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• June 2017

AWARD-WINNING HISTORICAL BIOPIC 'THE BLACK PRINCE'



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Priyanka Chopra shuts up trolls, gives it back to haters in style with more legs



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Half Girlfriend film is confused, cliched and disappointing



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## Lord Nrsimhadeva Appearance day celebrations

As the whole world is pondering how to protect innocent citizens from their own greedy, arrogant and unqualified leaders, the Vedic Theatre Ensemble (VTE), the folk theatre troupe of the Hare Krsna center in Chandler, Arizona, presented their annual Nrsimha Lila. In this pastime, Lord Krsna appears as a half man / half lion who expertly defeats one of the most powerful yogi kings ever to trample this earth, Hiranyakashipu. By the practice of mystic yoga and severe austerities for many decades offered to Lord Brahma, this demon became powerful enough to bring the planets out of orbit and frighten the demigods who worshiped Lord Visnu.

While the spiritually bereft presidents of today struggle just to control



their senses and animal urges, Hiranyakasipu fought to propagate his own brand of dictatorship meant to destroy the brahminical class who taught self control, tolerance and truthfulness; and the noble ksatriyas who offered charity, and protect-

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## SUDHARSHANA HOMAM AND BALAJI KALYANAM Are DONE At EKTAMANDIR



7 MAY, 2017

Srivari Kalyanotsavam in Tirupathi is performed to the Utsva Murti-Lord Sri Malayappa swami (instead of the

main deity) and his consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi. A purohit conducts the marriage and an archaka is consecrated to perform other • More on Page 14

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## Are you addicted to the Internet? Withdrawal may increase heart rate, BP finds study

Just as a drug addict may face withdrawal symptoms, people who use the internet a lot may experience significant physiological changes such as increased heart rate and blood pressure when they go offline, scientists have found.

"We have known for some time that people who are over-dependent on digital devices report feelings of anxiety when they are stopped from

using them, but now we can see that these psychological effects are accompanied by actual physiological changes," said study lead Phil Reed, professor at Swansea University in Britain.

The study involved 144 participants, aged 18 to 33 years, having their heart rate and blood pressure measured before and after a brief internet session. Their anxiety and self-reported internet-addiction were also assessed.

The results showed increases in physiological arousal on terminating the internet session for those with problematically-high internet usage. There was an average 3 to 4% increase in heart rate and blood pressure, and in some cases double that figure, immediately on termination of internet use, compared to before using it, for those with digital-behaviour problems, according to the study published in the journal, PLOS ONE.

Although this increase is not enough to be life-threatening, such changes can be associated with feelings of anxiety, and with alterations to the hormonal system that can reduce immune responses.



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# AWARD-WINNING HISTORICAL BIOPIC 'THE BLACK PRINCE' DEBUTS IT'S HUGELY ANTICIPATED TRAILER AT THE 70TH ANNUAL CANNES FILM FESTIVAL – AND IT DOESN'T DISAPPOINT!

The annual Cannes Film Festival played host to the official unveiling of the eagerly awaited trailer of Brillstein Entertainment Partner's (Academy Award winning film 12 Years A Slave) latest biopic 'THE BLACK PRINCE'. Media from around the globe descended upon the India Pavilion to catch a glimpse of the award winning movie, directed by Hollywood filmmaker Kavi Raz, as it prepares to take the big screen by storm when it releases worldwide on 21st July 2017.

Journalists and photographers sat in awe as the trailer powerfully encapsulated the enthralling tale of the Last King of Punjab, Maharajah Duleep Singh and the constant battle he faced to regain his identity, faith and essentially the Kingdom taken from his grasp by the British.

Unveiling the trailer was the multi-gifted sufi singer, composer and songwriter, Satinder Sartaaj, who makes his eagerly anticipated acting debut in and as The Black Prince. For his role, Satinder Sartaaj has already been awarded the 'Best Newcomer' Award at the London Independent Film Festival and the 'Best Debut' Award at the Accolade Global Film Competition held in San Diego, California. He was joined by one of the core team members of the production team Asa Singh Dhaliwal.

The event was hosted by Natasha Mudhar of Sterling Media, the company handling the international PR and Marketing for The Black Prince. Satinder Sartaaj and Asa Singh Dhaliwal addressed the international media in attendance speaking about their experience and drive to bring the story of the life and legacy of the last King of Punjab to the silver screen. Expressing the passion behind the production, Asa Singh Dhaliwal said: "The story of The Black Prince was something which had to be told but was never told. Therefore we wanted to show the world at least now, about one of the forgotten giants from India who truly shaped the independence movement from outside of India".

He also mentioned how the international release would be supported by English, Hindi and Punjabi versions of the film, to help bring the story to millions of people across the world, regardless of ethnicity and locality.

In the run up to the trailer launch, Natasha Mudhar had asked Satinder Sartaaj his views on the Kohinoor controversy and whether it was gifted

## Shabana Azmi as Maharani Jindan & Satinder Sartaaj as Maharajah Duleep Singh

or indeed stolen from the young Prince. Sartaaj commented: "Was it a



gift or was it a theft is the question we all had. In the movie, there is a particular scene where The Black Prince looks at Queen Victoria with the Kohinoor on her. She quickly fires back saying it is a gift repeatedly in a defensive manner. We left it at that and it is for the audience to judge."

In the music fraternity, Satinder Sartaaj has carved a niche for himself as one of the most captivating Sufi folk singers of our generation, enthralling audiences through his words and lyrics, and promises to do the same on the screen in his leading role as Maharajah Duleep Singh. When Natasha asked Satinder Sartaaj about how he made the transition from musician to actor, he said: "Music is a universal language and that is probably one of the main reasons why I have been accepted by audiences in every corner of the world. It touches one's soul when they listen to it. But for making this transition into acting, I was initially reluctant when the director approached me for the role. They wanted someone who understood and connected with the land of Punjab for the role, and since I was delivering that though my music, they felt I was the most suitable for the role...and our producer Jasjeet Singh who has conducted a lot of research in the film and written several books on the Maharajah's life, mentioned I had a very uncanny resemblance and de-



meanour to Maharajah Duleep Singh.

So I took some acting classes to improve my expressions and dialogue delivery and everything in between. I hope I deliver to the audiences' expectation and support me as an actor as much as they have supported me as a musician."

The Black Prince will feature four songs by Satinder Sartaaj to carry the story forward. Natasha requested he deliver an impromptu performance of one of his popular Punjabi Sufi songs which will be featured in the film - Darda'n Wala Des. While Satinder Sartaaj acknowledged that the non Asian press at the event might not be able to understand the meaning of the song, they would indeed feel the emotion, leading to an encore performance.

Satinder Sartaaj, who has also immersed himself in the life of the Maharajah, mentioned interesting anecdotes to the audience in attendance. In fact, The Black Prince and Queen Victoria often met in the shores of the south of France, quite close to Cannes. "To come to Cannes for the film festival is indeed special" said Mr Sartaaj.

Speaking about the trailer launch at the 70th Cannes Film Festival, Jasjeet Singh, Executive Producer of

The Black Prince said: "We were honoured to have the opportunity to unveil our trailer at the most prestigious film festival in the world and introduce the untold story of Maharajah Duleep Singh to the international media. We are delighted with the response we are receiving from the audience and look forward to our release this July. Our journey would not have been complete without the support of our production team especially our director Kavi Raz, Vikrant Chopra, Natalia O'Connors, Linda Haysman, Jason Ash and Sandra O'Brian."

Having been deprived of his throne by those closest to him, The Black Prince spotlights Queen Victoria's cordial relationship with Maharajah Duleep Singh, as he begins adjusting and embracing the English culture he was drawn to at the age of 15. The film also sheds light into his upbringing as an aristocrat in the UK and his subsequent conversion to Christianity under the influence of his foster parents. The Prince's world is turned upside-down when he begins to long for a return to his Kingdom, mother and roots. His character, as it evolves, is torn between two contrasting cultures – his royal ancestry from the Kingdom of Punjab as its last King, set against his upbringing in the UK as he embarks in a new journey of exile, away from his mother.

The Black Prince comprises an ensemble of leading stars. Satinder Sartaaj is joined by acting stalwarts including Jason Flemyng (Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, Snatch) as Dr. Login, the foster parent for the Maharajah, English stage, screen actress Amanda Root (The Iron Lady), who portrays the bold role of Queen Victoria; and veteran actress Shabana Azmi (City of Joy) as Rani Jindan, the exiled King's mother. The film also features Keith Duffy, David Essex OBE, Canadian actor Rup Magon in supporting roles.

The trailer at the Cannes Film Festival has only further added to the exhilaration surrounding the official release of the film come July - with media and film fanatics from around the world feverish to see more. The Black Prince is a great ambassador for continuously thriving relationship between the UK and India – which incidentally celebrates its 70th year this term.

The trailer had already garnered over 1 Million views within just a few hours of its launch at the festival.





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## Expectations...

Expectations are an interesting thing, doomed if you have them and doomed if you don't and they can speak volumes for the status of your relationships – personal, professional, intimate, friendships, family, etc. If you have no expectations of someone, that is a clear indication that you have no relationship with them fitting any of those categories because the only place one expects something is where they feel like they have a right to and the only thing that can give you a right is a relationship. Then, there is the opposite scenario – having expectations where you think you have a right i.e. relationship and having the other party fall short. Well, that speaks volumes as well. Because here you had a perception of the level of your relationship and the other party's shortcoming in meeting those spoke volumes about your status in their life.

And then you hear the old-age, well if you had just communicated your expectations, all would have turned out all right. Now, that is truly an interesting ask – an ask that is necessary in some environments and not in others. I fully expect to have to communicate my expectations in my professional life – to my employees, my management, my clients, my peers. Why, you ask? Well, I do what I do for a living for a price and I get compensated for it and it is in my best interest to ensure that I am doing well in the work that I am being compensated for and as part of that work, communication and expectation setting is necessary.

However, the rules change in your personal life. I am not being paid to be your friend, your relative, your child, your parent, your sibling, and so on. I am doing it because we share a relationship and that relationship has been long enough where you know me well enough to know what will make me happy and what will make me sad. Now, the rules

The most awaited festival in the month of June-July is Rath Yatra or Car Festival this year its falling on 25th June, Sunday. This is one of the most awaited Hindu festivals of the state as well as the country. The celebration of this day starts much earlier that comprises the construction and decoration of the Raths or Chariot by numerous devotees & volunteers.

The Festival celebrates Lord Krishna's return to Vrindaban and is held annually in the months of June-July to honor Lord Jagannatha. Millions of people from around the



**Editor's NOTE**

may be a little different in new relationships like making new friends or just being married into a family but it is just a matter of time until you figure out what makes the person happy or not. Now, in these personal scenarios, you willingly choose to care about the person and their feelings, not because you have to or because you are being paid for it but because you want to – because that relationship matters to you. And how much you do or don't do speaks volumes to how much that relationship

matters to you. There may be a small grace period where your unwillingness to respect the other party's wishes and desires may be attributed to sheer ignorance and forgiven but rest assured, over time that will fade and all actions or inactions will be attributed to a lack of care. And in those situations, for the other party to come back to say well if you would have just said you wanted this or did not want this, we would have made it happen will not be good enough. At the end of the day, life is short and the less complicated you keep it, the better. If I have been blessed with the presence of those where I don't need to pour my heart out to be happy, I am going to gravitate towards them. Work, obligations, and other stresses of life take so much out of you that if I have a little bit of time left to relax, I want to do it around those where I don't have to constantly explain myself and I am grateful for so many of those relationships that life has blessed me with and thankful for them as well.]

This summer, relax and surround yourself with those where you can just be you – no explanations, no hurt feelings, no let down expectations, no sadness. Life is too short to surround yourself with anything otherwise. Wishing our readers a great summer season and vacations! Thank you for your continued support!

