

KHAASBAAT

A PUBLICATION FOR INDIAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA

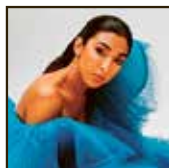
JUNE 2022

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EKAL'S FLORIDA CHAPTERS ONCE AGAIN GALVANIZE EFFORTS FOR CHILDREN

Story provided by Ekal Vidyalaya

The Tampa Bay, Lakeland, Ocala, Tallahassee and South Florida chapters of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of USA organized a Virtual Mega Concert on April 30. The 50-member Hemantkumar Mahale Musical Group curated and produced the show.

Keeping Covid concerns in mind, most Ekal Florida chapters opted for the "Hybrid Virtual Show" beamed via YouTube. The show can be enjoyed at <https://youtu.be/ubbJoyJla4> and donations made at <https://www.ekal.org/geetmala>

The effort of several Ekal chapters was marked by pre-event activity, donor outreach and social media campaigning that raised about \$450,000 ahead of the event. Volunteers hosted friends at their homes, most notably, Nilesh Patel, who provided catered food for gatherings in Lakeland. In addition to the virtual show, Jacksonville and Orlando chapters opted for a live show format. Both the concerts were immensely successful.

The Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of USA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to educating children in functional literacy in tribal/rural India through one-teacher schools. Each school serving about 30-35 students teaches reading, writing, arithmetic at \$365 a year — "A Dollar A Day." It has added complimentary programs such as Arogya Yojana for health and hygiene, Gramothaan for skills development and Empowerment Education for civic awareness,



that ultimately help to give villages the opportunity to grow.

The 2022 fundraising campaign is extremely significant for Ekal as "the pandemic had affected the delivery of services in remote villages," said Dr. Umesh Choudhry, Ekal Florida region president.

Dr. Jawahar Taunk, longtime Ekal volunteer and former Tampa and Florida region president, announced a \$1 million donation over a period of 10 years. A second hugely notable contribution came from Satish Ankalikar, a retired Tampa dentist and his wife, who pledged \$100,000 for a Village Development Center in Maharashtra. The entire Tampa team is indebted to the Ankalikar family, said Jaimin Amin, incoming chapter president. Gyan and Sudha Joshi of Jacksonville donated \$55,000. Several other Grand Sponsor level \$5,000 contributions have come from across the state, including one from Uday Lele, a business leader. Outgoing president Malti Pandya donated \$11,000.

TAMPA SANATAN MANDIR TO HOLD RATH YATRA JULY 2



Sanatan Mandir Tampa will celebrate Jagannath Rath Yatra (Festival of Chariots) on July 2. Rath Yatra symbolizes the humanization of Lord Jagannath (Lord of the Universe), and an attempt to bring the Lord down from His pedestal of glory to a more human level, i.e., into the hearts of people. It marks the annual procession of Lord Jagannath, who along with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra make a visit to the garden house, Gundecha Ghar, for five days, also visiting their aunt on the way. Participating in Rath Yatra is considered one way to get 'moksha (liberation from birth and death)'. From Puri (Odisha), the home of Lords, Ratha Yatra has spread worldwide.

The Rath Yatra has been celebrated in Tampa annually since 2006. With the installation of Lord Jagannath in Sanatan Mandir, the temple plans to make Rath Yatra a signature annual event and plans to build a new state-of-the-art Rath.

Sanatan Mandir, 311 E. Palm Ave., invites all devotees to participate in the auspicious event. Several sponsor opportunities are available, including construction of chariot and idols, prasad, deity clothes/wearables, flowers/garlands, archana, aarti, etc. (<https://www.explara.com/e/indian-festival-of-chariots-ratha-yatra>)

Email info@sanatanmandirtampa.org for information.

Rele Hot Rides

MOTORING

Go for a spin in the all-electric Hyundai Ioniq 5, Elantra and Kia Sorento.

