddings; for information, call (954) 784-8100.

*Disclaimer: Event details are subject to change. Please check with local organizers. Event submissions are free, e-mail information to editor@khaasbaat.com by the 20th.*





## TAMPA COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES RAM AND RASHMI JAKHOTIA

By NITISH S. RELE – editor@khaasbaat.com



Nearly 300 people attended a special event on March 12 to recognize and appreciate Ram Jakhotia, his wife Rashmi, and a dedicated team of kitchen volunteers (Nita Shah, Rekha Chandra, Ramila Patel and Trushnabein) for selfless service to Tampa Bay seniors for 18 years.

“As soon as India Cultural Center was built, Ram came to ask about starting a senior group,” remembers Dr. Dipak Shah on behalf of ICC management. “He has been persistent and now we are enjoying the fruits. We thank Ram and Rashmi for their dedication, hard work.”

Ram Jakhotia The free ICC Seniors get-to-gather, held every third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., has been the place where seniors meet not only to socialize and network but also listen to world-class musicians and speakers specializing in elderly needs such as finance, health care, Medicare, spirituality, diet, stress management, etc. The ICC management team has been providing free use of the Lotus Hall, kitchen facility to cook food on site, as well as offering audio/video system, tables and chairs to seniors who come from such faraway places as Sarasota, Spring Hill, Lakeland, Plant City, etc. Also, rides are arranged for seniors who do not have transportation. For more information, call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

Dr. Jayendra Chokshi recalled the tremendous hardship Ram Jakhotia endured in India before moving to the United States. “He was born in Jayal, a small town in Rajasthan. He studied under a tree and that’s how his education started. At 10, he moved to Bombay, graduated from high school, then college, with his brother’s support. When they married, Ram was 17 and Rashmi was only 14 years of age.”

Jakhotia wanted to be an engineer and earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in Sangli, Maharashtra. “He came back to Bombay but couldn’t find a job. Ultimately, he decided to move to the U.S. and came here via boat in 1962 with few dollars in hand. After finishing post-graduation, he got a job in New Jersey in 1965. ICC Seniors get-to-gather has grown from a handful to 250-300 people,” He worked for IBM before retiring in 1997.

“A dream without a goal remains a dream only,” noted philanthropist Dr. Kiran C. Patel. “It was a dream of Ram and a few friends, he persevered, persisted and now you see the outcome. Ram and Rashmi has been committed and dedicated monthly for the seniors group. They are involved in any community activity to volunteer, work without any expectations, and that’s what we have to learn from them.”

Jakhotia thanked ICC for offering the Lotus Hall and all its conveniences. “Seniors can make friends with other seniors when they come to Tampa to settle down in our city,” he noted. “They get good food, entertainment.”

The Jakhotias’ sons Deepak and DJ Ravidrums along with family were also present. In recognizing his parents, Ravi aptly put it, “You both are the Tom Brady and Gronk of the Indian American community!”



Images from the 2022

## Melbourne India Fest



Photos by NITISH S. RELE

# BIG COMMUNITY Sale

& EXHIBITION OF INDIA'S ARTS, COSTUMES, AND MORE.

Sarees, Dresses, Fashion Jewelry, Wedding Dresses, Decorative Wall Pieces, Pooja Items, Framed Art, Marble, Granite, Brass, Resin Deities, Figurines, Small Appliances: Juicer, Blender, Food Processor, Gift Items, Musical Instruments like: Harmonium, Flute, and more.

The proceeds go to support Mt. Kailash Preparatory Academy, Inc. a charitable 501(c)(3) organization. All items are donated by the well wishers. Items might not necessarily be brand new.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

TIME: 10AM TO 5PM

LOCATION: ROSE PAVILION, ICC HALL, 5511 LYNN RD, TAMPA, FL 33624

Please pay by check or cash to avoid service charges on credit cards.

[WWW.MTKAILASHPREPARATORYACADEMY.ORG](http://WWW.MTKAILASHPREPARATORYACADEMY.ORG)

Do you have items in great condition to donate? Please reach out to people below.

Nainan Desai 813-245-8417  
Yamir Bhatt 727-403-7030  
Sudhir Shah 727-686-7424  
Jaimin Amin 813-283-8125  
Parth Shah 561-628-9534

Rekha Nair 813-597-9998  
Devyani Desai 813-404-7980  
Bhakti Shah 682-536-2178  
Jayaraj Nair 813-693-8910  
Madhavan Rangarajan 813-598-9000



## SANATAN MANDIR TAMPA

HINDU SAMAJ INC. (501 C (3) RELIGIOUS ORG)  
311 East Palm Avenue, Tampa, FL 33602



### MONTHLY EVENTS

- FRIDAY, APRIL 1 to APRIL 10**
  - CHAITRA NAVRATRI
- SATURDAY, APRIL 2 (7:00 PM to 5:00 AM)**
  - MATA KA JAGRAN (Sponsorships Available)
- SUNDAY, APRIL 3 (5:00 PM to 7:00 PM)**
  - MA BHUCHAR ANANAD GARBO
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 to SUNDAY, APRIL 10 (9:00 AM and 4:00 PM)**
  - EVERYDAY PUJA, HAVAN, RAM KATHA and BHAJANS (Sponsorships Available)
- SATURDAY, APRIL 9 (4:00 PM to 8:00 PM)**
  - DURGASHTMI HAVAN & KANYA PUJAN
- SUNDAY, APRIL 10 (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM)**
  - PATOTSAV (Anniversary) & SHRI RAM NAVMI
  - NEW DWAJA RAM KATHA
- THURSDAY, APRIL 14 (7:00 PM)**
  - BAISAKHI SURYANARYAN PUJA
  - NEPALI SOLAR NEW YEAR
- SATURDAY, APRIL 16 (11:00 AM to 12:30 PM)**
  - SHRI HANUMAN JANMOTSAV & SUNDERKAND PATH
  - SHRI JAGANNATH BHAJAN (6:00 PM to 8:00 PM)
- SUNDAY, APRIL 24 (5:30 PM to 7:00 PM)**
  - MONTHLY JAGANNATH BHAJAN