-Deepa Kaur Walia

**Editor, Asia Today, editor@asiatodayz.com**



**Marketing Director NOTE**

world descend upon of Jagannath Puri (India) to celebrate this unbelievable festival.

Usually the deities of Lord Jagannath, Balarama and Subhadra are worshipped within the temple, but on the day of the Rath Yatra festival they are taken through the streets so that everyone can have the fortune of seeing them. Richly decorated chariots, resembling temple structures, are pulled through the streets of Jagannath Puri.

The Festival of Chariots was first performed outside of India on July 9, 1967 in San Francisco. If you're a devotee of Lord Krishna living abroad, but cannot go to India for some reasons, simply take a flight to San Francisco! Well, of course, you won't savor the same taste as you do in India, but the Chariot festival at San Francisco is simply one of the best held in world. The whole program is organized by ISKON with the help of devotee and volunteers.

don't worry if you can't go to San Francisco you can still be part of Jagannath Rath yath here in there are temples who organize the Festival you will be amazed to see the colorful wooden chariot, decorated with flowers, applique works, will be pulled by devotees, amidst traditional band, trumpets, drums, Mridanga and Ghanta. The whole city was echoed with. Have a joyous Ratha Yatra celebration with one and all! May Lord Jagannath shower his blessings on you and all your loved ones.

-Manju Walia

**Marketing Director Asia Today,**  
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# Yoga

## Path to self realization

man-manabhava mad-bhaktomad-yaji mam na-  
maskuru  
mamevaisyasyuktvaivamatmanam mat-parayanah  
(Bhagavad Gita 09.34)

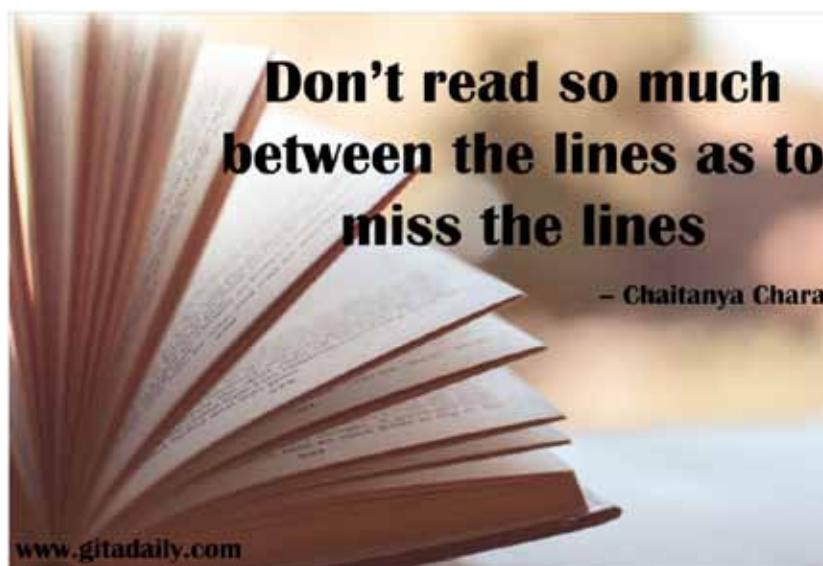


**Translation:** Engage your mind always in thinking of Me, become My devotee, offer obeisances to Me and worship Me. Being completely absorbed in Me, surely you will come to Me.

### Reflection by Chaitanya Charan

Charan: Erudite Gita commentators throughout history have unpacked its wisdom-filled verses in multiple ways. By examining the context, tone, word usage and similar details, they reveal the many levels and layers of meanings in its verses.

Yet all such reading between the lines follows a cardinal principle: the deeper meanings supplement or complement or contextualize the text's direct meaning – never reject it. Rejection of the direct reading comprises violence to the text, for the inter-



– Chaitanya Charan

preter's voice silences and supersedes the author's voice.

Rejection of the direct reading comprises violence to the text, for the interpreter's voice silences and supersedes the author's voice.

Such unscrupulous usurping of authorial authority is evident in the commentary of an (in)famous modern commentator to the Gita verse (09.34). In the whole Gita, this verse is one of the clearest calls for committed devotion to a Personal Absolute Truth. It uses the first person pronoun mam and its variants six times, thereby leaving no ambiguity about the object of devotion.

Yet this commentator claims that the intended object is not Krishna, but some unborn Absolute within him.

Does the context justify such a depersonalized reading?

Not at all. The text is preceded and succeeded by sections that emphasize the ultimacy of the Personal Absolute Truth (09.24; 10.08). Moreover, the verse's call is reiterated in the conclusion of the Gita (18.65), which uses again six first person pronouns and seventy percent identical words.

When the text features self-evident lucidity that is confirmed by its context, an indirect reading that contradicts the direct reading comprises not reading between the lines, but replacing the lines. This kind of reading is a product of the interpreter's brain, not the author's brain. It won't connect us better with the author; instead, it will impede a budding connection or even impair an existing connection.

To go close to the Gita, it's best to keep such commentaries far away.

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Namaste everyone. The nature of Yoga is to shine the light of AWARENESS into the darkest corners of the society. Let's all try to capture this light, illuminate our life and also pass on this to our society where flowers of love and compassion can bloom. This month we will be focusing on one popular asana of the Pawanmuktasana series. Pawanmuktasana signifies three aspects which are pavana meaning air, wind or the vital breath, mukta meaning free and asana meaning the posture; thus this is a yoga series through which the stagnant air of the body joints is expelled.

In the Sanskrit language pada means 'foot' and hasta refers to the 'hand'. Pada Sanchalanasana is an Indian translation for Cycling Pose. This asana is good for hip and knee joints. Moreover it tones the muscles excreting or freeing away pavana.

### Steps for Pada Sanchalanasana:

#### Stage 1:

- Lie in the base position.
- Raise the right leg.
- Bend the knee and bring the thigh to the chest.
- Raise and straighten the leg completely. Then, lower the straight leg in a forward movement.
- Bend the knee and bring it back to the chest to complete the cycling movement.



### Pada Sanchalanasana (cycling)

- Heel should not touch the floor during the movement.
- Repeat 10 times in a forward direction and then 10 times in reverse.
- Then repeat with the left leg.

#### Breathing:

- Inhale while straightening the leg.
- Exhale while bending the knee and bringing the thigh to the chest.

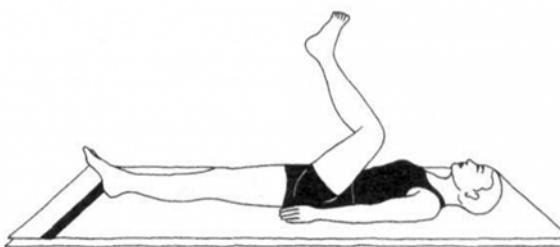
#### Stage 2:

- Raise both legs.
- Practice alternate cycling movements as though peddling a bicycle.
- Practice 10 times forward and then 10 times backward.

**Breathing:** Breathe normally throughout.

#### Stage 3:

- Raise both legs and keep them together throughout the practice.
- Bring the knees as close as possible to the chest on the backward movement and straighten the legs fully on the forward movement.



- Slowly lower the legs together, keeping the knees straight, until the legs are just above the floor. Then bend the knees and bring them back to the chest.

- Practise 3 to 5 forward cycling movements and the same in reverse.
- Do not strain.

#### Breathing:

- Inhale while straightening the legs.
- Exhale while bending the legs to the chest.

**Awareness:** On the breath, mental counting of each round, and on smoothness of the movement and proper coordination, especially while reverse cycling. When relaxing, be aware of the abdomen, hip, thighs and lower back.

#### Benefits:

- This asana is very Good for hip and knee joints.
- It strengthens abdominal and lower back muscles.
- It tones up the thigh muscle.
- This asana can also be targeted to bump off extra fat around the waist area.

• Moderates the hip elasticity among those women who has just delivered a baby.

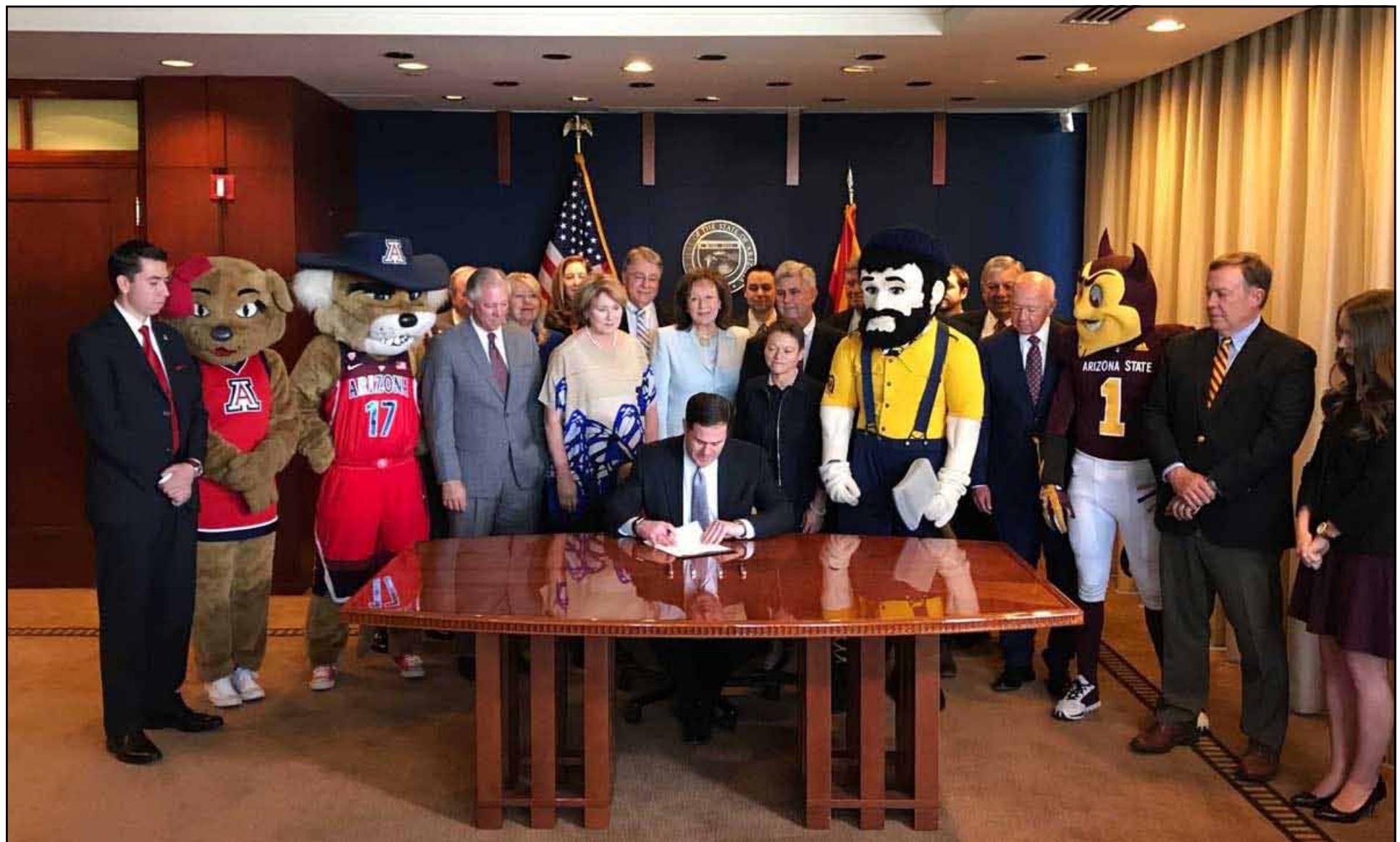
• Strengthens the digestive system and also helps in indigestion, constipation, acidity or excess wind or gas.

**Contraindications:** People suffering from following should avoid doing this asana

- High blood pressure.
- Heart problems.
- Hernia.
- Appendicitis.
- Abdominal surgery.
- Menstruation.
- 2nd or 3rd trimester of pregnancy.

