

KHAASBAAT

A PUBLICATION FOR INDIAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 2022

WWW.KHAASBAAT.COM

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Shubh Navratri

And the festival of nine nights is back!

Here are the Florida communities celebrating Navratri:

TAMPA/PINELLAS PARK

The Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay will celebrate Garba Dandiya Night from 8 p.m. on Sept. 23. Performer will be Geeta Rabari. The event is \$15 for GSTB members and \$30 for non-members. On Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Amit Patel's group Disha Vrund will perform for Garba Nights. Garima Khiste will perform during Garba Nights 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 Navratri festival from Sept. 26 daily 8:30 to 10 p.m. For details, call the temple at (813) 221-4482, email info@sanatanmandirtampa.org or visit www.sanatanmandirtampa.org



SOUTH FLORIDA

PEMBROKE PINES: The Indian Regional & Cultural Center (IRCC) will celebrate Navratri from 8 p.m. Oct. 1 and Oct. 8 at Silver Trail Middle School, 18300 Sheridan St., Pembroke Pines. For information, call Dr. Durgesh Thaker at (954) 554-8739, visit www.irccflorida.org or email board@irccflorida.com

SUNRISE: The Bengali Association of South Florida

is organizing Durga Puja on Oct. 1-2. For time, venue and other 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. Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Lyman High School, 875 S. Ronald Reagan Blvd. Also, on Oct. 7-9, garba will be at Olympia High School, 4301 S. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando. For information, call 407-864-3090 or visit www.gujaratisocietycfl.com

Continued on page 5

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**DR. KIRAN
C. PATEL
ELEMENTARY
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OPENS IN
TAMPA**

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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 INDIA NAVRATRI ACTIVITIES IN YOUR CITY, GO TO PAGES 1 & 5

EVENTS

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER

SEPT. 13: 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.

SEPT. 18: ONE-DAY YOGA CAMP; organized by Sakthi Yogalaya and Pranascience; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sri Ayyappa Society of Tampa, 6829 Maple Lane, Tampa; camp includes Thirumoolar Pranayama, wellness yoga for adults (ages 12 and above), Kids Yoga (ages 5 to 12); Thirumoolar Pranayama conducted by Dr. Sundar Balasubramanian and supported by higher education medical institutions; \$15 adult registration fee; kids free; lunch served; register at: <https://tinyurl.com/pzty42hm>; for information, call (804) 300-7141, email sakthiyogalaya@gmail.com or visit www.sakthiyogalaya.com

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY/WINTER PARK

SEPT. 9: AN AFTERNOON OF INDIAN MUSIC; presented by Asian Cultural Association; Padma Shri folk singer Malini Awasthi accompanied by Rudradev Maraj on dholak, Pratyush Goberdhan on sarangi, Rajesh Bhandari on tabla and Surabhi Adesh on harmonium; Bush Auditorium, Rollins College, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park; 7:30 p.m.; tickets are \$30, \$15 for students; for information, call (407) 333-3667.



SEPT. 11: GRANDPARENTS DAY; organized by Hindu Society of Central Florida New Age Group; 12:30 to 3 p.m.; community hall, 1994 Lake Drive, Casselberry; essay and drawing competitions will be held; free pizza, salad, ice cream and cultural programs; free entry to everyone but with RSVP hscfnewagegroup@gmail.com

SEPT. 17: KARAOKE EVENING; organized by Gujarati Society of Central Florida and Muni Seva Charitable Foundation USA; musical

program with songs of S.D. Burman and R.D. Burman era with heritage walk-in by Dr. Raees Maniar; Laxmi Narayan Mandir, 251 N. Klondike Ave., Orlando; free; dinner 5 to 6:30 p.m. followed by program; donations to benefit Muni Seva Ashram (www.greenashram.com); for information, call (407) 756-7138.

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.



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.

SOUTH FLORIDA (FORT LAUDERDALE)

SEPT. 18: DIVINE MOMENTS; featuring Grammy award winner Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt on slide guitar accompanied by Pandit Subhen Chatterjee on tabla; 5 p.m.; ArtServe, 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale; \$35 online, \$40 at door; organized by Association of Performing Arts of India; visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/divine-moments-tickets-382427941267>



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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SIGNIFICANT DATE

SEPT. 26: NAVRATRI BEGINS

FIRST OBSERVANT SIKH SWORN IN FLORIDA'S SEMINOLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Story provided by Sikh Society of Central Florida

A 24-year-old Sikh man has been sworn-in as the first Sikh Deputy Sheriff in Seminole County. Gurpreet Singh wears his turban and beard on work with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office in Central Florida.

A native of India, Singh moved to United States in 2014 along with his family. He graduated from Law Enforcement Academy at Seminole State College. On Aug. 19, he was sworn in along with other 23 deputies by Sheriff Dennis Lemma.



Gurpreet Singh

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in Seminole County, while upholding my personal value system, and be aligned wholeheartedly with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office," said Singh. He started as an intern, was sponsored and continued to work and study toward becoming a deputy. Sikh Society of Central Florida is extremely proud of its youth congregation and firmly believes that all agencies, offices and organizations should represent and look like the community it serves.

TAMPA YOUTH HOLDS BIKE DRIVE FOR NEEDY



Ananth Kutuva, an IB junior at Land O' Lakes High School in the Tampa Bay area, is an avid mountain biker who enjoys tinkering with bikes and has been volunteering since ninth grade at WellBuilt Bikes.

In partnership with WellBuilt, Ananth is conducting a bike drive to collect used bikes in any condition that will be refurbished and given to the needy. He believes the drive will directly benefit the community as he witnesses the joy of "Earn-A-Bikers" during his volunteer shifts at WellBuilt Bikes. As of

Aug. 19, he has collected 55 bikes (and counting).

WellBuilt Bikes is a non-profit bike shop that sells refurbished bikes at affordable prices and invests the sales revenue into the Earn-A-Bike program so those with little to no money can access and own one.

For information about WellBuilt Bikes, visit <https://www.bikeshoptampa.com/>. To donate used bikes, contact ananthkutuva@gmail.com or call (813) 701-7870.




