

# KHAASBAAT

A PUBLICATION FOR INDIAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA

JUNE 2021

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## FLORIDA NEWS

Tampa artist donating proceeds to help India  
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## CATARACTS? SHOULD YOU WAIT? LET ME CHANGE YOUR MINDSET SINCE JUNE IS CATARACT AWARENESS MONTH

By Dr. ARUN C. GULANI



If you are over 55 years of age, you most likely have grey hair and cataracts too!

Whaaaaaat? Yes, you read that right with your cheesy “cheaters” (since to be at 55, you most likely crossed the age of 45 when you started wearing reading glasses).

First, let’s smash this myth and cave-man

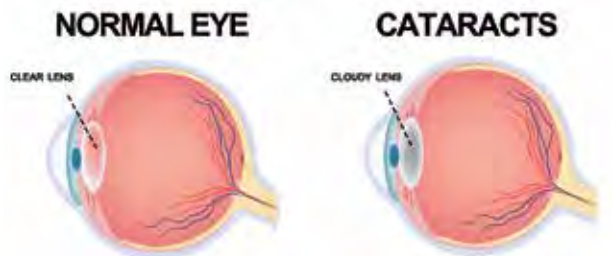
logic to smithereens – this concept of wait till your cataracts are “ripe” like it was some fruit with “vision nectar.”

Let me define cataract for you. Our natural lens in the eye is clear as a diamond and soft as jelly when we are born. Over time, as we mature (age), this lens becomes gray (like your hair) and harder in consistency to then take on an elaborate name: cataract!

So, it’s not a disease of any kind and in most cases is an age-related change, which impacts vision.

What I like to teach eye surgeons is not to look for maturing of that cataract or waiting for it to ripen. Instead, look for glasses or contact

lens prescription with such eyes and then using that cataract, no matter how minimal it is as an excuse, to correct that patient’s vision to see without glasses and be done forever.



Thinking about the cataract as a “lens” with a prescription number (our natural lens has 15 diopters of power) is vital so patients or surgeons won’t look at it like a pathology but as an opportunity.

Also, remember what I have mentioned here, by the time you have cataracts, you most likely are also needing reading glasses and those too can be corrected.

Cataract surgery takes minutes but don’t fall for a cookie-cutter surgical practice where you are hurtled as a number. Instead, ask for a custom-designed surgery with new generation lens implants that can also help to see at most distances without glasses.

Continued on page 6



## STREAM THIS!

### NEW SHOW TO WATCH:

“The Family Man: Season 2”  
(Amazon Prime, June 4)

The story of a seemingly simple middle-class man, Srikant Tiwari (Manoj Bajpayee), secretly working as an intelligence officer for the National Investigation Agency (NIA), was an instant hit with the streaming audiences. In the midst of balancing home life with a wife and two children, Srikant is investigating a possible terror attack termed as Mission Zulfiqar. Moosa, played by Neeraj Madhav, is planning to release nerve gas canisters on everyone in Delhi within two hours through his chemical plant. The agents sent to stop it fail, and we see season one ending in a cliffhanger. The recently released trailer shows Srikant and his wife Suchitra (Priyamani) meeting a marriage counselor thanks to his secrets and going MIA at crucial times. Srikant also seems to have taken a break from being a NIA spy and is seen at a desk job. The humorous sequences feature Bajpayee’s dry wit and serious dialogue delivery. The action then shifts to Chennai – his colleague JK (Sharib Hashmi) is caught in a hostage situation. Before long, Srikant is involved. The plot involves a new character played by the Telugu star Samantha Akkineni who appears to be a highly trained rebel. Directed and produced by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K. The ensemble cast includes Priyamani Iyer, Sharib Hashmi, Kishore Kumar, Gul Panag, Ashmith Kunder and Mehak Thakur.



### Dear Readers:

### PUBLISHER’S NOTE

Happy Father’s Day to all the dads out there. Community leaders, as activities pick up with the rise in vaccinations, please keep us informed about upcoming events.

Thank you to those who have recently subscribed or sent contributions. To subscribe, see page 2. As always, we welcome your suggestions, sponsorships and support. Checks can be addressed to Khaas Baat, 8312 Windsor Bluff Drive, Tampa, FL 33647. Payment can also be made via PayPal to PP ID: nitishrele@gmail.com

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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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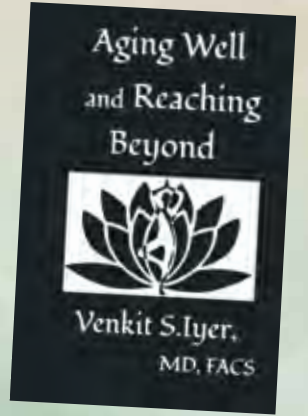
## NEW BOOK PUBLISHED

# Aging Well and Reaching Beyond



Dr. Venkit S. Iyer

Dr. Venkit S. Iyer, a retired general and vascular surgeon and a long time resident of Palm Harbor, Florida has recently published a new book with the above title. It contains useful information on



preventive health, wellness measures, elder care and end of life issues. Aging is a process and not a disease. Part of it is due to built in codes in our genes, which is "Nature". However part of it is due to our habits, behavior and conduct, which is "Nurture". The book is based on facts and science. It is a must read book for senior citizens, providing information as to how to live well, age gracefully and end the journey of life peacefully.

Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com)



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**JUNE 16: GURU ARJAN DEV MARTYRDOM**

**TAMPA ARTIST DONATING PROCEEDS TO HELP INDIA**

As the pandemic ravages her home country, the place where she was born and raised, Shashi Arora of Tampa worries about loved ones that still reside in India. "I hear the stories, read the news, and see the images on television and I feel saddened and helpless," she said. "To help from afar and do what I can, I am donating proceeds from art sales to help provide pandemic relief for India." ([www.aroragallery.info](http://www.aroragallery.info))



A native of Amritsar, Arora grew up in Mumbai. At a young age, her family moved to Karachi and became well-established, but eventually migrated to Mumbai after the partition. As a child, Arora developed a passion for painting. Without much opportunity for any formal education in art, she taught herself how to paint. Eventually in 1962,

she gained the support of her family to attend the well-known J.J. School of Art in Mumbai.

Arora has won numerous awards and been trained by famous and talented artists such as Robert Butler. In addition to painting on canvas, she began sculpture painting in 1991 at Off-the-Wall Ceramics under the teachings of Sharon James.

Arora and her husband Hari have three grandchildren and two children. "My thoughts and prayers for all those impacted by Covid," she said. "Love and strength to India."

Visit [www.aroragallery.info](http://www.aroragallery.info) to view images of prints for sale.



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  - MATA KI CHOWKI
- SATURDAY, JUNE 19 (6:00 PM to 7:30 PM)**
  - SHRI JAGNATH BHAJAN
- SUNDAY, JUNE 20 (6:00 PM to 7:00 PM)**
  - NRIJALA EKADASHI
  - MAHA GAYATRI HAVAN
- THURSDAY, JUNE 24 (6:30 PM to 8:00 PM)**
  - PURNIMA SHRI SATYANARAYAN KATHA
- SUNDAY, JUNE 27 (5:30 PM to 6:30 PM)**
  - JHULAY LAAL JI BHAJAN

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

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**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC – PART XIII THE VARIANTS ARE COMING!**

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



Just when we thought the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel was getting brighter, comes another surge that has created a catastrophic situation in India. It is also here in California, Michigan and New York. The reason: new batches of mutated viruses called variants are arriving with the result that global coronavirus cases are surging, mostly driven by India and South America (Brazil). These mutants/variants are more infectious and often capable of causing severe disease.

As you know, the Covid-19 situation in India is exploding with daily infection rate topping over 400,000 cases/day and death almost 4,000/day! No one anticipated this sudden surge, which has placed an unexpected demand for hospital beds, ventilators, drugs and oxygen. This new corona variant apparently has been identified as B.1.617, a home-grown variant that may have been a combination of ones emerged from South Africa and California. The U.K. variant, B.1.1.7, now the dominant strain causing new infections in the U.K. and the U.S., is also spreading to other countries, including India. The Brazilian variant is (P.1) already in Florida and may be responsible for many of the cases here.

How do these variants occur and why do we worry about them? According to the experts, "The viral mutations evolve from the excessive replication of the virus when it enters a new host. With every new person the virus infects, it has a new opportunity to duplicate its genome and in that process changes occur in the virus itself that make it fitter and stronger. And a new variant evolves every time the virus infects a person that causes more severe, and even deadly disease.

According to Dr. Ravindra Gupta, professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge, and an expert in the SARS-CoV-2 virus and its variants, "The steep, rapid increase in cases in India is probably the result of relaxed social distancing and a lot of social meetings, including religious gatherings and political rallies – all combined with the presence of new variants." Another possibility is that "people previously infected with SARS-CoV-2, but did not have a severe case of the infection, might get even sicker if they are re-infected." It's of significance that a lot of young people are getting infected in India and many are asymptomatic in the beginning and so can easily infect others. A lot of them go on to become

severely ill and die later.

The upshot of all these is that the pandemic is not going to end soon because the variants may keep it going – in spite of all the new advances in the management of this disease, vaccinations, drugs and prevention protocols. And if we are not careful, these variants can create more surges in the U.S. also.

Are the current vaccines effective against the variants? According to Dr. Celine Gounder, a reputed infectious disease specialist from Bellevue, N.Y., "For now, the vaccines are quite effective, but there is a trend toward less effectiveness, especially against the variants." As per CDC, the effectiveness of the current COVID vaccines is quite high although there is anecdotal evidence that people who have been vaccinated can also get sick with corona. But the disease tends to be milder in them.

In the hopes of taming the virus, India has now opened vaccinations to all adults but the pricing and economic disparities may limit the access. With increased vaccine production, help coming from countries along with strict lockdown and preventive measures, India will survive the crisis.

Fortunately, things are much better in the U.S. "Thanks to our accelerated vaccination program, we are far ahead of where anyone thought we would be in our war against the virus. Everyone 16 and over is eligible now," says Dr. Anthony Fauci. And vaccinations are our only way to reach some degree of herd immunity and put an end to this pandemic. All the vaccinated people will need booster doses in future and the companies like Moderna have started manufacturing variant-targeting vaccines that incorporate key mutations of the virus so they will be protective against these mutant strains.

Although CDC has relaxed rules on mask wearing for outdoors for fully vaccinated people, they are still necessary in crowded outdoor venues. We all are eager to put the pandemic behind us and resume normal life but we have to keep a close eye on the variants since we don't want another surge from them and undo all the progress so far.

To be continued ...

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





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## INVESTING DURING VOLATILE MARKETS

By SEEMA RAMROOP



Understanding the stock market's unpredictable tendencies is a challenge during the best of times. But what happens when price swings grow abnormally large? It is essential for investors to understand how market volatility affects them and their investments.

