

KHAASBAAT

A PUBLICATION FOR INDIAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2022

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TAMPA/PINELLAS PARK

Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay is hosting a Diwali dinner from 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301, Tampa. Singer-couple Samir and Dipalee will perform from 8 onward. The event is free for GSTB members, \$50 non-members. For information, call Keval Brahmbhatt at (813) 494-2700.

SOUTH FLORIDA

FORT LAUDERDALE: The Indian Regional and Cultural Center will hold its Diwali festivities from 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. The program will include music and dance performed, including bhanga, Bollywood, folk dances. Other attractions are food, fashion, jewelry and henna. For tickets and

other information, call Sanjay Gupta at (954) 461-4003 or visit www.ircfflorida.org

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY

Hindu Society of Central Florida (1994 Lake Drive) in Casselberry will celebrate Diwali and Annakut from 1 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, with rangoli competition and cultural program, fireworks; canteen will be open; parking \$10. For information, call (407) 489-5812 or visit www.orlandohindutemple.org

JACKSONVILLE/ST. AUGUSTINE

Indian Cultural Society of Jacksonville will hold its Golden Jubilee Diwali celebration from 3 p.m. on Oct. 30 at Renaissance World Golf Village, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine. This is a JAXICS member-only event. There will be food, performances and vendors. For information, email info@jaxics.org or visit www.jaxics.org

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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

FOR DIWALI EVENTS IN YOUR CITY, GO TO PAGE 1 & 14

EVENTS

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/ CLEARWATER

OCT. 11: 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.

OCT. 15: CARNATIC VOCAL DUET; organized by Swaralaya; Hindu Temple of Florida hall, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; 10:30 a.m.; performers are Srikrishna and Ramkumar, popularly known as Trichur Brothers; accompanied by Rajeev Mukundan on violin and Trichur R. Mohan on mridangam; for information, email swaralayaoftampa@gmail.com

OCT. 19: ICC SENIORS GET-TOGETHER (GARBA); India Cultural Center, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; 5 to 9 p.m.; garba program for seniors and dinner; 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.

OCT. 30: MUSICAL CONCERT; vocalist Sanjoy Banerjee, Shankh Lahiri on tabla and Surabhi Adesh on harmonium; presented by Shruti Foundation; 4 to 6:30 p.m.; 11400 Morris Bridge Road, Tampa; \$30

general admission; for information, visit www.shrutifoundationtampa.org

NOV. 5: 33rd ANNUAL INDIA FESTIVAL; organized by the Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301 N., Tampa; for information, call Chair Sanjay Navadia at (813) 943-1713 or visit <https://www.indiafestivaltampabay.com/>



NOV. 11-12: HINDU MATRIMONIAL USA; Tampa Bay's fourth annual matrimonial meet & match; ages 25 to 45 years; India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; for information, call (769) 241-0675, email FloridaHinduMatrimonial@gmail.com or visit www.hindumatrimonial.org

NOV. 19: PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS; BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, 9556 E. Fowler Ave., Thonotosassa; for information, call (813) 986-5473.

LAKELAND/BARTOW/WINTER HAVEN

OCT. 22: "MY HERITAGE" QUIZ CONTEST FOR ADULTS/KIDS; begin at noon; organized by the Bhartiya Samaj of Central Florida; Anoopam Mission, 4685 U.S. 98 S., Lakeland; to register and for details, visit www.bscfl.com

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SIGNIFICANT DATES

OCT. 5: DUSSEHRA

OCT. 22: DIWALI FESTIVITIES BEGIN

EVENTS

Continued from page 2

BRADENTON/SARASOTA

OCT. 30: CULTURAL AND FAMILY FUN DAY; organized by Indian Association of Manasota; time, venue and other details to be determined; to participate in the musical extravaganza, email indianassociationofmanasota@gmail.com

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY/MAITLAND



OCT. 1-3: "BEYOND BOLLYWOOD: 28th ANNUAL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL"; presented by Enzian and Asian Cultural Association; Enzian Theater, 1300 S. Orlando Ave., Maitland; for details, visit www.enzian.org, www.aca-florida.org or call (407) 333-3667.

OCT. 1: STAND-UP COMEDY "MASALA SANDWICH"; presented by OHO Productions; featuring Amit Tandon; 7 p.m.; Bush Auditorium, Rollins College, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park; \$45; for information, call 1-888-333-4614.

OCT. 2: MAHATMA GANDHI BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION; organized by Hindu Society of Central Florida New Age Group; 1:30 to 5 p.m.; community hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry; carrom board, chess, playing cards, tea/coffee; free to annual paid members, \$5 for non-members; RSVP hscfnewagegroup@gmail.com



NOV. 18: SHREYA GHOSAL IN CONCERT; presented by Krish Patel; 8 p.m.; Addition Financial Arena (former CFE), 12777 Gemini Blvd. N., Orlando; tickets starting at \$51 can be purchased at www.bollywoodeventsfl.com; for information, call Krish Patel at (407) 454-3334.

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.

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MONTHLY EVENTS	WEEKLY EVENTS
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">MONDAY, SEP 26 to OCT 3 (6:00 PM to 8:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHARAD NAVRATRI BEGIN - Daily Puja, Nav Durga Bhajan & Aarti - EVERYDAY GARBA (8:30 PM to 10:00 PM) <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SATURDAY, OCT 1 (5:30 PM to 8:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MATA KI CHOWKI (Sponsored By: Deepak & Rini Mishra Family) <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SUNDAY, OCT 2 (2:30 PM - 7:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DURGASHTMI HAVAN <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">TUESDAY, OCT 4 (6:30 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VIJAYADASHMI PUJA <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SATURDAY, OCT 8 (5:00 PM - 7:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAMLEELA (A Stage play by Temple Devotees) This year adding Sita Haran to the play. • RAAVAN DAHAN <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SUNDAY OCT 9</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">SHRI SATYANARAYAN KATHA (11:00 AM - 12:30 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRI JAGANNATH BHAJNA (5:00 PM - 6:30 PM) • SHARAD PURNIMA GARBA (7:00 PM - 8:00 PM) <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">WEDNESDAY, OCT 12 (6:30 PM to 8:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KARWA CHAATH VRAT PUJA <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SUNDAY, OCT 16 (5:00 PM to 7:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANAND NO GARBO <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">MONDAY, OCT 24 (6:30 PM to 7:30 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEPAWALI MAHALAXMI CHOPDA PUJA <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">TUESDAY, OCT 25 (8:30 AM to 9:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAV VARSH ANNKOOT GOVARDHAN PUJA & BHAJAN <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SUNDAY, OCT 30 (4:30 AM to 7:30 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JALARAM BAPPA JAYANTI PUJA BHAJAN 	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">EVERY MONDAY - 6:30 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHIV ABHISHEK AND PUJA <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">EVERY TUESDAY - 7:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUNDARKAND • HANUMAM KATHA <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">EVERY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAI BABA SATSANG • MAHA PRASAD <p style="margin-top: 10px; font-size: 0.8em;"> Pandit Manikya Sharma 813-484-9568 Pandit Rushi Vyas 813-503-3388 Pandit Pranav Bhatt 813-720-1460 </p>

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CANCER XI: A FEW TIPS FOR PREVENTION

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



Now that you know a lot about cancer, the devastation it can produce along with all the pain and suffering, your question should be, "How can I prevent cancer invading my body?" In one of the earlier columns, I had discussed the major causes of cancers, so the first step would be to eliminate or mitigate those factors in your life. Well, here are some tips to follow.