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MONTHLY EVENTS	WEEKLY EVENTS
<p>THURSDAY, SEP 1 to SEP 7 (7:30 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHRI GANESHOTSAV CONTINUE - Daily Ganpati Puja & Aarti <p>THURSDAY, SEP 8 (4:00 PM - 7:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANANT CHATURDASHI • SHRI GANPATI VISARJAN CELEBRATION - Ganpati Visarjan at Tampa Bay - Sponsorships Available <p>FRIDAY, SEP 9 (6:30 PM - 8:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PURNIMA KATHA • PURNIMA PITU SHRADH <p>SATURDAY, SEP 10 (11:30 AM - 12:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1ST PITU SHRADH <p>SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10,11,17,18,24,25 (11:30 AM - 12:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAMUHIK PITRU TARPAN <p>SUNDAY, SEP 25 (11:00 AM to 1:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAST SHRADHAM PITRU TARPAN <p>SATURDAY, SEP 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHARAD NAVRATRI BEGIN <p>SATURDAY, SEP 26 (8:30 PM to 10:00 PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 DAYS EVENING GARBA 	<p>EVERY MONDAY - 6:30 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHIV ABHISHEK AND PUJA <p>EVERY TUESDAY - 7:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUNDARKAND • HANUMAM KATHA <p>EVERY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAI BABA SATSANG • MAHA PRASAD <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Pandit Manikya Sharma 813-484-9568</p> <p>Pandit Rushi Vyas 813-503-3388</p> <p>Pandit Pranav Bhatt 813-720-1460</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Events Next Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DUSSEHRA - KARWA CHOTH - DHANTERAS - DIWALI - CHHAT PUJA 	




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CANCER - PART X: THE FINAL JOURNEY

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



When 57-year-old Cecil was diagnosed with an early stage of cancer of his right kidney, he immediately underwent a nephrectomy, followed by adjuvant therapy, and was cleared of cancer. He remained quite well for five years and then one day while going for his morning walk with his wife, he felt a little short of breath. A quick chest X-Ray showed a few metastatic nodules in the lung and during the next few months, more distant metastasis affecting many areas, including liver, spine and brain were detected, in spite of anticancer therapy. His back pain, shortness of breath and fatigue steadily increased needing a lot of pain medications and oxygen. He looked grey and emaciated. That was the time both the patient and the physician decided to consult hospice.

In the life of many cancer patients, a day comes when the patient realizes that the cancer has spread diffusely all over the body and there is no hope for curing or even controlling the disease anymore. The sad realization that the end game has started dawns on the doctor and the patient. This is also associated with an increase in the symptoms, pain being a dominant one. It becomes clear that meaningful survival is not possible and the patients become naturally depressed and anxious. At this stage, not only they need symptom relief but encouragement as well. It is important that the patients know they are not alone in their final journey. Recurring symptoms like pain, nausea, vomiting and fatigue are enough for the doctor to find means of making the patient's life happy.

In the beginning, cancer specialists and surgeons found it difficult to accept failure when they were unable to cure a cancer patient. Often, pain-relieving drugs were denied to patients saying it would lead to addiction and further deterioration and suffering. It took a kind-hearted nurse-trained British physician, Dame Cecily Saunders, to start the movement in 1967 to restore sanity and sanctity to the end-of-life care for cancer patients. These end-stage cancer patients were treated as pariahs both in oncology wards and their homes! In response to this injustice Saunders invented 'palliative medicine,' the goal of which was to give comfort care for terminally ill patients and help them die painlessly and gracefully.

'Palliation' simply means easing a terminally ill patient's pain and suffering and attending to their emotional and spiritual needs at the end of life. Dr. Saunders would physically remove these patients from the oncology wards and transfer them to a hospice center called St. Christopher Hospital in London. It would take another 10 years before hospice could cross the ocean and reach the U.S. In forming 'hospice,' Dr Saunders made an extraordinary contribution to alleviate unnecessary surgery and suffering for these patients. Now, hospice care is available in every county, provided by a team of healthcare professionals. Often, the care is given at home, which makes it easier for the patient and the family but is also available in hospitals, nursing homes and now special Hospice centers.

It took some more time before palliative care was established in India. Till then, end-stage patients suffered a lot of difficulties, often subjected to religious constraints and other influences. It took an anesthesiologist Dr. C. Rajagopal to establish palliative care in India called "Pallium" and now every state has palliative care centers. As he correctly points out, "Every difficult journey is made easier when there is someone to walk beside you." How true! And his book, "Walk with the Weary," has become wildly popular and is a lesson in humanity in health care. Another great read is Paul Kalanithy's book, "When breath becomes Air." This is a touching memoir of a neurosurgeon's valiant fight against advanced lung cancer and focuses precisely on the feelings of terminal cancer patients. And a third one is Atul Gawande's "Being Mortal" that addresses end-of-life care and hospice care, and also contains Gawande's reflections and personal stories.

Palliative care is universally available and one day in the year is

dedicated as "World Hospice and Palliative Care Day," an annual unified day of action to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world. Thanks to all these advances, a terminally ill patient can live out his final days in comfort and peace, while being attended by loving relatives and friends.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

To list your classified ad (for sale, help wanted, services offered, matrimonials), call (813) 758-1786 or e-mail editor@khaasbaat.com



HELP WANTED – PRIEST
Position: Priest. Preferred languages: Hindi, English. Preferred: currently in U.S. Experienced in Hindu rituals. Send resume to: Priti Maheswari @ pjm1122@gmail.com Call (954) 461-7941. Or Shaykher@aol.com (305) 310-0106.

COOKING/HOUSE HELP WANTED IN PINELLAS COUNTY Looking for help (live in or live out) for cooking Indian meals for family of four (2 adults, 2 kids) and help around the house

and home care. Prep for family of 4. Located in Largo. Please contact patelss4@gmail.com or call (914) 338-8260.

HELP WANTED Front desk and housekeeper needed in local motel in St. Petersburg. Both are in day shift. Accommodation provided. Contact (727) 686-0807.

HELP WANTED Tampa restaurant is looking for servers, food runners and front host. Good pay. Call (972) 900-1526 or email minervatampa@gmail.com

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NAVRATRI CELEBRATIONS

Continued from page 1

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. For more information, call Mahendra Kapadia at (407) 595-9224 or visit www.orlandohindutemple.org

TAMPA/PINELLAS PARK

SOIKOT (Bengali Association of Greater Tampa Bay) will hold Durga Puja from Sept. 30-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

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 PBIAM members, and \$35 on www.sulekha.com For other details, e-mail info@gopbia.org <http://www.gopbia.org/>

BARTOW/LAKELAND/WINTER HAVEN

The Bhartiya Samaj of Central Florida will celebrate Navratri at 8 p.m. Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Oct. 7-8 and Oct. 14-15 at Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave., Bartow. Tickets are \$25 per person daily. 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

OCALA/BELLEVUE

Singer Atul Purohit will present Garba from 7:30 p.m. Sept. 17 at World Equestrian Center, 1750 N.W.80th Ave., Ocala. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at door. For information, call (727) 871-2310.

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. For information, email neplesindia@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. Sept. 30-Oct. 1, and Oct. 7-8 at 3130 Parental Home Road, Jacksonville. The event is free for members, \$15 for non-members. For more information, visit gsnef.org

MELBOURNE (SPACE COAST)

The Indian Association of the Space Coast will hold Navratri celebrations from 8 p.m. on Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and Oct. 8. For more information, e-mail iascbrevard@gmail.com or visit www.iascbrevard.com
Also, **Manav Mandir temple**, 7400 Waelti Drive, Melbourne, will begin Navratri, Garba at 5 p.m. on Sept. 26. Dussehra will be celebrated 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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UPDATE ON EB-5 LEGISLATION AND RECENT LITIGATION SETTLEMENT

By DILIP PATEL



The EB-5 immigrant investor program provides lawful permanent resident (LPR) status to foreign investors (and their spouses and unmarried children under age 21) who invest a specified amount of capital in a new commercial enterprise (NCE) in the United States that creates at least 10 jobs. Investors who choose a targeted employment area (TEA) — a rural area or area of high unemployment — qualify for reduced investment amounts. The law permits the admission of about 10,000 investors/qualifying relatives annually (7.1 percent of all employment-based visas).

