

KHAASBAAT

A PUBLICATION FOR INDIAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA

MAY 2022

WWW.KHAASBAAT.COM

EDITOR@KHAASBAAT.COM

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PYARE OF LAXMIKANT-PYARELAL DUO TO PERFORM MAY 22 IN TAMPA

MELODIOUS MUSIC OF 70s, 80s, 90s TO COME ALIVE ON STAGE

They provided music for 35 years for "Do Raaste," "Bobby," "Amar Akbar Anthony," "Roti Kapda Aur Makaan," "Ek Dujhe Ke Liye," "Karz," "Satyam Shivam Sundaram," "Shor," "Prem Rog," "Ram Lakhan," "Khalnayak," and endless more gems. The Laxmikant-Pyarelal duo was among the most popular in the Hindi film industry.



Laxmikant Shantaram Patil Kudalkar and Pyarelal Ramprasad Sharma

Though Laxmikant Shantaram Patil Kudalkar passed away in 1998, Pyarelal Ramprasad Sharma will once again take Florida audiences down memory lane with a full-fledged music concert May 22. It will be the only concert in the Sunshine State that will bring alive the melodic magic of the 70s, 80s and 90s.

"Music is the only way that heals us and brings us together, especially in the tough times like this," said Pyarelal, who will be performing in the United States after 25 years, in a recent interview. "I am ecstatic to bring some euphoria and memories to my audience through our music. We would be performing most of the classics for our audience." He will be accompanied by several musicians and singers, including Amit Kumar, Kavita Krishnamurthy, Sudesh Bhosle, Sadhana Sargam, Priyanka Mitra and Mohammed Salamat.

Bollywood actors Zeenat Aman, Padmini Kolhapure and Rati Agnihotri have put the tour together. The concert has been organized by Prria Haider Productions and Splendid Global Entertainment Inc., headed by Prria Haider and Mehboob Haider.

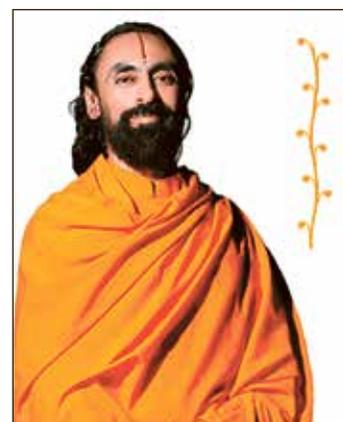
Presented by Krish Patel, the event will be from 6 p.m. at Yuengling Center, 12499 USF Bull Run Drive, Tampa. Tickets start at \$30. For information, call Krish Patel at (407) 454-3334 or visit www.bollywoodeventsfl.com for tickets.

SWAMI MUKUNDANANDA TALK, YOGA & MEDITATION ON 'THE SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS' MAY 31-JUNE 6

Swami Mukundananda will conduct a seven-day Life Transformation Program from May 31 to June 6, at the Hindu Temple of Florida in Tampa. Highlights include energizing yoga, mindful meditation and enthralling discourses, revealing techniques to achieve true happiness, ultimate success and perfect balance in life.

Swami Mukundananda is a distinguished IIT and IIM alumnus, a global spiritual leader specializing in Mind Management, youth icon and a bestselling author of several books. His discourses clarify the deepest concepts of the Vedic scriptures with wit and perfect logic. He is the founder of a unique yogic system, JKYog, also known as Yoga for Body, Mind and Soul.

Over the past three and a half decades, Swamiji has been travelling all over the world, and awakening thousands of seekers. He has conducted Life Transformation and Leadership



Swami Mukundananda

workshops for adults, youth and children. And for the youth, he has conducted programs at prestigious universities like Princeton, Stanford, Kellogg, MIT and Duke.

The program at the Hindu Temple of Florida, 5509 Lynn Road, will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday. Free prasadam will be served afterward. For information, call Bill (727) 432-1020 or Simmy (813) 300-0584; for free registration, visit www.jkyog.org/FL



MOTORING

Go for a spin in the Benz GLE450, Mazda CX-50 and Hyundai Kona electric.

Story, page 12

FAMILY MATTERS

By ANU VARMA PANCHAL

INDEPENDENCE AT ANY AGE

If you haven't been watching "Old Enough!" on Netflix, you're missing out.

See, page 10



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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.

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: NITISH S. RELE, M.A. IN JOURNALISM
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: SHEPHALI J. RELE, M.A. IN JOURNALISM
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: TIM LANCASTER

Khaas Baat, 8312 Windsor Bluff Drive, Tampa, FL 33647
Phone: 813-758-0518 • e-mail: editor@khaasbaat.com

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MAY 1: RAMADAN ENDS

EVENTS

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER



MAY 7: "BLUFFMASTER;" Gujarati comedy play presented by Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay; dinner at 5 p.m. and drama begins at 8 p.m.; India Cultural Center, 5511 Lynn Road, Tampa; 6 p.m.; free for GSTB members, \$30 for non-members; for information, call (813) 494-2700.

MAY 18: ICC SENIORS GET-TOGETHER; India Cultural Center, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; free seminar, lunch and entertainment; no age restriction; for information, text email address along with your name to Bhikhu Nayi at (631) 560-2718 to receive details about seniors gathering every month; or call Mahesh Modha at (813) 476-1540.