**Practice note:** Keep the rest of the body, including the head, flat on the floor throughout the practice. After completing each stage remain in the base position and relax until the respiration returns to normal. If cramping is experienced in the abdominal muscles inhale deeply, gently pushing out the abdomen, and then relax the whole body with exhalation. Do not strain; this applies especially to stage 3.

# Governor Ducey Signs \$1 Billion Bonding Plan For Higher Education



**May 22, 2017**

PHOENIX — With the presidents of Arizona's three public universities, members of the Arizona Board of Regents, and House and Senate legislators in attendance, Governor Doug Ducey today signed a landmark \$1 billion investment plan supporting Arizona higher education.

The legislation enables approximately \$1 billion in new investments to be directed toward research and development infrastructure at Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University, and represents the fulfillment of one of the governor's top priorities this session.

"Today will be remembered as one that paved the way for decades of breakthroughs at our universities; one that opened the door for Arizona students to receive the highest-caliber university experience; and one that makes Arizona second to none in support of higher education," said Governor Ducey. "I thank our universities, Board of Regents, legislators, members of the business and education communities, and students and citizens across the state who came together to make this bipartisan legislation

possible. By investing in higher education and our students, we are investing in our future."

"On behalf of the Arizona Board of Regents, I applaud Gov. Doug Ducey and legislators for their visionary action and commitment to the long-term funding of Arizona's public universities," said Eileen Klein, president of the Arizona Board of Regents.

"This infrastructure plan will benefit Arizona and its students for decades to come. We look forward to continue working together to advance education for all Arizonans."

"With the signing of this legislation, Governor Ducey is ushering in a new wave of support for higher education," said Arizona State University President Michael Crow.

"The resulting development from this investment will enable us to continue offering students a premier education experience while advancing ASU's status as a world-class research university. I thank Governor Ducey and members of the legislature for their bold support of higher education."

"On behalf of the University of Arizona, I thank Governor Ducey and the legislature for making this historic investment in the future of

our state," said University of Arizona President Ann Weaver Hart. "This crucial investment will allow the UA to make repairs and renovations that have been deferred for years and avert millions of dollars in accumulating disrepair. It will also support the development of research infrastructure needed to secure Arizona's competitive advantage in a global economy. This is an incredibly important moment of partnership, and I am grateful for what it will make possible for the UA and Arizona."

"This landmark investment gives us the long-term ability to provide Arizona's university students the necessary facilities and resources to pursue their degrees and enter Arizona's workforce," said Northern Arizona University President Rita Cheng. "Our deep gratitude goes to Governor Ducey and every member of the Arizona Legislature for their dedication to our students and the future of our state."

House Bill 2547 appropriates \$27 million in ongoing investments for universities that will enable approximately \$1 billion in bonding—all without raising taxes. The legislation also includes cost reporting requirements for new projects to ensure accountability and oversight.

## Lord Nrsimhadeva Appearance day celebrations

ed sacrifices and Vedic study.

Luckily, this demonic king had a son who was one of the greatest Vaishnava devotees in history, PrahladaMaharaj. Little Prahlada, who received his spiritual training from one of the first sons of Lord Brahma, Narada Muni, tried valiantly to infuse some intelligence into his stubborn father with no luck. But, when Prahlada preached to his teachers and classmates of the eternal benefit of devotional service to Lord Krsna, his father tried to kill him with starvation, poisoning, trampling by elephants and even by hurling him off a mountain.

Like a true leader, Prahlada taught us to always trust the Lord and do the right thing regardless of what we imagine may happen in the future. Though born in a demonic family, this young boy went on to become one of the greatest devotees and benevolent kings of this earth, proving that a noble birth is not always necessary.

This year Lord Nrsimhadeva was played by ThrimoorthyPrabhu and PrahladaMaharaj was expertly and passionately played by his daughter Divya. Lord Brahma was portrayed by Arpan Tailor and Hiranyakashipu by Deva deva.

The Vedic Theatre Ensemble regularly presents the Lord's pastimes as given in the sacred Vedas as



well as modern works based upon this same wisdom. Please check our website ([iskconphoenix.com](http://iskconphoenix.com)) and join us some Sunday and also benefit from the darshan of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha-Madhava Hari and Bhagavatprasada (free vegetarian feast).

The performing arts were ultimately created for the pleasure and glorification of the Lord. In this way, the actors and the audience become content and secure in their devotion to Lord Krsna. Don't miss out on this golden opportunity.



# IACRF Seniors celebrates Mother's Day & Lunch out Party!

Report by Dr. Prakash Kotecha  
and Ramu Ramakesavan

IACRF Senior Group is fast becoming one of the most popular gathering place for Indo-Americans. The attendance which used to be around 50s a few months ago is hitting 80s and 100s. The members are absolutely delighted to bring their guests from around the country and overseas to the gathering, who invariably go back thrilled about our get-together. One of the guest couple even donated to sponsor a future lunch! Our once a month Bhajan at the Ekta Mandir and Anthakshari led by Srikanthbai is going strong. The card table and TT table are always busy. With the onset of the summer months, several seniors are moving to cooler states.

## Memorable events

It was red table cloth day for three weeks in a row!

At the end of April, we celebrated the 55th wedding anniversary of the long standing and friendly member couple, Krishna and Prem Lahoti. Our talented singers entertained the couple and the audience with lovely songs. We had to hustle Krishna out of the busy kitchen when Prem started serenading her! Then the happy couple danced as others sang. Food was in abundance with Halwa, Cake and Ice-cream for dessert.

The second week was Mother's Day celebration! The event was attended by over 100 members and their guests. Vinodbai had hot tea, biscuits



and pendas ready for us as we arrived. Ramani Reddy and her friends generously sponsored more than a hundred large red roses that were distributed to all the women and the guests. The musical event organized for the day started with a prayer to Ganesha by Meenaben. After a couple more prayers, Srikanthbai took over and sang the ever popular, "Mai nahi makhen khayo..." capturing the essence of Mother's day followed by a shloka for Mother Saraswati. Finally, it was party time with Tariq Khan entertaining the crowd with popular oldies. A large crowd, particularly the women, danced away to the melodious voice of Mr. Khan. The program ended with felicitation of Champaben for her long contribution to the senior group and honoring two senior most women members: Ambaben ( Shanta-

ben's mother and Lalitbai's MIL) who is over 90 and Kusumben's mother who is in the late 80s. We also felicitated our center's manager Alma on that day, whose team does a wonderful job every week. Champaben sponsored the delicious lunch as she had done so for the past several Mother's days. The highlight of the lunch were kachoris, puris and amras.

The third week's lunch was sponsored by Prabha and Venkat Mukku in memory of Praba's father, Palani Venkat Reddy, who passed away last year. Their son Dr. Bharat eulogized his grandfather and Venkat sang a song in his tribute. They served a South Indian lunch with idli, vada, sambar and chutney along with other rice items. It was supplemented by pies by Manjuben to celebrate her grandson's graduation.

The last week of the month, we had lunch out at Sweet Tomatoes. Meena Bhavsar was in charge of organizing the event. She had prepared snacks for everyone around 10-30 AM. There were about 45 people who decided to go to Sweet Tomatoes out of 48 registered. The manager had setup a one long chain of tables and reserved several adjacent booths. Thanks to Meena Bhavsar for organizing the event. The guests moved among tables and socialized with others too. Some liked it so much that they wanted to do it more often!

## Member News:

Dr. Narendra and Alka Shah (from Mussori), Purshottam Khanna (from New York) and Mr. and Mrs. Kalra became our new members. Rajan Masalia renewed his membership.

Usha and Suraj Gautam returned from their China trip! Ni-hau Gautams! Chandrika and Jaswant Patel returned after a long time and chatted about foreign trips.

Ranga Saragan, who had a kidney transplant, and Sharadbaibai who had a knee replacement are recovering well. Ramu spent several nights at Ranga's house to relieve his family.

-----  
*Senior Group meets every Monday and Thursday, 10:00AM to 3:00PM at the Indo-American Community Center located at 2809 W. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017, for information please contact Mahendra Devgania Tel: 602-708-0733.*



# INDIAN SENIORS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA (ISAA) - LA PRINCESA



On May 02, 2017, the guests were treated with beautiful Shahnai by Bismillahkhan. The meet and greet has been really a popular activity as the arriving guests join the rest. Laugh-in exercises are way back in their minds. The video clips program included- Om BhurBhuva, Sambho Shankar, Bollywood dance by a young lady with only one leg, Humorous Shayari, Lord Krishna's bhajan by a team of Muslim artists, Live Happily (attached), Amazing prowess of two young athletically built young men, Fusion contemporary medley of Kathak and Bharat Natyam, an inspiring song from NayaDaur. The delicious luncheon today was cosponsored by the Lingamneni and the Reddy families. Over seventy members and guest enjoyed it.

On May 09, 2017, the day started with light music while people enjoyed their meet & greet part. Several video clips were presented – just to name a few; Amazing act by a lady, short humor by a poet, short lecture by an intelligent Muslim, fight against Parkinson, history of Indian rupee, beautiful white peacock. A thirty-minute movie - "Mumbai-Varanasi Express" was also shown. It was an emotional and educational film. On the occasion of Vinayakkaka & Kailashben's 70th wedding anniversary a special PPT presentation on them was prepared and shared. Cake-cutting ceremony followed in the presence of niece and daughter-in-law. ISAA wished the couple a happy and



healthy future. Also, ISAA presented a picture memento. Thanks to Neelaben Desai who made the egg-less cake. The luncheon today was sponsored by the Pandya family.

On May 16, 2017, the hall was beautifully decorated to the occasion. Many ISAA members and friends put in their efforts. The atmosphere was set to heartwarming Flute by Hariprasadji Chaurashiya while socializing. A beautiful program was orchestrated that was dedicated to all mothers. This included powerful message by Shannon Joshi, chanting of famous poem by Jitubhai & Harshadbhai, tribute to all mothers-Love you Maa, and breathtaking emotional song by NehaKakkar- " tu kitani achhi hai" that teared almost everyone in the audience. This followed by Pallavi, Kinal, Rupa, Nirali, Shailee, Kalpa, Leena, who performed an outstanding dance item, which was so good, that the attendees who requested an encore. These esteemed pretty girls lead the seniors into classical garba and bhangra dances. All

participants had a lot of fun. All well-dressed beautiful ladies were recognized with red roses, coffee mugs, packages of mixed nuts, elegant pens as token love for all the ladies present. Cookies were also a generous donation by Sai Groceries for the love of the seniors. ISAA extended a warm welcome to all the guests who participated in the day filled of fun. Leena Patel did an excellent job of setting up a photo station which was busy for some time. Mother's Day cake cutting ceremony was performed by Kokilaben. Another surprise cake cutting was for Nirali and Jitubhai's birthdays. The mouth-watering delicious feast was sponsored by mother and daughter- Kokilaben & Nirali.

On May 23, 2017, it was indeed a hot with the high 106 degrees for the day. But the light breeze kept all those who ventured to be at the park cool. It was a cozy and enjoyable day. There was no picnic walk nor any games played in the sun. But the day was certainly filled with lots of gup-sup, giggle

1. Picnic Sponsors Rekhaben & Jitubhai Gosalia Stars of the Mothers Day celebrations! 2. ISAA remembered Nirali & Jitubhai's birthdays whilst celebrating the Mothers Day 3. Stars of the Mothers Day celebrations at ISAA 4. Proud and Happy moms showing off their recognition mementos 5. ISAA honored fifty-eight mothers on the Mothers Day 6. ISAA celebrated Vinayakkaka and Kailshben's 75th Anniversary 7. ISAA celebrated Jaganbhaiya & Umaben's 50th Anniversary

and laughter. It was FUN with open heart loud laughs, songs and jokes. Thanks to participants- Rekhaben, Manjuben, Shantadeviben, Rameshbhai, Shreekanthbhai, Rajniben, Narayanbhai and Jitubhai. A big "Thank You" to Rekhaben & Jitubhai Gosalia for their sponsoring the picnic. Food Committee did an outstanding job of spoiling all of us present by serving fresh corn chivdo with green chutney, home-made nankhatai like assorted short-cake biscuits, hot Desi chai. Manubhai Godiwala had brought in spicy mamra mix too. All this for the morning snacks. The lunch included yummy Chhole Bhature with yogurt, and mungdal halwa. Manjuben added to this treat with home-made mithai which was in honor of her grandson's graduation ceremony.