EB-5 offers two pathways. In the standard or stand-alone pathway, foreign nationals invest in a new or existing enterprise that uses the capital for direct job creation. The second and more common pathway, the Regional Center Program, allows investors to pool investments into an NCE, which are typically used to fund a separate job-creating entity (JCE). Regional center investors may count indirect jobs toward the job creation requirement. The Regional Center Program was initially authorized as a pilot program and has never been made permanent; it must be regularly reauthorized. On June 30, 2021, its authorization expired and the program remained lapsed for nearly nine months, during which time USCIS did not process pending applications and rejected new applications associated with regional center investments.

EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 (RIA)

In March 2022, Congress passed the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 (RIA) which reauthorized the Regional Center Program, and implemented a number of changes and requirements for investors and regional centers.

Capital Investment Requirements

Prior to the 2022 Act RIA, investment requirements remained unchanged from 1990 (\$1 million/\$500,000 in a TEA) until a 2019 federal regulation increased them (\$1.8 million/\$900,000 in a TEA). However, in June 2021, that rule was vacated by a federal district court and amounts reverted to those in place prior to 2019.

The 2022 Act set new requirements: minimum investments of \$1,050,000, or \$800,000 in a TEA or infrastructure project (see “TEAs,” below). The new amounts reduce proportionally the discount for TEA investments from 50 percent to 24 percent. These amounts are to be adjusted for inflation every five years beginning January 1, 2027.

TEAs

Since the EB-5 category was enacted, the law has defined high unemployment areas as those that have experienced at least 150 percent of the national average unemployment rate. In the past, state officials would designate geographic or political subdivisions as areas of high unemployment. Certain such designations were subject to allegations of misuse by combining different areas.

Under the 2022 Act, only USCIS may designate high-unemployment TEAs,

which include the census tract or contiguous census tracts in which the NCE is principally doing business. The act specifies that the weighted average of the unemployment rate for the census tracts must be at least 150 percent of the national average.

Rural areas are areas outside Metropolitan Statistical Areas, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), or areas outside of cities and towns with populations less than 20,000, based on the most recent decennial census. The 2022 Act specifies that USCIS shall prioritize processing and adjudicating EB-5 petitions for regional center investments in rural areas.

The 2022 Act specifies certain EB-5 immigrant visa set-asides for those who invest in TEAs, including the following:

- 20 percent for qualified immigrants who invest in a rural area,
- 10 percent for qualified immigrants who invest in a high-unemployment area, and
- 2 percent for qualified immigrants who invest in an infrastructure project.

The 2022 Act defines an infrastructure project as a “capital investment project in a filed or approved business plan, which is administered by a governmental entity (such as a Federal, State, or local agency or authority) that is the job-creating entity contracting with a regional center or new commercial enterprise to receive capital investment ... as financing for maintaining, improving, or constructing a public works project.”

Regional Center Program

The 2022 Act re-authorizes the Regional Center Program through Sept. 30, 2027. As a result, USCIS resumed processing regional center-based applications. Applications are subject to the law in place at the time of filing (e.g., investment requirements). In the event of a future lapse, the act directs USCIS to continue processing petitions filed before the expiration date. It also specifies parameters for indirect jobs, which may count toward 90 percent of the job creation requirement. USCIS interpreted the 2022 Act to mean that all previously designated regional centers were no longer authorized and required them to reapply for designation. Litigation regarding regional centers ensued. In June 2022, a federal district judge ordered USCIS to allow previously designated regional centers to continue participating in the EB-5 program while the litigation is pending, stating that USCIS’s interpretation “was almost certainly legal error.” On Aug. 24, 2022, the parties to this litigation entered into a settlement agreement that, among other things, rescinds USCIS’s categorical deauthorization of Regional Centers (RCs) approved prior to the enactment of the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022, allows these RCs to immediately file Project Applications, and requires USCIS thereafter to accept investor petitions associated with the project.

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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ALL-NEW AFFORDABLE FORD MAVERICK IS INDEED A REBEL!

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

Over the last few years, we have driven hundreds of vehicles but nothing comes close to the value, price and fuel economy offered by the all-new Maverick. And that is not an understatement. Check this out. The first full hybrid compact pickup in the United States starts under \$20k, seats five comfortably in a spacious cabin and best of all touts over 42 mpg in city. You just can't beat that! The only problem? Well, Ford cannot produce enough Mavericks since the demand, understandably so, is relentless. Pre-orders should be open soon for the 2023 model year, we are told.

Under the hood of our hybrid version sits a 2.5-liter Atkinson-cycle 4-cylinder engine putting out 162 horsepower @ 5600 rpm and 155 pounds-feet of torque @ 4000 rpm. Add a 94 kW electric motor to the mix for a boost in hp by 29. The impressive pickup is coupled with a flawless electronic continuous variable transmission. An independent MacPherson strut front and a twist beam rear suspension isolates occupants from road noise and rough bumps. The electric power steering is razor sharp, with a consistent on-center feel. You can effectively go well over 500 miles in the Maverick, which offers normal, eco, sport, slippery and tow/haul modes. Tow capacity is good at 2,000 miles with a standard payload of

MAVERICK XLT (FWD, 4X2)

- Tires:** P225/65R17
- Wheelbase:** 121.1 inches
- Length:** 199.7 inches
- Width:** 72.6 inches
- Height:** 68.7 inches
- Weight:** 3,674 pounds
- Fuel capacity:** 15 gallons
- City:** 42 mpg
- Highway:** 33 mpg
- Base price:** \$22,280
- Price as tested:** \$26,390
- Web site:** www.ford.com



1,500 pounds, affording 37 bags of 40-pound mulch!

Boxy appears to be the theme with squarish LED headlights flanking a black mesh grille with dark surround/gray bars, door and tailgate handles. And yes, boxlike windows for excellent outward vision. Ten tie-down hooks in the 4.5-foot-long bed can be useful. The spacious interior may be all cloth material but you will love the impression left by the two-tone dark gray and orange accents on the door handles, air vents and storage areas, sort of a marble look. The 8-inch touch infotainment

screen sits atop the dashboard with simple knobs, cleverly separated from temp controls by a/c vents. A huge bin under the flip-up rear bench is a wise use of space. Other standard amenities include single-way a/c, manual tilt/telescopic steering wheel, six-way manual driver and four-way front-passenger seats and a rotary club dial.

So, the next time you are at the Ford dealership and happen to come across this renegade, snap it asap!