1. Pay attention to your diet: A plant-based diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables along with whole grains like wheat and quinoa should go a long way in prevention. Limit all meats, especially processed meats. Studies have shown that eating large amounts of processed meat can increase the risk of certain types of cancer.
2. Maintain a healthy weight. Obesity is a definite risk factor, so keep your BMI (Body Mass Index) within the normal range of 19-25; for Indians, it should be in the lower range like 19-23. Epidemiological studies have shown that obesity is associated with increased risk of several cancer types, including colon, breast, uterus liver, kidney, etc. Also, it can lead to poorer treatment and increased cancer-related mortality. Certain cancers are associated more with abdominal adiposity such as the cancers of colon, premenopausal breast, uterus and pancreas. Cancer risk in obesity is different between ethnic groups too. African Americans and Asia-Pacific populations appear rather more susceptible to cancer in contrast to Hispanics who seem to be relatively protected.
3. Tobacco use in any form is an invitation for cancer and cigarettes are the biggest culprit. So, avoid it at any costs. It causes not only lung cancer but many other cancers too. Exposure to secondhand smoke also increases your risk of lung cancer. According to one authority, "If cigarette smoking could be eliminated somehow, as much as 50 percent of lung cancers can be prevented!" Even "third-hand smoke," the residual contamination from tobacco smoke that lingers in rooms long after smoking stops and remains on our clothes after we leave a smoky place, can be harmful, so beware! Also note, "e-cigarettes" are not safe either.
4. Protection from ultraviolet rays of the sun. Skin cancer is quite common in Florida because of frequent exposure to sun. And it's one

of the most preventable cancers too. So, stay out of the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun's rays are the strongest. And try to cover as much of the exposed areas and use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF of at least 30 or more. And avoid skin tanning. Also, check the skin for any black moles or spots and watch closely and if you think they are getting bigger or start bleeding, then consult a dermatologist.

5. Alcohol and Cancer: "Alcohol consumption is an important risk factor and the highest risks observed are among the people who drink three alcoholic beverages per day and higher," according to National Cancer Institute, Rockville, Md. And their latest study shows that a "reduction in use was associated with lower risk, particularly among participants who started drinking at a heavy level." Certain cancers like oro-pharyngeal and laryngeal cancers, liver, colorectal and breast seem to occur more in alcohol users.
6. Get vaccinated for Hepatitis B that can increase the risk for cancer. It's recommended for adults at high risk – sexually active with multiple partners, intravenous drug users, gay population and health care workers. Also get vaccinated for HPV (Human papillomavirus), a sexually transmitted virus, that can lead to genital cancers. It's recommended for males and females of ages 9 to 45.
7. Exercise has been proven to reduce one's risk of many types of cancer, including that of breast and colon. It appears "strength training" at least twice a week may be more effective at prolonging life than just cardio workouts.

If you pay attention to all these, cancer can be prevented to a great extent. The next frontier in medicine is "Precision Medicine." It will deliver individualized care based on genetic tests and molecular profiling that can precisely analyze patient's DNA, RNA and protein biomarkers and promises to be a powerful approach in preventing and fighting cancer. (more about it later). Let us dispel the myth that cancer is simply because of your fate or destiny.

This concludes the series on Cancer.

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

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NAVRATRI FESTIVITIES CONTINUE IN FLORIDA

TAMPA/PINELLAS PARK

The Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay will celebrate Garba Nights with Amit Patel's group Disha Vrund on Oct. 1. Garima Khiste will perform on Oct. 7-8. Both events, which are free for GSTB members and \$20 for non-members, begin at 8 p.m. at Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301 N. For information, call GSTB President Keval at (813) 494-2700.

Sanatan Mandir at 311 E. Palm Ave., Tampa, will celebrate Dussehra Festival from 5 p.m. on Oct. 8. For details, call the temple at (813) 221-4482, email info@sanatanmandirtampa.org or visit www.sanatanmandirtampa.org

Ambaji Mandir at 10991 58th St., in Pinellas Park, is celebrating Navratri with daily garba through Oct. 5 after aarti. Navratri Asthami is from 5 p.m. on Oct. 3. For more information, call the Mandir at (727) 388-6685 or visit www.ambajimandir.org

Sri Laxmi Narayan Mandir is celebrating Navratri with daily garba through Oct. 5 after aarti. Navratri Asthami is from 5 p.m. on Oct. 3. Sri Laxmi Narayan Mandir is at 4615 George Road, Tampa. For information, call the temple at (813) 444-9786.

SOIKOT (Bengali Association of Greater Tampa Bay) will hold Durga Puja through Oct. 2 at India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa. This year's performers are singers Jeet Ganguly and Shreya Guhathakurta. For details, e-mail Soikotflorida@gmail.com or visit www.soikot.org

SOUTH FLORIDA

CORAL SPRINGS: The Indian Regional & Cultural Center (IRCC) will celebrate Navratri from 8 p.m. Oct. 1 and Oct. 8 at Coral Glades High School, 2700 Sportsplex Drive, Coral Springs. For tickets and other information, call Dr. Durgesh Thaker at (954) 554-8739, visit www.irccflorida.org or email board@irccflorida.com

WEST PALM BEACH: Palm Beach India Association will celebrate Navratri on Oct. 7-8, and Oct. 14. However, on Oct. 15, singer Kinjal Dave will perform from 7 p.m. at Expo Center, South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach. The Oct. 15 garba is free to PBIA members, and \$35 on www.sulekha.com For other details, e-mail info@gopbia.org http://www.gopbia.org/

SUNRISE: The Bengali Association of South Florida is organizing Durga Puja on Oct. 1-2 at Westpine Middle School, 9393 N.W. 50th St., Sunrise. For details, email sf.bengali@gmail.com or visit www.basfl.org

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY/LONGWOOD

The Gujarati Society of Central Florida will hold Navratri Garba from 7 p.m. Oct. 8-9 at Olympia High School, 4301 S. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando. For information, call (407) 864-3090 or visit www.gujaratisocietycfl.com

Hindu Society of Central Florida (HSCF) temple will hold Navratri Utsav with music, raas and garba from 8:30 p.m. Oct. 8-9, and Oct. 13. in the community hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry. Single day pass is \$15 per person. Dussehra Mela will be from 5 p.m. Oct. 8. For more information, call Mahendra Kapadia at (407) 595-9224 or visit www.orlandohindutemple.org

BARTOW/LAKELAND/WINTER HAVEN

The Bhartiya Samaj of Central Florida will celebrate Navratri at 8 p.m. Oct. 1, Oct. 7-8 and Oct. 14-15 at Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave., Bartow. BSCFL members are free but non-members pay \$25. For more information, call Subhash S. Patel at (863) 838-0969 or visit www.bscfl.com

Shree Swaminarayan Hindu Temple, 2793 New Tampa Highway, Lakeland, will hold Navratri celebrations on Oct. 1 and Oct. 8. For information, call (863) 687-ISSO or visit www.issolakeland.org

NAPLES

India Association of Naples will celebrate Dandiya Night on Oct. 1 from 6 to 10 p.m. at North Naples Middle school, 16165 Learning Lane. Entry is free for association members, \$20 for non-member family. For information, email naplesindia@gmail.com or visit www.ianaples.com

JACKSONVILLE

The Gujarati Samaj of North East Florida will celebrate Raas-Garba with live music from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Oct. 1 and Oct. 7-8 at 3130 Parental Home Road, Jacksonville. The event is free for members, \$15 for non-members. For information, visit gsnef.org

Hindu Society of North East Florida, 4968 Greenland Road, continues Raas garba and dandiya through Oct. 4 from 7:30 p.m. onward. Dussehra Mela will be on Oct. 5. For information, visit www.hsnef.org

MELBOURNE (SPACE COAST)

The Indian Association of the Space Coast will hold Navratri festivities from 8 p.m. on Oct. 1 and Oct. 8. For information, e-mail iascbrevard@gmail.com or visit www.iascbrevard.com

Also, Manav Mandir temple, 7400 Waelti Drive, Melbourne, will celebrate Dussehra from 6 p.m. on Oct. 5. For information, call (321) 426-0688 or visit www.mmbrevard.org

Disclaimer: Event details are subject to change. Please check with local organizers.