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TAMPA BAY AREA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA ON JUNE 12

Story, page 2

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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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EVENTS



TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER THROUGH JUNE 6: DISCOURSE, MEDITATION, YOGA WITH SWAMI MUKUNDANANDA; 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday; free; mahaprasad will be served daily; Hindu Temple of Florida, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; for information, call Bill at (727) 432-1020 or Simmy at (813) 300-0584; RSVP at www.jkyog.org/FL

JUNE 12: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA; India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; experts will present chair-based yoga, Hatha yoga, Pranayama, Dhyana, Chanting, Deep relaxation, Nriya yoga, etc., followed by lunch; register at <https://www.idytampa.org/>; for information, call Dipa Shah (Chair) at (732) 648-1096.

JUNE 14: HANUMAN CHALISA; second Tuesday of month; Vishnu Mandir Tampa, 5803 Lynn Road; 7 to 9 p.m.; for information, call Deo Gajadhar at (813) 817-9724.

JUNE 15: 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, text email address along with your name to Bhikhu Nayi at (631) 560-2718 to receive details about seniors gathering every month; or call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

JUNE 27: RUPI KAUR WORLD TOUR; poet, artist and performer, Kaur has published poems books, "milk and honey," "the sun and her flowers" and recently "home body;" Ferguson Hall, Straz Center of the Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa; tickets start at \$40; for information, call (813) 229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org



JULY 2: JAGANNATH RATH YATRA (FESTIVAL OF CHARIOTS); Sanatan Mandir, 311 E. Palm Ave., Tampa; for sponsorship, visit <https://www.explara.com/e/indian-festival-of-chariots-ratha-yatra>; email info@sanatanmandirtampa.org for information.

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY

JUNE 5: HSCF NEW AGE GROUP MEETING; 1:30 to 5 p.m.; Hindu Society of Central Florida community hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry; carrom, chess, antakshri, cards followed by tea/coffee; free for 2022 paid members with prior RSVP to hscfnewagegroup@gmail.com; for information, call Madan Arora at (407) 971-9259.

JUNE 23: VIP APPRECIATION NIGHT; presented by Indian American Business Association & Chamber; Skyway Lounge, Amway Center, 400 W. Church St., Suite 200, Orlando; 6 to 9 p.m.; DJ music, dance, food and drinks, networking;



JUNE 25: POWER OF THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND: DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES; presented by Indian American Chamber of Commerce; speaker is author and life coach Jitendra Adhia; Park Square Homes, 5200 Vineland Road, No. 200, Orlando; 4 to 6 p.m.; free for IACC members, \$15 non-members; for information, visit www.iaccorlando.com/events

JACKSONVILLE

JUNE 11: SPORTS DAY; carrom, chess; presented by Indian Cultural Society of Jacksonville; for time, venue and details, visit www.jaxics.org

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 BAY AREA TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA ON JUNE 12

Recognizing the universal appeal of yoga, in 2014, the United Nations proclaimed June 21 as International Day of Yoga. The resolution was proposed by India and endorsed by over 175 member states. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness, worldwide, of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

The Tampa Bay area has been celebrating the event since 2015, year after year, thanks to its main sponsor India Cultural Center (ICC) and many other yoga organizations, studios and Hindu temples.

After conducting virtually for the last two years, International Day of Yoga will take place in-person from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 12 at ICC, 5511 Lynn Road. An array of presenters, experts in their field, will present chair-based yoga, Hatha yoga, Pranayama, Dhyana, chanting, deep relaxation, Nriya yoga, etc. A light lunch will be served.

Register at <https://www.idytampa.org/> For information, call Dipa Shah (Chair) at (732) 648-1096.



DISASTER PREP SALES TAX HOLIDAY ENDS JUNE 10

Florida's Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, which began May 28, continues through June 10. Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) are encouraging Floridians to purchase disaster readiness items.

The Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday has been extended from 10 days to 14 days. This year, household pet supplies such as pet food, leashes, collars, beds and portable kennels are also included in the list of items eligible to be purchased tax-free.

Floridians are expected to save \$25.6 million on the purchase of flashlights, radios, tarps, batteries, fire extinguishers and many more.

Qualifying disaster preparedness supplies include:

- Pet leashes, collars, muzzles and pads costing \$20 or less;
- Flashlights, lanterns and pet beds costing \$40 or less;
- Batteries and weather radios costing \$50 or less;
- Smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers costing \$70 or less;
- Tarps and portable pet kennels costing \$100 or less; and
- Generators costing \$1,000 or less.