### WEEKLY EVENTS

- EVERY MONDAY - 6:30 PM**
  - SHIV ABHISHEK AND PUJA
  - SHRAVAN SOMVAR PUJA
- EVERY TUESDAY - 7:00 PM**
  - SUNDARKAND
  - HANUMAM KATHA
- EVERY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM**
  - SAI BABA SATSANG
  - MAHA PRASAD
  - Pandit Manikya Sharma  
813-484-9568
  - Pandit Rushi Vyas  
813-503-3388

### IMPORTANT

- Puja services have been resumed with guidelines.
- Please follow CDC guidelines when visiting temple.
- For private puja at Temple or at your place, please contact Temple or Pandit Ji.



Phone: 813-221-4482

Email: [info@sanatanmandirtampa.org](mailto:info@sanatanmandirtampa.org)

Web: [www.sanatanmandirtampa.org](http://www.sanatanmandirtampa.org)



**CANCER – WHAT’S THE ANSWER? PART V: SCREENINGS ARE A WAY OUT!**

By M.P. RAVINDRA NATHAN, M.D., FACC



Checking for cancer in people who do not have any clinical symptoms or signs as yet is called screening. One of the biggest challenges facing our health care scientists is ‘how to eliminate cancer’ from the body at its onset. Cancer screening is the answer and it should be a regular part of your life.

A 70-year-old friend of mine had to get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom one day. This was unusual but when the same problem started happening every night, he consulted a urologist who thought his prostate was mildly enlarged.

Later, a serum PSA test (Prostate Specific Antigen) showed elevated levels, which led to further testing that revealed cancer in his prostate gland. Fortunately, it was in the early stage and he didn’t have any metastatic lesions, not even local spread. Surgery followed by appropriate chemotherapy removed the entire cancer burden and he has remained free of cancer now for more than five years.

The American Cancer Society has issued cancer screening guidelines for the past 40 years that are being revised constantly. With new technologies available, we can not only detect the presence of cancer in the body but we may be able to identify even specific cancer types as well. “Get Screened” is the American Cancer Society’s new campaign that encourages people to get back on track with their recommended cancer screenings.

Let me give you some examples. Breast cancer, a common disease, can be detected early with periodic mammograms (X-ray of the breast) along with clinical examination (palpation of the breast). Screening mammogram is recommended once a year for all females, beginning at age 45. Lung cancer is common especially in chronic smokers or in those who have at least a 20 pack-year smoking history. (This is the number of packs of cigarettes per day multiplied by the number of years smoked.) Smokers who present with cough or have seen a tinge of blood in their sputum should have a chest X-ray and sputum analysis without delay. The American Cancer Society recommends yearly lung cancer screening in high-risk patients with low-dose computed tomography (LDCT scan) that uses less radiation, for people who are 55 and older, are in fairly good health and also meet the following conditions: ‘Currently smoke or have quit in the past 15 years.’ This has proven to be effective among individuals

considered to be at high risk. Cancer of the cervix, a common cancer in women all over the world, can be detected early by the ‘Pap test,’ done by examining cervical smear for potentially precancerous or cancerous cells in the cervix.

Colorectal cancer is another common cancer that can be detected through early screening tests that include sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy and stool test for occult blood. In addition to detecting early cancerous lesions, these endoscopies can detect polyps, which are abnormal precancerous growths that can be removed before they turn into cancer. For those who are averse to endoscopy, a ‘virtual colonoscopy’ that allows the colon and rectum to be examined from outside the body using a low dose computed tomography (CT), can be used. More recently, a stool DNA test has also become available. Current recommendation is to start screening from the age of 45-50 onward.

The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test, as mentioned earlier, has been used along with a digital rectal examination, for prostate cancer screening. Thankfully, many prostate cancers are not deadly but all the same, it’s important make an early diagnosis. In regards to skin cancer, common in Florida, early detection starts with you. Take the time to look at your own skin to see any black moles or other new lesions are cropping up, and if so, observe them closely to see if they are getting bigger or developing symptoms like itching, bleeding, etc. And consult a dermatologist if there is any suspicion.

Several blood tests are also used to get an idea if any cancer is brewing in the body. One such is measurement of Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) in the blood, which may be elevated in many types of cancers. Another one is Alfa-Fetoprotein in blood that can be elevated in liver and testicular cancers. However, these blood tests are non-specific and elevated levels do not always mean the presence of cancer.

These are just a few of the cancer screening tests in common practice. Your physician will guide you to take the right tests at the right time for early detection. Because of these screenings, cancer deaths are coming down.

To be continued ...