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Namaskar, and Sat Sri Akal to all my readers.

Along time ago there was one girl named Shama. She grew up with her grandmother because her mother passed away when she was very young.

Her grandmother was a devotee of Krishna. When she had a chance she visited the village Krishna temple with her granddaughter Shama. She offered milk to the statue of Krishna. When she offered the milk she closed her eyes and started to talk to the statue. Oh my Lord! When will you accept

## Gujri (Milk Maid)

my offerings? Sometimes she even cried while praying.

The innocent child Shama was learning from her grandmother to worship Krishna.

When she became more than 12 years old, after visiting the temple and arriving home she asked her grandmother, "Why is he not talking to you and drinking your offered milk?" Grand-



mother replied to Shama, "One day will come when He will drink my offered milk." Shama

asked "Can he listen to me?" Grandmother replied, "Sure he will, He lives in every hearth" He is an inner knower.

Then Shama again asked her grandmother, "Dadi, do you know anyone whose prayer he answered?" Grandmother replied Yes!

Draupadi, Wife of the Pandavas. He protected her from the evil King Duryodhana. And Rukmani, who devoted her-self to Krishan. He rescued Rukmani from an unwanted marriage, and married her himself.

The example and inspirations from grandmother changed Shama's life. Shama decided, "I will pray to him all my life, and devote to him my mind, body, and spirit." She began visiting the rishi's ashram and served the rishi's with milk. She spent many years of her life this way. During her visits she always requested stories of Krishna from the Rishis.

One day she was very late. The Rishi asked her, "What happened my daughter?" She answered, "Rishi Dev, my village is on the other side of the river and the river current was too strong and the

boatman was waiting for the river to go down." With a slight laugh the Rishi said, you can cross the river without a boat. Shama with curiosity asked "Maharaj, how can that happen?" Rishi replied, "Just close your eyes, chant Krishan, Krishna, Hari, Hari and walk. You will cross the river in a moment." Shama believed in the words of Rishi, and did as asked with great reverence. By doing so, she crossed the river without a boat.

That was the greatest day of Shama's life, when she had a practical experience of Krishan. Krishna, had answered her prayer.

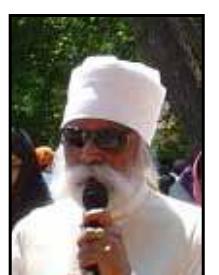
My dear readers, Human life is a priceless diamond. Don't waste it without reverence and meditation.

Please establish a little altar in your home. Worship your favorite Deity with faith and devotion every day. God will bless you with divine vision. You can chant any mantra, any name of god because this universe and everything in it belongs to him.

Please pray every day for Love and Grace.

Gyani Ji,  
**Harbhajan  
Singh Sandhu**

GHSSandhu@gmail.com



||Sri LakshmiNarsimha Vijayate||



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## Here are some handy tips to quit smoking

May 31, 2017 is the World Health Organization's (WHO) annual World No Tobacco Day. For those planning on using the day as their quit date, we've rounded up eight top tips from the WHO to make 2017 the year you successfully quit smoking.

### 1) Set a quit date

Set a quit date for as soon as possible to help keep you focused and motivated on achieving your goal. It could be a date that is meaningful to you, such as a birthday, it could be World No Tobacco Day, or it could be today!

### 2) Tell your friends, family, and co-workers

Telling those around you that you intend to quit is a good way to surround yourself with support from others, and could even inspire others around you



to do the same. Pairing up with a 'quit buddy' will make both of you accountable and you can support each other.

### 3) Be prepared for challenges

Quitting smoking isn't easy. Remember there will be challenges along the way, especially during the critical first few weeks. This is the hardest phase due to the nicotine withdrawal symptoms you will experience while you try to give up smoking.

### 4) Remove tobacco products from your home and environment

If you remove smoking products

from your environment, you will be less tempted to pick them up and start again. Make your home smoke-free, avoid smoking areas, and ask friends and family not to smoke around you.

### 5) Try cognitive-behavioural therapies

Cognitive-behavioural therapies can help you with some of the withdrawal symptoms that you will experience. Getting enough sleep, eating well, exercise, and drinking plenty of water can help with symptoms such as headaches, coughing, weight gain, and restlessness. Positive thinking,

yoga, meditation can help deal with mood changes, insomnia and difficulty concentrating.

### 6) Try medication

Nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs) such as nicotine gum and patches are available over the counter and can help tide you over the first few weeks. Non-nicotine replacement therapies such as the medications Buropipron and Varenicline are available on prescription. Be sure to ask a health practitioner about recommended dosage, usage, and potential side effects.

### 7) Break the habit

Smoking is tied very closely with other everyday activities and habits such as eating, socializing with friends, or watching television. Try to break these connections to help you stick to your goal.

### 8) Don't let a relapse discourage you

Don't worry if you can't quit on the first go. It might take multiple attempts to kick the habit of smoking, but every time you try is a step in the right direction. Don't let a relapse knock your confidence -- use it to learn from your mistakes and help make your next attempt a success.

## Follow these fashion rules from experts for a successful job interview

Before heading out for a job interview, make sure you are dressed in solid colours and appropriate attire, suggest experts. Salesh Grover, Business Head at OSL Luxury Collections Pvt, Vandana Anurag, Founder of The Parisian Boudoir (online-multi-brand boutique) and designer Sunil Mehra have listed a few tips:

\* Make sure your clothes are clean and properly ironed, this will bring out your confidence. Wrinkled and untidy clothes leave a very negative impression. Don't wear dirty and muddy shoes as they will make you appear unhygienic and lazy.

\* Always choose a tie that complements your suit as well as your shirt. Ties with small and conser-



vative prints blend with all styles. Coordinate the tie with the suit. You can also match the colour of the tie with your shoes.

\* Wear suits that are in darker hues like black and navy blue. Make sure it fits properly so that you look and do your best.

\* Your attire reflects your

personality, so always wear clothes that not only make you look good but also feel good. Always wear an outfit that brings out your inner confidence for an everlasting impression.

\* For women, dress up in styles like pantsuits, sheath dresses and pencil skirts. For a sincere and mature look, conservative dressing is the best option.

\* Choose an outfit that goes well with the company culture and dress code. Your appearance will make the employer think of you as a perfect fit for their corporate culture.

\* Avoid wearing uncomfortable clothes and shoes as this will distract you from the interview and reduce your confidence.

\* Do not wear revealing and skin-fit outfits no matter how casual the office environment is.

\* Avoid suits with big prints as they are more suitable for casual occasions.



## SUDHARSHANA HOMAM AND BALAJI KALYANAM Are DONE At EKTAMANDIR

rituals on behalf of the bridegroom. The wedding ceremony is held according to Vaikhanasa Agama rituals and Starts with the Panchamurthi Puja. This is followed by recitation of vedic mantras and pronouncing the family pedigree of the brides and bridegroom. The idols of the Lord and his brides face each other with a tera (screen) in between them. after the priests perform appropriate homas, the bridegroom and the brides are allowed to see each other at the appropriate auspicious moment as the screen is removed. This is followed by Mangala Sutra Dharana, Talambralu and then Lord and his consorts are garlanded.



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# Real Estate News of Arizona - June 2017

By Aartie Aiyer

Hello Friends,

We are in the peak of summer and the usual dilemma of keeping the kids busy. Visiting grandparents and vacation trips. The summer is a busy season for most of us, pretty much like the valley real-estate. This is the season when most people move from out-of-state and in-state.

Good News for west valley, more developments are coming there, as we know that 303 freeway is being built, builders have started buying land around that area, AV homes bought around 18acres of land, they will built Residential homes. Commercial and Industrial projects are coming too in that belt. The construction on 303/10 side is going on full swing, projected completion in couple of years.

Rents are increasing in many parts of the valley, especially apartment rents are on the higher side, millennials are being smart and investing in low maintenance properties like town-homes, condos, Patio homes. Also, the fact that most millennials want a turnkey home that needs little or no work. They spend long hours on the job and have many interests, and prefers properties that require minimal care.

Zillow analyzed the median rent payment in cities across the country to determine how much home a prospective buyer could afford without spending more on a mortgage than they were currently spending on rent. It factored in all monthly homeownership costs, such as property taxes, maintenance and insurance. In 37 of the 50 cities Zillow analyzed, renters could buy a home worth more than the median valued home in their city without spending more on monthly housing costs.

Now let's take a look at the April sales of Residential Properties in Maricopa County-

- Total Sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for April are 7,592 whereas, March was 8,034 and February were 5,715
- The Active listings for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for April are 20,132 whereas March was 20,731 and February were 20,116
- Pending sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for April are 6,478 whereas, March was 6,933 and February were 6,885

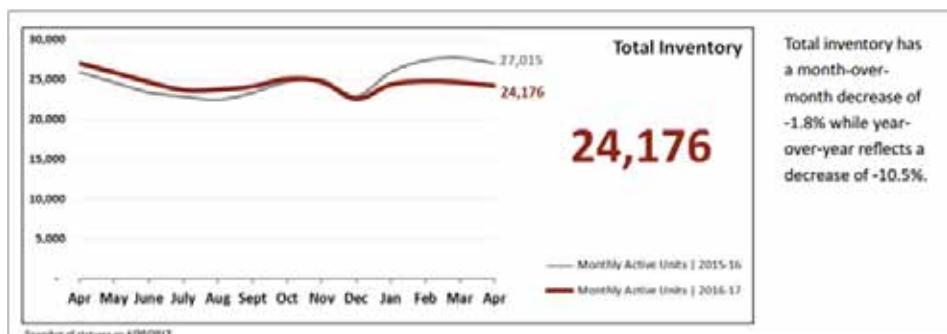
The total home sales by financing were-

Cash Sales - 1,641

Conventional - 4,012

FHA - 1,379

VA- 512



Let's take a look at the April sales of Residential Properties in Pinal County-

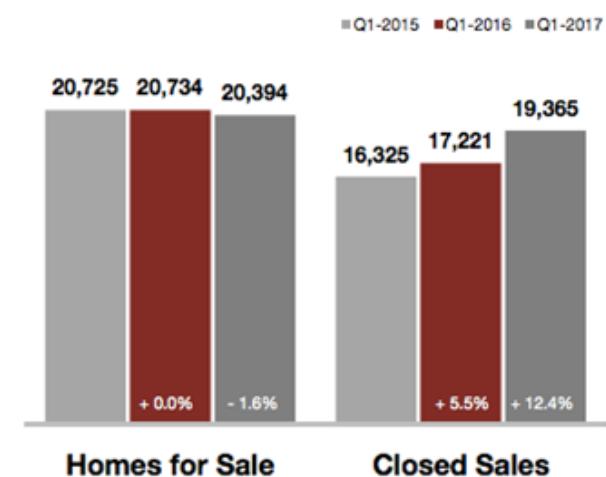
- Total Sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for April are 847, whereas, March was 889 and February were 562
- The Active listings for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for April are 2020, whereas March was 2,094 and February were 2,146

## Maricopa County

### Key Metrics

|                             | Q1-2017   | 1-Yr Chg |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Median Sales Price          | \$237,500 | + 6.0%   |
| Average Sales Price         | \$298,265 | + 6.3%   |
| Pct. of List Price Received | 98.0%     | + 0.3%   |
| Homes for Sale              | 20,394    | - 1.6%   |
| Closed Sales                | 19,365    | + 12.4%  |
| Months Supply               | 3.1       | - 5.6%   |
| Days on Market              | 54        | - 2.5%   |

### Market Activity

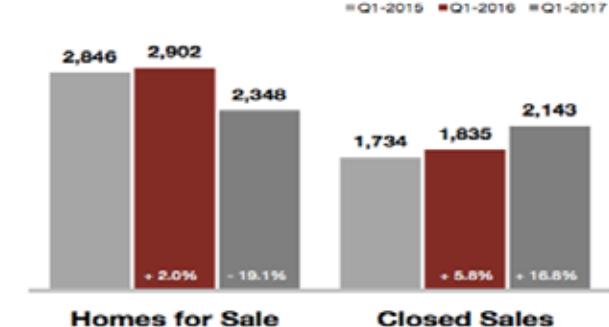


## Pinal County

### Key Metrics

|                             | Q1-2017   | 1-Yr Chg |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Median Sales Price          | \$175,000 | + 8.0%   |
| Average Sales Price         | \$189,385 | + 9.1%   |
| Pct. of List Price Received | 97.8%     | + 0.4%   |
| Homes for Sale              | 2,348     | - 19.1%  |
| Closed Sales                | 2,143     | + 16.8%  |
| Months Supply               | 3.3       | - 28.0%  |
| Days on Market              | 65        | + 0.3%   |

### Market Activity



- Pending sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for April 736, whereas March was 832 and February were 817

Let's take peek in commercial side-

Renaissance Square office building in Phoenix was leased by Upgrade.Inc, it consists of two buildings in the Central Downtown totaling 968,790 square feet. The 25story Renaissance Center totals 494,004 square feet and was built in1987.