A full list of eligible tax-free items is available at: <https://floridarevenue.com/disasterprep/Pages/default.aspx>



SANATAN MANDIR TO HOLD WEEKLY SUNDAY SATSANG, DISCOURSE

Starting June 12, the Sanatan Mandir of Tampa (311 E. Palm Ave.) will hold a new Satsang and discourse every Sunday at 10 a.m. The temple is starting the weekly event to connect the Hindu devotees of Tampa Bay culturally and socially.

The Sunday Satsang will allow the Hindu community leaders, entrepreneurs and mentors to share their life experiences and blessings with the audience. The free program will also provide an opportunity to introduce new members of the community.

The Satsang will start with bhajans, music and Pravachan, followed by an introduction of the sponsor family (or speaker) of the day. Maharprasad, or lunch, will be served afterward.

For details or to RSVP, visit www.sanatanmandirtampa.org

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SANATAN MANDIR TAMPA

Grand celebration of Shri Jagannath Rath Yatra on July 2, 2022



Lord Jagannath (the Lord of the Universe) Rath-Yatra (Festival of Chariot) has been celebrated for centuries at Puri (Odisha), one of the 4 holiest places in India. Rath Yatra symbolizes humanization of God. All rituals associated with the festival demonstrate an attempt to bring the God down from His pedestal of glory to a more human level. At Puri, Lord Jagannath with his brother and sister makes a visit at the garden house, Gundicha Ghar, for five days, also visiting his aunt on the way. From Puri, Rath Yatra has spread worldwide. The Festival of Chariots signifies Lord Jagannath's journey from the temple into the hearts of people. The Rath Yatra has been celebrated in Tampa annually since 2006. Sanatan Mandir (the only Temple in Tampa with Lord Jagannath) plans to make Rath Yatra, A signature annual event for all Mandir devotees and will hold a Grand Celebration on July 2, 2022 (Saturday) with a newly built state-of-the-art Ratha. The temple invites all devotees to participate in this auspicious event. Please donate to this event with an open heart and/or sponsor this event.

"Those who See the Lord Jagannath during Gundicha Yatra and pull the Rath are deemed to obtain Nirvana (Moksha, i.e. liberation from the cycle of birth and death)." - Skandha Puran.

SPONSORSHIPS DETAILS

Program Detail	Time	Sponsorship Options
Shri Jagannath Bhajan	9:00 am	Chariot (Rath) with name on the plaque
Puja/Aarti	10:00 am	Chariot Decoration
Rath Yatra	10:30 am	Deities (Idols) x 3
Cultural Program	12:00 pm	Vastra (Ornaments)
Prasadam	1:00 pm	Mukut (Head Gear) x3
"Jagannath Swami Nayan Pathagami Bhabatu Me"		Archana
		Puja & Aarti
		Flowers for Deities

DONATION OPTIONS

In Temple: Pay at front desk using Credit Card, PayPal, Checks (Payables to: Sanatan Mandir/Rath Yatra)
 Online: Website/Mobile APP
 Zelle to: rameshwer98@gmail.com Please specify in the message: Shri Jagannath Rath Yatra
 For More details: Call Temple (813-221-4482) or email: LordJagannath108@gmail.com

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

Phone: 813-221-4482

Email: info@sanatanmandirtampa.org

Web: www.sanatanmandirtampa.org



SANATAN MANDIR TAMPA

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUN 10 (7:00 PM to 8:00 PM)

- NIRJALA EKADSHI GAYATRI MATA PUJA & HAVAN

SUNDAY, JUN 12 (6:00 PM to 7:00 PM)

- SHRI JHULAY LAAL BHAJAN

TUESDAY, JUN 14 (5:30 PM to 7:00 PM)

- PURNIMA SATYANARAYAN KATHA

TUESDAY, JUN 14 (7:00PM to 8:00 PM)

- SHRI JAGNNATH SANAN PURNIMA

SATURDAY, JUN 18 (5:00 PM to 7:00 PM)

- MA BHUCHAR ANANAD NO GARBO

(Sponsored by: Lav Trivedi & Pooja Trivedi)