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DOCTORS AND THE J-1 VISA

By DILIP PATEL and YOVA BOROVSKA



We have the pleasure of representing physicians as well as health care organizations with all legal matters, including immigration. We have received an increasing amount of inquiries regarding physician J-1 visas and the two-year home residency requirement (“HRR”). The following article was prepared by my law partner Yova Borovska who has substantial experience with these matters, including processing several “Conrad 30” J-1 waivers available in Florida last year.

The J-1 visa is for exchange visitors in various categories. Foreign national physicians can use the J-1 visa for full-time medical training, such as a fellowship and a residency. The HRR applies if a physician engages in patient care services training pursuant to the J-1 visa program. The HRR can apply to individuals in other situations, which are not discussed in this article.

What is the HRR?

The HRR is a mechanism to promote the exchange of knowledge and culture by requiring certain J-1 exchange visitors to return to their country of nationality or last residence after completing program. Because physicians who completed their fellowship or training in the U.S. are subject to the HRR, they should review their options for future employment and residency in the U.S.

What is the effect of the HRR?

Individuals subject to the HRR cannot obtain temporary worker (H), intracompany transferee (L) or fiancé(e)/spouse (K) visas. This includes the H-1B visa, which is the most common visa type for professional workers. Individuals are also ineligible to apply for permanent residence in the U.S. and they cannot change their visa status in the U.S., with the exception of diplomatic visa (A) and international organization employee visa (G) status.

How to overcome the HRR?

The simplest way to overcome the HRR is to return to the “home” country for an aggregate period of two years. Physicians also have the option to apply for a “waiver” of the HRR, if eligible, relieving them from the requirement to return home.

Individuals subject to the HRR may also obtain a visa type that is not included in the above-referenced prohibition (i.e. other than H, L, K or permanent residence). Under this scenario, the physician will continue to be subject to the HRR for purposes of H, L, K visas and permanent residence. Some examples of alternate visa types include the following: O-1, TN, E-3, F-1, humanitarian.

A unique “loophole” exists for Canadian citizens who are able to enter the U.S. in H or L visa status even when subject to the HRR, but they too still remain subject to it for purposes of applying for permanent residence and K visas.

What type of waivers are available to physicians subject to the HRR due to their participation in a J-1 clinical training program?

Physicians subject to the HRR due to their clinical training in the U.S. are only eligible for certain types of waivers. Their HRR cannot be waived through the No Objection waiver process. Instead, they can only pursue a waiver through one of the following means:

1. Interested Government Agency (IGA) – any federal agency can serve as an IGA, but most agencies have unique and rigorous requirements. Examples include the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Delta Regional Authority and the Appalachian Regional Commission. There is a new IGA that covers the state of Florida, called the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission. Most of these require three-year service at the sponsoring facility located in a Healthcare Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), in addition to other eligibility requirements.
2. State Health Department – the “Conrad 30” waiver is available to physicians in shortage or underserved areas who commit to a three-year service period involving full-time direct patient care. This type of waiver is administered by each state health department and there is a limit of 30 slots per year.
3. Exceptional hardship – this waiver requires a showing of exceptional hardship to a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse or child of the physician.
4. Persecution – this waiver requires the applicant to show that they will experience persecution by a foreign government on account of race, religion, or political opinion.

Determining the best option requires a unique case-by-case analysis and is critical to ensuring a positive outcome. Further, there are time-sensitive considerations as many of these options are subject to varying timelines and moving parts. Therefore, we always recommend that physicians who are subject to the HRR seek advice from a qualified immigration attorney before proceeding with any of the options discussed in this article.

Dilip Patel a partner at the Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney Law Firm is a Florida Bar Board Certified expert on immigration law and can be reached at (813) 222-1120 or dilip.patel@bipc.com

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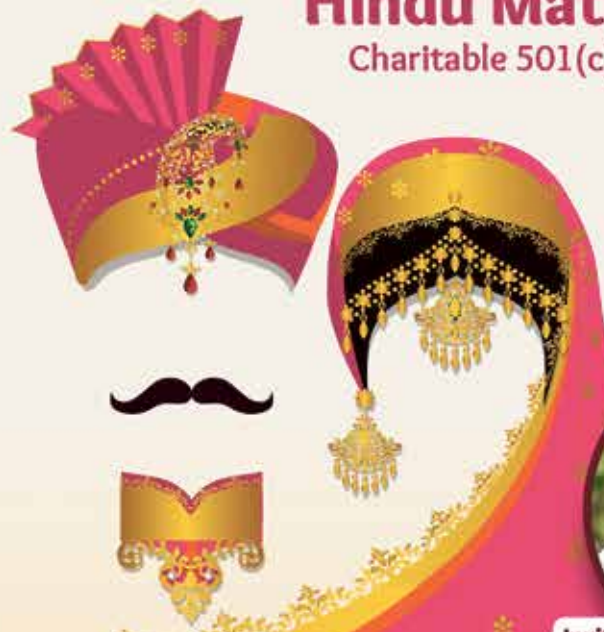
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JEEP HITS A HOME RUN WITH GRAND CHEROKEE PHEV!

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

The first electrified Jeep Grand Cherokee has arrived. To make an impression, we must point out. Now, the SUV may not be all electric but a full battery charge can take you up to 26 miles before the gas engine kicks in. And that is a promising start.

Our Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) was equipped with a 2.0-liter inline-4 turbocharged engine doling out 375 horsepower @ 5250 rpm and 470 pounds-feet of torque @ 3000 rpm. And that includes energy generated by two motors from the 17.3 kWh lithium-ion battery. Getting power to the ground is a slick-shifting 7-speed auto gear box. A multilink suspension made up of coil springs, twin-tube coil over shock absorbers and all-aluminum arms and knuckles keeps the Jeep secure, regardless of road and weather conditions. Conveying a direct and communicative feel to the driver is an electric rack-and-pinion steering. When you need to stop, 13.9-inch vented front and 13.7-inch rear discs, equipped with two- and single-piston calipers, come into play. Tow capacity is a cool 6,000 pounds.

Apart from the always-active Quadra-Trac 4-wheel-drive, dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag for both rows, driver knee airbag, electronic stability control, blind-spot monitor, rearview camera, remote keyless entry, collision warning with active braking,

GRAND CHEROKEE 4xe

Tires: 265/50R20

Wheelbase: 116.7 inches

Length: 193.5 inches

Width: 77.5 inches

Height: 70.8 inches

Weight: 5,368 pounds

Fuel capacity: 19 gallons

City/Hwy: 56 MPGe
(gas + electric)

Base price: \$65,760

Price as tested: \$75,035

Web site: www.jeep.com



lane departure warning with lane keep assist, daytime running lights and tire pressure monitoring system come at no extra cost.