The Tierra Santa apartments in Phoenix got sold for \$13.4 million or about \$49,000 per unit. It was built in 1985, total 166,412squarefoot multifamily complex, has 274 units on approximately 13 acres.

Terra Vista Estates mobile home park in Tucson was sold for \$7.45 million or about \$58,000 per unit. Built in 1970, it has 128 unit mobile home park which sits on 14.5 acres.

Dave & Busters building located inTucson was sold for \$10.17 million or about \$340 per square foot. It was built in 2017 the retail property had total of 29,900 square feet. It is located at the Bridges shopping center in the South Tucson.

Hope this article gives you a peek in what's happening in our valley. As always, I love your questions, comments & feedback. Please keep them coming at arti@artiiyer.com or call me at 480-242-8573.

Disclaimer: This article makes no representation or warranties of any kind as to the ac-curacy of the data. The source of data has been taken from several sources such as Armls, cromford report, Better Homes and Garden, Costar, Globest, BizJournal, News-genii, Realty times, azcentral, wall street journal.





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## WHY THE SUN IS GOOD

The sun is good because without it the earth would freeze! The sun warms things up, makes things brighter and makes nature. The sun is so hot but since we're third planet from the sun it really is not that hot. But still never look directly at the sun because it can do horrible damage to your eyes. The sun gives you energy.

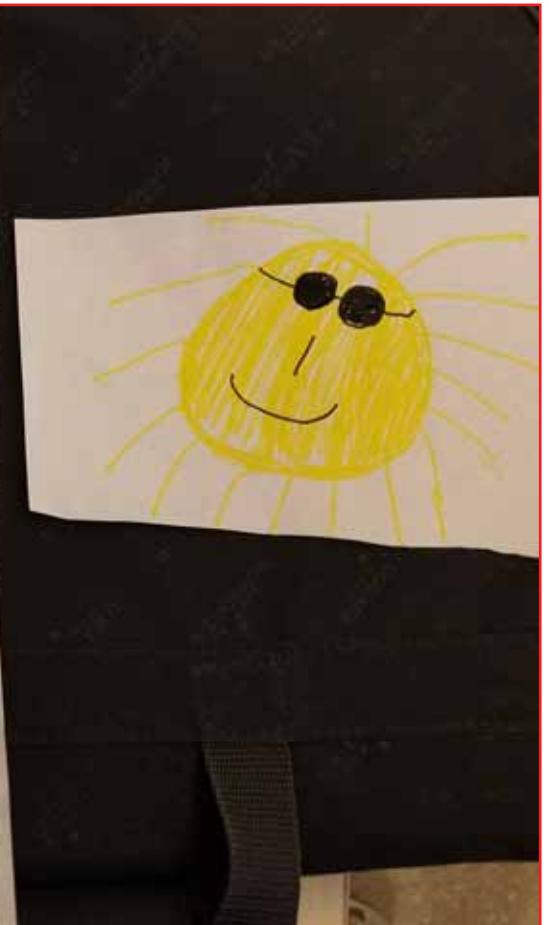
The sun has sunspots. Sunspots are spots on the sun. This is an eleven year system. By that it means that the size and number of sunspots change every eleven years. The sun is the only star in our solar system. It has volcanoes on its surface.

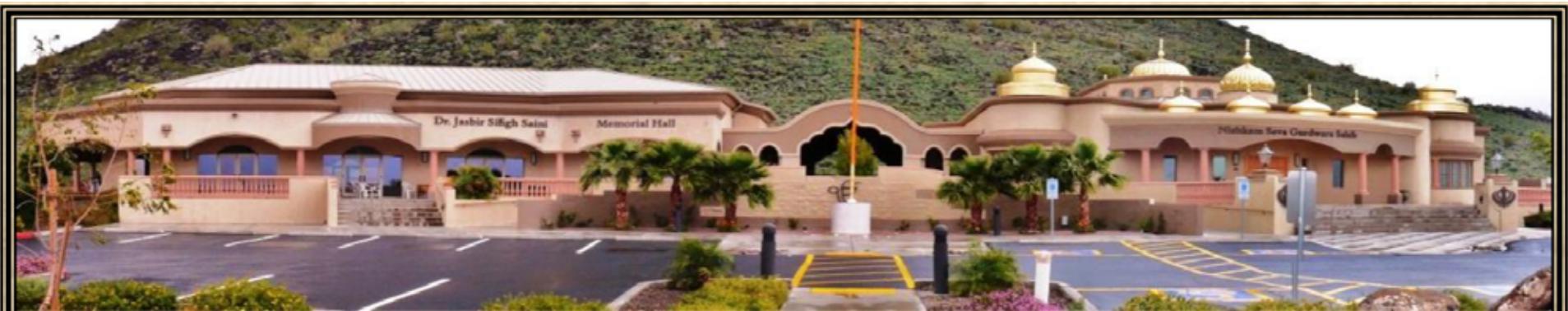
When you play in the sun, your eyes also get stronger but that does not mean you can look directly at the sun, even in your house, never! So remember to go out and play without looking directly at the sun. Enjoy!

By  
**Dhreya Desai, 7 years**  
Dhreya2010@gmail.com



Why the Sun is Good  
The sun is good because with out it earth would freeze!  
The sun warms things up, make things bright and makes nature.  
The sun is so hot but since we're the third planet from the sun it really is not that hot.  
But still never look directly at the sun because it can do horrible damage to your eyes. The sun gives you energy. The sun has sunspots. Sunspots are spots on the sun. This is an eleven year system. In that eleven years it's easier to see sunspots. When you play in the sun your eyes also get stronger but that does not mean you can look directly at the sun even in your house never! So remember to go out and play without looking directly at the sun. Enjoy! The sun is the only star in our solar system. The sun has volcanoes on its surface.





*Waheguru ji ka Khalsa! Waheguru ji ki Fateh!*

## ***GURDWARA MONTHLY***

*A Monthly digest of Gurdwara Programs and Events*

### **JUNE 2017 Programs & Events**

19 Jeth – Harh 16, 549 Nanakshahi Era (NE)

**June 2 - 4 (Fri.-Sun.) –**

**Shaheedi Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji** (Actual: May 29, 1606)

**Ardaas: 33th Anniversary of 1984 Ghallughara / Attack**

by Indian military on Harmander Sahib, Akal Takhat and 42

other Gurudwaras. (Actual: June 4-6, 1984)

1. Shaheed Sant Jarnail Singh Ji Khalsa
2. Shaheed S. Subeg Singh Ji
3. Shaheed Bhai Amrik Singh Ji Khalsa
4. Shaheed Baba Thara Singh Ji

Atrocities / murder of thousands of children, women and Sangat.

**Akhand Paath Arambh:** Fri. 10:00am, Bhog: Sun. 9:00am



**June 9 (Fri.) Birthday Bhagat Kabir Ji (1398).**

**June 11 (Sun.) –**

**Parkash Sri Guru Hargobind Ji.** (Actual: June 10, 1595)

**June 15 Harh 1 (Thur.) – Sangrand Monthly Program**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

**June 18 (Sun.) –Homeless Langar Seva -**

Call 602 741 8021 for more info.

**June 25 (Sun.) –**

**Shaheedi Baba Banda Singh Ji Bahader** (Actual: June 25, 1716)

**Open House – Community Outreach,** 12 pm – 2 pm.

(See separate flyer)

**June 30 (Fri.) –**

**Barsi Maharaja Ranjit Singh Ji (1780-1839),** (Actual: June 29)

#### **Regular Programs:**

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Evening Banis: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

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While Aishwarya Rai managed to keep all eyes hooked on her on the third day of the 70th Cannes Film Festival, she wasn't the only one to do it. Supermodel Bella Hadid and pop princess Rihanna also commanded attention like few can on the red carpet.

The gorgeous ladies and their entourage descended on the red carpet screening of Netflix's *Okja*, a film which caused quite a trouble earlier on Friday at its first screening.

While the looks on Friday were much safer, less risqué than what was seen on the opening day of the festival, celebs still tried their best to wow everyone with volume and drama.

Here're our favourite looks from Day 3:

#### Aishwarya Rai



## Cannes Film Fest: Aishwarya Rai, Bella Hadid and all other best dressed celebs on Day 3



Aishwarya wore a floor-sweeping powder blue ballroom gown by Dubai-based Filipino fashion designer Michael Cinco. The sheer volume of the skirt made it difficult for her to walk or even climb stairs.

**Bella Hadid**  
Supermodel and Victoria's Secret Angel Bella Hadid wore a quilted red Christian Dior dress. She added a bit of sparkle to her outfit with a Bulgari snake wrapped around her neck.



#### Rihanna

Singer Rihanna also wore a Dior to the red carpet. She opted for a classic white off-shoulder gown with a jacket made from the same fabric. The popstar made her outfit look chic with quirky white sunglasses to go with it.

#### Jessica Chastain

Actor and jury member Jessica Chastain brought excitement to the red carpet with her lilac gown by Givenchy. The dress' skirt was made entirely out of tassels. Must've been fun to walk in.

#### Lily Collins

British actor and star of *Okja*, Lily Collins wore a shimmery white number by Ralph & Russo for the screening of her film. She completed the look with keeping her hair poker straight and a winged eye liner.



## Accessories are essential to look good, here's how to team them with saris, gowns

Accessories can really up the glamour quotient if worn with care, but one wrong choice and they can completely ruin the look. Hence, experts insist that be it for the six-yard wonder or an elegant gown, pick accessories wisely. Vineet Chhajer of Vineet Sarees and designer Lalit Dalma suggest how to beautify your outfits:

1. When you wear a sari, you need to think about your body type before choosing the correct accessories. That's because saris highlight your curves a lot more than any other attire. For instance, tall and thin women look best with small bags or clutches.

2. Women with round faces should not pick heavy jewellery. Small earrings would give the image of an oval face whereas big earrings would



make your face look even more round. When you wear heavy jewellery, try to wear simple pattern saris.

a mature look and is ideal for silk saris. A simple and small bindi is best for daily wear saris.

4. Minimal jewellery gives a classy look. Plain cotton saris look best with simple studs or a light earring, a thin gold chain and a couple of gold bangles.