MAY 22: LAXMIKANT PYARELAL LIVE IN CONCERT; presented by Krish Patel; along with Zeenat Aman, Padmini Kolhapure, Rati Agnihotri; performers include Kavita Krishnamurthy, Amit Kumar, Sudesh Bhosle, Sadhana Sargam, Mohammed Sultanat and Priyanka Mitra; 6 p.m.; Yuengling Center, 12499 USF Bull Run Drive, Tampa; tickets start at \$30; for information, call Krish at (407) 454-3334 or visit www.bollywoodeventsfl.com for tickets.

MAY 31-JUNE 6: DISCOURSE, MEDITATION, YOGA WITH SWAMI MUKUNDANANDA; 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday; free; mahaprasadam will be served daily; Hindu Temple of Florida, 5509 Lynn Road, Tampa; for information, call Bill at (727) 432-1020 or Simmy at (813) 300-0584; RSVP at www.jkyog.org/FL

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY/KISSIMMEE

MAY 6: "BLUFFMASTER;" Gujarati comedy play presented by Gujarati Society of Central Florida; 6 p.m.; Olympia High School, 4301 S. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando; for tickets and more information, call (407) 864-3090.

MAY 7: HSCF NEW AGE GROUP PICK-NICK; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sanlando Park, 401 W. Highland St., Altamonte Springs; food, fruits, music, games; \$5 for 2022 paid members with prior RSVP to hscfnewagegroup@gmail.com; for information, call Madan Arora at (407) 971-9259.

MAY 7: "EKAL EK SUR;" presented by Ekal Orlando; concert performers are Geetesh Iyer and Garima Khiste; 5 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. program; free; Lyman High School, 865 S. Ronald Reagan Blvd., Longwood; for information, call (407) 864-0011 or visit www.ekal.org

MAY 12: ENTREPRENEURS & PROFESSIONALS

MIXER; presented by Indian American Business Association & Chamber; "Be the Best version of yourself" is the theme; Ace Café Orlando, 100 W. Livingston St., Orlando; 6 to 9 p.m.; complimentary food, beverages; on-site free parking; for information, call (407) 461-2979 or visit <https://www.iabausa.com/w22> to register.

MAY 14: ARIJIT SINGH LIVE IN CONCERT; Addition Financial Arena, 12777 Gemini Blvd. N., Orlando; tickets start at \$50; for information, call (407) 864-3090.

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



MAY 15: ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT; presented by Indian American Chamber of Commerce; Falcon's Fire Golf Club, 3200 Seralago Blvd., Kissimmee; 7 a.m. registration; \$150 for IACC members, \$175 non-members; for information, visit www.iaccorlando.com

MAY 22: GAYATRI YAGNA; organized by Brahmin Samaj of Florida; 9 a.m.; 1221 Chinmaya Way, Casselberry; for information, call (321) 695-4422.

JACKSONVILLE

JUNE 4: "TRIBUTE TO LEGENDS;" presented by Indian Cultural Society of Jacksonville; salute to Lata Mangeshkar and Bhappi Lahiri; time, venue details to come; for updates, visit www.jaxics.org

SOUTH FLORIDA (WESTON/FORT LAUDERDALE/PALM BEACH)

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

MAY 13-15: DEVI YAGYA; Palm Beach Hindu Mandir, 16060 Okeechobee Blvd., Loxahatchee; 6 to 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 9 to noon Saturday; for information, call Roshan at (954) 326-0869.



MAY 15: "TRADITION;" presented by Association of Performing Arts of India (APAI); performers are Dr S. Ramakrishnan, Kavitha Jayaraman, Madhu Chandrasekar; Rosemary Larsen Auditorium at ArtServe, 1350 E. Sunrise

Bld., Fort Lauderdale; 4 to 6 p.m.; \$25 tickets online or \$30 at door; to buy tickets or for information, visit www.apaiart.com

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

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

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



Khaas Baat

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MONTHLY EVENTS

- SUNDAY, MAY 1** (4:00 PM to 6:00 PM)
 - MA BHUCHAR ANANAD NO GARBO
- TUESDAY, MAY 3** (7:00 PM to 8:00 PM)
 - AKSHAY TRITIYA LAXMI PUJA / HAVAN
 - SHRI PARSHURAM JANMOSTSAV PUJA
- SATURDAY, MAY 7** (5:30 PM to 8:00 PM)
 - MATA KI CHOWKI
- THURSDAY, MAY 12** (6:30 PM to 8:00 PM)
 - EKADASHI PUJA
 - THURSDAY BHAJAN
- SATURDAY, MAY 14** (6:00 PM to 8:00 PM)
 - SHRI JAGANNATH JI BAHJAN
 - NEW RATH YATRA JAGNNATH JI MURTI DARSHAN
 - (Sponsorships Available, Visit Puja Booking on Website)
- SUNDAY, MAY 15** (5:00 PM to 7:00 PM)
 - GROUP SATYANARAYAN KATHA & BHAJAN
- SATURDAY, MAY 28** (6:00 PM to 7:30 PM)
 - SHRI JAGNNATH BHAJAN
- SUNDAY, MAY 29** (6:00 PM to 7:00 PM)
 - SHANI JAYANTI SHANI HAVAN

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

IMPORTANT

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



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CANCER: WHAT IS THE ANSWER - PART VI STRATEGIES FOR COPING AFTER DIAGNOSIS

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



What goes through a person’s mind when he/ she is told that “Your test results came back and the diagnosis is cancer?” First, it would be a sense of disbelief, followed by extreme depression, anxiety and sometimes even shock, right? Your world is turned upside down and often there is a sense of hopelessness. “What is going to happen to me? How long will I live? Am I ever going to be normal again?” are some of the questions you want answers for. Yes, these possibilities can be paralyzing, but relax, the diagnosis of ‘cancer’ is not a death sentence anymore; however, there is work to do.