SUNDAY, JUN 26 (6:00 PM to 7:30 PM)

- SHRI JAGNNATH BHAJAN

SATURDAY, JUL 29 (10:00 AM)

- SHRI JAGNNATH RATH YATRA (New Chariot and New Deities for this year Rath Yatra) (Multi sponsorships are available. Please visit website or call temple for more details)

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY - 6:30 PM

- SHIV ABHISHEK AND PUJA
- SHRAVAN SOMVAR PUJA

EVERY TUESDAY - 7:00 PM

- SUNDARKAND
- HANUMAM KATHA

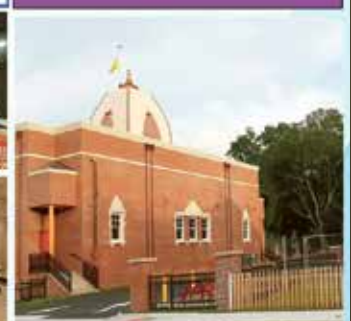
EVERY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM

- 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

Web: www.sanatanmandirtampa.org

CANCER: WHAT IS THE ANSWER - PART VII NEW TREATMENTS

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



What was considered a deadly disease once, cancer, is now becoming a malady that can be controlled and even cured with new therapies. As per Dr. Raju Rao, an experienced practicing oncologist in Hernando County, "Recent advances in the treatment of malignancies include molecular and genetic testing of the tumor and the resulting uniqueness thus recognized of the behavior of cancer in a patient. This information then can be applied toward specific targeted agents and immune therapies that result in a more predictable response and in many cases, lesser side effects. Better quality of life and survival is the end result."

That is reassuring. A case in point is that of a 74-year-old friend of mine, Mr. Devan (not his real name) primarily a vegetarian, non-smoker and non-drinker who was diagnosed with cancer of the lung. He was devastated and didn't know if this was how life was going to end. But with good care from MD Anderson Hospital in Houston that included surgical excision of the tumor, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and the new immunotherapy, he recovered and lived for many more years.

Finally, we are winning the "war on cancer." The National Cancer Act, signed into law in 1971, has had a long-lasting impact on the approaches to prevent, diagnose, study, treat and cure cancer. For people like Devan, cancer had become a chronic disease like heart disease or kidney disease that could be kept under control with modern therapies. As one oncologist put it, "In the past, I dreaded telling the patient, 'Sorry to inform you that you have cancer. We will do the best we can'... Now I tell them, 'Yes, you do have cancer but don't get too worried. With the new treatments I am going to start, we can keep it under control, so you can continue to live your life.' "

What are these new therapies revolutionizing cancer treatment? One of the most important advances is deciphering the hidden universe of cancer genetics and sequencing the cancer genome. This has helped us to develop two new kinds of treatments – 'Immunotherapy' and 'Targeted therapy' – true game changers in the field.

The immune system is intended to defend our body from outside enemies. This translates into helping our body fight infections and

other diseases that invade the body. Immunotherapy harnesses our own immune system to fight the cancer. It does so in one of two ways: 1. Use of a drug that can 'stimulate or boost the natural defense of your immune system to make it work harder and smarter to find the cancer cells, attack them and destroy them.' 2. Developing specific drugs in the lab that are 'just like immune system components and using them to help restore or improve the immune system so it can find and attack cancer cells.'

Targeted therapy uses drugs or other substances to precisely identify and attack certain types of cancer cells. It can be used by itself or in combination with other treatments, such as traditional or standard chemotherapy, surgery or radiation therapy. These drugs specifically look for its mark, which is the cancer cell, then attach on to them, block their growth and spread by interfering with specific molecules within the cells – molecular targets – that are aiding the growth, progression and spread of cancer cells and then, attack and destroy them. Some of the monoclonal antibodies in current-day use are considered targeted therapy. Many cancers like breast cancers, colorectal cancers, leukemias, etc., can be treated with this treatment. Targeted therapies are also called "precision medicines" because of the precise nature of this treatment, one of the great advances in cancer therapies. Unlike standard chemotherapy that kills the tumor cells and also some of the normal cells, targeted therapy can block tumor cell proliferation – an important consideration in treating tumors. They can also inhibit formation of new blood vessels in the tumors (angiogenesis,) a key factor in their growth. Already, there are many drugs in this category in use and more are being developed.