M.P. Ravindra Nathan, M.D., is a cardiologist and Emeritus Editor of AAPI Journal. For further reading, “Second Chance - A Sister’s Act of Love” by Dr. Nathan from Outskirts Press, can be found at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



**SANATAN MANDIR TAMPA**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Patotsav (Anniversary) Celebration!**

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 – Sunday, April 10, 2022

You are cordially invited to an auspicious occasion of Sanatan Mandir’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Patotsav (Anniversary) Celebration.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

Day/Date	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Sponsorships	3:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Sponsorships
Wednesday, April 6	• Shri Ganesh Puja	\$351	• Shri Ganesh Yagna • Shoba Kalash Yatra • Ram Katha/Bhajan	\$351 \$351 \$500
Thursday, April 7	• All Guru Puja	\$351	• All Guru Yagna • Ram Katha/Bhajan	\$351 \$500
Friday, April 8	• Hari-Har Puja	\$351	• Hari-Har Yagna • Ram Katha/Bhajan	\$351 \$500
Saturday, April 9	• Nav Durga Puja	\$351	• Durga Ashtami Yagna • Kanya Pujan • Ram Katha/Bhajan	\$351 \$101 \$500
Sunday, April 10	• Shri Ramnavmi Puja and Yagna • Shri Ram Ji Kesar Snan • Shri Ram Jhula • Annkoot • Ram Katha/Bhajan	\$1,100 \$500 \$500 \$500 \$500	• Trustee Program • Volunteer Appreciation	- -
Day Sponsorships	• Everyday Puja & Yagna Main Sponsorship • Everyday Event Langar/Prasadam • 5 Days Yagnashala(Tent) Rental Sponsorship • Everyday Brahmin Seva • Everyday Maha Aarti			\$3,001 \$1,100 \$3,001 \$500 \$251

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## PIONEERS

Dr. Kiran C. Patel Elementary School

### OPEN HOUSE

Wed, April 6 (10:00 AM & 5:30 PM)  
Wed, April 13 (10:00 AM & 5:30 PM)  
Wed, April 20 (10:00 AM & 5:30 PM)  
Sat, April 30 (10:00 AM & 5:30 PM)

Food & Drinks



<https://patelelementary.org>



Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 7.30 PM EST

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Hemant Kumar  
MUSICAL GROUP

# Ekal Geet Mala

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Performers: Saurav Kishan, Alok Katdare, Mukhtar Shah, Dr. Gauri Kavi,  
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863.513.6505 Nilesh Patel  
850.559.1080 Santosh Dixit  
786.245.1959 Senthil Kumar  
352.427.1542 Nagesh Kohli

EKAL IMPACT:  
\*Updated as of January 2022

79,175  
schools

21,49,189  
students

10,73,195  
boys enrolled

10,75,994  
girls enrolled



## APRIL FORECAST

By PANKAJ KOHLI



Four major planets transit in new houses this month: Saturn transits into Aquarius; Jupiter moves into Pisces; Rahu transits into Aries and Ketu moves to Libra. They are all highly powerful planets and capable of producing long-term results and effects in relation to your natal charts.

**ARIES / Mesha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (March 21-April 20) Mars Sign – Stars covered Ashwini, Bharani, Kritika (1st Part)** New directional forces may cause undue strain mentally, which in turn may disturb the daily normal flow of life. Pain

brings gain in plenty. The planets may bring results in proportion to the strength of your natal chart. Career-related issues may get delayed, but anticipated results could be sweet and worthwhile. Secret mantra is to let things take their own course, maintain low profile and don't take much risk.

**TAURUS / Vrushabha (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (April 21-May 21) Venus Sign - Stars covered Kritika (last 3 parts), Rohini, Mrigashira (first 2 parts)** Personal, professional and career changes and growth are possible. Four major planets sit in house of gains and income. Due precautions are necessary in marital and business alliances. Rahu and Saturn may bring gains and recovery from many longstanding medical problems and domestic issues.

**GEMINI / Mithuna (Air sign, ruling planet is Mercury) - (May 22-June 21) Mercury Sign - Stars covered Mrigashira (last 2 parts), Ardra & Punarvasu (first 3 parts)** Ketu moves in 5th and other major planets in your house of profession bring positive news for job changes, promotions and monetary gains in current employment. Jupiter planet aspects house of income, comfort and luck, bringing excellent results. One stands to gain on almost anything and everything. Venus ensures love life, fortune to shine bright.

**CANCER / Kataka (Watery sign, ruling planet is Moon) - (June 22-July 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Punarvasu (4th part), Pushya, Aslesha** Six major planets bestow divine blessing on almost every front. However, watch and guard against some malefic effects as well. Guard against real estate or property-related issues. Great time for promotion, change of job and pay raise, which is possible on the cards. Manage finances cleverly.

**LEO / Simha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Sun) - (July 23-Aug. 22) Sun Sign – Stars covered Magha, Purva Phalguni, Uttara Phalguni (1st part)** The position of four major planets, including your sign lord, are disturbing factors (Janma lord, Sun brings negative impact on health) and causes heavy expenditure. However, your sign lord Sun transits into exaltation mid-month erasing all problems. All negativity turns into positivity and gains then. Excellent time period starts in the middle of the month for self and family. Many inimical currents get negated.

**VIRGO / Kanya (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Mercury) (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Mercury Sign – Stars covered Uttara Phalguni (last 3 parts), Hasta, Chitra (first 2 parts)** Divine grace is upon your sign by combination of multiple planets that change houses. Jupiter's drishti on the sign enlightens efforts

and rewards accordingly. Professional development, career changes and income gains can be expected for most people with strong planetary influences in first two weeks. Keep a check on stomach-related problems. Overall, it is a highly beneficial month.