### Volatility: Definition and Causes

It is in the stock market's nature to fluctuate sharply during the short term, making volatility inevitable. The market's volatility is measured by its standard deviation, how spread apart the data is from the expectation. Periods when prices fall or rise quickly cause spikes in volatility that take time to revert back to the norm. While driven by a number of factors, uncertainty is a primary culprit.

But what drives uncertainty? Everything from emotional responses from investors to differing opinions from experts. Investors tend to overreact to specific events in the market, causing a contagion-like episode that spreads from one institution to another. The 24-hour news cycle and differing opinions from market experts also complicates matters. Emotional reactions along with oversaturated financial information drive volatility.

### Investment Strategies for Volatile Markets

Investors must understand their personal risk tolerance levels to succeed during volatile times. Remaining disciplined to proven strategies can be effective, but regular audits of your portfolio and adjusting your risk tolerance levels accordingly is also prudent. The investor must determine whether a conservative or aggressive investing strategy is right for them. A conservative approach might call for minor portfolio adjustments while still focusing on the long term. On the other hand, an aggressive risk-taking strategy may focus on capitalizing on the highs and lows of volatile markets. Either way,

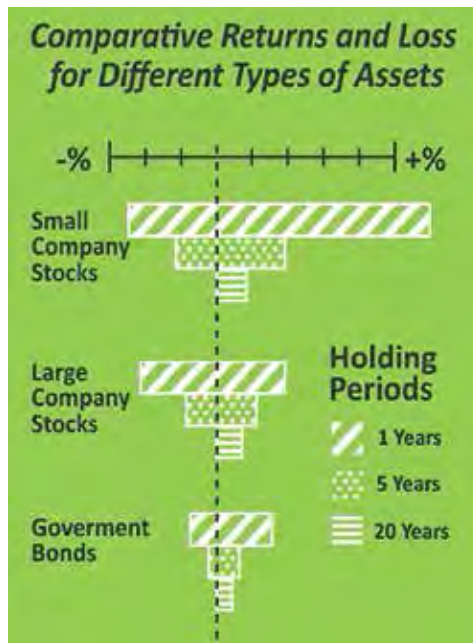


Chart suggests generic volatility behavior and does not represent specific market data. Past market performance does not guarantee future results.

understanding personal risk tolerance and is crucial. Investors who want to take advantage of volatile times may consider the following strategies:

- Dollar-cost averaging involves investing small incremental amounts instead of committing all of the capital at once. This reduces investor risk because total capital is never fully at risk.
- Adjusting stops and targets to reflect a stock's price range can also be an effective strategy. Consider using the Average True Range (ATR) to monitor a stock's average price over time when adjusting your stops and targets. ATR tries to show the commitment of traders. Large or increasing ranges can indicate that traders may continue to bid up or sell down a stock. A decreasing range can suggest waning interest.
- Portfolio rebalancing is the strategy of buying and selling bits of a portfolio to return each asset class to its original proportion. This method also works if the investor's risk tolerance level has changed and the portfolio needs to adjust similarly.

### In Conclusion

It is the stock market's nature to be volatile over the short term. Staying informed, understanding your risk tolerance, and sticking to your long-term goals and planning is usually in your best interest.

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## IN HONOR OF FATHERS!

By KIRAN BAHL



Happy Father's Day! Sunday, June 20, is also the start of summer in Florida (although to many, it's already too hot and sunny!). Between deciding whether masks on or off now, let's also continue our annual tradition and answer our fathers' fashion questions this month, in honor of them.

### MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS ARE ALWAYS MATCHING. CAN FATHERS MATCH WITH THEIR SONS?

And why not? Even better, match the whole family together. Social media especially has cute photos of mothers in their ghararas and other suits matching

with their daughters, young, in their teens and grown alike. Now up the look and match everyone in the family! Matching doesn't have to mean stitching custom outfits from the same exact fabric. Matching can mean all dressing in the same colors. Mom can wear a pink kameez and white salwar, dad can wear a white kurta set with pink dupatta and the kids can wear all pink or all white. The options are many and fun to play with! Even shades of the same color can work beautifully. Mix pistachio and forest greens or sky and navy blues. Together, it's a look that'll seem put together and frame worthy.

### ARE STOLES OR SCARVES STILL IN FOR MEN FOR WEDDINGS?

Yes, they are, but more for kurta sets. There was a phase of wearing one or even two dupattas with sherwanis at weddings. Even bolder, some decided to wear them with their jodhpuri suits (not a good look really). Opt for colorful dupattas for a festive and summery feel. Not wanting to stand out too much? Go for neutral or metallic colors for a more streamlined and safer vibe.

### JEANS WITH KURTAS OK?

They're just that, OK. Definitely no for any occasion that calls for a semi-formal or formal dress code. A maybe for a casual event, preferably a pooja or house party. I have to ask though, why wear heavy denim over the traditional light and airy cotton churidars/salwars? They're so much more breathable and finish off your kurta just right.

### ARE VESTS WITH KURTAS STILL IN STYLE?

No. Let's keep the vests in your wardrobes until next season. Why look political when you can look polished instead?

### MY WIFE ALWAYS TRIES TO MAKE ME WEAR THE SAME BRIGHT COLORS AS SHE DOES TO WEDDINGS. HOW CAN WE MATCH WITHOUT DOING THIS?

It's very sweet your wife loves you and wants to match! But I also understand if you don't want to wear a bright red or orange kurta matching her sequin sari. To still look coordinated but not overly the same, like above, choose a similar shade in the same hue. Choose color though, it's in! If she wears a red sari, choose a baby pink kurta. If she must wear that bright orange lengha, choose a peach kurta. The combo will have you both shine and together.