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OVERHAULED SUBARU WRX IS AN ATTRACTIVE PROPOSITION

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



Its kind are few and far between. It only has to be noticed by potential buyers and they would line up to buy one, i.e. the Subaru WRX. The totally redesigned high-performance sports sedan for 2022 is a fun and enjoyable ride, especially for your daily roundabout. Standard all-wheel-drive system should be an impetus on top of it all.

Out goes the previous 2.0-liter to be replaced by a more potent 2.4-liter horizontally-opposed 4-cylinder engine (intercooled and turbocharged) that blasts off a healthy 271 horsepower (up by 3 from previous) @ 5600 rpm and 258 pounds-feet of torque @ 5200 rpm. Power routed through a flawless 6-speed manual auto gear box contributes to a sporty and exciting performance. The WRX's exceptional stopping power comes from robust 12.4-inch ventilated front and 11.4-inch solid rear discs.

Ensnared on the unitized body structure is a traditional hexagonal grille with centered Subaru star cluster insignia, which is flanked by C-shaped LED headlights. You cannot help but notice the bulging but functional and broad scoop atop the aluminum hood. A twin cockpit with electroluminescent gauge displays for speedometer, tachometer, fuel

WRX LIMITED
Tires: 245/40R18
Wheelbase: 105.2 inches
Length: 183.8 inches
Suspension: MacPherson strut front, double wishbone rear
Steering: rack-and-pinion power assist
Weight: 3,390 pounds
Fuel capacity: 16.6 gallons
City: 19 mpg
Highway: 26 mpg
Base price: \$35,995
Web site: www.subaru.com



and coolant temperature give the cabin a rich feel. The power-tilt moon roof is a nice touch too. As are the ultrasuede seats with red stitches. Further enhancing the appearance is a matte dark gray metallic finish on the center dash panel. Tossed out is the small 7-inch touch screen for infotainment controls to be replaced with a 11.6-inch tablet-style vertical display. And what driver wouldn't appreciate a 10-way power seat? And if you like physical buttons for audio volume, tune, temp control, this is yours to keep! Other standard niceties

include dual auto a/c, 60/40 fold rear seat, flat-bottomed leather steering column, aluminum alloy pedals, 11-speaker Harman Kardon sound system, and rear seat armrest with dual cup holders.

Thanks to the total overhaul, the WRX is an even more appealing ride than ever before. It's the perfect choice for any sport sedan buyer who likes a certain thrill on the road. Who doesn't want a robust engine, luxurious cabin, affordable price and standard all-wheel drive? It is just perfect for the everyday chore.

SAVE 'BIG' ON FUEL WITH 2022 KIA NIRO PHEV

As gas prices continue to hover around \$3.50 in Florida, you would be remiss not to take a glance or two at the 2022 Kia Niro PHEV (Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle). Essentially, the PHEV adds an electric charge that enables the five-passenger compact crossover to go up to 26 miles without using gas. The charge port, located in the driver's side front fender, uses a 240-volt system that can take 2½ hours or a 120-volt consuming about nine hours. You can effectively go around 530 miles on a tank (11.4 gallons) with its gas, hybrid and plug-in electric features.

A 1.6-liter, 4-cylinder gasoline engine is mated to an electric motor (60 horsepower), which is powered by an 8.9 kWh lithium-ion polymer battery weighing 258 pounds. That is adequate enough to put out a total of 139 hp while paired to a laudable 6-speed dual clutch transmission. The crossover offers a regenerative braking system for additional fuel savings. When the ride is coasting or the brakes are applied, the electric power functions as a generator, capturing kinetic energy that would normally be lost as heat through the brakes. Instead, it converts the energy into useable electricity for recharging the battery.

A centered gloss black "tiger nose" grille meets up with sweptback LED headlights to create



NIRO (EX PREMIUM)
Tires: P205/60R16
Wheelbase: 106.3 inches
Length: 171.5 inches
Width: 71.1 inches
Height: 60.8 inches
Suspension: MacPherson strut front, multilink rear
Steering: motor-driven power assist
Weight: 3,450 pounds
Combined gas only: 46 mpg
Comb electric/gas: 105 MPGe
Fuel capacity: 11.4 gallons
Base price: \$36,490
Price as tested: \$38,025
Web site: www.kiausa.com

a sleek and eye-catching appearance. All new for 2022 is fresh Kia badging on the grille and tailgate. Stepping into the cabin, our favorite is the attractively designed 7-inch instrument cluster of analog speedometer and the cool LCD hybrid gauge showing charge, eco and power readings, as well as EV mode. They are flanked by a clean digital driver information center. Standard amenities include 10-way power driver and six-way passenger seats, which are also heated and cooled, leather steering wheel and shifter, dual auto a/c, 10.25-inch touch for navigation, radio and telephone controls,

power tilt/telescopic sun roof and push-button start. The 60/40 rear seat folds down to open up 54.5 cubic feet of space.

It may not have abundance of power but the Niro is an excellent gas/electric/plug-in hybrid effort from Kia. It is sharp-looking, sporty, practical and sips gas (we averaged 54 mpg in city/highway driving). That it comes with a 10-year or 100,000-mile power train and a five-year or 60,000-mile basic warranty is a plus. Lest we forget, the lithium-ion battery is also covered for 10-year/100,000 miles.



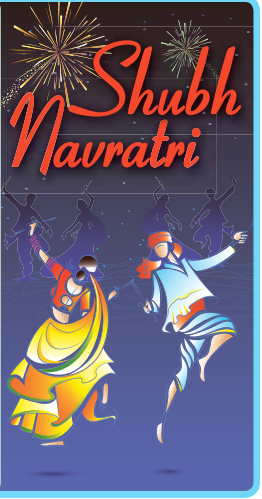
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DEAR MOM AND DAD – CHILL!

By **ROBERT LEVINE**



Oh, the joys of admissions season: writing essays, completing applications, interviews, schoolwork, extracurricular activities, no sleep ...

You can cut the tension with a knife. The screaming? Some of it is audible; most of it is constantly bouncing through your head.

It's only the most important moment in a young life, right?

Well, no, college admissions is not the end of the world, nor is it the beginning. It's just an opportunity to collect choices for your education.

How you actually perform in college will matter much more.

Nevertheless, we understand the pressure. So how can parents help their students?

The first priority is to actually assist your child. But what does this mean? Let's start with what not to do. High schoolers are already stressed about their college efforts. School counselors have assemblies, instructions, and one-on-one meetings with their students. Already bombarded by homework and projects and papers, seniors are all talking about college essays. Every day, those scary deadlines creep closer and closer.

So, parents, how about we don't add our own stress to theirs?

After working with literally thousands of students, I can confidently say this: mood affects performance, and performance affects results. When students are stressed and rushed and distracted, they don't write great essays. Although it may seem natural to ensure that your child is doing the work timely – and it is important – how you interact with them, and how you act around them, either heightens or mitigates their stress.