**LIBRA / Tula (Air sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Venus Sign – Stars covered Chitra (last 2 parts), Swati, Vishakha (first 3 parts)** Venus is placed in a powerful house and aspects the house of income as well. Saturn in your sign gives strength to fight against all problems for some time to come. Good time is seen for real estate. Certain rich gains are possible owing to Saturnian influences. You may be overloaded with numerous events. Professional elevation and increase in monetary benefits are on the cards.

**SCORPIO / Vruschika (Water sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Mars Sign – Stars covered Vishakha (4th part), Anuradha, Jyestha** Mars, your sign lord, is in exaltation and transits in a powerful house impacting wealth, comforts and profession. Saturn exchanges houses but remains in its own. This shows an increase in benefits, happiness and comforts; it's a highly favorable time. Complete all pending projects. However, be cautious at every step.

**SAGITTARIUS / Dhanush (Fire sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Jupiter Sign – Stars covered Moola, Purva Shada, Uttara Shada (first part)** Multiple planets as well as many houses are in highly satisfactory position. Family, comforts and profession are well-placed. Barring health, major activities may bring success for natives of this house with a strong planetary chart.

**CAPRICORN / Makara (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Saturn) - (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Saturn Sign – Stars covered Uttara Shada (last 3 parts) Shravana, Dhanistha (first 2 parts)** Multiple planetary positions are in most suitable house for bringing good effects on wealth, family, spouse relationship and love life. Professional development, salary increases, job changes for the better is possible! However, Rahu in 4th house may cause problems with real estate dealing. One needs to be careful with driving.

**AQUARIUS / Kumbha (Air sign, ruling planet is Saturn) – (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Saturn Sign - Stars covered: Dhanishta (last 2 parts) Satabhisha, Purva Bhadra Pada (1st 3 parts)** It is a highly valuable month in money matters, family, and wealth, professional and domestic front as many planets are positive. Practically, this is a highly promising time. Execute plans that have been pending for a long time. However, be careful while executing plans. Some natives of this house may anticipate positive results.

**PISCES / Meena (Water sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Feb. 20-March 20) Jupiter Sign - Stars covered: Purva Bhadra Pada (last part) Uttara Bhadra Pada, Revathi** Different sources of income are possible as planetary house is crowded with major planets transiting through it. One may be happy in all respects as this is a good spell. In short, most planets transit through auspicious positions. As such, it is a highly useful month for professionals and also in regards to material factors.

*For detailed horoscope analysis and chart reading, courtesy Pankaj-Astro Jyotish, call Pankaj Kohli at (905) 910-1441 or e-mail Pathofastrology@gmail.com*

## SCHEMING IN A COLORFUL WAY! – PART 1

By BRINDA PAMULAPATI



From the color of your walls to the colors of your furniture, to the artworks that decorate your spaces, they all have an impact on the mood of your home. And all are a great way to express your unique personality and taste. When decorating, sometimes it's hard to pick a color but it's helpful to know the basics of how artists choose colors for their work.

Artists carefully choose the colors they use, tending to use similar colors or color schemes throughout their work to create a sense of harmony. In this two-part series, we will discuss some of the most commonly used color schemes.

The first color scheme to discuss is monochromatic, where the artist creates different tints and shades of color but maintains the same hue.

For example, in the pieces "Undulation" and "Blue Ripple," the artist Ray Burggraf has used various shades and tints of green and blue, respectively, with lots of contrast and form to move the viewers eye across the piece.

The next is analogous, meaning the colors in this scheme are adjacent to each other on the color wheel. An example of this is red and orange or blue and purple. Artists can create interesting combinations using darker or lighter shades and tints from these analogous colors as well.

For example, in "Candy Apple Pink," the analogous colors used are blue and purple. In "Heartland Roo," yellow and green and blue and purple are used. Another scheme is complimentary colors, or colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel. For example, blue and orange are complimentary colors, as well as red and green.

Mark Messersmith uses vibrant blues and oranges in his artwork "Study For: In search of Shadow Land."

One needs to first understand the rules of colors to use them efficiently or gracefully break those rules to design a harmonious living environment.

Look for part two in my next article about, split complimentary, triatic, and tetradic color schemes.

But no matter what the scheme, choose artwork that speaks to you. There is not a right or wrong, whether you like monochromatic, analogous, complimentary, split complimentary, triadic, or tetradic color scheme, the color scheme should resonate with you just like music would.

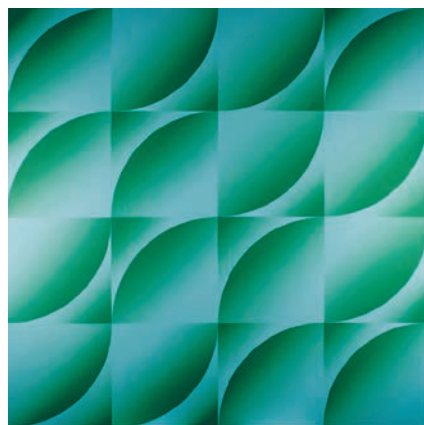


Figure 1: Undulation by artist Ray Burggraf, acrylic on canvas

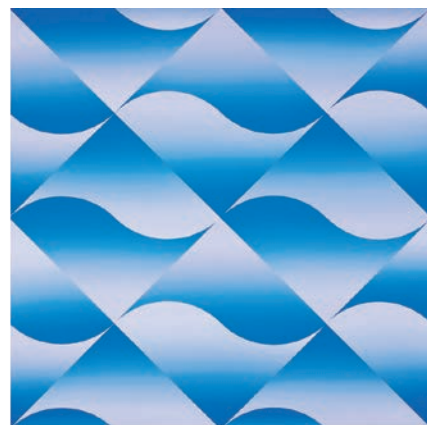


Figure 2: Blue Ripple by artist Ray Burggraf, acrylic on canvas.