Thanks to these fascinating new treatments, we can fight cancer with knowledge, hope and optimism and patients can expect to live longer. And don't forget the basic elements in the prevention and management of cancer such as low-fat diet, regular exercise, abstinence from smoking and stress reduction.

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

JUNE FORECAST

By PANKAJ KOHLI



ARIES / Mesha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (March 21-April 20) Mars Sign – Stars covered Ashwini, Bharani, Krittika (1st Part) Good time in terms of wealth, peace, happiness and prosperity! Small monetary speculation, investments in stocks or shares may be favorable. Professional elevation or job change is possible. Mind may be engrossed in future investments such as real estate. Month may be free of sicknesses or mental disturbances.

TAURUS / Vrushabha (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (April 21-May 21) Venus Sign - Stars covered Krittika (last 3 parts), Rohini, Mrigashira (first 2 parts)

Transiting planets create mental tension, stress and confusion. Utmost care on domestic front; financially, it is a wonderful period. Beware of financial losses that may be cause of concern. Avoid monetary transactions in the first half of the month; thereafter, situation improves.

GEMINI / Mithuna (Air sign, ruling planet is Mercury) - (May 22-June 21) Mercury Sign - Stars covered Mrigashira (last 2 parts), Ardra & Punarvasu (3 parts) Minimize any financial activity to avoid losses or heavy expenses. Stick to routine; avoid company of unknown people. Be extremely careful with the above in first half of the month; take calculated risk or avoid speculation if you can. With proper effort, you may be comfortable financially.

CANCER / Karaka (Watery sign, ruling planet is Moon) - (June 22-July 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Punarvasu (4th part), Pushya, Aslesha Beware of gaining weight, stress, emotions and sensitivity. Good time for financial progress and growth. Professional elevation, job changes for betterment and increase in income can be foreseen for some. Land, housing or real estate may be profitable. Veins related problems, migraine could cause small issues.

LEO / Simha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Sun) - (July 23-Aug. 22) Sun Sign – Stars covered Magha, Purva Phalguni, and Uttara Phalguni (1st part) Profession wise and financially, this is a great time for growth. Promotions, salary increases can be negotiated bearing useful results. Sudden expenses on vehicles can be seen. Gain from unexpected real estate deals at the last minute. Execute pending or overdue important activities now. Benefit is possible professionally too.

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) This month brings growth and gain in finance, job, recovery, inheritance, legacy and real estate. Just be careful as loss in speculative activities is possible in first half of the month! Domestic- and money-related issues need maximum attention. Unexpected positive real estate deals, house or land deals could be likely for many. Recovery of old debts and outstanding dues can be anticipated as well.

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) Restrict activities to minimum any losses. A peaceful month urging restraint, fasting, meditating and internal cleansing! Better times ahead! Domestic tensions may prevail with regard to high expenses; mental worries and confused state could be possible. Word of caution: stick to only essential routine in first half. Arguments fuels tensions.

SCORPIO / Vruschika (Water sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Mars Sign – Stars covered Vishakha (4th part), Anuradha, Jyestha Majority planets bless your sign. Execute business plans to be successful. Avoid speculation, gambling and betting though! Stay away from any new venture too. However, there are positive signs for job change or promotion in current position. Second half proves to be lucky, execute all pending projects then. Domestic happiness reigns, spend more time with family.

SAGITTARIUS / Dhanush (Fire sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Jupiter Sign – Stars covered Moola, Purva Shada, Uttara Shada (first part) Beware of liver, piles, fistula, abdomen, intestinal or stomach problems; don't leave them unattended. Guru Pooja and mantras may be highly beneficial. Wear yellow on Thursdays. Beware of feeling miserable or defeated, it is just a play of one's mind. Possibility of loss in business venture if executed without proper research may be likely.

CAPRICORN / Makara (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Saturn) - (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Saturn Sign – Stars covered Uttara Shada (last 3 parts) Shrivana, Dhanistha (first 2 parts) Great time for work and business opportunities! Expect people to be in contact with new favorable prospects. Professional advancement seen in workplace! Month starts with good news, promotion or landing a new job; but things may require you to work hard or else they may not materialize in the last minute. Planetary positions appear positive but put lot of burden on you.