First and foremost is to come up with some coping strategies. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Don’t panic: In this day and age, there are lots of new treatments in our armamentarium, no matter how extensive the disease is. Many cancers can be cured when detected early and many others can be kept under control. Just like heart disease or autoimmune diseases, cancer is also becoming a chronic disease that you can live with. Jimmy Carter, our past president, was treated for metastatic melanoma, which had spread to his liver and brain, but with proper treatment, he successfully fought the disease and today he is 95 years old!

2. Get a second opinion: Whenever I diagnose a serious disease or can only offer a complicated treatment, I always tell the patient, “You’re welcome to get a second opinion.” The patient will feel more comfortable with the diagnosis and treatment, if the second opinion concurs with the initial diagnosis and treatment plan. Ideally, you should go to one of the respected cancer centers. When my friend’s wife was diagnosed with intestinal cancer, he took her straight to Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York for a second opinion.

3. Discuss with your doctor: Ask for more details about the cancer – how extensive is the lesion, how bad is the prognosis, can it be cured, what is the treatment plan and explore all your options with the cancer specialist (oncologist). Remember, it’s your body and you need to learn everything about the new enemy.

4. Assemble your healthcare team: Try to go to a cancer care center that can put together a team of doctors, nurses and social workers

who will take care of all your needs – physical, emotional and mental well being. You may need physical, occupational and psychological therapy. If you feel weak, the nurses and social workers can come to your house to administer therapies or help with management plans.

5. Take a friend with you for doctor’s appointments: Sometimes, you may not be able to grasp or retain what the doctor discussed. Doctors feel that “patients hear what they like to hear and tend to forget the unpleasant aspects of their illness or difficult-to-follow instructions.” Often, after a session of chemotherapy, hormone therapy or radiation, you may feel weak and unable to drive home; so, you need the help of somebody who can oversee your necessities.

6. Join a cancer support group: Most towns have a support group comprised of cancer patients. It’s always comforting to know that you’re not alone in this difficult journey. The group meets at regular intervals and discusses issues that are common to patients and how each one is handling his/her problems. And you can learn from the experience of others. However, if you want to keep your diagnosis private or discuss with only family and friends, that’s okay too. There are also private Facebook groups that you can join and discuss your personal problems without publicizing it.

7. Embracing Spirituality: A detailed analysis performed by the American Cancer Society’s Study of Cancer Survivors found that “Spirituality was an independent predictor of a better quality of life and emotional well-being. Also, faith contributed a significant amount to the cancer survivors’ functional quality of life, with nearly 70 percent of participants reporting that religion and spirituality helped them through their cancer experience.” A spiritual support group can play a major role in the patients’ treatment journey through cancer. It will give them the strength, motivation and inspiration while undergoing cancer therapy. Ultimately, you have to learn how to live your life without fear, confront all the obstacles and know you can overcome them. But always be vigilant as to any new symptoms or evidence of spread of the disease.

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



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MAY FORECAST

By PANKAJ KOHLI



ARIES / Mesha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (March 21-April 20) Mars Sign – Stars covered Ashwini, Bharani, Kritika (1st Part) Self-effort of past will pay now; money growth from unexpected sources is seen. Chance of addiction to smoking and drinking may grow, be careful. Growth in career, positive job changes, promotions are predicted in future. Spend money on family; this is time to enjoy every moment with them. Domestic happiness, material comforts and worldly pleasures are for you to enjoy. Expect good news. People are happy being in your company. Stay away from overindulgence in any activity.

TAURUS / Vrushabha (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Venus) - (April 21-May 21) Venus Sign - Stars covered Kritika (last 3 parts), Rohini, Mrigashira (first 2 parts) Gains from sales of land, houses, automobiles are possible! You will enjoy complete success in commercial ventures. All your material and monetary plans can meet with success; complete pending projects. Some may suffer from rheumatism, cold or stomach ailments (hyperacidity, intestinal and digestion problems). Business partnerships, alliances may flourish.

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) Every minute is precious, convert every opportunity into success. Marriage and business alliances are seen, some may turn successful. Positional strength of planets blesses success in job, speculation, business and overall professional setup. Unexpected positive developments are seen in business and domestic setup. Professional elevation improves monetary conditions too.

CANCER / Karaka (Watery sign, ruling planet is Moon) - (June 22-July 22) Moon Sign – Stars covered Punarvasu (4th part), Pushya, Aslesha Control speech and anger; it might lead to troubles in domestic affairs. Be wise with spending money, in fact monetary conditions become better for some. Think and evaluate decision before buying house or automobile, losses possible. Watch teenage children, they may need emotional counseling and correct advice. Do not plan to change your job, it might prove negative. Also pass on taking hasty or emotional decisions. Take care with regards to personal and financial matters.

LEO / Simha (Fire sign, ruling planet is Sun) - (July 23-Aug. 22) Sun Sign – Stars covered Magha, Purva Phalguni, and Uttara Phalguni (1st part) Do not take chances with your marital life. Hasty decisions may cost dearly. Monetary gains continue. Job change is not recommended. Business partnership and marriage alliances must be postponed. Hurdles and obstacles slow down process of recovery. Your sign lord Sun only blesses luck after mid-month, after which expect unexpected positive results. Excellent time period for professional and financial growth, though rewards may come later than expected.