Up front, you will notice an aggressive headfirst posture with LED reflector headlights flanking a wider, larger seven-slot floating bright chrome grille. Also conspicuous are active grille shutters, front wheel spats, air curtains and hood aero flick. A redesigned center stack and fresh but slimmer air vents greet one while taking a seat in the top-notch and tailored cabin. Jeep has boosted the space with total passenger volume now at 144.6 cubic feet (4.1 increase) and 37.7 cubic feet (up 1.4) behind the second-row seat. A luxury tech package (\$2,155) in our test drive translates

into eye-catching stitched Nappa leather seats, 12-way power front seats with back massager, 4-zone auto a/c, manual second-row window shades, etc. Two 10.2-inch screens, a digital gauge cluster and an interactive touchscreen display for the front passenger, appear classy.

Boasting a 450-mile range, the fifth-gen Grand Cherokee is unlike the gas-guzzling Jeeps of the past. With gas prices still over \$3, the eco-friendly SUV is an attractive proposition for folks who like to cruise the highway or go off the beaten path. It displays abundant power, substantial passenger/cargo capacity and an appealing interior bar none. Undisputedly, this is a huge win for the iconic brand.

AUDACIOUS NISSAN KICKS IS INEXPENSIVE, STYLISH AND A FUEL-SIPPER!

"Now, that's an odd-looking vehicle!" could be a quite natural response by just an initial and hasty glance at the Nissan Kicks. But that is understandable. After all, the cheeky-styled SUV teases the onlooker with a 'floating roof' and raked windshield meeting up to boomerang multi-reflector LED headlights and recognizable double V-motion dark satin chrome grille.

Under the hood of the front-wheel-drive-only subcompact SUV sits a 1.6-liter inline-4 cylinder engine putting out 122 horsepower @ 6300 rpm and 114 pounds-feet of torque @ 4000 rpm with Xtronic continuously variable transmission. An independent strut front and twist-beam rear suspension work well to absorb rough road bumps while the electric power steering returns a direct response to the driver's input.

The interior with its "gliding-wing" dash design is airy allowing five to sit in comfort. There's 43.7 cubic feet of front legroom space while the cargo area boasts 25.3 cubic feet for your luggage. Ingress and egress are easy with the 60/40-split rear seat. The SR trim, which we test drove, comes with an array of amenities such as a D-shaped leather tilt/telescopic



KICKS (SR)

Tires: 205/55R17

Wheelbase: 103.1 inches

Length: 169.1 inches

Width: 69.3 inches

Height: 63.4 inches

Weight: 2,752 pounds

Fuel capacity: 10.8 gallons

City: 31 mpg

Highway: 36 mpg

Price as tested: \$25,930

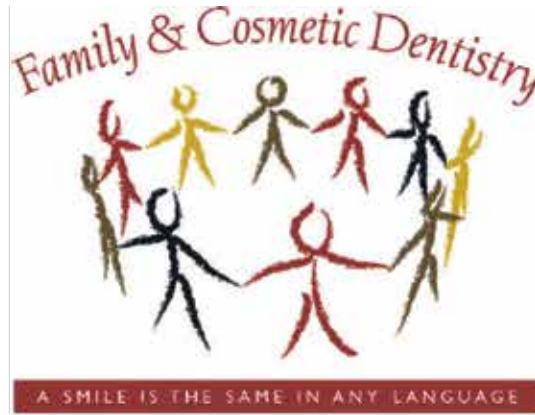
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steering column, auto a/c, 8-inch touch screen for infotainment, 7-inch driver information system, six-way manual driver and four-way front-passenger leatherette seats, adaptive cruise control, Bose audio with eight speakers, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, chrome door handles, four USB ports, push-button start and power windows/door locks.

Millennials, singles and couples without children, the tech reliant, exploratory and image-conscious folks should have a go or two

at the economical subcompact SUV. It starts at only \$19,990 for the base trim and peaks around \$22,550 with some attractive perks in the mix.

Sure, the Kicks appears quirky, but it is also nimble, fuel efficient (we averaged around 35 mpg in combined driving) and a sporty alternative to some bland SUVs on the road. Rest assured, if you are looking for attention while strolling the streets, you have earned it! The practical ride has a few 'Kicks' to it!



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WHAT PARENTS GET WRONG ABOUT U.S. COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

By **ROBERT LEVINE**



Let's start with the basics. The U.S.A. is, well, the U.S.A. We do things differently here, like our addiction to individual freedom. And college admissions.

As a starting point, recognize that American colleges are actually older than the U.S. itself. Our country started with a revolution in 1776. Harvard began 140 years earlier, in 1636.

As a result, our system of higher education developed from private groups, often churches. Later, when the 13 colonies became 13 states and then 50 states, our concept of federalism (separate sovereignty between federal and state governments) led to the development of public universities.

Florida has 12 public universities. California has nine undergraduate institutions, plus 23 campuses of its state university system.

Although both state and private universities are open to everyone, they have different purposes. The Ohio State University is designed for the citizens of

the Great State of Ohio. Ivy League schools? They are not owned or designed by any federal, state or governmental entity. While the job of a public university is to educate as many students as possible, the job of a private university is to educate students as well as possible.

The best part of the U.S. college system is that our schools do not agree on how to educate. They employ a wide variety of curricular structures. You can find schools that teach in ways that you learn best. Yet although they disagree on how to present education, they agree on one thing:

To offer the best possible education, utilize every resource you have. The most significant asset on campus, in both quantity and quality? The students.

At every school, there are more students than professors, and students talk to each other much more than they chat with their teachers. Therefore, our best colleges want to collect and enhance the education that naturally arises from human interaction. This is why diversity – of all types – is so important to our schools. When students share diverse ideas and experiences, they teach and learn from each other.

For this reason, America's best colleges tend to be residential schools, institutions where students stay on campus instead of splintering into apartments. To achieve the goal of robust interaction, the colleges select students who interact well with each other.

Think of it this way. If a student does not talk or otherwise interact, does that student contribute to anyone but themselves? If a student is unpleasant, does the campus community benefit from a social cancer?

I remember asking my first Harvard admissions representative to explain the single most important factor in admissions decisions. How did the committee make its choices between applicants? Sophia's answer has stuck with me for over a decade: "Usually, it's the nicer kids who get in."

Nice???

Yes, personality matters. In fact, of all the factors used to grade applicants in our holistic system of admissions, who you are as a human being is the most important determinant. You may not want to believe that, but trust me, it's true.

In simple terms, college applications are evaluated in two stages. The first pieces are primarily objective: grades, test scores and performance in extracurricular activities. The second pieces are almost exclusively subjective: essays, recommendation letters, school reports and interview reports.

When admissions officers read your application, just "stay in the game" for the first part. Be qualified. Yet many, many applicants are qualified. For the second part of the application – the essays – charm them. Get into their heads and their hearts. It's a concept often called "reader love," and it's universal. When humans read written materials, human nature becomes involved. Admissions is emotional.

That's why you'll often hear me say: "Admissions is much more like dating than you can ever imagine." Remember, few people decide to date someone because of a resume!

The colleges are trying to create communities. Make a relationship with them through your application.

What do parents get wrong about admissions? I heard it just yesterday: "How do we prove that our daughter is better than the other applicants?"

It's not about "better." It's about "more desirable." Nice people tend to write essays in a way that is endearing; after all, being nice is natural to them. Nice people tend to excite and energize teachers to write better recommendation letters. Nice people get stronger support from their high schools. Nice people enchant interviewers.

Whenever we hosted a dinner party for our new Harvard admits, the one line that was spoken all night by our people?

What a nice group of kids!

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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OCTOBER 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) Control over emotions is needed; avoid negative thinking; what you plan today will pave way for success in future! Financial condition is positive and stable; domestic peace and happiness is possible. Mental anxiety and strain can create health problems. Unsteady and wavering mind needs to be controlled.

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) Venus, your sign lord, helps with money, love and material comforts. Professional gains are likely, you may expect some good news in near future. Don't lose opportunities; work hard, gains are seen. Happy conditions prevail to result in material prosperity.