AQUARIUS / Kumbha (Air sign, ruling planet is Saturn) – (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Saturn Sign - Stars covered: Dhanistha (last 2 parts) Satabhisha, Purva Bhadra Pada (1st 3 parts) Real estate activities could bring favorable results! A month full of prosperity, happiness and fulfillment of promises! Execute plans that have been pending for some time.

Plan well before entering into a new business alliance. Avoid professional arguments. Think well before taking any major step.

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 Short journey with regards to professional development may be encouraging. Professional elevation, change, salary increase, promotion seen for some. Great time ahead! Execute plans related to land, house or real estate; they may be beneficial. Extremely good month, make the most of it.

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

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THE ROI OF COLLEGE CONSULTING

By **ROBERT LEVINE**



Retaining an educational consultant is an investment, in money, time, and opportunity. But is it a wise investment?

Certainly, not everybody needs an expert for every purpose. Although you don't need an accountant to file taxes, for complicated issues, it's a good idea. You don't need a financial planner to make your investments, but often they can do better in the market than we can, especially in uncertain times. You don't need a lawyer to do business deals, but they can help negotiate and memorialize what you

need into solid agreements. And you don't necessarily need a doctor all the time, but even when things seem fine, most of us get checkups.

Sometimes, expertise is a really good idea.

As consultants, we are admissions experts, keeping up with – and even predicting – trends that can affect your educational and life opportunities. Is the service really worth it? Here are four factors to be considered in evaluating the “return on investment” of admissions consulting.

The first two factors are easy to understand. College and graduate education should be undertaken after making a wise cost-benefit analysis. On the “cost” side, whether to select a college with lower tuition can depend not only on your current financial position, but also on whether you intend to expend money later on graduate school. In achieving lower-cost college options, a quality consultant will know which schools are more likely to provide greater tuition discounts in the form of financial aid and merit aid. In truth, achieving the lowest college cost has more to do with developing an intelligent college list than pursuing external scholarships and grants, which are often hard to obtain.

On the “benefit” side, getting admissions offers from schools that are best for the student is the usual reason for hiring an independent educational consultant. High school counselors can be great (or overworked), but outside professionals have different resources in terms of time and usually deeper resources in terms of work quality. High school counselors work hard, but they are seldom available after school, on weekends, or over the summer. An independent consultant is usually available when in-school helpers cannot be accessed. High school counselors also do not have the luxury of multiple sets of eyes to review essays, nor an unknown person

to present a realistic mock interview experience, nor the kind of resource depth that UCA has been developing over the past decade.

Yet there are two other factors that parents do not see: the influence on a student's growth, and the influence on the entire family.

At UCA, although how admissions is our job, a student's long-term success is our goal. A big part is how we mentor our students. We require that each student address every UCA professional by first name so they no longer feel subordinate to parents, teachers, and other adults. We tell our students frankly when they do substandard work, and we make them try again because there's no point editing an essay that doesn't have good content. Of course, we also tell our students when they do world-class work, and with demanding standards they ultimately do author world-class essays. When a student who has not performed well in high school produces a personal statement that makes them proud, it can be a life-changing experience. When a student who has done well realizes how much better they can be, it's a life lesson. With proper mentoring, students succeed not only in admissions, but also in their absorption and processing of college lessons.

Finally, by outsourcing the stress of working on college applications, your last year with your child is more harmonious. Nobody wants conflict in their home, and conflict obviously does not lead to great work or great results. We have even seen marital tensions disappear. When we get everyone to align with what is best for the student, a sense of joint purpose can re-connect spouses who have lost something special along life's uneven path. And when a young person succeeds and offers a genuine, heartfelt “thank you” to the parents who helped them succeed, it's a moment to be cherished forever.

No, there is no quantitative method for measuring return on investment for college counseling, and no, it is not required for every situation. However, we believe in what we do, not because a student's admissions results prove our greatness, but because contributing to a young person's lifetime success is an honor and a privilege.