Once again, Happy Father's Day to all. Fathers are indeed a child's first hero, someone to learn and look up to. Let's spread the love to all the fathers in our lives, who juggle work and family lives as best as possible. And, as always, remember to 'gro' with style!

**Kiran Bahl of Gro Styles, an Indian Boutique ([www.grostyles.com](http://www.grostyles.com)), can be reached at (813) 843-9040 or [kiran@grostyles.com](mailto:kiran@grostyles.com)**

*Continued from page 1*

## CATARACTS? SHOULD YOU WAIT?

Though there are tremendous surgical and technological advances available, insist that your surgeon provides proof of their innovation and results with a long and consistent track record of success. Do also ask the surgeon if he or she can handle a side effect.

Do not fall for a menu card of three choices only. There are more than 30 lens implant options in the USA and over 80 lens options worldwide.

Also, if you have had previous Lasik or Radial Keratotomy surgery in the past, your cataract surgery requires a higher expertise and you must look for a surgeon with experience.

Custom cataract surgery and new Technology Lens Implants (IOLs)

Custom cataract surgery is performed as an outpatient procedure using the "no needles," "no patch" and "no stitch" technique with computer programmed, high-speed ultrasound along with diamond instruments. The cataract is replaced with an artificial lens implant (IOL). Exciting advances in IOL designs give patients the option to choose between a Monofocal, Toric, Multifocal, Bifocal, Trifocal, Extended Depth of Focus and Accommodating, Presbyopia-Correcting IOLs (like progressive glasses) and even new generation lens implant that can be modified after it has been implanted into the eye (light adjustable lens) which provide a range of vision at near and distance. This allow a person to perform most of their daily activities with reduced or no dependence on glasses.

When designing a customized cataract surgery plan, your eye doctor needs to perform a wide range of state-of-the-art diagnostic tests to determine two

major aspects of the plan:

#### I. Surgical Plan:

1. The surgical technique based on cataract densitometry analysis.
2. Incision (entry) site and size based on three-dimensional corneal topography.
3. Calculations for lens implant power, sizing and orientation based on IOL Master V, A-Scan Analysis and Scheimpflug Virtual Imaging.

#### II. Technology Plan:

1. Type of lens implant: Monofocal/Multifocal/Toric/Accommodating/Dual
2. Type of incisional technology: femtosecond lasers
3. Advanced lasik laser vision surgery as staged combination
4. Diamond Astigmatic Keratotomy (AK) incisions.

Additionally, combined knowledge of the technologies as well as the optics of the eye will allow measurement of higher order aberrations along with secondary refractive errors and optical zones with corneal asphericity (factors that affect vision beyond the three common refractive errors, i.e.; nearsighted, farsighted and astigmatism).

So, do not fret about being diagnosed with cataracts. Smile and ask your eye doctor if you can now have the vision always desired to see at all distances and read without glasses – for the rest of your life.

**Arun C. Gulani, M.D., M.S., is director and chief surgeon of Gulani Vision Institute in Jacksonville. He can be reached at [gulanivision@gulani.com](mailto:gulanivision@gulani.com) or visit [www.gulanivision.com](http://www.gulanivision.com)**



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## HYUNDAI SONATA HYBRID CAN GO QUITE THE DISTANCE!

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

After a major redesign last year, the Hyundai Sonata hybrid continues as is for 2021. With a range of over 550 miles on a tank (13.2 gallons), thanks to its gas/hybrid technology, the midsize sedan can safely and surely take you to West Palm Beach and back or even all the way to Atlanta before a fuel stop.

The credit goes to a 2.0-liter GDI 4-cylinder engine that puts out 150 horsepower @ 6000 rpm and 139 pounds-feet of torque @ 5000 rpm. When paired with the 39-watt kW electric motor, the Sonata hybrid peaks at 192 hp. A powerful 56 kW lithium-ion polymer battery pack contributes to improved gas mileage. Another fuel saver is an all-new solar roof, which recharges the battery when the car has been turned off, thereby boosting driving range. And as always, during regenerative braking, the battery is recharged by the captured energy as the driver brakes or slows down. At stops, the gas engine shuts down for fuel savings and zero emissions. Power reaches the front wheels through a flawless 6-speed auto gear box. Keeping the car stable enough to soak bumps is an independent suspension of front MacPherson strut and multilink rear. The motor-driven power rack-and-pinion steering is accurate and steadfast.

The seventh-generation Sonata hybrid conveys a four-door coupe appearance. LED headlamps

and daytime running lights surround the cascading cross-hole grille adorned in a mix of liquid chrome and dark metal

**SONATA HYBRID (LIMITED)**  
**Tires:** 215/55R17  
**Wheelbase:** 111.8 inches  
**Length:** 192.9 inches  
**Height:** 56.9 inches  
**Width:** 73.2 inches  
**Weight:** 3,530 pounds  
**Web site:** [www.hyundaiusa.com](http://www.hyundaiusa.com)

with active air flaps. For the driver's convenience, an analog instrument gauge solely devoted to the hybrid display, portrays charge, eco and battery readings. With 104.4 cubic feet of passenger volume, the cabin is comparable to other passenger sedans. And trunk capacity is 16 cubic feet, beating Toyota Camry volume. Dual a/c, eight-way power driver and four-way front-passenger heated and cooled seats, 60/40 rear seat, leather tilt/telescopic steering wheel with paddle shifters, 12.3-inch LCD instrument cluster and a 10.25-inch touch screen for phone and audio capabilities come at no cost. Dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag, driver knee airbag, four-wheel antilock brakes with electronic brake distribution and brake assist, front/rear parking sensors and crumple zones, electronic stability and traction control, blind-spot, forward and rear cross-traffic collision assists, highway



driving and lane-keep assists, front seatbelt pretensioners, remote keyless entry and tire pressure monitoring system are standard.