GEMINI / Mithuna (Air sign, ruling planet is Mercury) - (May 22-June 21) Mercury Sign - Stars covered Mrigashira (last 2 parts), Ardra & Punarvasu (3 parts) Excellent conditions prevail on domestic front; favorable

business or matrimonial partnerships may develop too! Domestic and professional life is on the go, so enjoy every moment. Your social influence is on the rise, making you popular.

CANCER / Karaka (Watery sign, ruling planet is Moon) - (June 22-July 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Punarvasu (4th part), ushya, Aslesha

Promising planetary transition helps counter adverse currents, making for a smooth and rewarding month! Fruitful career news may be anticipated. Some stand to gain much material comforts and benefits through spouse.

LEO / Simha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Sun) - (July 23-Aug. 22) Sun Sign – Stars covered Magha, Purva Phalguni, and Uttara Phalguni (1st part)

Highly positive month with major planets in your favor! It helps counter any negative current to result in a smooth and rewarding month! Your carefree and bold attitude may not be tolerated at the workplace, so be a diplomat. Avoid mental anxiety and unnecessary tension.

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) Happy domestic conditions prevail. Despite significant earnings, risk of high expenses cannot be ruled out. Professionally, this is not a good time for a change. Some may suffer from rheumatism, cold or stomach ailments (hyperacidity, intestinal and digestion problems).

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)

One will have to work hard; at the end of the day, you will receive ample reward. Professionally, be careful before making changes. No excessive drinking or compulsive eating; watch what you consume.

SCORPIO / Vruschika (Water sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Mars Sign – Stars covered Vishakha (4th part), Anuradha, Jyestha

Cheerful conditions prevail on all fronts. Beneficial time for new business alliances is forecast! Nothing can slow down your progress. Make best use of this fruitful time. All scholarly pursuits will be achieved through your own efforts. Financial gains are possible.

SAGITTARIUS / Dhanush (Fire sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Jupiter Sign – Stars covered Moola, Purva Shada, Uttara Shada (first part)

Despite domestic and financial hardships, one will stand to gain much in the end. Health recovery is possible for people suffering from seasonal allergies! Professionally, it is a satisfactory month. Finances and wealth are on the increase, but domestic issues and happiness may get affected due to anger.

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)

Planetary influences bring mixed effects on wealth and family issues. Think twice before spending money, heavy expenses are seen. Marriage and business alliances need to be postponed for some time.

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)

Practically, this is an encouraging time on family, wealth and on the domestic front. Love life and new marital alliances for eligible are on the go; make best use of it.

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

Financial gains, domestic peace and happiness are seen in every respect. Plan your actions well and make it a highly beneficial month for material comforts. It is not a good period for matrimonial or business alliances.

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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MORE FLORIDA COMMUNITIES CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Continued from page 1

TAMPA/PINELLAS PARK

Sanatan Mandir in Tampa will hold Deepawali Laxmi Puja from 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 24. Annakut puja will be the next day from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The mandir is at 311 E. Palm Ave. For information, call (813) 221-4482 or visit www.sanatanmandirtampa.org

Ambaji Mandir at 10991 58th St., in Pinellas Park, will hold Ganesh Laxmi Pujan at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 23. Diwali celebration will be at 5:30 the next day. New Year Annakut will be from 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 26. For more information, call the mandir at (727) 388-6685 or visit www.ambajimandir.com

Laxmi Narayan Mandir, 4615 George Road, Tampa, will hold Ganesh Laxmi Pujan at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 23. Diwali celebration will be at 5:30 the next day. New Year Annakut will be from 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 26. For information, call (813) 444-9786.

Telugu Association of Florida, Tampa Bay (TAF) will hold Dasara/Bathukamma/ Diwali from 2:30 p.m. Oct. 15 at the India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa. Entry is free for members, \$30 for family, \$10 per person. Performers are singers Anjana Sowmya, Sandeep Kurapati and Ashwini Sharma. For information, call (813) 523-5073 or visit <https://taftampa.com/>

Hindu Temple of Florida in Tampa will hold its annual Diwali celebrations on Oct. 24 with Lakshmi Pooja at 7 p.m. followed by fireworks for children at 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa. For information, call (813) 962-6890 or visit <https://www.htfl.org/>

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir will hold Kids Diwali celebration from 2 p.m. Oct. 15. Diwali will be on Oct. 24 with aarti at 7 p.m. followed by Chopda Pujan. Annakut/New Year will be on Oct. 26 from 1 p.m. Evening aarti will be at 7:30 followed by fireworks. BAPS is at 9556 E. Fowler Ave. in Thonotosassa. For details, call (813) 986-5473.

Maayboli Melawa Tampa Bay (MMTB), a not-for-profit organization for promoting Marathi culture, will celebrate Diwali on Oct. 29 at HCC Brandon, 10414 E. Columbus Drive, Tampa. To participate in the local talent shows, call (336) 740-4906 or visit www.mmtbusa.org

SOUTH FLORIDA

WEST PALM BEACH: And the **Palm Beach India Association** will hold a Diwali Night from 5 p.m. on Oct. 29 at Royal Palm Beach Community High School, 10600 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. The event is free for members, \$35 for non-members. For details, visit www.gopbia.org or email info@gopbia.org

BOYNTON BEACH/MIAMI: **BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir**, 541 S.E. 18th Ave., Boynton Beach will hold Kids Diwali from 3:30 p.m. Oct. 23 and Chopda Pujan from 6:15 on Oct. 24. Annakut Darshan will be on Oct. 26 from noon to 7:30 p.m. For information, call (561) 740 2898.

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY

Gujarati Society of Central Florida will hold Diwali Celebration 2022 from 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Rosen Center Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando. Festivities include variety of foods, cash bar, Bollywood dance, kids programs. Cost: free for members, \$100 non-members. For information, visit www.gujaratisocietycfl.com

Orlando Marathi Mandal will be celebrating Diwali with kids, ladies and family competitions on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Hindu Society of Central Florida community hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry. E-mail entries to orlandomarathi@yahoo.com

Maa Durga Sri Sai Baba Temple will celebrate Diwali at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 16. The temple is at 11414 S. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando. For information, call (407) 574-8044 or visit www.durgasaitemple.com

BARTOW/WINTER HAVEN/LAKELAND

Bhartiya Samaj of Central Florida will celebrate Diwali at 7 p.m. on Oct. 30 with singer Garima Khiste at Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Florida Ave., Bartow. For information, call Jay Patel at (863) 660-3371 or visit www.bscl.com

Shree Swaminarayan Hindu Temple (ISSO), 2793 New Tampa Highway, Lakeland, will hold Diwali Annakut celebration from 4 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 29. Tulsi Vivah will be 4 to 8 p.m. Nov. 12. For information, call (863) 687-4776 or visit www.issolakeland.org

OCALA

India Association of North Central Florida will hold Diwali Celebration 2022 from 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 5 at 2030 N.E. 36th Ave., Ocala. Guest fee is \$50. For information, call Neel Koladiya at (352) 509-5830.

NAPLES

India Association of Naples will celebrate Diwali from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Parish Hall, St. Agnes Church, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road. For information, visit www.ianaples.com

MELBOURNE (SPACE COAST)

The Indian Association of the Space Coast will hold Diwali and annual dinner on Nov. 5. For details, call (321) 271-7072 or visit <https://myiasc.com/>

Manav Mandir will hold Diwali celebrations (Laxmi Puja, fireworks) at 6 p.m. on Oct. 25 and Annakut Utsav the next day. The temple is at 7400 Waelti Drive, Melbourne. For information, (321) 426-0668 or visit www.mmbrevard.org

Disclaimer: Event details are subject to change. Please check with local organizers.