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) Domestic arguments may cause disturbance. Monetary conditions are not favorable either. Job change is not recommended. Business partnership and marriage alliances must be postponed. Few may suffer from liver complaints, anemia, piles or diabetes. Do not change job yet, it may not be a good decision. Undue expenses on house, automobiles and electrical appliances are seen, so postpone such activities. Saturn and Rahu in 2nd house may cause family and financial problems. Health may be an issue.

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) Domestic problems and hardships are seen due to your liberal viewpoints, which may not be well-taken by many. Wealth and economic conditions are not the best, expenses are higher than income. Chance of obstacles is high. Avoid association with unknown people, it may create complications. Current time period requires one to lie low. Eye-related problems may occur.

SCORPIO / Vruschika (Water sign, ruling planet is Mars) - (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Mars Sign – Stars covered Vishakha (4th part), Anuradha, Jyestha Money may be invested wrongly, resulting in losses. Business partnerships or marriage alliances require careful analysis. Careful investments may result in long-term savings and profits. Work hard on domestic front; be sympathetic toward younger siblings. On professional front, no job changes. Confine to your own affairs, time to reflect on your career, relationship and marriage. Currently, one may feel isolated and left out.

SAGITTARIUS / Dhanush (Fire sign, ruling planet is Jupiter) - (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Jupiter Sign – Stars covered Moola, Purva Shada, Uttara Shada (first part) Great time ahead, with all money matters and finance, one may have more disposable income than expenses. Career changes for better placement are observed. Go full speed on the professional front, success is seen for many. Jupiter gives resources to meet expenses. Overall, it continues to be a highly beneficial month. Health, especially liver problems, is seen for some, take precautions!

CAPRICORN / Makara (Earthen sign, ruling planet is Saturn) - (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Saturn Sign – Stars covered Uttara Shada (last 3 parts) Shravana, Dhanistha (first 2 parts) It is a highly beneficial month; success is seen at every step. Rich gains and negative currents are removed. Professional development and elevation in job front is possible. Professionally, one may gain much in regard to money and promotion. This is a great time for professional growth. Health part is manageable. Rich gains can be expected. Plenty opportunities come your way.

AQUARIUS / Kumbha (Air sign, ruling planet is Saturn) – (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Saturn Sign - Stars covered: Dhanistha (last 2 parts) Satabhisha, Purva Bhadra Pada (1st 3 parts) Trouble with thyroid may be high for some. Domestic tensions and savings go low; tonal language may make many enemies. Better time starts from middle of month; positive news with regard to home and landed property is seen; also, new contacts will be fruitful. Your sign lord is powerful and ensures good health and overall riches long-term. Good luck and happy circumstances will prevail. Overall professional and personal growth is seen.

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 Victorious attitude, pride, ambition, leadership traits are being displayed in attitude. You are self-motivated and self-inspired; do not let your spirits down. Your attitude will help boost you and your family. Domestic happiness, material comforts and all worldly pleasures are for you to enjoy. Expect good news. People are happy in your company. Current transitory position of planets may bring success in most endeavors. It is a highly positive month in every respect.

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

IMMIGRATION STATUS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE I-94

By DILIP PATEL



For our article this month, we discuss the I-94 because it is the most important document in determining immigration status of a foreign citizen who does not have a Green Card. We share below a client advisory prepared by the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

When you enter the United States, you are inspected by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent. After approving your admission to the United States, the border inspector does two things:

1. Stamps your passport with an admission date, expiration date, and the class of admission (such as B-2 for tourist, WT for ESTA, or H-1B for H-1B worker).

2. Enters your admission record into CBP's database.

Always check your passport to ensure you know when the period of admission ends (the expiration date of your status) before leaving the port of entry. The best time to catch and fix a mistake is at that moment.

Passport Expiration

Expiration dates are different for different visa categories, but there is one rule that governs all admissions: The government will never give you a period of admission beyond the expiration of your passport. If your passport will expire soon, make sure you pay attention to when your admission period expires, because it may be shorter than you expect.

How to Confirm the Date Your Status Expires

CBP used to staple a paper I-94 into a traveler's passport. This no longer happens. Now, travelers can access their admission records online at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov> This will list your I-94 admission number, visa classification, and the date your status expires. You can also access your travel history on the CBP website.

Changing or Extending Your Status in the United States

People often can extend their stay in the United States or change the class of admission. This is done by USCIS. When USCIS extends a stay or changes a class of admission, USCIS issues a new I-94 that replaces the one issued by CBP. The new I-94 is usually a detachable portion in the lower right-hand side of the I-797A Approval Notice. The new I-94 now controls the period

of admission.

USCIS will issue a new I-94 when approving a change of status or an extension of status. However, this information is not updated on CBP's I-94 website. It is essential, therefore, that you keep a copy of any USCIS approval notice. Immigration attorneys and government agencies will need this information to help you.

What If There Is a Mistake in the Admission Record?

The sooner an error is found, the easier it is to fix. To fix a misstep, you must go to the right agency, prove why it was a mistake, and ask for the admission record to be corrected. This is not as clear-cut or as easy as it should be. If you have any fears or concerns about trying to correct a mistake, you should contact your immigration attorney. An immigration attorney can help fix a governmental oversight.

If the border inspector makes a mistake in your admission record, you will need to visit a local CBP Deferred Inspection Site to have the admission corrected. A list of Deferred Inspection Sites can be found on CBP's website, <https://www.cbp.gov>, under the "Ports" link at the bottom of the page.

If USCIS makes a mistake in your admission record when extending or changing your status, you need to contact USCIS. This usually requires filing an application or petition with USCIS.

What to Do If the Mistake Is Discovered after the Admission Period Ends?