Base-priced at \$35,300 (our Limited edition totaled \$36,464), the Sonata hybrid is even more enticing once you factor in EPA fuel estimates of 45 mpg city, 51 highway and 47 combined. The sedan responds with agility irrespective of road/weather conditions, guaranteeing an enjoyable and relaxed ride. And, of course, daring design, an attribute missing in hybrids.

## OVERHAULED SUBARU LEGACY DESERVES A SERIOUS LOOK

For too long, sometimes feeling like eternity, the Subaru Legacy has been pushed by the wayside. It should never have been so because the midsize sedan is nearly as good as the Honda Accord, Nissan Altima, Mazda6, Kia K5 and forth. With a total redesign last year, the Legacy should inspire plenty of interest. After all, the car demonstrates incredible nimbleness, remarkable handling and response. Partial credit, of course, goes to the standard symmetrical all-wheel-drive system that Subaru equips in all its vehicles.

The seventh-generation Legacy is equipped with a 2.4-liter horizontally-opposed, turbo 4-cylinder engine blasting off 260 horsepower @ 5600 rpm and 277 pounds-feet of torque @ 4800 rpm. The continuous variable transmission with 8-speed manual-shift capabilities contributes to a compelling performance while ensuring gas savings.

Ensnared on the unitized body structure is a frameless hexagonal grille and lower air intake with centered Subaru star cluster insignia, flanked by C-shaped LED headlights. Outdoor-loving folks will appreciate the mounting brackets atop the roof to haul a canoe or surf board. A twin cockpit with electroluminescent analog gauge displays for speedometer, tachometer, fuel and coolant temperature give the cabin a rich feel. A huge 11.6-inch tablet-style touch screen to control navigation, audio and phone along with



circular control knobs is easy to use. Drivers of different heights in the family will appreciate the three-spoke tilt/telescopic steering column. Trunk capacity of 15.1 cubic feet matches rival offerings. Other standard comforts are dual auto a/c, 10-way adjustable power driver and eight-way passenger seats, 60/40 fold rear seat, rear-seat a/c outlets, overhead sunglass holder and power moon roof.

Dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag for both rows, driver knee airbag, four-wheel antilock brakes with electronic brake distribution and brake assist, vehicle dynamic control, stability and traction

**LEGACY LIMITED XT**  
**Tires:** 225/50R18  
**Wheelbase:** 108.3 inches  
**Length:** 190.6 inches  
**Height:** 59.1 inches  
**Width:** 72.4 inches  
**Suspension:** MacPherson strut front, double wishbone rear  
**Steering:** rack-and-pinion power assist  
**Fuel capacity:** 18.5 gallons  
**City:** 24 mpg  
**Highway:** 32 mpg  
**Base price:** \$34,445  
**Price as tested:** \$35,370  
**Web site:** [www.subaru.com](http://www.subaru.com)

system, rearview camera, blind-spot detection with lane change assist and rear cross traffic alert, reverse auto brakes, tire pressure monitoring system and daytime running lights come at no extra cost. The standard Eyesight assist monitor, which features lane departure

warning and active cruise control, ensures that the driver maintains a straight path while the DriverFocus distraction mitigation system sounds a warning if its camera and facial recognition software finds tiredness signs or driver diversion. It's about time the redesigned Legacy begins to attract serious attention among sedan buyers. For us in the Tampa Bay area, the standard all-wheel-drive will be practical during the rainy season. Plus, the first-rate cabin and tremendous safety features makes the Legacy a terrific daily ride.

## ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE KIA K5 GT IS AN ENTICING SEDAN

After test driving the K5 EX just a couple months ago, Kia dispatched a sportier version of the midsize sedan, i.e. the GT version. All-wheel-drive system makes the ride an even more appealing proposition to tackle wet or untoward road conditions. Pick sport from the drive modes (normal, smart, custom and snow also offered) and you can have a fun and lively jaunt.

The GT is equipped with a 1.6-liter turbo gas inline-4 cylinder engine developing 180 horsepower @ 5500 rpm and 195 pounds-feet of torque @ 4500 rpm. It is coupled to a seamless 8-speed auto. An independent MacPherson front and a multilink rear suspension handles the bumps of irregular surfaces with little sacrifice. The column-mounted motor driven power steering is perfectly weighted and provides adequate feedback.

Length and wheelbase in all the K5 sedans increase by 2 and 1.8 inches respectively and width rises another inch though height is down by 0.8 inches. Sitting on the steel-unibody based car is a wide and thin silver-metallic radiator grille extending into LED headlights and the hood. Dual chrome exhaust tips and a rear spoiler are clearly visible. The cabin offers such helpful amenities as a 10-way power driver and 6-way manual passenger leatherette seats, 60/40 rear seat, manual tilt/telescopic and



**K5 (GT)**  
**Tires:** 235/45R18  
**Wheelbase:** 112.2 inches  
**Length:** 193.1 inches  
**Width:** 73.2 inches  
**Height:** 56.9 inches  
**Weight:** 3,465 pounds  
**Fuel capacity:** 15.8 gallons  
**City:** 26 mpg  
**Highway:** 34 mpg  
**Base price:** \$29,090  
**Price as tested:** \$31,300  
**Web site:** [www.kiausa.com](http://www.kiausa.com)

flat-bottomed steering column, panoramic sun roof, dual auto a/c with rear vents, push-button start, 4.2-inch LCD instrument display, power windows, door locks and outside mirrors, and an infotainment system with an 8-inch touch screen. Satin chrome accents on the center console garnish, dash pad bezel and air vents convey elegance. Trunk volume is excellent at 16 cubic feet.