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TEEYAN DA MELA HELD IN TAMPA

Story provided by Navneet Kaur Virdi

The Tampa Bay community celebrated Teeyan Da Mela on Sept. 3. Teeyan is the dance festival celebrated by women in the month of Sawan. One sees the finest Giddha performances as a part of the observances. Tampa Teeyan aims to promote unity and progress and preservation of the rich culture and tradition of Punjab.

The event began with the open dholki, where the audience was invited on to the stage to participate in group singing of Punjabi traditional songs. This was followed by dynamic MC and Punjabi solo performances.

Organizers decorated the hall with Punjabi Fulkaris and other traditional Punjabi dresses as well as with colorful clothes, flowers and garlands giving the feel of traditional Indian fair. There were stalls for mehndi, jewelry, gift items, Punjabi suits and kurtis. In addition



to singing and dancing, Indian snacks and gourmet lunch was served.

This year, Teeyan Tampa introduced a 'Mrs. Punjaban Tampa 2022' contest determined by individual personality, beauty and talent. Contestants participating for Mrs. Punjaban Contest: Tanvir Sandhu, Harjinder Gill, Jasween Kaur, Charvi Sharma, Kiran Samar, Pavneet Kahlon, Gurdeep Oberon, Asha Ji, Arshdeep Gill and Simran Chouhan. Judges were Gurbax Saini, Luckwinder Gakhal and Raj Singh from Canada.

Mrs. Pavneet Kahlon won the crown of Mrs. Punjan Tampa 2022. Other winners:

Beautiful Smile-Charvi Sharma; Beautiful Eyes-Simran Chouhan; Beautiful Punjaban Outfit-Jaspreet Mann.

Choreographer Surbhi Vijay and dance team performed. The organizers thanked the sponsors.




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THE EVOLUTION OF THE ART MARKET

By **BRINDA PAMULAPATI**



For hundreds of years, art fairs and art galleries were the primary places to purchase original art. Art galleries have had the responsibility of finding artists with great creative ability, promoting their work, and supporting the artists. They have traditionally been highly expensive and prestigious

venues, where only art collectors with deep pockets willing to spend a fortune were entertained.

Art fairs are places where many artists, galleries, art lovers, and art collectors have come together to enjoy and purchase art. To participate in mega fairs, such as Art Basel in Miami Beach and the Armory Show in New York, galleries have had to pay huge amounts to reserve a booth, and art lovers have had to buy tickets to gain access. Comparatively smaller art fairs, such as “LeMoyné’s Chains of Park” in Tallahassee, are more artist friendly and have not required entrance tickets.

As awareness of art has spread, more people beyond wealthy collectors have developed an appreciation for hanging original works of art in their home. As a result of online shopping becoming more accepted and a long confinement indoors, more people have been browsing and purchasing artwork online.

Some businesses have developed innovative ways to sell art remotely. A few examples include gallery partnerships with sites like Artnet and Artsy, which agree to showcase works of art in exchange for monthly membership fees and/or commission on sales. Singulart, an online gallery, represents individual artists and takes commissions.

Prestigious galleries, such as David Zwirner, have also come up with unique online initiatives. David Zwirner selects 100 works of

art, chosen from galleries around the world, and introduces them to their private collectors. They take a small percentage of the sale price, but only when the piece is sold.

Virtual galleries have helped new and mature collectors connect to art and artists remotely and further normalized the online purchase of art. This change has enabled galleries to feature artists from distant places without the burden of transporting the delicate artwork for a physical show. Collectors, meanwhile, have gained access to a broader range of collections. From well-curated online galleries, they are now able to build a museum-quality collection with a few clicks of a mouse.

Venvi Art Gallery, too, has expanded to online shows and begun to feature more artists from New York, Berkeley, and other parts of Florida



Figure 1: Inspiration, Oil on Linen, present online show at Venvi Art Gallery by New York artist Austin Palmer Smith.



Figure 2: Marker 5, Oil on Canvas, by Nancy Dillen from Melbourne, now representing in the Tallahassee gallery.

without having to ship the artwork to the physical venue. From the time I opened the doors of Venvi to the age of online viewing and purchasing, I have seen people from all different age groups, social statuses, and geographical locations purchase art. Both mature collectors as well as millennials have browsed and bought art from the physical gallery as well as online. As the artsy website states, “91 percent of the luxury buyers do not buy art.” As art has become more accessible to the general public, art collecting has grown increasingly more democratic.

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

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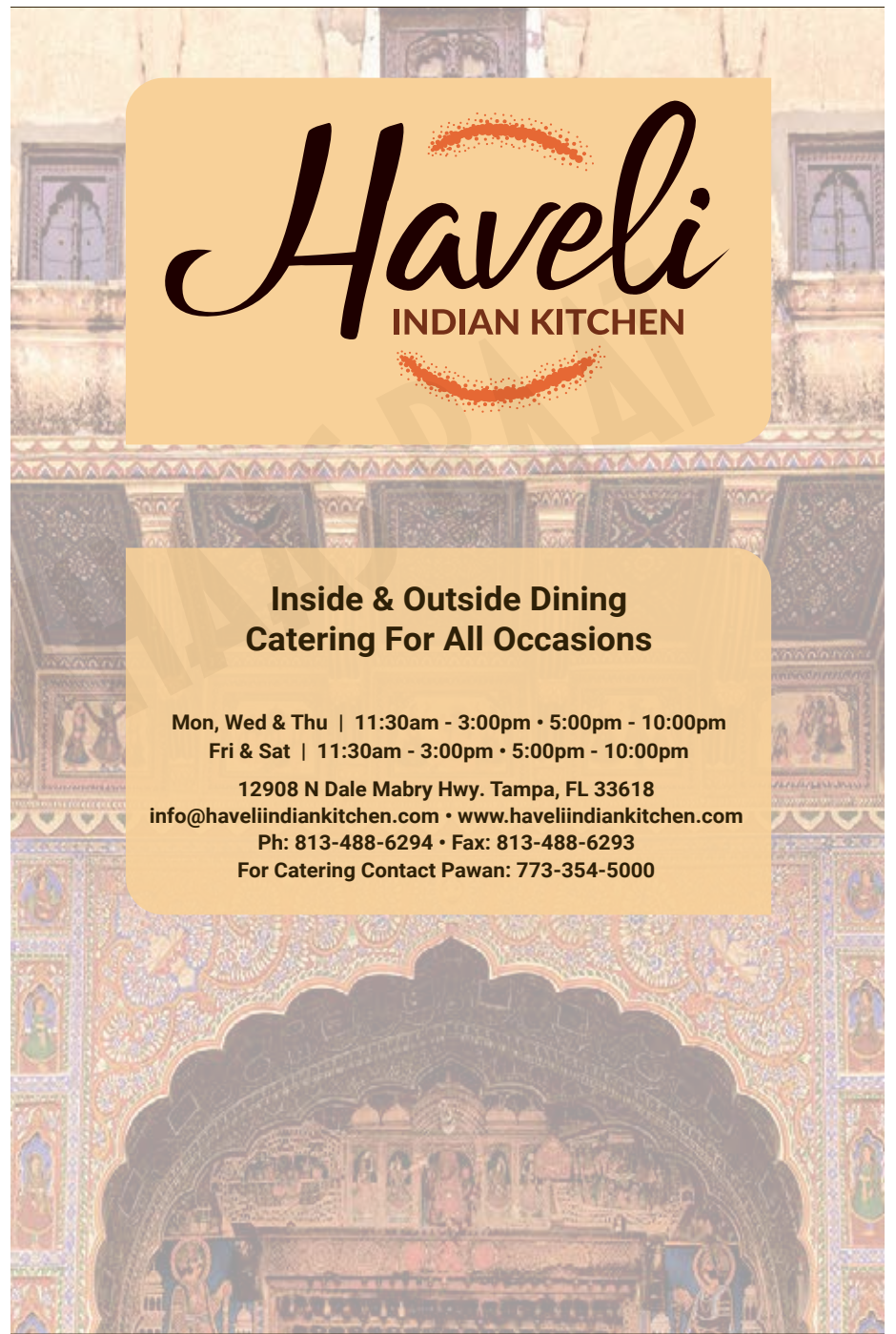
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HYUNDAI KONA N TRIM BRIMMING WITH EXHILARATION!