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



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ALL-ELECTRIC, HIGH-TECH HYUNDAI IONIQ 5 AN ATTRACTIVE BUY!

Test-drive stories by **NITISH S. RELE** motoringtampabay@gmail.com

Rarely does a vehicle score a triple whammy of wins at an awards program. But the all-new, all-electric Ioniq 5 has beaten the odds! At the recent New York International Auto Festival, the Hyundai earned three top honors – World Car of the Year, World Electric Vehicle of the Year and World Car Design of the Year! The World Car Awards is comprised of worldwide professional automotive journalists, so there is significant validity in the recognition bestowed upon this very fine SUV. The Ioniq 5 AWD is equipped with a 77.4 kWh lithium-ion polymer battery pack that assures the driver of going 256 miles on a full charge. A 74 kW and 165 kW dual-electric motor cranks out 320 horsepower and 446 pounds-feet of torque. Believe it or not, that takes the SUV fewer than five seconds to reach 0 to 60 mph and top speed to peak at 115 mph. Not bad for a vehicle that weighs nearly 4,662 pounds! On a 240-volt, it will take about seven hours but a fast DC charge (350 kW) can load up 80 percent in just 18 minutes. The good news is that Hyundai is offering a two-year complimentary charge at any Electrify America station. The single-speed direct transmission is instant and seamless with eco, comfort, sport and snow modes.

Up front, jewel-like parametric-pixel LED headlights, V-shaped bumper and active grille shutters convey a distinctive presence. As you near the vehicle, flush automatic door handles are a sight to behold! Our Limited test version came with

IONIQ 5 (LIMITED)
Tires: 225/45R20
Wheelbase: 118.1 inches
Length: 182.5 inches
Width: 74.4 inches
Height: 63 inches
Suspension: MacPherson strut front, multilink rear
Steering: motor-driven power
MPGe: 110 city, 87 highway, 98 combined
Base price: \$54,500
Price as tested: \$56,320
Web site: www.hyundaiusa.com



high-tech dual 12.3 screens for infotainment and a digital instrument cluster of speedometer, power gauge, charge level, digital and trip odometers. The column-mounted shifter is straightforward to operate. We especially liked the center console, which moves 5.5 inches back and forth. With Vehicle-to-Load feature, you can charge electric bikes, scooters and other gadgets via the outside port or a second interface under the rear seat. A power tilt/slide panoramic sun roof, eight-way power driver and six-way front-passenger seats (cooled and heated), auto a/c, 60/40 rear seat, HUD display and a leather tilt/telescopic steering column come at no extra cost.

Dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag, electronic stability and traction controls, brake assist, blind spot, forward-collision, park-collision and rear-cross traffic collision avoid assists, front avoid, lane keep and follow assists, front crumple zones, tire pressure monitoring system and daytime running lights are standard.

With gas nearly \$4.50 a gallon as summer brings an even bigger hit at the pump, the Ioniq 5 is a no-brainer. Its futuristic appearance and cutting-edge technology make the all-new electric SUV an enticing choice. Move over, Tesla, for this new Hyundai entrant into the market with more EVs to come: Ioniq 6, midsize sedan and a larger SUV Ioniq 7!

AWD KIA SORENTO A PERFECT BLEND OF COMFORT, PERFORMANCE

Just a few months after testing last year's X-Line AWD Sorento, Kia dispatched over another of their fourth-gen SUVs, this one with the 2022 SX-Prestige trim added to the mix.

Once again, the midsize SUV is equipped with a forceful 2.5-liter turbocharged GDI 4-cylinder engine that cranks out 281 horsepower @ 5800 rpm and 311 pounds-feet of torque @ 4000 rpm. Coupled to a robust 8-speed dual-clutch auto gearbox, it seats six though it can hold seven in other packages. Modes include eco, smart, comfort, sport and snow drive. Tow capacity is adequate at 3,500 pounds.