Let your student know that you are there for them, but don't try to be part of the process in any significant way. Ask them what they want (and don't want) from you. Tell them you'd like to see a reasonable schedule and that you'd like them to keep you informed, then step back. You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make the horse drink. Even if you push the horse's nose into the water ... does that really work? It's the same thing with kids.

Seven months ago, UCA presented a Town Hall webinar featuring four students (all of whom achieved Ivy League schools). When asked to give advice to parents of the next class of college applicants, every one of them loudly and vociferously said "Leave us alone! Leave us alone! You're not helping! Please stop!" And their body language was, shall we say, energetic. If you'd like to see a recording of that webinar, contact us (info@universitycoa.com).

Yet parents can and should do more than "nothing." Be a good role model. During times of stress, your disposition will be their guide.

Be happy and healthy. Take a moment to relax. Do those things that make you vital. Instead of imparting your stress upon them, add to their confidence by showing an optimistic attitude. Smile once in a while! You can do it!

If and when you review your student's essays, don't look for problems, or at least don't emphasize the problems when speaking with your child. Instead of "I don't like this," try something like "Well, that's pretty interesting. Yes, you're on to something. I wonder: in this paragraph, could you add something like this, or maybe rebalance it in this way? I think that might make it even better." Or maybe try this: "I keep tripping on this one word. What other word could you use here?" Be mindful of what you say; it impacts their mood and their motivation.

There is another moment that will become very important for the harmony of your family: the day of the college's decision. For the most selective schools, the odds are against everyone. Be prepared to be supportive of your child if things do not go well. Give them attention, give them space, give them encouragement, do whatever it takes, but be a good role model with your words and your actions.

And, if things do go well, please be respectful of the fact that things do not go well for most people. Admissions is very competitive. Be a good winner, and support those who did not achieve their dream schools. Be happy, but do not be obnoxious. At all levels, be a good member of your community.

Again, admissions is neither the beginning nor the end of the world. The colleges make decisions for their best interests, not yours. Focus on raising a great human being and everything will work out well.

Just try to be chill.

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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SEPTEMBER 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) Arians are fiery in nature, ardent to acquire, daring and self-confident. Negative aspects, which are restlessness, an agitated mind and intolerant in activities needs to be checked. Currently, natives are blessed with divine blessing and win almost anything one desires. Mars is strengthening your position well. With some of your optimistic attitudes, you could emerge a winner.

TAURUS / Vrushabha (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (April 21-May 21) Moon Sign - Stars covered Krittika (last 3 parts), Rohini, Mrigashira (first 2 parts) Taurians are described as practical, polished and “pleasant ones.” The present transitory effects are highly favorable. However, certain adverse conditions of unpleasant atmosphere might crop – up in your general routine. Exercising self control and a practical sense of creativity may be the right means to sort out problems. Time is fast flying; do not waste a minute on constructive projects.

GEMINI / Mithuna (Air sign, ruling planet is Mercury) - (May 22-June 21) Moon Sign - Stars covered Mrigashira (last 2 parts), Ardra and Punarvasu (first 3 parts) Gemini is described as a dual sign. The positive side helps with your logical brain and analytical mind and the negative side never lets you to take firm decisions on any point of juncture. The tip is to “take a stand”, let your brain take the right course. Planetary pattern promises successful ventures, wise dealings, fresh openings, professional gains, etc. Unexpected gains may be expected.

CANCER / Kataka (Watery sign, ruling planet is Moon) - (June 22-July 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Punarvasu (4th part), Pushya, Aslesha You are sincere, attached and too affectionate and at the same time, too emotional and often go out of control to resist passionate emotions. You may see lot of improvements on personal and professional matters. Money flow may be quite adequate to meet expenses. Concentrate on divinity and demonstrate your skills. Due rewards may be yours.

LEO / Simha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Sun) - (July 23-Aug. 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Magha, Purva Phalguni, Uttara Phalguni (1st part) Your sign lord, Sun, is passing through own sign, which enhances your reputation to much higher status. You may find encouragement through

activities. Your virtues and fortune may shine. Riches may flow in from different sources. Printers, publishers, politicians and people connected with public works – some may find new enthusiasm.

VIRGO / Kanya (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Mercury) (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Uttara Phalguni (last 3 parts, Hasta, Chitra (first 2 parts) The monthly planetary positions are highly beneficial for journalists, IT professionals, communicators and publishers. Public dealing may be effective. Rewarding projects could come into their hands. Adequate financial assistance may be available. You may successfully meet with some challenges and emerge a winner. You can hoist your victory flag.

LIBRA / Tula (Air sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Moon Sign – Stars covered Chitra (last 2 parts), Swati, Vishakha (first 3 parts) The term “taste” here is meant taste in some respects (good, luxurious eating habits, cultural living, music and art and other admirable qualities). The present planetary setup helps achieve some tastes fully to your satisfaction. Planets are transiting favorably bringing achievement, success and gains. Rich gains are well marked.

SCORPIO / Vruschika (Water sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Vishakha (4th part), Anuradha, Jyestha Martian temperaments dominate. Impatient behaviour comes into the forefront. Your sign lord, Mars, and other planets bring promising results. This is a plus point with regard to personal progress and cordial relationship with your partner. Financial progress and economic development are evident. Saturn’s transit might affect on the professional level.

SAGITTARIUS / Dhanush (Fire sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Moon Sign – Stars covered Moola, Purva Shada, Uttara Shada (first part) Sagittarians are constantly aiming for expansion, expanded schemes and fiery in nature. Planetary transit signifies favorable and positive trends. Planetary combination brings success and gains. Some efforts may be crowned with success and rich gains. It is a recommended period for expansion, schemes, new ventures and other constructive projects. The planetary setup may bring success and prosperity.

CAPRICORN / Makara (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Saturn) - (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Moon Sign – Stars covered Uttara Shada (last 3 parts) Shravana, Dhanistha (first 2 parts) Capricorn is one of the most elevated signs. They always hold top positions in business. The transit of many planets is satisfactory. Opportunities and favorable circumstances are everywhere. Be alert to realize, seize opportunity and act. You may be rewarded to your satisfaction. Some disturbing conditions on health of spouse are seen. Attend to medical assistance at the slightest provocation.

AQUARIUS / Kumbha (Air sign, ruling planet is Saturn) – (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Moon Sign-Stars covered: Dhanishta (last 2 parts) Satabhisha, Purva Bhadra Pada (1st 3 parts) You can depend upon your own intuition and may achieve what you desire. It is an excellent month for self-employed and businesspeople. Time is also, highly beneficial for those engaged in politics or public affairs. Jupiterian influences are definite to uplift your position at workplace. You may be rewarded well with good reputation and rich gains. It is a highly positive time.

PISCES / Meena (Water sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Feb. 20-March 20) Moon Sign - Stars covered: Purva Bhadra Pada (last part) Uttara Bhadra Pada, Revathi You may find good and promising opportunities opening up. In other words, opportunity knocks at the door every morning. Your part is only to realize and make use of it. Rich gains are apparent. Even in speculative activities, one stands to gain. Professionals may achieve an elevated position with due recognition. This is a cheerful month.