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

For folks who just want to go from point A to point B, the base Hyundai Kona is available. But if you itch for some gut-wrenching and pulsating thrill in your ride, there's our recent test-drive Kona N trim. Forget sport mode. In the 2022 Kona N, there is a N Grin Shift (NGS) red button on the steering wheel, which when activated, goes into overboost drive, so you can have at least 20 seconds of some heavy pedal to the metal! Or toggle the light blue N buttons to set up N1 and N2 program modes such as suspension, steering, stability. In short, you will have a blast playing around in the N, especially if you are on the track.

A 2.0-liter turbo inline-4 cylinder engine blasts off 276 horsepower @ 6000 rpm and 289 pounds-feet of torque @ 4700 rpm. Power reaches the front wheels via a crisp-shifting 8-speed dual-clutch auto gearbox. It should come as no surprise that the Kona takes off real quick and comes to a stop at a moment's notice, thanks to 14.2-inch front and 12.4-inch rear disc brakes.

The subcompact SUV portrays a low and wide stance with a mesh grille flanked by slim DRLs atop LED headlights. That this is not your base Kona is evident from the red imprinted N on not just the exterior badging, fascias and side

KONA N
Tires: P235/40R19
Wheelbase: 102.4 inches
Length: 165.9 inches
Width: 70.9 inches
Height: 61.6 inches
Suspension: MacPherson strut front, multilink rear
Steering: motor-driven power, rack-and-pinion
Weight: 3,020 pounds
Fuel capacity: 13.2 gallons
City: 20 mpg **Highway:** 27 mpg
Web site: www.hyundaiusa.com



sill moldings but also on the steering wheel, sport bucket seats, shifter and sill plates. Further enhancing the stylish appearance are alloy pedals and a black headliner along with eye-pleasing leather/suede seats. Our vehicle came with standard 10.25 screens for infotainment as well as digital instrument cluster of speedometer, tachometer, digital and trip odometers. Other goodies include eight-way power driver's seat, auto a/c, 60/40 rear folding seat, blue accents, tilt/telescopic steering column, Harmon Kardon audio and Android Auto/Apple CarPlay capabilities.

Endless safety features are standard. There

are dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag, electronic stability and traction controls, electronic limited-slip differential, brake assist, blind spot, forward-collision and rear-cross traffic collision avoid assists, front avoid assist, lane keep and follow assists, adaptive cruise control, front crumple zones, tire pressure monitoring system and daytime running lights. Base-priced at just \$34,200, the addition of the N trim makes the Kona an agile, delightful and a cool SUV to drive. Its daring looks, feisty character (remember the red NGS!) and a reasonable price tag should persuade you to sign on the dotted line.

2023 CADILLAC XT6 PACKED WITH TECH, LUXURY

Except for new colors and standard cooled front and heated outboard rear seats in Sport and Premium Luxury versions, the 2023 Cadillac XT6 continues as is. Our Sport AWD test-drive made for an exciting ride, responding with quickness in any driving situation while loaded with luxury and tech goodies.

The midsize and posh six-seater SUV is equipped with a 3.6-liter V6 engine cranking out 310 horsepower @ 600 rpm and 271 pounds-feet of torque @ 5000 rpm. It is mated to a smooth 9-speed auto gearbox. A MacPherson strut front and a five-link independent rear sport suspension work well to absorb unpleasant road bumps or curves. Steering response with the electric power rack-and-pinion is instant and precise. Tow capacity is good enough at 4,000 pounds. Drive modes include tour, sport and snow/ice.

A V-Series inspired mesh grille with heavily darker accents and details, flanked by LED headlights, boost the bold look of the XT6. Step into the cabin and performance-inspired carbon fiber trim provide an upscale and well-appointed look. An 8-inch color touchscreen in the center stack includes capacitive controls, haptic feedback, gestures and voice recognition (yes, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are



XT6 SPORT
Tires: P235/55R20 all season
Wheelbase: 112.7 inches
Length: 198.8 inches
Width: 77.3 inches
Height: 68.9 inches
Fuel capacity: 19 gallons
City: 18 mpg
Highway: 25 mpg
Weight: 4,690 pounds
Base price: \$60,895
Price as tested: \$75,715
Web site: www.cadillac.com

available). To accommodate drivers of all heights, Cadillac has equipped the XT6 with a power tilt/telescopic three-spoke steering wheel. There is plenty of room – 78.7 cubic feet behind the first row; and total passenger volume is a laudable 149.9 cubic feet. Amenities are tri-zone auto a/c, eight-way power driver and front-passenger heated seats, remote start, sun roof, third-row power fold seat, hidden cargo hold bin, hands-free lift gate and hands-on CUE (Cadillac User Experience).

Standard safety features include dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag, driver knee

airbag, four-wheel antilock brakes, forward collision, rear cross traffic, lane change and side zone blind alerts, lane keep assist with lane departure warning, front/rear park assist, stability and traction control, rearview camera, tire pressure monitoring system and daytime running lights.

The XT6 flaunts a powerful engine, adequate gas mileage and plentiful creature comforts. What more can you ask for in a Cadillac SUV? And if you want some vim and vigor in the ride, then the Sport trim is the right choice!

NISSAN INTRODUCES RUGGED 2023 PATHFINDER ROCK CREEK MODEL



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

Competitors are aplenty in the large seven-passenger SUV segment but the Pathfinder surely has taken the lead, in our eyes. For 2023, Nissan has introduced the Rock Creek edition with the off-road enthusiast in mind. So, you get an off-road tuned suspension lift, 18-inch bedlock-style wheels with all-terrain tires, 220-pound tubular roof rack, orange interior stitching and second-row Captain's chairs.

Of course, four-wheel drive is standard in the Rock Creek, which is equipped with the familiar 3.5-liter V-6 engine blasting off 295 horsepower @ 6400 rpm and 270 pounds-feet of torque @ 4800 rpm on premium fuel. The potent engine enables the rugged SUV to effectively and equally traverse rugged terrain as well as tackle peak-hour traffic on city roads.

Coupled with a 9-speed auto gear box, its unibody structure is equipped with an all-mode four-wheel drive, which distributes torque evenly to the wheels irrespective of road conditions. Suspension is handled via an independent strut front and multilink rear to result in a well-damped ride. An electric speed-sensitive steering gives the SUV a curb-to-curb turning circle of more than 38.7 feet. Maximum tow capacity is a respectable 6,000 pounds.