5. If you are wearing a baby pink coloured dress, choose pink or rose-coloured accessories to go along with it. It will make your dress look balanced.

6. Remember less is more. Accessories add a classy touch to your look, but too many can ruin the look of your gown. If your dress has an ornate neckline, opt for a pair of drop earrings instead of a necklace. For a gown with a simpler style, try a bold statement necklace.



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# Review: The Sun and Two Seas by Vikramajit Ram

Pradhuman Sodha

**N**ever judge a book by its cover, but in the case of The Sun and Two Seas this might be misplaced. If you find yourself purchasing the book for the sheer beauty of its cover illustration you would have made a wise decision. The writing and the story within these covers is of epic proportions and leaves you wanting a sequel, a prequel or a spin-off!

This magical tale woven around historical events during the construction of Kalinga's Konark sun temple in the mid-13th century, is Vikramajit Ram's fourth book. The writer's earlier works are on such subjects as sculpture in Indian architecture and on the ancient temples of central India. To say that his previous works have prepared him for this wholly engrossing historical fiction would be accurate.

The Sun and Two Seas is a detailed history lesson on early medieval India interlaced with a story line about intriguing characters that holds the reader until the last printed word.

The sage Sovereign lady of Cadambagiri starts off the book with the "Great Fire of 1237". Her balanced actions throughout the rest of the story seem to be in repentance of this single act of rage. It is from these ashes that the writer conjures a story that stretches between Hind and Aphrike (Africa).

Narasimha I, the sovereign of Kalinga from 1238-64, wishes to leave a marvellous architectural landmark for posterity and overcomes mountainous obstacles to fulfil his lifelong



dream. Another character, the cousin of the Consort of Kalinga, cousin-by-marriage to Narasimha I, is mostly recognised by the reader through his attire and his romantic wit. The author skillfully keeps him and many other characters nameless to the end.

The beauteous young man is perhaps the most endearing character. This is his coming-of-age story in many ways. Suffice to say that any further talk about him in this review will spoil the reader's fun. This is how the summary on the book flap describes him: "The Consort's young cousin drifts aimlessly through the palace, playing the flute and flirting with handsome soldiers."

The colourful residents of Hall of Enchantments, the chubby, bejewelled, scheming head Courtesan and her girls, add glamour and intrigue to the story and several characters cross paths at her court.

Vikramajit Ram's characters converse in a delectably vivid way: the Courtesan's indulgent dialogues bring

in comic relief, the Consort's cousin charms with his passionate declarations and child-like curiosity, and then there's the sincerity of Narasimha himself.

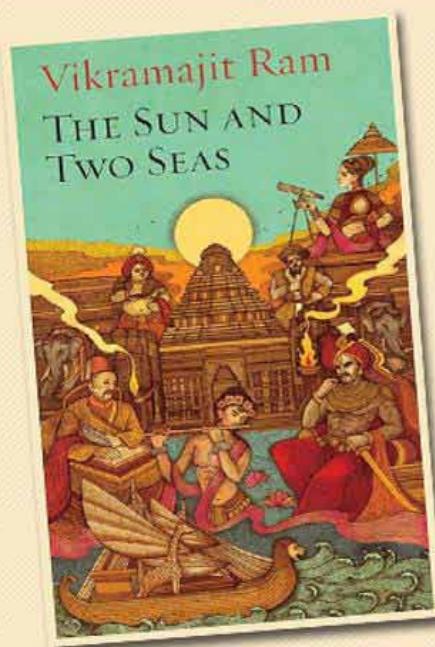
Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) readers will find this book interesting for the comprehensive image it gives of sexuality in ancient India. Closets do not exist and homosexual or bisexuals are not considered perverse. Just a little too adventurous. However, patriarchy is very much alive and kicking.

The plot thickens as assassins follow their quarry from city to city, a jealous princess plots to usurp power from her sister, and a voyage across the Indian Ocean to exchange royal gifts goes quite off-track. If that is not enough, the great king, overcome by failure, is faced with yet another hiccup that threatens to stop the construction of the Sun temple.

#### Gazing at a dying god

At first, readers might believe this is a revenge tale but the real turn in the action occurs when the lovers in the story are separated. Their love story will take you by surprise and warm your heart. It will then crush it, quite like your very first love did, in a sudden and cold manner.

Despite weaving a fine tangle of plots and characters, the story progresses neatly. By the end, it is hard to settle upon one character as the protagonist for all the characters are temptingly meaty. But if one had to choose a protagonist, it would be the story. The best kind of books manage that.



The story is a detailed history lesson in the workings of medieval India interjected by an intriguing story line that keeps the reader locked in till the last printed word of the book.

**The Sun and Two Seas**  
**Vikramajit Ram**  
₹ 350; 265pp | Speaking Tiger

hindustantimes

## POET OF MONTH

William Wordsworth

(1770 - 1850)

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH was born at Cockermouth, Cumberland County, England, April 7, 1770, and he died on April 28, 1850. He was buried by the side of his daughter in the beautiful churchyard of Grasmere.



His father was law agent to Sir James Lowther, afterward Earl of Lonsdale, but he died when William was in his seventh year.

The poet attended school first at Hawkshead School, then at Cambridge University. William was also entered at St. Johns in 1787. Having finished his academical course, Wordsworth, in 1790, in company with Mr. Robert James, a fellow-student, made a tour on the continent. With this friend Wordsworth made a tour in North Wales the following year, after taking his degree in college. He was again in France toward the close of the year 1791, and remained in that country about a twelvemonth. He had hailed the French Revolution with feelings of enthusiastic admiration.

#### I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they  
Out-did the sparkling leaves in glee;  
A poet could not be but gay,  
In such a jocund company!  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

**ARIES**  
  
 Try not to get upset or angry without having all the facts. You should be looking into making changes around the house. You will easily blow situations out of proportion. You can come up with ways of earning extra cash. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

Mar 21  
to  
Apr 20

### TAURUS



April 21  
to  
May 20

You will be able to borrow money in order to invest. Your personal situation is fluctuating. Find ways to mellow out. You'll find it easy to talk about your feeling this month. Don't hesitate to find out what your mate's intentions are. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

### GEMINI



May 21  
to  
June 21

You can make major accomplishments while on short trips. Camping, swimming, and biking expeditions should all be considered. Don't let your lover put demands on you. Responsibilities with respect to older relatives may be a burden. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**CANCER**  
  
 Visit friends you don't get to see that often. Take the time to close deals that have been up in the air. Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Coworkers may not be on your side. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

Jun 22  
to  
Jul 22

### LEO



Jul 23  
to  
Aug 23

You can make profitable investments if you purchase an art object for your home. You can receive recognition for the work you've done. You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Take care of your personal needs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

### VIRGO



Aug 24  
to  
Sep 23

Avoid friends or acquaintances who drink too much. You will make new friends through physical activities. Shopping could cost more than you bargained for. You can pick up some overtime this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**LIBRA**  
  
 Hassles with your boss are sure to erupt if you speak your mind. Make residential changes that will lift your spirits. Don't let your mate bully you into thinking that you owe them your time and your life. Resistance leading to conflict will only make it twice as hard to turn the situation around. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

Sep 24  
to  
Oct 23

### SCORPIO



Oct 24  
to  
Nov 22

Talking to those you trust and respect will help you sort out any problems. You may want to take a serious look at your goals and objectives. Sudden changes regarding your domestic scene are probable. Organization will be the key to avoiding discord and family feuds. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

### SAGITTARIUS



Nov 23  
to  
Dec 21

Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. Overindulgence may cause conflicts. Stomach problems could prevail if you haven't been watching your diet. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**CAPRICORN**  
  
 Be careful not to push your luck or take too much for granted when dealing on either a personal or professional level. Verbal abuse could lead to carelessness. Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. This is a turning point. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

Dec 22  
to  
Jan 21

### AQUARIUS



Jan 22  
to  
Feb 19

You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Limitations will set in if you haven't followed the rules. You should be trying to clear up legal contracts that have been pending. Be careful how you handle friends and relatives, they may take things the wrong way. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

### PISCES



Feb 20  
to  
Mar 20

You can purchase items that will enhance your appearance. Don't be taken advantage of by any fast talking salesperson trying to part you from your cash. You may need to lend an ear to an old friend. You need to concentrate on your business ventures more than on your relationship this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

# Chinese Cauliflower

**C**hinese Cauliflower is an easy and delicious Chinese recipe which is prepared with cauliflower florets, onions, capsicums and lots of spices. This dish gives spicy yet tangy flavour to your taste buds because of chilli garlic sauce and tomato ketchup. This is a perfect snack or appetizer in kitty parties, buffet, game nights and pot luck. The Chinese flavour in this recipe makes it a hit among children as well and also with people who do not prefer eating cauliflower as a vegetable. This interesting recipe can be garnished with cashews and nuts as well to enhance the flavour. Serve it on colourful platter so that it looks enticing. Garnish this delicacy with spring onions and serve it your loved ones.

## INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cauliflower  
5 tablespoon vegetable oil  
3 teaspoon chilli garlic sauce  
2 teaspoon soy sauce  
1 teaspoon garlic paste  
3 green chilli  
1 1/2 red onion  
4 teaspoon corn flour  
salt as required  
5 drops vinegar  
5 teaspoon tomato ketchup  
1/2 cup spring onions  
1 teaspoon ginger paste  
1 1/2 capsicum (green pepper)  
1/2 teaspoon white pepper powder  
2 teaspoon chilli powder

## How to make Chinese Cauliflower

### Step 1

Firstly, place cauliflower over a chopping board. Cut the cauliflower into small florets and wash them.

Once washed, add chilli powder, corn flour, white pepper powder and vinegar, and coat them.

### Step 2

On the other hand, cut capsicum into big cubes, slice the onions, finely chop spring onions and mince green chillies using a mincer.

### Step 3

Next, place a frying pan over medium flame and pour half quantity of oil in it. Once the oil is heated, add the florets and shallow fry them until lightly brown in colour and crispy in texture.

### Step 4

Now, place another frying pan over medium flame and pour remaining quantity oil in it. Add onions and fry until brown in colour. Then, add capsicums, spring onions, green chillies, ginger and garlic paste and stir the mixture for 5-6 minutes.



### Step 5

Next, add soy sauce, tomato ketchup, chilli garlic sauce and salt and stir well. Now, add fried cauliflower florets in the pan and stir well. Coat the cauliflower florets with the sauce and once the sauce is dry turn off the flame. Serve!

# 10 super easy egg recipes you must try now!

## 1. Will you try these lip-smacking egg recipes?

Egg is that versatile ingredient that adds magic to any dish. In fact, now it has been scientifically proved that if you breakfast on eggs, you are more likely to lose weight because egg not just fires up the metabolism but also keeps you satisfied for long. Egg based recipes are easy to make and are less time consuming. One egg is a nutrition packed tiny little ball and if you add a little roasted ragi or some powdered oats in your omelette, your complete meal is ready. Egg also tastes great with rice. You can make egg fried rice or omelette rice and your dinner is done. If you have a fussy toddler at home, give him boiled rice with one boiled potato and boiled egg topped with desi ghee and trust us, the little one will soon develop a taste for it. Want to make your gravy tasty and thick? Add a beaten egg. Want to have a perfect cake? Add two eggs. Want to make your salad tasty? Chop in a boiled egg. You can do so much with eggs that the list of going creative with eggs is endless. Here are 10 interesting ways to go innovative with eggs.

### 2. Mexican Baked Eggs

Mexican Baked Egg is an inter-



esting breakfast recipe made using eggs, black beans and tomatoes. This is an easy-to-make recipe that you can try at home for your loved ones in breakfast.

### 3. Egg Kebabs

An extremely easy egg recipe, Egg Kebab is a popular Pakistani recipe made with eggs, gram flour and bread crumbs that gives it a crispy texture. Try this appetizer recipe which would be loved by people of all age groups.