Dual front and side airbags, side curtain airbag, driver knee airbag, four-wheel antilock brakes, stability and traction control systems, forward and blind-spot collision avoidance assists, as well as lane-keep and lane-follow assists, rearview

camera, front and rear crumple zones, side-impact door beams, three-point front seatbelts with pretensioners, daytime running lights and tire pressure monitoring system are standard.

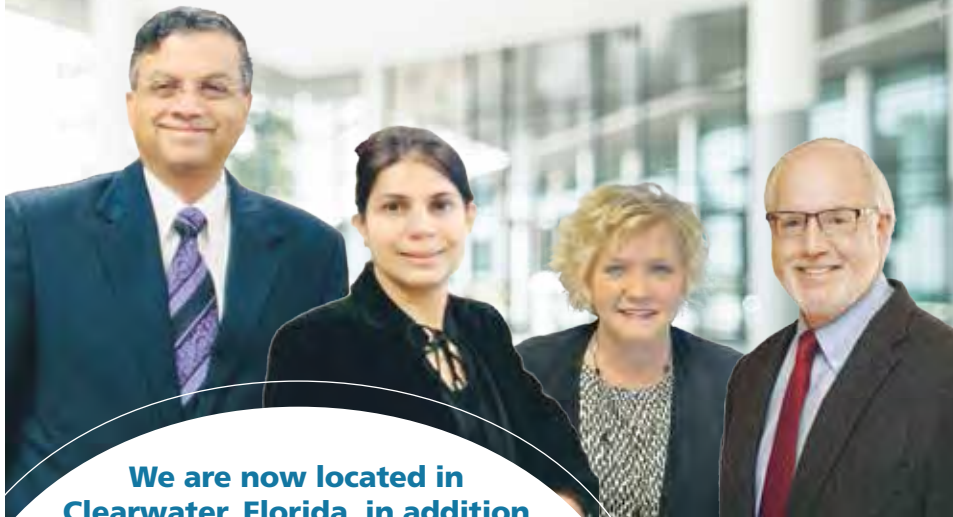
The reasonably-priced K5, like the outgoing Optima, is not your average sedan. A spirited, fun-to-drive attitude, coupled with a muscular stance and all-wheel-drive capabilities, render this Kia a best buy. Indeed, it is a difficult act to beat if you consider the Korean automaker's basic 10-year/100,000-mile limited power train and 5-year/60,000-mile basic warranties.



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**OBSERVATIONS FROM A PARENT ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS SEASON**

By **ROBERT A.G. LEVINE**



As much as I write, and as many webinars as we present, sometimes it is better to hear from others who have gone through the admissions process. This month, we present the observations of Jessica, whose son achieved some great schools ... mostly in the last decisions received in April.

His first admissions offer came from Georgia Tech, but given that they are citizens of Georgia and the student is quite strong academically, everyone was pleased but not necessarily ecstatic. When the dream school – Stanford – rejected his Early Action application, the bubble burst.

Jessica explained her experience to me last week:

“In the beginning, I really didn’t know anything about college admissions except for the names of some schools. I expected it would be very busy and tough for the whole family, and I prepared for fighting and yelling and everything that might happen around it. In January of 11th grade, our high school counselor gave us some advice, just a very brief explanation of the process. After that, she was really busy, and although my son could reach her, we could not. Sometimes, he could only ask her a quick sentence, maybe he’d get five minutes if he was lucky. From school teachers, we didn’t get any support on essays at all.

“I learned a lot from you, our consultant.

Talking with other University Consultants of America (UCA) parents helped a lot too. One of them had just gone through the process with her son, and that was reassuring. With UCA, my son’s Common App essay went pretty smoothly. Putting it into small steps and then putting it all together ... I was very happy with that process. It was so simple!

“Stanford was a very hard application, with a lot of essays. After he submitted Early Action to Stanford, my son took a break. He felt confident he’d just be accepted, so he slowed down dramatically. His thought was ‘Let me get out of this admissions process and I’ll be free!’ That made me really anxious. For a whole month, I asked him about other essays and other schools, but he said ‘I can just follow what I did for Stanford.’ I was panicked!

“Then he got rejected from Stanford, and it was already mid-December. Despite UCA continually telling him to get back to work, when I asked him ‘which essays can you show me?’ he was only partly finished with any of them.

“When it came time for his Cornell essay, I had heard UCA say ‘dig, dig, dig’ but I didn’t understand. Neither did my son. We thought we could find the information from the admissions website. Later, my son showed me what UCA had shown him: how to research in other places. Once he realized how other students had actually gotten into their top schools, what they had done with their research and their essays, and how he could actually talk to Cornell and understand the school, then he could see what was missing

from his essays.

“Then the ‘big’ decisions came in. After being rejected by Northwestern, then wait listed by Wash U, my son acted like he accepted his fate because he already had Georgia Tech. But I could tell he was down. I was not expecting anything, but then Duke said yes and then Cornell did too, just one day apart. When Cornell came, I heard something loud upstairs, then I saw my son go looking for my husband. When we saw the acceptance letter, we all hugged!