PATHFINDER (ROCK CREEK)

Tires: P265/60R18 all-terrain

Wheelbase: 114.2 inches

Length: 198.8 inches

Width: 77.9 inches

Height: 73.7 inches

Weight: 4,605 pounds

Fuel capacity: 18.5 gallons

Highway: 23 mpg

City: 20 mpg

Base price: \$42,820

Web site: www.nissan.com




Up front, the black V-Motion grille with distinct mesh styling and silver inserts is flanked by familiar boomerang LED headlights and daytime running lamps. Black adorns the badges and the roof rails. The 8.0-inch touch screen interface is easy to control via a knob. Also, there is additional infotainment and driver assist display readings between the round speedometer and tachometer gauges. Cubby space is abundant with a huge center console and a mammoth 54.1-liter storage bin under the cargo floor. There are 10 cup and six bottle holders throughout the cabin. Second-row


Captain's chairs tilt and glide to enable two passengers to duck into the third-row 60/40 seat, which splits and folds flats. Other goodies are 10-way power driver and four-way manual front-passenger leatherette seats, tri-zone auto a/c and Bose sound system with 6 speakers.

This all-new trim of the Pathfinder should appeal to mid-size SUV buyers, especially those who yearn to venture off the beaten path. With a rugged exterior and a roomy cabin, Nissan has made the path to your destination more enjoyable and safer than ever before.

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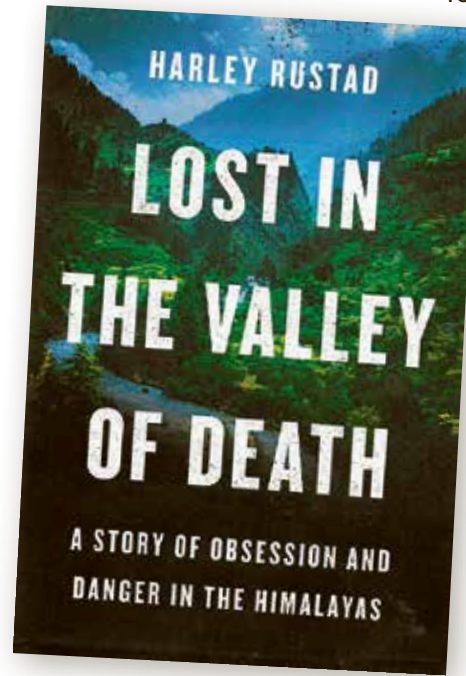
By Nitish Rele

“Lost in the Valley of Death: A Story of Obsession and Danger in the Himalayas” (290 pages; \$26.99) by Harley Rustad; published by Harper (www.harpercollins.com)

Dozens of international backpackers have disappeared or died in the remote, rugged and storied Parvati Valley close to the Himalayas. No wonder the tiny region is called India’s backpacker Bermuda Triangle. Harley Rustad tells the story of one such traveler, Justin Alexander Shetler, well-trained and an expert in wilderness survival who went on a pilgrimage to find spiritual revelation. From his youth days, the

handsome, smart and athletic man sought adventure, excitement and endurance in the midst of nature. It was no surprise then that the huge motorcycle buff quit a high-paying job in the tech field to explore places such as South America, Philippines, Thailand and Nepal, documenting all his trips on Instagram. He gained a huge following on the photo/video sharing app who appreciated his photographs and stories of discovery and quest. Some of his philosophical proverbs he posted: “One who does not give credit to others cannot give credit to themselves” and “A man without an imagination is a man without purpose.” Of course, all the adventures just weren’t enough for the ever-fidgety voyager who, in 2016, landed in Parvati Valley. The 35-year-old met an Indian sadhu with whom he lived and meditated in a cave till the duo set off on a spiritual journey to a holy lake – turned out the last time Shetler was seen though the sadhu did return. What happened to the trekker? In the narrative book, the author addresses the question but has no sure answer since the missing traveler’s body was never found. In a post before embarking on the trek, Shetler had noted, “If I get into trouble, I can hike down to a village and get help or eat. I won’t die.” Travel wasn’t just about finding

happiness, he once told a travel Web site. “I think many of us are running away from a life of certainty and towards discovery of the unknown,” he said. “Traveling isn’t all happiness. If you’re searching for happiness, you’re searching for a vacation. Traveling is often exploring things that make you uncomfortable: physically, ethically, emotionally, metaphysically.” In a one-page entry about his goals, motivations and intentions, he penned, “If I could do anything in life, what would it be? If I were infinitely wealthy what would I do? What is it, that just thinking about it, makes me excited to be alive? These all have the same answer: I would make myself into my own hero. Meaning I would create an imaginary hero, someone I wish I could be, and then become.” Kudos to Rustad for a fascinating



read on a intriguing man who once wrote, “Maybe home is something I’m looking for, and I just don’t know until I find it.”

HINDI MOVIE PREVIEWS

By SHEPHALI J. RELE

“Maja Ma” Starring Madhuri Dixit, Gajraj Rao, Ritwik Bhomik, Barkha Singh, Srishti Shrivastava, Rajit Kapur, Simone Singh, Sheeba Chaddha, Ninad Kamat; directed by Anand Tiwari. This Madhuri Dixit entertainer is the first Indian original film commissioned by Amazon Prime Video.



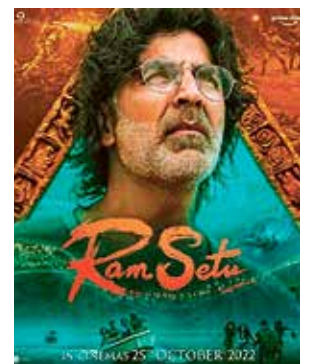
The streamer says several more are planned, including Telugu and Tamil films. Madhuri Dixit stars as Pallavi, a strong Gujarati middle-class mother of two, who teaches dance. Ritwik Bhomik (from “Bandish Bandits”) is her doting son, Tejas, and Gajraj Rao plays her simple husband. Tejas is engaged to Esha, a rich NRI whose parents agree to the match but only after much drama. At the last minute, an unsavory rumor about Pallavi threatens the engagement. The conflict tests relationships and beliefs as she is forced to confront her past and tries to make things right. The makers say the film is “the right mix of entertainment, laughter, drama, sorrow, understanding and misunderstanding,” and, of course, colorful song and dance. Watch it on Prime Video starting Oct. 6.

“Goodbye” Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Rashmika Mandanna, Neena Gupta, Sunil Gover, Pavail Gulati, Ashish Vidyarthi; written and directed by Vikas Bahl; music by Amit Trivedi. The heartwarming story about life, family and relationships centers on the Bhalla family coming to terms with sudden death of the mother.



Amitabh Bachchan stars as the father who wishes to perform all traditional last rites after his wife, played by Neena Gupta, passes. Popular Telugu actress Rashmika Mandanna makes her Hindi film debut as his daughter Tara who questions the ancient practices. Her brothers also seem indifferent. When the family reunites for the funeral, there is drama, dysfunction, comedy and the celebration of life in every circumstance. Ektaa Kapoor’s Balaji Motion Pictures is one of the film’s producers.

“Ram Setu” Starring Akshay Kumar, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nushratt Bharuccha, Satyadev Kancharana; directed by Abhishek Sharma. This action-adventure film stars Akshay Kumar who’s seen wearing glasses and sporting long hair as archeologist Aryan Kulshrestha. The story involves his search to find if the bridge to Lanka, built by Ram’s Vanara army, is myth or reality. While specific plot details haven’t been revealed, the protagonist has only three days to save the Ram Setu before evil forces destroy it. In Indian mythology, the Ram Setu or bridge was built so Lord Ram could reach Lanka to rescue his wife Sita. Also known as Adam’s Bridge, the Ram Setu is a 30-mile chain of limestone shoals between Rameswaram on India’s southeast coast and Mannar Island near Sri Lanka’s northwest coast. Expect high-voltage stunts and scenic locales, including underwater diving. After a theatrical release, the film will stream on Amazon Prime Video.





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