A silver radiator "tiger nose" grille is surrounded by LED headlights and daytime running lights up front. Thanks to molded-in skid plates, the bumper delivers a tough look. But it is the elegant cabin in the steel unibody SUV, packed with abundant creature/tech goodies, that takes the cake. The enormous 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster sports an analog speedometer and tachometer with fuel and engine temp readings. Space is lots with a one-touch, slide-and-fold second-row Captain's chairs and a 50/50 third-row seat, i.e., 75.5 cubic feet of space with both seats down. Other eases are 14-way power driver and 10-way front-passenger seats, heated second-row seats, power-fold outside mirrors, dual auto a/c,



push-button start, satin-chrome door handles, vigorous leather shifter and tilt/telescopic steering column, 10.25-inch infotainment touch screen, panoramic sun roof, power lift gate and attractive wood on doors and dashboard.

Safety is assured via dual front and side airbags, driver knee airbag, side curtain airbag for both rows, electronic stability and traction control, four-wheel antilock brakes with brake assist, front active headrests, side impact door beams, front/rear crumple zones, forward, blind-spot and rear cross-traffic collision-avoidance assists, lane

keep and follow assists, surround view monitor, rearview camera, daytime running lights and tire pressure monitoring.

The sporty X-Line AWD model with its praiseworthy off-road capabilities is a perfect balance of luxury and performance. Whether you are planning a long trip up North or a short jaunt to the Keys, the Sorento should serve the purpose remarkably well. And it is tough to beat if you consider the Korean carmaker's basic 5-year, 60,000-mile and 10-year, 100,000-mile limited power train warranties.

SORENTO X-LINE SX-P (AWD)
Tires: 255/45R20
Wheelbase: 110.8 inches
Length: 189 inches
Width: 74.8 inches
Height: 70.3 inches
Suspension: MacPherson front strut, multilink rear
Steering: motor-driven power
Fuel capacity: 17.7 gallons
City: 22 mpg
Highway: 27 mpg
Base price: \$43,090
Price as tested: \$45,120
Web site: www.kiausa.com

SPIRITED 2022 HYUNDAI ELANTRA N LINE PACKS A PUNCH!

There's the Elantra for folks who want a small sedan to go from point A to point B. And then there's our recent test-drive Elantra N Line trim, which brings vim and vigor to the ride. Just switch to sport mode (normal and smart are other options) and you will have a blast whether on the highway or dodging peak-hour traffic.

A 1.6-liter turbo inline-4 cylinder engine puts out 201 horsepower @ 6000 rpm and 195 pounds-feet of torque @ 4500 rpm. Power reaches the front wheels via a crisp-shifting 7-speed auto gearbox. By no means is this a speedster but the car takes off real quick and comes to a stop at a moment's notice. Both suspension and steering have been sport tuned along with reworked powertrain mounts, especially for the N Line model.

The compact sedan portrays a low and wide stance with a glossy black grille flanked by projector headlights. The rear acquires a N Line rear fascia, dual chrome exhaust, and LED tail and brake lamps. That this is not your base Elantra is evident from the red imprinted N Line on the steering wheel, shifter tip and front seatbacks. Further enhancing the stylish appearance are alloy pedals and a black headliner along with eye-pleasing leatherette/cloth seats. The purposeful cabin sports a



horizontal dash layout of a standard 8-inch display audio/nav/phone screen, 60/40 rear seat, 4.2-inch instrument cluster, leather-wrapped power tilt/telescopic steering column, power and heated driver and manual front-passenger seats, sun roof, six speakers and Android Auto/Apple CarPlay.

Endless safety features are standard. There are dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag, four-wheel antilock brakes with electronic brake distribution and brake assist, front/rear

crumple zones, electronic stability and traction control, forward-, blind spot- and rear cross traffic collision- avoidance assists, lane keep and forward assists, rearview camera, remote keyless entry and tire pressure monitoring system.

Base-priced at just \$25,700, the addition of the N Line trim makes the Elantra an agile, delightful and a cool car to drive. Its audacious looks, reasonable price tag and gas-sipping capabilities should encourage you to sign on the dotted line.

ELANTRA N LINE
Tires: P235/40R18
Wheelbase: 107.1 inches
Length: 184.1 inches
Width: 71.9 inches
Height: 55.7 inches
Suspension: MacPherson strut front, multilink rear
Steering: power, rack-and-pinion
Weight: 3,020 pounds
Fuel capacity: 12.4 gallons
City: 28 mpg
Highway: 36 mpg
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