Fixing a mistake before the admission period ends is always best. Sometimes, the expiration date has already passed before the mistake is discovered. If you discover that the I-94 has already expired, do not panic.

Contact your immigration attorney first. The attorney can evaluate whether it is possible to fix the mistake in the United States or whether you will have to leave the United States and apply for a new visa. You will have to explain why the mistake was not discovered before the I-94 expired. The attorney will help you create a plan to manage and resolve the problem. Sometimes, it is possible to fix a mistake in the United States, depending on the situation. Sometimes, the only way to fix the problem is to leave the United States. The attorney can help you make the best plan for your situation.

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

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ADMISSIONS IS LIKE DATING

By ROBERT LEVINE



I say it all the time: “Admissions is much more like dating than you imagine.”

Whether for an expensive boarding school, a college, a transfer application or a graduate school, admissions is about convincing someone to select you, and human beings are the decision makers. Yes, indicators such as grades, test scores, championships and other objective mileposts can prove a candidate’s qualifications, but that’s only part of the equation. Subjective information – provided by essays, recommendation letters and interviews – is also part of the equation, and in the final analysis, it is the subjective response of the admissions reader that usually “wins.”

Why?

From a statistical perspective, when a set of objective data is evaluated, the grading usually results in a bell curve: a few leaders at the front, a few stragglers at the back, and a big bunch in the “middle 50” of the population. However, when the information is subjective, the result is reversed, a bimodal distribution that is basically all-or-nothing. People either love you, or they don’t care about you enough.

Admissions officers may tell you about their processes, their institutional priorities, their evaluative methodologies and other things that define what they do, but in the end, nobody can deny human nature. The concept is sometimes called “reader love.” When reading essays, an admissions officer feels a very positive emotional connection, or they don’t. If they do fall in love with you, then everything you submit will be upgraded with a subtle, positive bump. If not....

Obviously, this is a general rule. The greater quantity of subjective pieces in an application, the greater the emotional impact on your final grade. But please understand: this is NOT randomness, and it’s not blind luck. It may be subjective, but human nature is predictable and can be influenced by the quality of work an applicant submits.

As educational consultants, our job is to coach our clients to recognize what’s really going on and influence the decision makers towards your most positive results. With that in mind, allow me to explain the four most critical attributes of great writing (indeed, any great communication):

First, provide the right message. “Personal Statement” means something different for U.S. colleges, U.K. universities, and graduate schools. A

“why” essay is different than a personal statement (which is why some schools ask you to submit both). To communicate an idea successfully, you must know what they’re looking for. Be sure to send the right message based upon what they’re asking (not what you feel like telling them).

Second, use the right structure. While directions for building a bookshelf should be clear and chronological, a novel should be organized differently. A research paper using the scientific method is not haiku or a limerick. An 800-word essay will have a different structure than a 100-word essay. How you organize a writing should be based upon its content, its length, and most importantly, the reader’s experience. It’s not about what you write; it’s about what they absorb.

Third, “detail wins.” Visualization – the ability of a reader (or listener) to see what you’re saying in their mind’s eye – helps them understand and embrace what you’re communicating. If you want them to see something, you have to give them something, and the only things that are “things” are called nouns. Adding the “who, what, where and when” helps a reader grab their own visions from within their memories. There’s a big difference between “I bought her candy” and “I bought her Skittles and Kit Kats.” Especially when they’re tired or skimming, if they can visualize your story, it’s easier to understand your communication.

Fourth, retain your genuine voice. Not grammar. Not style. Not perfect punctuation. Voice! They are selecting a human being, not an essay. The unwritten-but-unwavering rule of admissions is “be real.” Try not to be sloppy, but don’t worry about a lack of eloquence. In fact, as a matter of psychology, people tend to prefer imperfections over perfection. Do not over-refine or over-polish. That’s not only lifeless, but also the red flag of ghost writing or helicoptering. As one Dean of Admissions explained to me: “Don’t do it all right. Just do it all you. I’m going to be intrigued by an interesting person who probably is not perfect. In fact, I’d be very skeptical of the perfect applicant. I’ve never met that person.”

People love you despite your imperfections (and sometimes because of them). In highly selective admissions – as in life – it’s all about the love.

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

INDEPENDENCE AT ANY AGE

BY ANU VARMA PANCHAL



I’ve found my new binge watch. It’s not an intense crime series, epic period piece or clever comedy. But it’s made me panic, gasp, marvel, cheer and laugh more than any of the above. Because what could be cuter or more uplifting than an unscripted reality show about adorable toddlers doing errands on their own?

If you haven’t been watching “Old Enough!” on Netflix, you’re missing out.

The Japanese reality show has been a Nippon Television regular since 1991, but only came stateside this year when Netflix picked it up. Each short episode (10-20 minutes) features toddlers or preschoolers running errands by themselves.

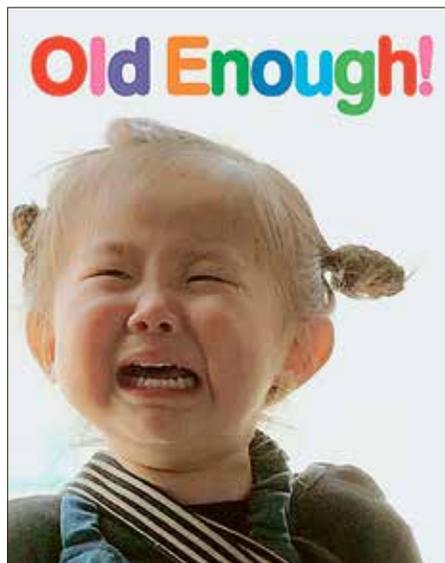
In one episode, two 3-year-old friends must buy dumplings from a shop and then climb to an uphill temple to procure an amulet. A toddler’s assignment is to deliver her father’s apron to him at work and pick up her mother’s watch from a repair shop, while another little boy must run home and make juice to bring back to his parents in the fields.