Figure 3: "Candy Apple Pink" by Ray Burggraf, acrylic on canvas, 42x42 inches



Figure 4: "Study For: In search of Shadow Land" by Mark Messersmith

*To be continued ...*

*Brinda Pamulapati, owner/managing director, of Venvi Art Gallery in Tallahassee, can be reached at (850) 322-0965 or visit [www.VenviArtGallery.com](http://www.VenviArtGallery.com)*



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## STOP BUILDING A RESUME!

By ROBERT LEVINE



"What extracurricular activities do I need to get into a top school?"

Um ... it doesn't work that way. If it did, I would write a book with checklists about building a resume for college, and I'd become an instant millionaire.

Yet we always hear what you're "supposed" to do. Go to a summer program at a prestigious university (which is usually counter-productive for admissions purposes). Do a personal project (which often looks like a manufactured effort). Start a charity (which is a red flag because it requires the assistance of adults).

This may seem controversial, but I am so tired of young people acting like they're going to change the world because they did something while collecting required community service hours. If you're actually going to change the world, you would have already started changing the world. Ask me about our student who – at age 11 – started an information campaign about human trafficking that led to a shelter for emancipated sex slaves. Before she graduated high school, they had saved and rehabilitated over 50 girls who had been kidnapped, enslaved and used. And you think that serving food once a week for a few months makes you a world-changer?

As another example, have you ever heard of Greta Thunberg? She started trying to change the world at age 15. I doubt that her original inspiration for speaking out about climate change was to be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, but it happened.

Stop focusing on building a resume. Build a person. Do your best, be your best, and the resume will develop organically.

No, there is no extracurricular checklist for college success. However, there are some "minimums" if you wish to impress admissions representatives.

First, somehow, somewhere, have some leadership on your resume. In reviewing a list of activities, our eyes naturally search for words like "President" and "Founder." Even the title "Vice President" works pretty well (being "second" certainly did not hurt my application to Harvard). In the uber-competitive world of college admissions, the best candidates have leadership positions. You should too.

Second, perform some meaningful community service. That should not be hard to achieve. After all, students are usually required by curriculum

or scholarship opportunities to perform a certain number of service hours. But can you imagine reading an applicant's resume that does not demonstrate any form of philanthropy? Just do it.

Third – and this is something that many people neglect – use your body, not just your mind. Whether it's competitive athletics, club sports, an exercise regime or dog walking, do something physical. Why is this important? Not only does a healthy body lead to a healthy mind, but the universities have identified that those who are physically active during college donate three times more money as alumni than those who are not physically active. Hmm ...

So what should you do? Do whatever you want, but do it well. Yes, be active and impactful in your school clubs and outside group activities, but definitely do YOUR thing. In our experience, the students who achieve the best success in admissions have one consistent attribute: they are "do-ers." Recognize what you already enjoy doing, and do more of that. Go hard, go deep, be great.

Now here is some important advice for parents. No helicoptering. No Tiger Moms. Pulling and pushing your child does not develop a proactive mindset. Don't tell them what to do.

Show them what to do.

As an adult, be a role model, not a dictator. Even more than what we say, what we do trains young people. They copy our behaviors, good and bad. Be good. Be happy, healthy, kind and productive. Are you serving the community? Are you involved in any organizations? Are you following a healthy lifestyle?

Perhaps, you have heard the phrase "Physician, Heal Thyself." Or maybe you prefer "Be the Change." If you aren't that kind of person, why do you expect your child to understand those values? Because you say so? No, we all have to walk the walk.

Please, stop trying to navigate a path to success. If you want to be truly great, when do you want to begin?

We recommend starting now. This day. This minute. This moment. Now.

*Robert Levine is the founder and CEO of University Consultants of America, an independent educational consultancy assisting students around the world with applications to colleges, universities and graduate schools. For more information, call University Consultants of America, Inc. at 1-800-465-5890 or visit [www.universitycoa.com](http://www.universitycoa.com)*



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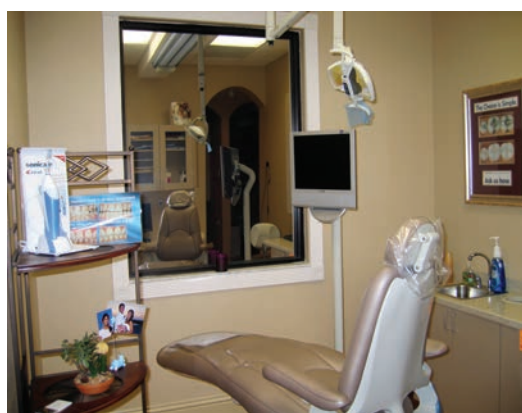
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## TRACK-READY CADILLAC CT4-V BLACKWING PACKS A PUNCH!

Test-drive stories by **NITISH S. RELE** [motoringtampabay@gmail.com](mailto:motoringtampabay@gmail.com)

Now here's an American-made ride that can give tough competition to its European rivals. The 2022 Cadillac CT4-V Blackwing is not just a stunner but also loaded with classy and tech-laden cabin accoutrements. Step on the gas and the Caddy will catch you off guard, as it lunges forward with a fervor you wouldn't find in most luxury sport cars. It's quick on its feet, reaching 0 to 60 mph in a mere 4.1 seconds with top speed at 189 mph! A Performance Data Recorder for use primarily on the racetrack monitors lap times, speed, braking force, steering wheel angle, throttle so you can play back on the 8-inch touch screen.