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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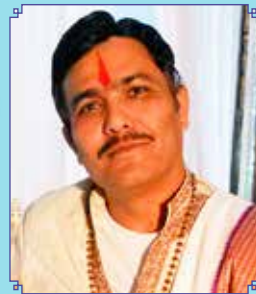


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FLORIDA NEWS

GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEER – A GIFT TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

By RUKMINI POTDAR



The onset of the festivities for Lord Ganesh brings to mind how Lokmanya Tilak transformed this popular festival into one of community cohesion. In the United States, we celebrate this festival with special activities that strengthen our bonds with each other. But what would Ganeshji, the beloved of all, especially children, have us give back to this country that has given us so much? Volunteering as a Guardian ad Litem for children in foster care would be his gift to our local community! There are currently more than 3,000 children in foster care in Hillsborough County alone.

The Florida Guardian ad Litem Office represents abused, abandoned and neglected children in the courtroom and the community. Through the collaboration of a multidisciplinary team that includes a Guardian ad Litem attorney, a trained volunteer and a certified child advocate manager, our team provides quality legal representation for abused, neglected, and abandoned children while assisting the child in expressing their needs and wishes. Our unique approach allows us to support the whole child, addressing their physical, educational, mental, emotional, social, and legal needs.

I started this journey five years ago as a volunteer for Florida Guardian ad Litem. I was in between jobs and recently moved to Tampa from upstate New York. When I look back now on how this experience has significantly changed me, I am reminded of Mahatma Gandhi's quote: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others!" Guardian ad Litem volunteers are from various backgrounds and careers and share an average of 10-15 hours per month of their time. No experience is needed and all training is provided.

For more information about this opportunity, call Rukmini Potdar at (813) 363-9780 or visit www.guardianadlitem.org

POLK SCHOLASTIC CHESS REGISTRATION OPEN

Submitted by Polk Scholastic Chess Board

After a long pandemic break, registration is open to Polk County students for the 2022-23 season online at www.PolkScholasticChess.com Entry fee is \$35 per student and application deadline is Sept 20. A \$10 late fee will be applied to any application received after Sept. 20. Last date for registration is Oct. 1. All tournaments will be the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave., Bartow.

The dates for the tournaments, all on Saturdays, are Oct. 15, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 14, 2023 and tournament on March 4, 2023.

The Polk Scholastic Chess College Scholarship awards for 2021-22 season were recently announced by Arlene Gable, board member and secretary. Each year, two graduating seniors are recognized with scholarships toward their continuing education. Students need to have an extended length of participation with Polk Scholastic Chess, win the essay contest and must have made active contributions to their school and community.

The winners of this year's Polk Scholastic Chess Scholarship are Niriham Shah (first place; \$1,500 scholarship) from Bartow IB, and Jacob Cunningham (second place; \$500 scholarship) from Lake Gibson Senior. Niriham Shah was recognized by the board for having played at the Polk Scholastic Chess tournaments for 14 years, from pre-k to 12th grade, and is awarded the President's Award.

Polk Scholastic Chess is a nonprofit organization offering an extracurricular activity open to all students of Polk County, enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, including home-schooled students. It has been committed since over 32 years to "encouraging academic growth through the game of chess."



Niriham Shah



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DR. KIRAN C. PATEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPENS IN TAMPA

The new 652-student Dr. Kiran C. Patel Elementary School, a tuition-free, K-5 public charter school in Tampa, hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on July 25. Speakers and attendees included Temple Terrace Mayor Andy Ross, council members and business/community leaders, and Hillsborough County commissioners and school board members.

“The Dr. Kiran C. Patel Campus for Innovative Learning now houses a world-class high, middle and elementary school. The campus has multiple soccer fields, outdoor sports pavilion, tennis courts, dedicated music rooms, state-of-the-art weight room, play areas and ample parking.” said Ashok (Ash) Bagdy, co-founder of the high and elementary schools.

“The students enrolled at Patel Elementary are the future of tomorrow. Grooming them to be responsible policy makers will ensure that America remains the beacon of hope for the world,” said Dr. Kiran C. Patel, founder and benefactor of the school and the \$50 million campus.



“On Aug. 8, we welcomed 288 kindergarten, first- and second-grade students. The strategic plan of beginning small allows us to really know our students and build our family school culture. Each year, we will add six classes of kindergartners. Before we know it, these incoming second-grade students will be our first fifth-grade class and we will be a full K-5 school. The building is already full of energy, and this is just the start,” said Principal Ashley Galfond, who has over eight years of experience as an elementary assistant principal, most recently serving the community of Chiles Elementary School in Tampa Palms.

Following in the footsteps of Patel’s high school on the same campus, the elementary school will focus on Project-Based Learning with a well-rounded rigorous education. The school will implement the Whole Child Approach that includes Social Emotional Learning and Leadership Development.

For more information about the school, visit <https://patelelementary.org>; www.patelhighschool.org

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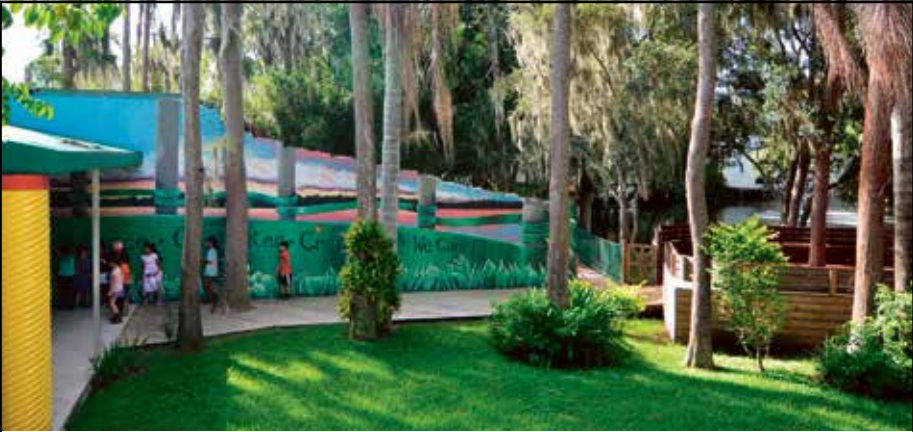