“What is my advice to you? Focus on schools that fit your son or daughter. That is most important. For parents: Please just let your kids do whatever they can do. Don’t push them. Let it go. The hardest part for me was being careful how much pressure I put on my son. Sometimes I pushed him, especially after the Stanford rejection, but when I pushed too hard, it didn’t work. I realized a little late that’s not a good way to help him through the season. For students: do your research as early as possible, and dig deeper than you think is possible, go as deep as you can. That’s what works.

“Finally, it was really helpful to have a consultant lead the process! It made the year bearable for our whole family.”

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

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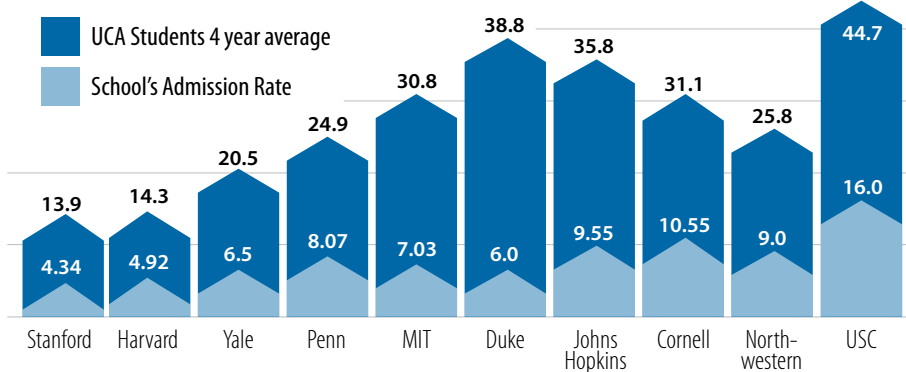
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**JUNE FORECAST**

By PANKAJ KOHLI



**ARIES / Mesha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (March 21-April 20) Mars Sign – Stars covered Ashwini, Bharani, Krittika (1st Part) Ari**

For Arians, sign lord is debilitated. This can lead to weak immunity and health issues. Chances of thyroid, tonsillitis or eye-related issues can crop up. Rift in spousal relations cannot be ruled out. Caution must prevail while driving or dealing with people in authority. Stay away from undue stress and unnecessary thinking. Expenses can be high, especially on home maintenance.

**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)**

Taurians, your sign lord is excellently placed. Recovery of outstanding debt seems possible. Monetary situation, material comforts are possibly increasing, one stands to gain on many fronts. Health-wise, it's a great time for recovery from chronic allergies and illnesses. However, your sign lord is accompanied by a weakened lord. So, don't take anything for granted, things may slip at the last minute. Celebrate successes only once an accomplishment is achieved. Beware of minor afflictions on domestic front.

**GEMINI / Mithuna (Air sign, ruling planet is Mercury) - (May 22-June 21) Mercury Sign - Stars covered Mrigashira (last 2 parts), Ardra & Punarvasu (first 3 parts)**

Your sign lord is in a powerful retrograded motion; however, its placement allows partial benefits. Immunity, health and finance need special attention. One overcomes many obstacles, including winning over tough opposition, arguments, etc. Income equals expenses! Be careful while driving or eating – everything needs moderation, health and well-being must not be compromised at any cost. On health front, intestinal issues or indigestion seem highlighted.

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

Saturn's drishti, along with placement of incapacitated professional lord and lord of income and gains, gives a mixed picture. On one hand, income gains are possible with positives on one's side; on the other, a delay or last minute slip-ups may not be ruled out either. Desire to work and enthusiasm within may wear down due to not getting desired

results as expected. However, one will be a winner if issues, challenges and problems are faced head-on. Do not procrastinate. Professional front requires maximum attention. Mind may remain in a state of confusion, so stay focused. Despite tough times, you will be smiling.

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

Your sign lord is excellently placed; however, it is eclipsed in the first half of the month, making it powerless. Professional front requires maximum attention and care, no misadventure of any sort. Count less on luck and believe more in well-thought and planned action. Stay calm while dealing with situations as they might lead to anger or frustration. Stress could lead to rising blood pressures or ulcers, which is not worth the risk. Manage finances wisely. Health conditions need attention at slightest provocation. Domestic front needs attention too.

**VIRGO / Kanya (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Mercury) (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Mercury Sign – Stars covered Uttara Phalguni (last 3 parts), Hasta, Chitra (first 2 parts)**

Planetary strength and placement is looking optimistic. Expect encouraging results in finances and monetary growth. Insurance claims or even speculative winning are on the cards. One could be pleasantly surprised in romance. Happy domestic conditions prevail – love and be loved. Your finances need to be kept under check. Health conditions require attention. Professionally, this is not a good time for change. However, do not take uncalculated risks; sometimes luck can be elusive too!

**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)**

Financial gains are on the increase. Major planets are well placed bestowing prosperity for those who work hard toward their goals with ample rewards. However, slight disturbance on spousal relations is possible for some. Few expenses cannot be ruled out to settle domestic disputes. Mind will want to conquer and achieve big dreams; however, physically one may feel lethargic to act. This postponement or inactivity may cost dearly. Mantra for success; act immediately upon the first opportunity.

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

Mind may be too weak, easily lured into falling into wrong habits. Beware of injury due to fall or getting hurt. Being irritated and getting anger pangs cannot be ruled out. Some rift likely, creating disturbance in spousal relationship. Dealing with people may not be smooth; arguments may lead to some domestic or office relationship issues. Spend more time with family to reduce stress. Meditation will bring a calm disposition. Hard work will be rewarding in accordance to actions, do not expect to be lucky; you are on your own.