Under the hood of the compact rear-wheel-drive sedan resides a direct-inject 3.6-liter twin-turbo V-6 engine belting out 472 horsepower @ 5700 rpm and 445 pounds-feet of torque @ 5000 rpm. The luxury sports car is mated to a 6-speed manual (which is awesome!) though a 10-speed auto gear box is also offered.

LED headlights border high-performance dual-mesh grilles, which direct air to the main radiators, cooler and airflow ducts. You cannot miss the centered but familiar crest emblem. Climb into the car and you will find that the fit and finish, gloss levels and materials are first-rate. The exquisitely-executed interior is equipped with the hands-on CUE (Cadillac User Experience). And yes, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are available. Dripping of opulence, the driver and front passenger are coddled by 18-way power supple leather bucket seats. In fact, there is enough head and leg

**CT4-V Blackwing**  
**Tires:** P255/35ZR18 front, P275/35ZR18 rear  
**Wheelbase:** 109.3 inches  
**Length:** 187.6 inches  
**Width:** 71.4 inches  
**Height:** 56 inches  
**Weight:** 3,860 pounds  
**Suspension:** McPherson strut front, 5-link independent rear  
**Steering:** electric power, variable-assist  
**Fuel capacity:** 17.4 gallons  
**City:** 15 mpg **Highway:** 23 mpg  
**Base price:** \$58,995  
**Price as tested:** \$72,790  
**Web site:** [www.cadillac.com](http://www.cadillac.com)



room for five adults to relax and sit in comfort. Standard perks include dual auto a/c, thick power-adjustable steering wheel with V and My Modes (to customize vehicle settings), AKG premium 14-speaker audio, split-fold rear seat, alloy pedals and a 12-inch reconfigurable instrument cluster.

Dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag, front knee airbags, Brembo brakes with four-wheel antilock, forward collision and rear cross traffic alert, lane keep assist/departure warning and lane change/side blind zone alerts, night vision, front pedestrian brakes, rear camera, remote start, active front head restraints, electronic limited-slip rear differential, front/rear park assists, stability and traction control, tire

pressure monitoring system and daytime running lights are standard. Magnetic Ride Control keeps body roll to the minimum while ensuring a safe, firm and smooth ride.

The CT4-V packs plenty of punch, displaying amazing nimbleness and grip as you pitch it through corners and turns. It is one luxury sports car you should feel comfortable cruising down on your street or heading for the highway. And, of course, you can always celebrate 70 years of the legendary Cadillac racing heritage by taking the speed demon to the track for an even more entertaining and electrifying experience.

## KIA STINGER SPORTBACK IS A THRILL OF A RIDE!

"No way, is that a Kia?" was the first impression from most everyone who happened to gaze at our 2022 Stinger test car. Indeed, it is a product of the Korean carmaker's hard and dedicated work over the years to produce a five-passenger sportback. And it has done an outstanding job.

The rear-wheel-drive (all-wheel drive is also offered) four-door coupe is equipped with a 2.5-liter GDI turbo 4-cylinder engine pumping out 300 horsepower @ 5800 rpm and 311 pounds-feet of



torque @ 4000 rpm. Power reaches the wheels via an 8-speed auto gearbox with eco, smart, comfort, sport and custom drive modes. The independent MacPherson strut front and multilink rear suspension along with 13.6-inch vented front and 13-inch rear brakes ensure stability on the toughest road surfaces. Zero to 60 is a laudable 5.2 seconds. Up front, a black/dark chrome surround radiator grille with the centered new Kia emblem in the hood is flanked by revamped LED headlights. On

the side of the strikingly bold-appearing car are GT black chrome vents with air surrounds. The cabin provides all the luxe accoutrements you would expect in a similarly priced car in this class. The 8-inch touch display for phone, nav and audio to control via a knob is now 10.2 inches. Total interior capacity is 117.1 cubic feet, even more than a Camry. It is tasteful, functional and attractive with Nappa leather seats, dual auto a/c, 12-way power driver and 6-way manual front-passenger

### STINGER GT

**Tires:** P225/45R18  
**Wheelbase:** 114.4 inches  
**Length:** 190.2 inches  
**Width:** 73.6 inches  
**Height:** 55.1 inches  
**Weight:** 3,829 pounds  
**Steering:** electric power, variable  
**Fuel capacity:** 15.9 gallons  
**City:** 19 mpg  
**Highway:** 25 mpg  
**Priced as tested:** \$39,715  
**Web site:** [www.kiausa.com](http://www.kiausa.com)

heated seats, power tilt/slide sun roof, flat-bottomed tilt/telescopic steering column, satin chrome door handles, electro-luminescent instrument cluster for speedometer, tachometer, coolant temperature, fuel level, odometer and trip computer gauges, ambient led lights, black gloss/chrome on the instrument panel, aluminum pedals, GT front headrest logos, 60/40 rear seat and more.

With this agile, handsome and thriller of a ride affording an upscale, spacious interior, European competitors such as Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, among others, should watch out. Base-priced at \$36,090 (bargain compared to the offering from its rivals), the Stinger is a winner that will surely take Kia to the next level. And it is a tough act to beat if you consider the Korean automaker's basic 5-year, 60,000-mile and 10-year, 100,000-mile limited power train warranties.