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BOOK REVIEW

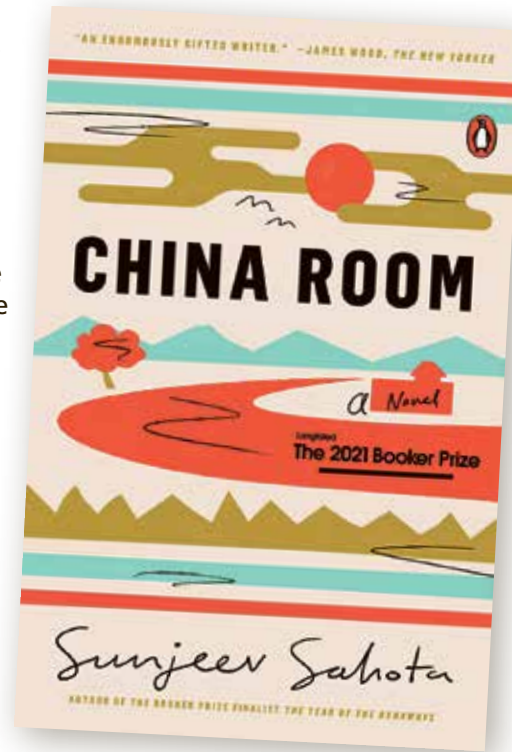


"China Room" (246 pages; \$27) by Sunjeev Sahota; published by Viking (Penguin Random House) (www.penguinrandomhouse)

Longlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize, the title of this multigenerational tale is not much of a giveaway, rather a place where Mehar, Harbans and Gurleen spend their time. It is 1920s rural Punjab and the trio are married to three brothers but kept in the dark as to who their husbands are by a domineering mother-in-law Mai. "They live in the china room, which sits at a slight remove

from the house and is named for the old willow-pattern plates that lean on a high stone shelf, a set of six that arrived with Mai years ago as part of her wedding dowry." Flash forward to 1990s when an 18-year-old from England rides out his withdrawal from drug addiction in the family's ancestral home, i.e., his great grandmother Mehar's. The son of an immigrant shopkeeper, he has experienced racism, violence and falling-out from the culture of his birth to seek a perilous form of escape – heroin. He is fascinated and troubled by his short stay as he pens his story some time later. "The morning mist was dove-grey and light and lifting away from the fields ... What remained was a feeling of quiet rapture, of dawn colours slowly involving themselves with the day, a champagne brightness starting to warm my skin and the waving acres of corn and wheat, the soft green hills that followed no pattern, a distant stone hut that held the horizon and a long tapered track driving on until I couldn't even imagine that I could see it." Based on author Sahota's


own family account, "China Room" casts a spotlight on the controlling traditions and horrendous atrocities committed on women in the 1920s. "Breaking up blocks of jaggery. Picking cotton. Picking guavas. Collecting dung. Shovelling




ashes. Cutting Mai's corns. Milking. Cooking. Preparing for the cooking. Dyeing salwars. Ironing dhotis. Sweeping the yard. Watering the yard. Draining the yard. Polishing the plates. Going to market. Going to temple. Going to pray for sons and for the long life of their husbands." Family, infidelity, bigotry, gender-power, identity, love, faith, secrets, survival, belonging, debt, are some of the issues tackled in this hauntingly-written intimate account by Sahota, who also wrote the Booker Prize finalist "The Year of the Runaways."

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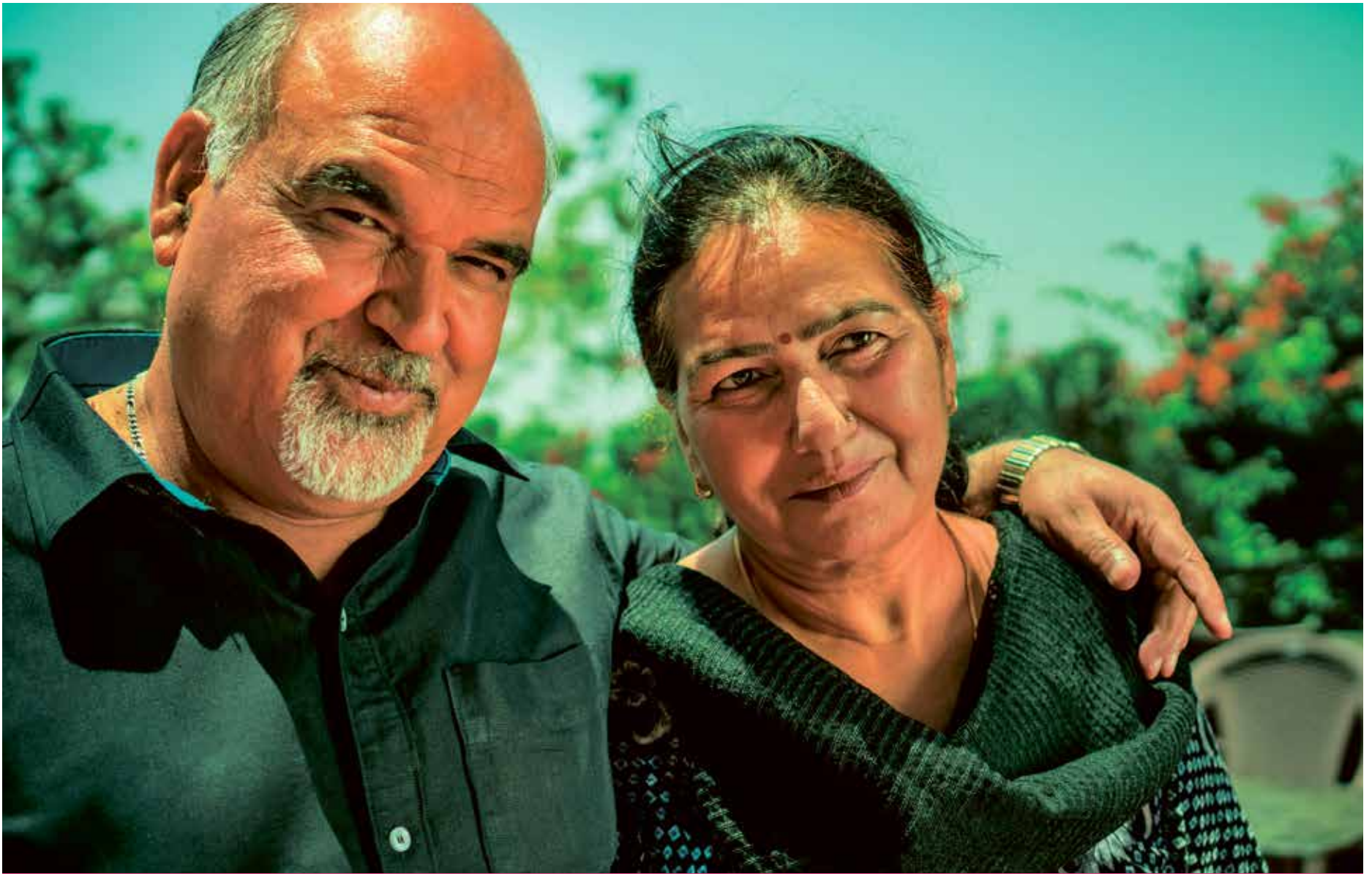
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HINDI MOVIE PREVIEWS

By SHEPHALI J. RELE

“Brahmastra Part One: Shiva” Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna Akkineni; written and directed by Ayan Mukerji; music by Pritam.