### 4. Tomatoes and Bacon Egg Muffins

Tomatoes and Bacon Egg Muffin is a simple breakfast recipe that can be easily made at home. Made with

bacon slices, cherry tomatoes and eggs, this easy-to-make recipe can be served with hot coffee. Try it.

### 5. Tea Eggs

Tea Egg is a simple snack recipe made with eggs, green tea leaves, garlic and ginger. This easy-to-make recipe is loved by people of all age groups and can be served on any occasion.

### 6. Egg Fried Rice

An easy and delicious one-pot-meal recipe, Egg Fried Rice is not just tasty but also a filling and scrumptious dish. It uses vegetables that give it a nice crunch and colour. This fried rice recipe is made using scrambled eggs. Serve it with

raita and a sweet chutney and you are sure to impress your guests.

### 7. Fried Eggs

Fried Egg is a healthy American recipe made with eggs, salt, pepper and butter. You can make this easy-to-make recipe for your near and dear ones in breakfast.

### 8. Egg Masala

Egg Masala is a popular South Indian dish especially in the Chettinad regions of Tamil Nadu. It is made using eggs, onions, urad dal and curry leaves. Try out this quick, healthy and easy to make side dish recipe.

### 9. Cottage Cheese Eggs

Cottage Cheese Egg is a Continental recipe made with egg, cottage cheese and chili powder. It is a simple recipe that you can make anytime during the day and enjoy with a hot chapati. Try this easy-to-make recipe.

### 10. Classic Devilled Eggs

Bored of the old regular egg recipe? Try this interesting Classic Devilled Eggs recipe made using eggs, mayonnaise and mustard. This breakfast recipe is delicious as well as healthy.

### 11. Egg and Bread Pudding

Egg and Bread Pudding is a Continental dessert made with bread, eggs, milk and fresh cream. This moist and creamy pudding is a treat for kids and an ideal dessert recipe to be tried on days you want to indulge in some really good food.

# Half Girlfriend: Arjun, Shraddha's film is confused, cliched and disappointing

Both big Bollywood releases this week, Hindi Medium and Half Girlfriend, have a common theme: How English is not just a language, but a matter of privilege.

While Hindi Medium director Saket Chaudhary deals with it in a humorous way, Mohit Suri gives the non-English speaking community the Chetan Bhagat brand of sympathy in Half Girlfriend. Not anger, but self pity.

## Film Review

### Half Girlfriend

Cast: Arjun Kapoor, Shraddha Kapoor  
Director: Mohit Suri  
Rating: 2/5

Let me first introduce you to the film's base: Bhagat's best-selling novel of the same name.

Simrao, a village near Bihar's capital Patna, has high hopes from Madhav Jha (Arjun Kapoor), their landlord of sorts. In the book, he is the scion of the now-fading 'zamindaar'. Yes, I have read the book (one of my guilty pleasures in life).

Our guy is waiting to be called for the National Basketball team, and manages to secure admission in Delhi University's St Stephen's College. He meets and falls for Riya Somani (Shraddha Kapoor), a rich, but lonely girl. Somani agrees to become Jha's half girlfriend—'friend se thoda zyada, girlfriend se kaafi kam'—a term that they keep repeating throughout the film. It's a complicated situation which can break the poor Jha boy for ever.

Mohit Suri knows how to throw melodious music to hook audiences and he does that to stretch a thin plot for almost two-and-a-half hours.

Suri isn't the only one guilty here. Even if you ignore Shraddha Kapoor's "rich people have severe domestic issues" expressions,



you can't do the same with Arjun Kapoor, who seems to be sleep-walking through the film.

Whenever he is not playing the ideal son or one-hell-of-a-dedicated-lover, he is either being scolded by his hostel mate Shailesh Pandey (Vikrant Massey) or is delivering lectures on Bihar's rich past. He also loves his drinks, but that part is probably unintentional.

Oh yes, his love for Hindi is actually worth noticing. Maata-peeta, bhery, sentiyana, etc. form his lingo. Such university students are difficult to find.

*T h o s e  
w h o  
h a v e  
r e a d  
H a l f  
G i r l f r i e n d  
w o u l d  
r e m e m b e r*

*t h a t  
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*D e t i  
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b e e n*

changed to 'rehti hai toh reh, warna kat le' in applause-worthy surprise.

Half Girlfriend is fast-paced but is not that good to make us miss the absurdities of the screenplay. Characters forget how they were talking in the previous scene.

There is an absolute lack of intensity between the lead actors and everything is so clichéd. India's dominating, high society father to Bharat's strong and silent mother, you have seen it all.

And then, there is an escapist Riya Somani whose logic sounds as funny as Jha's Hindi. Brand placements and advertisements of 'beti bachao, beti padhao' make Half Girlfriend even more discreet.

In the end, it remains the story of a friend-zoned Arjun Kapoor who doesn't know how to wriggle out of a destructive relationship. I can ignore his accent, but how can I not see his unwillingness to do justice to his role?

Half Girlfriend is confused, forced and takes the audience for granted. In one word: disappointing.

# Priyanka Chopra shuts up trolls, gives it back to haters in style with more legs

Priyanka Chopra doesn't give two hoots to trolls or those who slam her for reasons best known to them. And that's why, when the Quantico star faced backlash for dressing "indecently" when meeting PM Modi, she was quick to give it back to haters, in style.

Giving it back to trolls on her Instagram and Facebook page, Priyanka posted a too-hot-to-handle-picture with her mom, Madhu Chopra and captioned it, "Legs for days.... #itsthe-



genes with @madhuchopra nights out in #Berlin #beingbaywatch."

Well, that's how you shut up those who can't understand classy. And sur-

prisingly, this time, those who lauded her for not cowering down, were way more than haters.

Some of the comments on her post

read: "shut the haters down #hatersgonnahate #amazinglegs and you got it from your mama", "Hahaha a perfect reply", "Tight slap to trolls who feel that they can decide what a woman should wear or not! Such assholes", "Haha you nailed it .. that's why we love pc... she is intelligent smart and beautiful...", "When u troll Priyanka Chopra, she trolls you back", "great way to shut up all idiots obsessing over ur legs.", "What a answer to the hatter's who is trolling you", "Woah PC you nailed it once again babe.. You know exactly how to shut the mouths of your haters! so proud of you girl More power to you ", "Wow!! Now that's a high payback to the haters out there.. Go Girl."

On Tuesday, Priyanka posted pictures of her meeting PM Modi in Berlin and called it a "lovely coincidence." The actor was in Berlin to attend the premier of her Hollywood film, Baywatch.

Soon after the photos went viral, trolls had a field day slut-shaming Priyanka. Apparently, her outfit and the way she sat across the PM, didn't really go down well with some people, who slammed her for dressing "inappropriately" and "not covering her legs" and not mannered enough to "sit properly in front of elders".

## Sachin: A Billion Dreams is now tax free in Delhi



Sachin: A Billion Dreams got a tax free status in the national capital on Tuesday. With this, the film has been declared tax free in a total of 5 territories, namely Maharashtra, Odisha, Kerala and Chhattisgarh.

The film, a bio-drama on the life of India's master blaster Sachin Tendulkar is garnering a lot of appreciation and accolades from across the country. Not only are Sachin fans celebrating the heart touching story of the ace cricketer, but cinema goers across the country are giving the film a thumbs up.

## Sara Ali Khan gets ready for Bollywood, works out with Malaika Arora

Sara Ali Khan is training hard for her Bollywood debut. And she has chosen the right inspiration, Malaika Arora, to get that perfect body. Malaika, who is good friends with Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan, is now close to Sara too, so much so, that the two are even working out together.

In the photo that Malaika shared on her official Instagram page, Sara and Malaika are posing in a gym with pilates instructor Namrata Purohit. She captioned it: "3 monkeys jus hanging.....don't ask me why, but we had fun....ones name #saraalikhhan ....the other @namratapurohit". The picture is clear proof that the three had fun during a rigorous work out session.



The 24-year-old daughter of Saif and Amrita Singh already has a considerable fan following. Her fans also posted videos of her work out sessions that show Sara sweating it out at the gym. Meanwhile, speculations is rife about which film will mark Sara's Bollywood debut. Earlier, it was reported that Karan Johar is grooming her to launch her in the sequel to Student Of The Year. Then stories were doing

rounds that Salman Khan is planning to launch Sara opposite his brother-in-law Aayush Sharma in a film that will be produced by him. Later, Sara's dinner date with Harshvardhan Kapoor sparked rumours that she might debut opposite him. The latest is that Sara will star opposite Sushant Singh Rajput in a film to be directed by Abhishek Kapoor of Kai Po Che (2013) and Fitoor (2016) fame.

# Chai With ..... Raj Dubey of Dubey and Partners, an International Law Firm...

May 30, 2017  
by Deepa Kaur Walia

Asia Today had the immense pleasure of speaking with Raj Dubey, Managing Partner at Dubey and Partners regarding his firm on his recent visit to the USA. Mr. Dubey completed his schooling in Patna and arrived in Delhi to complete his Bachelor of Commerce from Delhi University. Always passionate about corporate intricacies of doing business, he knew he wanted to be an Attorney and went on to complete his degree from Campus Law Center at Delhi University in 1994. To complete his knowledge on corporate intricacies, he also did a course of Company Secretary from the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He is member of International Bar Association, American Bar Association, World Jurist Association and Supreme Court Bar Association in India. He was the 1st Attorney in his family that included his parents, 2 brothers, and a sister. One of his brothers is in Sales in India and the second is an IT Professional in San Ramon, California. His sister is a traditional housewife married to an engineer and resides at Bokaro, the Steel city of Jharkhand.

Mr. Dubey was married in a traditional arranged marriage; one in which he did not see his wife until their marriage, to his beautiful wife Smita Dubey in 1999. Mrs. Smita Dubey is also a well-established and driven IT Professional. She has a double Masters in Math from Patna University and in Computer Application from IGNOU, Delhi. They have an 11 year old daughter, Anjora Dubey. Mr. Dubey recognises his



wife as his core strength and reason for his success in life; When everybody doubted his Venture, She stood like a rock behind me and complemented my efforts with her IT skills, he says. When asked if he has dreams of his daughter following in his footsteps professionally, he shared that he just wants to provide her a good education and allow her to make her own decisions. His only dream for his daughter is to let her travel as much as possible so that she can see diversity of cultures and become a better-informed person. Independently and together with his family, Mr. Dubey himself has visited more than 20 countries both on personal and professional ventures and attributes his travel and learnings from his travel to his success too.

## The Early Years...

Mr. Dubey knew he always wanted to work for himself so that he had the independence to make his own choices and set his own direction to ensure how business was being done. While the experience gained at established firms is valuable, it also comes with imposed targets of billings that are dictated by these firms. However, he also recognise the value in getting experience at an established firms before venturing into his own practice. He completed an internship with Dr. B.K. Modi Group and joined full-time job at Singhania and Company from 1996-2002. While at Singhania and Company, he worked at their London and New York Offices other than their New Delhi office. His ability to develop detailed strategies

and flawless execution were well recognised by Overseas Clients even in his early years of career.

## Dubey and Partners...

On July 4, 2002, the day that is known as Independence Day in the USA, Mr. Dubey started his independent venture Dubey and Partners. It is a Full Service law firm which specialises in Corporate Law, Litigation and Arbitration and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The firm that started with 1 laptop, 6 books, and 4 interns who trusted him is a well-established international law firm today that serves primarily international clients and has owned offices in Delhi and Pune with associated offices in all major cities in India. Today, the firm has 6 Executive Partners and a total strength of 40 professionals in its Delhi and Pune offices. The Firm boasts of many fortune 500 companies and several Ministries of US Government as their Clients handling their Corporate, litigation and IPR assignments in India. The Firm has been handling major litigations for American, Austrian, German and Spanish Corporations. It has also represented one of the major Indian Corporation in oil and Gas sectors in their arbitration in London and currently assisting Dubai based Financial Group in their arbitration in London. It has helped many US based Corporations in their joint venture and acquisitions in India.