## EXPLORE THE 'TERRAIN' IN THIS FINE, COMPACT SUV!

Introduced over a decade ago, the GMC Terrain has stood the test of time despite fierce competition in the compact SUV segment. Available as a front-wheel or all-wheel drive, the hands-on and robust Terrain is a superb blend of performance and style. For 2022, an AT4 (All-Terrain four-wheel drive) model with a front steel skid plate has been introduced.

Sharing power trains with the Chevrolet Equinox, the base engine is a 1.5-liter turbo inline 4-cylinder engine putting out 170 horsepower @ 5600 rpm and 203 pounds-feet @ 4000 rpm. And that is ample for this 3,659-pound vehicle to tackle peak-hour traffic or cruise the highway. An independent MacPherson strut front and independent four-link rear suspension isolates occupants from road noise. Guiding the small SUV toward its destination is a three-mode electric power, rack-and-pinion steering system. Power routed through the seamless 9-speed auto gear box delivers ample performance. Tow capacity is just around 1,500 pounds.

Redesigned C-shaped LED headlights border a massive and intimidating multi-dimensional



grille hosting the centered GMC emblem. The rear also features C-shaped LEDs within vertical tail lamps and integrated dual exhausts. Of course, it's in the passenger/cargo department that the Terrain shines. Ours came in jet black perforated leather seats with 8-way power for driver and 6-way for front passenger. The second-row seat folds flat to open up for stowing longer items. Cubicles and bins are well placed throughout but if you fancy a mobile office of sorts, the front center console can swallow a

### TERRAIN (AT4)

**Tires:** P225/65R17  
**Wheelbase:** 107.3 inches  
**Length:** 182.3 inches  
**Fuel capacity:** 15.6 gallons  
**City:** 25 mpg  
**Highway:** 28 mpg  
**Base price:** \$34,000  
**Price as tested:** \$39,315  
**Web site:** [www.gmc.com/terrain](http://www.gmc.com/terrain)

laptop. Other comforts include dual auto a/c, aluminum sill plates, 8-inch touch screen for nav, audio and phone controls, 4.2-inch driver information center, overhead sunglass holder, and 110-volt power outlet, four data/charging and two charge-only USB ports.

You will be hard-pressed to find a small SUV with a sundry of tempting options and upgrades. With the AT4 addition, you can enjoy and explore the 'Terrain' off-road too in this practical and versatile vehicle with an attractive cabin.



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**"These Americans" (210 pages; \$17) by Jyotsna Sreenivasan; published by Minerva Rising Press (www.minervarising.com)**

Can Indian Americans hold on to their Indian culture while still trying to find a footing in the country? Written simply and elegantly, eight stories and a novella tackle the dilemma. In "Mirror," an Indian woman giving birth in a hospital where her husband is a resident doctor reminisces about "nursing homes" back in India "where ladies go to have babies." And that too is a lady doctor. "But here they think nothing of having a man look at that part of a lady and put his fingers in and

everything. It's disgusting. But what to do? Here I am in America." "At Home" tackles the story of Amiya whose teacher asks her to represent India at the school's international fair. But the young girl is reluctant. "She had worked so hard to be normal. At school, she often forgot she had brown skin and black hair and that she ate strange food at home. How could she march in the parade and remind all the kids that she was not normal?" In "Dreams," when Malini's brother Pramod is suspended for bad behavior in school and counseling is recommended, his father raises questions. "These Americans are always running to counselors, and still they have problems ... Indians are different. We handle our own problems within the family. And in our family, we do not have such serious problems that we need to tell strangers about them." "Mrs. Raghavendra's Daughter" tackles the subject of lesbianism after a widow discovers that her daughter Anjana and Susan are more than mere friends living together. "She could allow Anjana to be who she is, and it wouldn't matter what anyone – her friends, the relatives in India – said or thought," writes the author. In the novella "Hawk," mother/daughter relationship come to the forefront as an elderly doctor facing Alzheimer's reveals a lifelong secret to her daughter, a sixth-grade English teacher, through several letters.

"Are you writing for me?"

"It is for anyone who wants to read it. So they will know how and why we came to be here in this country."

"Who's 'they'?"

"The Americans."

"We are Americans, Mom."

With her thumbnail, Bhagya cut tiny grooves into the line of sugar. "Yes. We are. And we are not."

Hats off to Sreenivasan for this fine short story collection, which brings colorful characters to life while exploring the meaning and travails of being an Indian American.



**"No Presents Please" (272 pages; \$16.95) by Jayant Kaikini, translated from Kannada by Tejaswini Niranjana; published by Catapult (www.catapult.co)**

"Yeh hai Bombay meri jaan" could very well have been the title of this book on the lower middle class in Maximum City. But "No Presents Please" works thanks to one of 16 stories in this collection that is about a young factory worker Asavari and her boyfriend glancing at wedding invitations under a Ghatkopar overpass. She asks owner of the platform bookstall who is helping write out the invitation, "Nowadays people write 'Your blessings are our gift' and 'No presents please'—should we write those too?" "That's a rich-people style, my daughter," said Tripathi. "That's not for us. If anyone gives you something lovingly, don't refuse it. Yours is a new household, you'll need everything ..." he said.