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

Children, their studies and welfare will be your main focus. Piles, prostrate or fistula related problems may be irritating. Finances and monetary situation becomes better. However, health remains main concern. New pious matrimonial alliance is on the cards. One may be destined to benefit from transiting but favorably placed planets. Stay committed; do not lose sight of your objective. Follow your spiritual faith, silent prayers can be more rewarding. Calm mind will help stay focused. One needs to be extremely careful with health-related issues.

**CAPRICORN / Makara (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Saturn) - (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Saturn Sign – Stars covered Uttara Shada (last 3 parts) Shravana, Dhanishta (first 2 parts)**

Professionally, it is a good time for a job change or salary raise or a promotion in current workplace. Spousal relationship, matrimonial or business alliances may not be at their best. Increase in income, low expenses is seen for many. Setback in education, examination cannot be ruled out. Health might not be at its best, so be extra careful, eat, work, feast in moderation. Monetary position will be fine if you are careful with expenses.

**AQUARIUS / Kumbha (Air sign, ruling planet is Saturn) – (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Saturn Sign - Stars covered: Dhanishta (last 2 parts) Satabhisha, Purva Bhadra Pada (1st 3 parts)**

Major transiting planets provide a positive. However, some of them do produce negative results too. Beware of rift in office, especially with junior colleagues. Being irritated and getting anger pangs cannot be ruled out. Some rift can create disturbance in spousal relationship. Dealing with people may not be smooth; arguments may lead to domestic or office relationship issues.

**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**

Urge to drink and smoke should be avoided. Your lucky stars are all except few, which may cause problems with regards to accidents or injuries; be careful in activities. Luck is shining, so make best use of it on domestic, financial and professional front. One is able to sail through problems with ease and emerge as a winner. Domestic happiness is ensured and love is in the air, enjoy every moment. Take care of health-related issues.

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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## INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEUR PAROLE

By DILIP PATEL



On May 10, 2021, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services made an announcement confirming that the International Entrepreneur (IE) program remains a viable program for foreign entrepreneurs to create and develop start-up entities with high growth potential in the United States. The program was first announced in 2017, but in 2018, the Trump administration essentially put a hold on it. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has now withdrawn that hold.

The program is designed help to strengthen and grow our nation's economy through increased capital spending, innovation and job creation.

The IE program grants qualifying foreign nationals temporary permission to enter and remain in the United States for up to five years to grow a start-up business that has potential for rapid growth and job creation. Parole may be granted to up to three entrepreneurs per start-up entity, as well as their spouses and children. Entrepreneurs granted parole are eligible to work only for their start-up business. Their spouses may also apply for employment authorization in the United States.

An applicant would need to show following to be eligible for parole:

- The applicant has recently formed a new entity in the United States that has lawfully done business since its creation and has substantial potential for rapid growth and job creation. An entity may be considered recently formed if it was created within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the filing of the initial parole application.

- The applicant owns at least 10 percent of the entity;
- The applicant has an active and central role in the operations and future growth of the business, and is not a mere investor.
- The entity must have received a capital investment of at least \$250,000 from established U.S. investors or at least \$100,000 in grants or awards from qualifying U.S. federal, state, or local government entities. An applicant who partially meets the above criteria can still be eligible by showing additional compelling evidence of the start-up's substantial potential for rapid growth and job creation.

The initial parole would be for 2.5 years. An additional 2.5 years of parole may be available if the applicant demonstrates that:

- The entity continues to operate;
- The applicant retains at least a five percent ownership interest (reduced from the initial ten percent to allow for additional funding) and continues to play a central role in the business; and
- The business has created at least five full-time jobs for U.S. workers; received at least \$500,000 in qualifying investments, government grants, or awards, or a combination thereof; or generated at least \$500,000 in U.S. revenue and averaged 20 percent annual growth during the initial parole period.

While the parole does not directly lead to a Green Card, it could provide the time needed to pursue other longer term solutions. The IE program can be a useful immigration solution for some entrepreneurs.

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

## SIKH YOUTH OF FLORIDA IN ORLANDO AREA HOLD CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Sikh Youth of Florida, a youth organization supported by Sikh Society of Central Florida (SSCF), 2527 W. State Road 426, Oviedo, hosted a Car Wash Fundraiser on May 2.



"We are grateful for all the encouragement and sentiments of hope received by community members and leaders," said the Sikh Society in a news release. "Your contribution and support of Sikh Society of Central Florida is heartwarming and encourages the organization to keep paying it forward wherever possible. The youth were able to raise funds to put toward the efforts or relieving pressure on Indians in India during the Covid-19 crisis as it worsens."

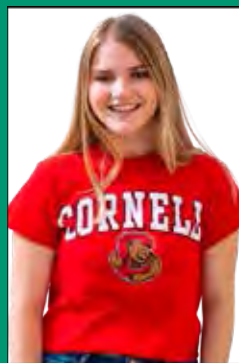
The rise in Covid-19 cases has led to shortages of all supplies; oxygen, medications and vaccines. 100 percent of all proceeds donated are going toward the purchase of PPE, oxygen concentrators, medication and vaccines to improve current conditions.



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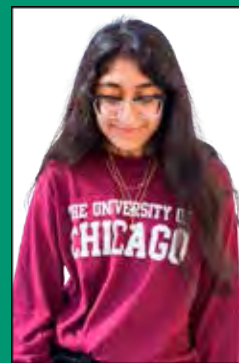
**6 Global Scholars**  
**4 STEAM Scholars**  
**3 NCAA athletic commitments**



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