The babies are not really alone, of course. Camera crew follow them, and an encouraging and heartwarming set of neighbors and storekeepers are in the know. But the errands are real.

Watching these little children bravely walk blocks away out of their parents’ sight, remember their instructions, cross busy streets, engage with strangers, hand over money, collect change and bring back their items ... for a mother who never even let her kids walk the couple of blocks home alone throughout elementary school, it was nail-biting tension.

Sota, a 4-year-old boy, was sent to a fishmonger and a store to buy apples. When his apples kept falling out of his bag and rolling downhill, I worried he’d either burst into tears or get run over by traffic chasing them. Though clearly upset, not only did he persevere and labor up the steep path home, but when he arrived, also presented his mother with a crushed dandelion that he had plucked for her. My heart exploded.

My favorite was the toddler who absentmindedly walked past the clock shop from where she was supposed to pick up her mother’s watch. When she reached home and realized she had not completed her errand, she



burst into tears. Her mother tried cheering her up with ice cream, but she refused. Instead, she went back to finish the task and return triumphantly with the watch – and then enjoyed her ice cream.

The show is delightful, but also eye-opening. Responsibility can be assumed at any age; even these little ones knew enough to be proud of their contribution to their families.

It may be just a reality show, but for me, this ode to independence came at the right time. Because this is the year my daughter began to drive on her own.

Remember that first nerve-wracking drive home from the hospital with a newborn carefully strapped into the car seat? For me, the world took on a sheen of menace that day. Every speed bump, orange light and dark intersection presented a threat to this new little person for whom our heart now beat. But that tension doesn’t compare to the nervousness I feel 17 years later now

that that baby is in the driver’s seat, adjusting the rear-view mirror and loading her Spotify playlist.

The day she got her license, she insisted on driving to her piano lesson by herself. Of course, I wanted to follow her in my car, but she wouldn’t let me. Unlike those calm and trusting reality show parents, I am terrified at the notion of my child being out there. It seemed to me that the minute she got her license, the roads began to overflow with careless, sleepy, distractedly-texting drivers.

Letting go might be my least favorite parental act, but it’s a necessary one. After all, nearly 30 years ago, my parents let me get on a plane and come to the United States as an international student. We didn’t know a single person in the city I was heading to, and this was when communication consisted of hand-written letters and Sprint phone cards. Now that I am a parent, I understand what a scary thing that must have been for them to do, and I am grateful for their bravery that allowed me to grow.

So, if they could do that, and if Japanese 3-year-olds can go and shop for dinner on their own—who knows? One of these days I might even let my daughter drive on I-4 without surreptitiously following her. Until then I’m going to need some help easing off from my helicopter instincts, so I’ll turn to the most adorable teachers I’ve seen: the tiny toddlers of “Old Enough!”

Anu Varma Panchal is a mother of two and owner of www.YourEditingSolutions.com

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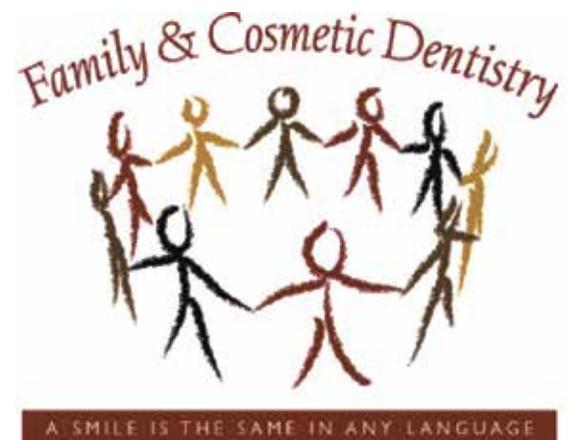
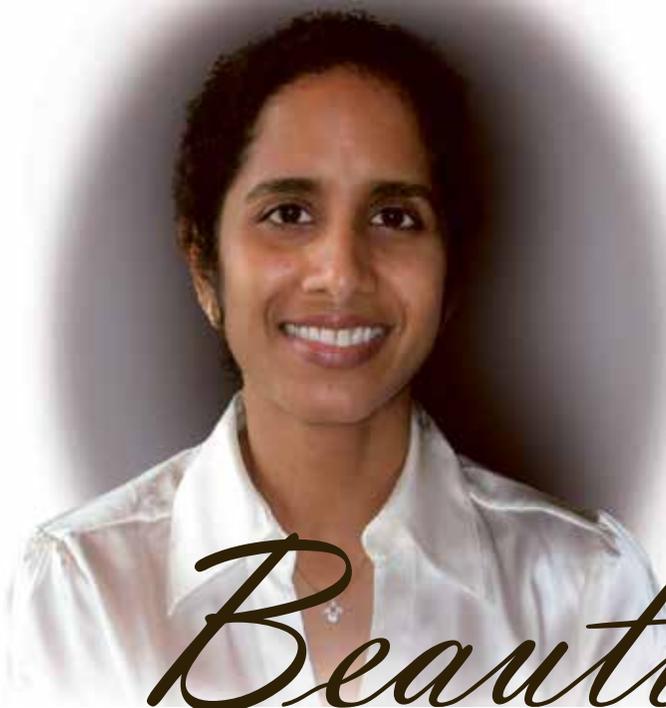
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BENZ GLE450 SUV IS IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN!