The first part of a planned trilogy, this much awaited action fantasy creates what the makers say is India’s first original cinematic universe – the Astraverse. Set in modern times with roots in Indian mythology, the premise features a secret society called the Brahmansh, Amitabh Bhachchan plays Guru, their leader. They have protected many divine ‘Astras’ (weapons) created in ancient India and kept them safe-guarded from the world for



generations. The most powerful of these weapons, named after the most powerful weapon of the Gods, the Brahmastra, is waking up, thanks to a mysterious dark force threatening to destroy the universe. Ranbir Kapoor stars as the protagonist Shiva, a DJ on the brink of love with Isha played by Alia Bhatt. Their world is shaken



when Shiva learns of his mysterious link to the Brahmansh and the Brahmastra. He discovers the truth about his strange connection with the element of fire and its power. This leads to adventures into the world of the Astras and his destiny as the divine hero of the universe. Expect action-packed storytelling with themes of good vs. evil, love and hope featuring never-seen-before visual spectacles. The movie will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada in premium format screens, including IMAX.

“Vikram Vedha” Starring Hrithik Roshan, Saif Ali Khan, Radhika Apte, Rohit Saraf, Yogita Bihani and Sharib Hashmi; directed by Pushkar-Gayatri; music by Vishal-Shekhar.

This action thriller is a remake of the popular 2017 Tamil film of the same name originally made by the directing duo. It showcases the face-off between a tough police officer who sets out to track down and kill an equally tough gangster. Saif Ali Khan stars as the determined cop Vikram, and Hrithik Roshan portrays the ruthless gangster Vedha. The film underlines an intense battle on the perceptions between good and evil. Radhika Apte plays Vikram’s wife and Rohit Saraf is Vedha’s brother. The movie releases on Sept. 30.



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THE ART OF INDIAN TEXTILES

By **BRINDA PAMULAPATI**



India is host to a variety of textile arts. Handwoven textiles, block printing and fabric dyeing is loved among Indians as well as others from around the world. Major economic interests center around the relationships between the agriculture, textile-crafting and artists of this artform.

Each textile and design are region-based and mastered over generations. The final product involves a lot of labor and skill. Though recent modern technologies have reduced the hard labor work, it still requires a time-consuming and lengthy learning process; it is an artform that cannot be mastered from a college degree. The younger generations must be



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trained and immersed in the culture from a young age to learn and create these intricate designs.

The textiles are organically made with environmentally friendly materials and dyes. We will be discussing a few of the weaving techniques utilized to craft the characteristic Indian textiles.

Examples of Weave Styles

The Kimkhab weave is an opulent, highly decorated style originating from the Uttar Pradesh region. Inspired by Islamic art, it utilizes natural elements in its design, focusing on objects such as flowers, birds and trees. As with many weave styles, golden embroidery known as zari acts as an added distinction of ornateness.

The Kasavu weave is recognizable from its ivory-colored base, embellished with golden lace weaving. This style, which originated in Kerala, is highly regarded in the state. The vertical zari embellishments are most often designed as cross bars or with geometric motifs.

The Venkatagiri weave is known for its durability. A popular style founded in Andhra Pradesh, this weave is made up of a blend of cotton and silk using pit looms. The resulting textile is soft and breathable, decorated with Jamdani motifs.

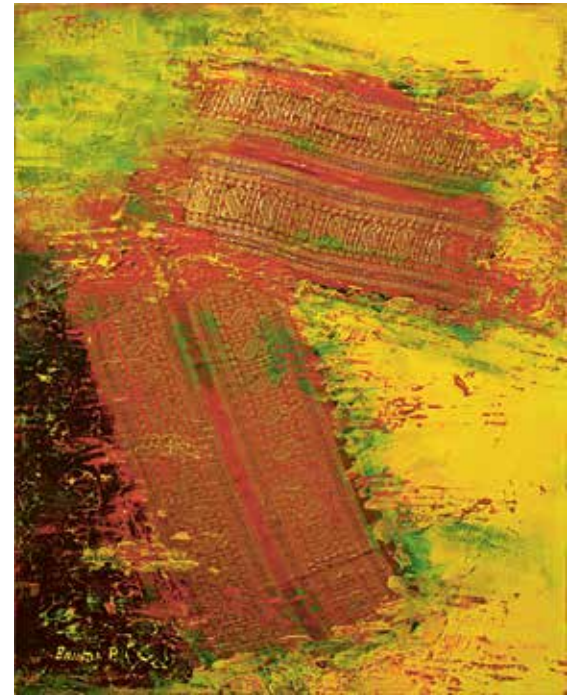
Keeping traditions alive

Within the current global landscape, the increase of fast-paced consumer consumption has left the traditions of Indian hand-weaving at a standstill. Therefore now — more than ever — there is a need to preserve this historic artform, not only for its cultural importance, but for its positive environmental impact.

One way that the practice of textile-making can be preserved is by redesigning the materials to suit contemporary fashion trends and the convenience of people.

As an artist myself, I've captured elements of Indian textiles designs in my collection of works titled "Saree Series." "Kanchi Saree from Kanchipuram" and "Banaras Saree" — abstract styles — are fused with the characteristic textile weaves from the regions specified in each painting. In this series, a viewer who may not have any prior knowledge of Indian textile design can gain a newfound appreciation for the craft.

The traditional production of Indian textiles directly combats the ever-growing environmental pollutants from the fast-fashion industry. Crafting durable, long-lasting clothing with natural fibers is at the core of Indian textiles production. Groups such as the Isha Foundation's "Save The Weave" movement



Saree Series-Kanchi by Brinda Pamulapati

educate the public on the importance of this historic craft and advocate for funding and support to Indian textile makers. Supporting these products helps combat environmental pollution, and celebrates a longstanding, highly revered artform.



Saree Series-Banaras by Brinda Pamulapati

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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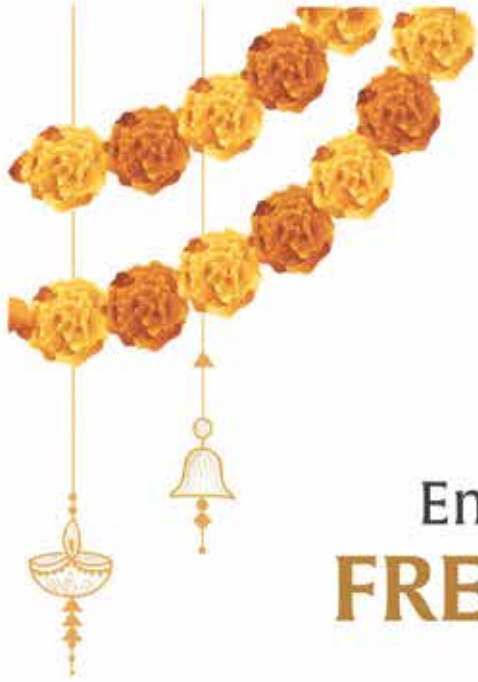


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