For laughs, "Dagadu Parab's Wedding Horse" will have the reader in splits till the very end. When the bridegroom's horse bolts during the procession, mayhem follows. "From Goshala Road, the horse went into the vast St. Pais playing field, galloped through a herd of cows, crossed two or three cricket pitches and a small wall, slipped past a petrol station, and thus emerged onto the Agra highway, running between enormous vehicles, trucks and double-decker buses." In a sad tale about the closing of Royal Opera House and a lost thermos, the author vividly brings the surrounding areas to life: "The night streets, the local trains, the colorful curtains of the rooms of the naachwalis that one could see from Kennedy Bridge, the Anantashram rice-and-fish plate, the round aluminum boxes containing the film reels—there were the strands of his web. Indranil has had no reason to disturb the warmth of this web." In "Interval," a cinema attendant and his girlfriend plan to run away and take the first step. But both have an epiphany of sorts at the last minute and separate ways, "... now begin to think of each other in their journeys, so as to keep the fear away." When a bus driver is refused leave to visit his village for Ganesh Utsav holidays, he makes the risky move of stealing the double-decker and taking off. "Through this new world filled with night butterflies, jewel bugs, glowworms, clouds that looked as though they were brushing against the waxing moon, glistening in the rain, the enormous double-decker bus without a conductor or passengers galloped happily," writes Kaikini in "Crescent Moon." If you are a

Bombay native, its street food, jam-packed buses and trains, chawls, poor immigrants, architectural heritage, vada pav, heavy rains and more will bring back memories. In this splendid short story collection, Kaikini has captured the ethos of all that is Mumbai!



## EB-5 REFORM AND INTEGRITY ACT OF 2022

By DILIP PATEL



The EB-5 Regional Center Program, which had expired in June 2021, was finally reauthorized as part of the Omnibus Spending Bill signed into law by President Biden on March 15, 2022. This provides relief for the thousands whose EB-5 petitions and applications were still in process when the prior authorization expired.

Entitled the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022, the bill revises many aspects of the EB-5 landscape. It will take time to for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to implement all the changes. Some of the main points are highlighted in this article. Some provisions took immediate effect allowing USCIS to

process applications on hold while others will be taking effect over time.

### The Required Amount

As part of the renewal, the investment thresholds for immigrant investors have increased — in targeted employment areas (TEAs) from \$500,000 to \$800,000, and in non-TEAs from \$1,000,000 to \$1,050,000. The Regional Center Program is extended for five years and all applications filed during the five years would continue to be processed even if further extensions are not approved or delayed.

### Adjustment of Status

Investors and family already legally in the U.S. and eligible for a visa number may concurrently file applications for adjustment of status (avoiding consular visa processing) along with or while awaiting adjudication of the investor's I-526 petition. This is a big change because applicants do not have to wait the months and years it took USCIS to process the I-526. EB-5 investors are also now eligible to use INA section 245(k), forgiveness of up to 180 days of status violations when they apply for adjustment.

### Statutory Definition of Targeted Employment Areas and Associated Visa Set-Asides

A significant change to the RC Program is the inclusion of a statutory definition for TEAs, which include high unemployment areas, rural projects and infrastructure projects. Under the new law, TEAs qualify for both the lower investment level and visa set-asides. High unemployment areas are areas that can only be designated by DHS and where the unemployment rate in a given census tract (or contiguous census tracts) is no less than 150 percent of the national average unemployment rate. Rural projects are those that are outside a metropolitan statistical area, or within the outer boundary of any city of town with a population of 20,000 or more. Importantly, under the new law, Department of Homeland Security is obligated to "prioritize" processing of investor applications for rural projects. Infrastructure projects are a "capital investment project" that must be a "public works project" administered by a

"government entity" that contracts with a regional center.

There is a reserve of visas set aside annually for TEAs — 20 percent of visas available under the RC Program each year will be reserved for immigrant investors in rural projects; 10 percent will be reserved for investors in DHS-designated high unemployment areas; and 2 percent of the visas will be reserved for immigrant investment in infrastructure projects. An additional highlight from the reformed RC Program is that any unused visas from the above-referenced 32 percent reserve that remain unused from any given year will carry over to the following fiscal year, creating potential for a greater investment pool in a given year, depending on the timing of the project being considered and the number of unused visas from the prior year.

### Security and Integrity Measures

In an effort to increase integrity and security throughout the RC Program, regional centers must now adhere to a set of statutory requirements that have been more robustly defined. USCIS now has clear authority to deny regional center business plans where applicants have engaged in fraud, criminal conduct or where a plan would threaten national security, and no person convicted of a crime in the last 10 years, or civil fraud resulting in liability of more than \$1 million can be involved in the EB5 program. USCIS is now also obligated to audit each regional center at least once every five years and conduct site visits, and regional centers are obligated to submit annual investment activities statements to USCIS. Failure to submit these statements or submitting inaccurate statements can result in USCIS imposing civil penalties on a regional center, suspension of a regional center's ability to operate and even permanent "debarment" of a regional center. In addition, new "source-of-funds" requirements will ensure investor funds are from legitimate sources. The reauthorizing language also specifies that U.S. securities laws apply to all aspects of EB5 offerings.

### Special Rules on Pooled Investments

Going forward, all I-526 filings with pooled investments (two or more EB-5 investors) must be sponsored by a RC and meet lots of new RC requirements including the RC's filing of an exemplar about the project (not required to wait for exemplar approval before I-526 filing). Simple, "direct" pooled investments will not be allowed, even among friends who would all be active in the business. And solo investors will not be able to use indirect arrangements and indirect job creation even if sponsored by an RC.

### Conclusion

The new law is a welcome relief for many. The provisions have far-reaching consequences and new investors should be cautious and wait for USCIS to issue guidance and implement the new program.

*Dilip Patel of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, a board-certified expert on immigration law, can be reached at (813) 222-1120 or email dilip.patel@bipc.com*



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