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

Some may recall the M Class. That was pre-2015. Thereafter, Mercedes-Benz retitled the popular midsize luxury GLE fitting it between the smaller GLC and the bigger GLS. Regardless of the nomenclature, the 2022 Benz GLE450 is a wonderful blend of power and sophistication that offers spice and entertainment both on and off-road.

Under the hood of the five-seater 4Matic (all-wheel drive) SUV is ensconced a 3.0-liter inline-6 turbo engine putting out 369 horsepower @ 6100 rpm and 369 pounds-feet of torque @ 4000 rpm. It integrates an EQ starter-generator (located between engine and transmission) to save fuel as well as enhance torque. Essentially, what would be called a hybrid electric motor at work too. This is no speedster but 0 to 60 in 5.5 seconds and top speed of 130 mph is no small feat! Power reaches all four wheels via a meaty, crispy and accurate 9-speed auto gearbox. The independent double-wishbone front and multilink rear suspension with coil springs works well to absorb unpleasant bumps and sudden turns on the road. Handling and steering feel were good overall, thanks to the electro-mechanical rack-and-pinion. Tow capacity for the steel unibody structure is commendable at 7,700 pounds.

Up front, the face is instantly recognizable as a Benz, highlighted by a two-slot diamond

BENZ GLE450
Tires: 275/45ZR21 front,
 315/40ZR21 rear
Wheelbase: 117.9 inches
Length: 194.3 inches
Height: 70.7 inches
Width: 84.9 inches
Weight: 4,991 pounds
Fuel capacity: 22.5 gallons
City: 20 mpg
Highway: 25 mpg
Base price: \$63,500
Price as tested: \$81,405
Web site: www.mbusa.com



black AMG grille (optional) with the familiar three-pointed star emblem. Power domes on the bulging hood meet up with horizontal LED headlights to convey an attractive stance. Space is ample in both rows and the dashboard and center console is complemented by alluring wood and lush weather to give the SUV a classy ambiance. A touchpad controls the audio, nav and phone infotainment on the massive 12.3-inch screen, also similar in size to the digital instrument cluster. A personal infotainment system, or the all-new MBUX (Mercedes-Benz User Experience), works through voice, touch and

even hand gestures (just say, Hey Mercedes!). It can't get any more intuitive and personal for new Benz owners! Other creature comforts include dual auto a/c, power/tilt slide moon roof, 10-way power front heated seats, 40/20/40 fold rear seat and copious aluminum accents. Packed with tech- and infotain-laden features, the GLE450 delivers performance and style that's matchless for the money. You will be hard-pressed to find a midsize luxury SUV that will pay heed to your command (Hey Mercedes!) as you experience the exceptional ride.

KONA ELECTRIC A BEST BUY AS GAS PRICES SURGE

Tesla 3, meet Kona electric. The Hyundai subcompact crossover can go up to 258 miles on a full charge, thanks to the 64-kWh lithium-ion battery pack. And unlike the Tesla 3, which starts at nearly \$47,000, the front-wheel-drive Kona e is base-priced at just \$34,000 with the Limited edition at \$44,500.

A 150kW permanent-magnet synchronous motor puts out 201 horsepower @3600 rpm and 291 pounds-feet of torque. That is plenty for the car to take off instantly while assuring the driver a smooth, quiet and graceful ride. The single-speed direct transmission is flawless with eco, comfort and sport modes available. A recalibrated MacPerson strut front and multilink rear suspension does an outstanding job of leveling bumps and potholes while the motor-driven power steering is communicative with quick turn-in. Also, additional sound-damping materials hold wind/road noise, vibration and harshness to a minimum.

Some may find the front port/flap a bit awkward but it is definitely convenient when you pull into a charge station or your garage to connect cables for more juice. On a 240-volt, it will take between 9 to 10 hours while a fast DC charge can load up 80 percent in just 55



minutes. Otherwise, the front look is bold and stylish with LED headlights and slimmer daytime running lights, plus active lower grille shutters. With length up by 1.6 inches and rear legroom increase of 0.6 inches, there is plentiful space for those usually tall passengers. Our Limited test version came with standard 10.25 screens for infotainment as well as digital instrument cluster of speedometer, power gauge, charge level, digital and trip odometers. The push-button gear selector may be tricky but with time should be easy to operate. We especially liked

KONA ELECTRIC (LIMITED)

Tires: 215/55R17
Wheelbase: 102.4 inches
Length: 165.6 inches
Width: 70.9 inches
Height: 61.2 inches
Weight: 3,836 pounds
MPGe: 132 city, 108 highway, 120 combined
Web site: www.hyundaiusa.com

the high-mounted center console with easy access to lower storage space. Other standard amenities include power tilt/slide moon roof, eight-way power driver and six-way adjustable front-passenger seats (cooled and heated), auto a/c, 60/40 rear seat and a three-spoke leather tilt/telescopic steering column. As gas prices continue to hover near \$4 a gallon, going fully electric makes even more sense than ever before. And the Kona electric appears to be a viable and right choice not just for affordability and performance but also plentiful tech and comfort features. Lest we forget, Hyundai offers assuring warranties such as five-year, 60,000-mile basic and 10-year, 100,000-mile battery and power train warranties.

OUTDOOR AFICIONADOS, ALL-NEW MAZDA CX-50 HAS ARRIVED!

Nestled against the backdrop of the Santa Ynez Mountains sits the American Riviera, i.e., the gorgeous Mediterranean-style coastal city of Santa Barbara. It is no wonder that Mazda picked this California seaside wonder, known for spotless beaches, sprawling ocean views, world-class wineries, enchanting gardens, breathtaking landscapes and sights, and demanding but varied terrain, to test the all-new CX-50. Built at the new Mazda Toyota Manufacturing plant in Alabama, the compact SUV with standard and enhanced all-wheel drive is purpose-built for the active and outdoor lifestyle. It may convey a square and rugged silhouette but also boasts a sporty image. Lower, wider and longer than the CX-5, the 2023 CX-50 with sport, off-road and tow modes delivers a confident, fun-to-drive feel, especially if you are going off the beaten track.

The CX-50 also shares power trains and transmission with its smaller sibling. A 2.5-liter 6-cylinder naturally aspirated engine puts out 187 horsepower @ 6500 rpm and 186 pounds-feet of torque @ 4000 rpm; the 2.5-liter turbo

blasts off 256 hp @ 5000 rpm and 320 pounds-feet of torque @ 2500 rpm. Both are mated to a 6-speed auto gearbox. The ride is equipped with the direct-injection Skyactiv, which uses a torque boost via a high compression ratio to raise fuel economy. And the G-Vectoring Control uses engine timing for more accurate turn inputs.

We cruised on the California highways in the CX-50 before tackling the rigors of a planned off-road track made up of steep slopes and sharp downhill. The off-road mode provided plenty of punch and control to hold the CX-50 in check and on course! Mazda also provided us a U-Haul truck for a couple miles. Thanks to the



CX-50 (S)

Tires: 225/65/R17
Wheelbase: 110.8 inches
Length: 185.8 inches
Weight: 3,706 pounds
Suspension: MacPherson strut front, torsion beam rear
Steering: power rack and pinion
Fuel capacity: 15.8 gallons
City: 24 mpg
Highway: 30 mpg
Web site: www.mazdausa.com

tow mode, which can pull up to 3,000 pounds, it proved to be an effortless task.

Base-priced at \$26,800 (and topping at over \$41,000 (with hybrid and electrified trims to follow), the CX-50 shows promise amid the crowded compact crossover field of three million annual sales. With peppy performance, athletic stance, top-notch interior and superior off-road prowess, it will surely make a major dent into the crammed market.



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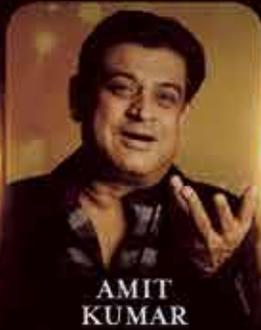
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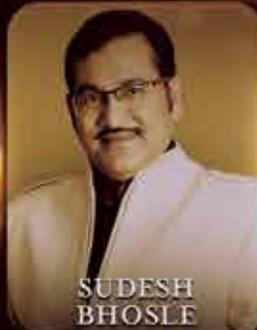
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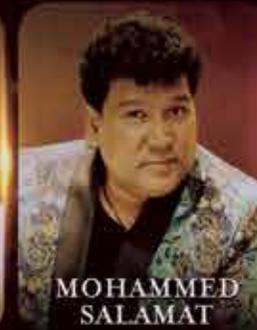
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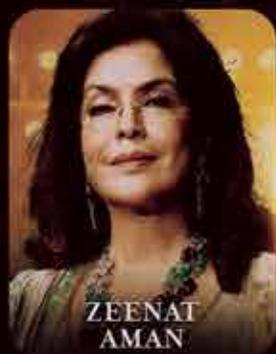


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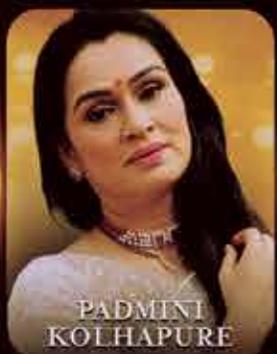


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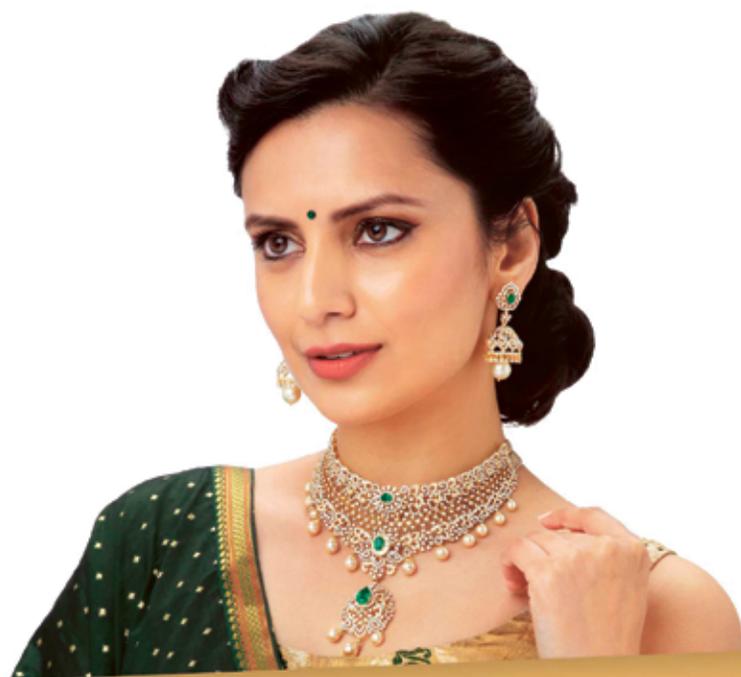
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