## NRI Services and Startup Support

Our readers may be curious what a firm based out of India has to offer our readers here in Ari-zona and what



services Dubey and Partners provides internationally since a majority of their clients are international. There are two areas of Dubey and Partners' services that may be of special interest to our readers: NRI Services and Startup Support.

Many NRIs have properties, family businesses, partnerships etc. that are established in India that they have left behind after moving abroad. With changing rules and digitization it is becoming more and more critical to ensure that everything is in compliance according to the changing rules and regulations in India. Many a times relatives in India try to exploit absence of person from India for longer times and try to occupy properties and other interest illegal and forcefully. Attorneys at Dubey and Partners will ensure compliances for all such ventures, ensure protection and fair treatment to their Client's interest even when they are absent from India. They can help NRIs dispose of property, acquire new property, or deal with a businesses and their partners back in India. They can also assist families of NRIs with basic services such as obtaining passports for parents and arranging their travel to the US and other places through networked professionals. Through their network of multiple service providers, the Firm ensures that diversified work as property management, travel arrangements or medical support to ageing parents are timely organised and easily available. Their services include a personal touch unheard of in this profession. Mr. Dubey says there could not be bigger earning than blessing of elders and gratitude of people duly helped in times of need. The Firm follows his philosophy to the core.

In addition to these services, what may be of interest to US based individuals are the vast services they provide to startups depending on their level of interest, budget, and commit-



ment. The Firm help Start Ups in converting their dreams into realities. For international clients looking to launch a new service or develop new product, they utilize their large professional network to help them find the right partners or create right platform at the most economical way to achieve their goals. This is extremely valuable for those who cannot afford to develop such technologies or products at the high costs abroad. Dubey and Partners helps their clients from facilitation of initial contacts to complete support to get this up and running successfully.

#### Looking Ahead...

When Mr. Dubey started out, he had not dreamed that the firm would reach such great heights. However, his professional dedication and caring nature that added a personal touch to their legal services, has helped Dubey and Partners reach the successful milestone it has achieved today. Looking ahead, Mr. Dubey plans to start

his own/associated office in the USA because of high international demand and to address the challenge of time difference for his clients. He is targeting an office in Phoenix and San Francisco and currently seeking existing law firms at these locations which may be interested in a joint venture with his Firm.

#### Final Messages...

Mr. Dubey's final message to our readers is that India is growing exponentially and changes are fast paced. With new government initiatives like Make in India, It offers opportunities which one can not afford to miss. While digitisation of legal compliances would make it very difficult to sustain things without proper compliances for long in India however at the same time it offers opportunities, which comes once in centuries. If you have concept, knowledge, product or technology, which you believe is unique and could bring higher efficiency in Society, come to

India; Dubey & Partners will help you in realising your dreams by arranging partners and platforms for it.

For those who have pending compliances, his advice is not to wait as digitised enforcement of laws and regulations can create a lot of new challenges and the longer you wait, the more expensive and complicated addressing these needs will become. Connect with Dubey and Partners to ensure you are in compliance with the latest laws and regulations with regards to any property, business or interest you have in India.

If you are interested in starting something new in India or want to undertake small experiment to understand feasibility, Dubey & Partners will connect you with the right partners and guide you on what you should or shouldn't do as you get started.

For students, Mr. Dubey thinks that law is a great profession with huge potential and prospects in both countries. If you are studying here, come for an internship in India to understand the nuances of legal practice there and build a network that will come in handy for your future success. All major law firms from USA have their presence in India in some forms and are always on look out for professionals who understands the nuances of workings in India and can help them in bringing greater efficiencies for their Operations in India.

Asia Today is extremely grateful to Mr. Dubey for his time and educating us on the services that may be of value to our readers in India. We wish the organisation continued success in all its future endeavors and look forward to hearing about the grand opening of their office here in the USA in the near future. For more information or to contact Dubey and Partners, please visit [www.dubeypartners.com](http://www.dubeypartners.com). He could be also be contacted on his mobile number +91 9811013934.



# The Love for Values or for the Valuables\*

NOTE: THIS ESSAY WAS WRITTEN BEFORE 2014 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS IN INDIA

Sometime back, I came across an open letter from the Honorable Mr. J. L. Gupta, ex-Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, addressed to the Prime Minister of India. This letter was published in one of the newspapers in India, The Hindu, and it dealt with the ongoing deterioration of India's political hierarchy. One statement\* in the letter fascinated me so much that I decided to use it as the title of this essay albeit with a twist.

In the body of the letter, the Honorable judge stated, "There was a time when a handshake was all that was needed to promise a life. People would not hesitate in sacrificing all what they had, even life, for their words and their values, regardless of whether such values were concerned with their faith or other matters of social living."

The judge further went on to write, "We have grown materially but dwarfed morally. We have moved from austere existence to aristocratic style; from economy to extravagance." He then stated, "Resultantly, gold has become our God, and money is the main mantra. Politics, which was once considered a public service, is today described as a combination of two words – Poly, which means many, and ticks - known as blood sucking insects. And there is good evidence. BMWs have replaced the old Ambassadors. Our leaders like to live in luxury, instead of putting in labor. Governance is conspicuous by its absence. Yet, the cost of governance continues to mount by the day." And then he added, "They talk of principles, but act only on interest. They promise but do not perform."

While reading this piece, I wondered at the bright and able mind that had put these disturbing yet magical statements into the truthful realities of life, and that too in such a way that one not only wished to merely read them again and again but rather, adore the person who penned them. It is a vivid explanation of what seems to be happening, a modern day reality, in my motherland.

We are a broken government which, instead of taking care of its people, its components, merely focuses

its efforts in taking care of the whims of the people in power. Nay, not only their whims, but rather their never-ending greed; for, after all, how much does one truly need to live? Their coffers have been filled up to the brim, yet there appears to be no end in sight for their desire to accumulate more and more. This hunger for more never seems to fade away.

Such examples of crooked living become all the more obvious during the so-called elections in India. Having witnessed them during my visits back home, both for the state assemblies as well as for the center, I am convinced more than ever that this is an exercise in futility for most of the ordinary people. Instead, they are meant for a few politically-connected families and people to seek and occupy these positions so that they may make, collect and hoard tons of money and fill up their own coffers. It is a unique business where service to the people is merely an excuse. The real motive is to find a position of power to extract from the common man whatever little he or she might have saved through his or her sweat and blood for the rainy days.

All of the political parties start eyeing different candidates to run for various seats. The candidate's qualification or individual philosophy, if at all he or she has any, is of no avail whatsoever. A person might have belonged to one political party for years, but will take less time than a blink to shift over and join the opposing party with entirely different and divergent views and philosophy. The only requirement is that the party he or she now wants to join should be willing to offer more personal gains than what he or she is already enjoying and that too, not only to the candidate but to the progeny and to the clan as well.

Another painful and dark spot hurting Indian polity is the propagation of dynastic rule. The kings and queens of India may have long gone, but the concept of dynastic rule that they left behind and which once was their hall mark during pre-British Raj has become so deeply ingrained in our blood that the phenomenon continues to thrive relentlessly forever. It has been haunting the poor people of India in a rather more cruel and recurring

way, albeit, under the auspices of the new Avatars of modern day Indian democracy. The rule by the people and for the people is left only to be talked about in loud speeches or to be written in books and essays. However, when it comes to the formation of new governments, those in power want to ensure that the new rulers come from the same gene pool they themselves do, so as to continue ruling poor masses of India and its various states. Unfortunately, there is no end in sight for this kind of phenomenon.

Once in power, leaders wish that not only their children but the children of their children and even their onward progeny should continue warming these seats of power by staying put when their term is up. For this they would sacrifice whatever it takes, be it their country or any of its resources.

Tavleen Singh, a journalist of repute, in the author's note of her book Durbar writes, "Dynasty, a political tool in the hands of the ruling class, has become the catalyst for a new colonization of a country whose soul has already been deeply scarred by centuries of it." While the British have left us, their aristocratic legacy is alive and well within our country. It is in our blood and bones and whatever lies in between. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear to end there.

As pointed out earlier, the system has degenerated so much that even if one happens to be a declared candidate from one party, he or she would not hesitate, at the drop of a hat, to join the opposition, provided additional benefits by his or her pullers are thrown at the ring. There is no deep moral commitment to the country, the state or the principles of the party that the candidate previously belonged to. Most of these political leaders are basically driven by their ego, self-grandiosity and an endless need to have more.

Responsibility that should have accompanied these positions does not exist in their vocabulary. All that matters is the scope of winning the next round of elections. And for this purpose, come election time, large posters and pamphlets of Mother India as a loud red glaring "Devi" will suddenly appear at every nook and corner of India as if the

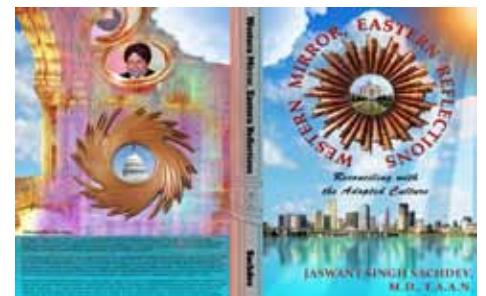


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country only belongs to the believers of such religious concepts and none others.

Isn't it ironic that people of India, considered to be most spiritual on earth, have decided to move 180 degrees away from the simple, peaceful and truthful principle of co-existence that was once a backbone of Indian philosophy? This was emphasized by the Dharmic faiths of India, the Vedas, the epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata as well as by many Sufis and Faqueers. The Sikh Gurus always lived and consistently preached the fundamental principle of Sikh lifestyle that ordains, "Truth is higher but higher still is truthful living." Truly speaking, this moral code of conduct should have surpassed all other codes in their lives. But Alas!

Those among us, who had the privilege of spending their childhood in India in bygone days, did experience that lifestyle. In the past, people truly cared for honesty, spirituality and hard work, albeit to a different extent. As a result, life was joyous with enough fulfillments. Unfortunately, this concept is gradually fading away altogether from our lives, thanks to the destructive attractions of today's world. Our love for the material valuables has superseded all what we can think of. Hoarding valuables has become more important than the philosophy or the moral principles that the country has to offer. Yet in order to have a truly fulfilling life of the past once again, the wheels of the life will have to retrace the route of honesty, hard work and true spirituality that we once had, not in words, but in our day to day deeds.



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# Perfect summer vacation destination - Santa Catalina Island



**Amardeep Kaur**

Ocean air breezing your face, dolphins jumping in the ocean water, island landscape with crystal clear blue waters, choice of amazing tours and trips, endless water activities, what more can you ask for a pleasant summer vacation? If you are still deciding where to go for summer vacation, ride along Catalina Express to reach the Santa Catalina Island in California. It's just an hour ferry ride from Long Beach, California.

Tip for first time tourists on the island- Rent a golf cart as soon as you are off the ferry on the island, if you have already not rented online before coming here. Take a tour of the island. It is so much fun riding a golf cart on a hill of an island. You can also rent a bike or take bus to commute on the island. Take a light jacket with you, sometimes it becomes very windy, specially during early morning and in the evening.

Avalon Casino at Santa Catalina Island is actually not a casino. It is a historical landmark, which has breath taking art decor inside. Take the tour and you will be amazed to see the ball room and the theater. The ballroom at Avalon is still the largest in the world. Avalon is the most photographed place of the Catalina Island. Book your tour tickets beforehand to avoid long lines.

Descanso Beach club is the best place to unwind and chill out. Get a cabana and lounge chairs for rent and relax. You can get a good variety of food and drinks with great service. If you love water sports, you can do swimming, snorkeling, kayaking and parasailing here.

Wrigley Memorial and botanical garden has local flora of the island, along with some exotic plants. You can see the well-kept memorial and splendid views of the ocean from the top of the hill. Seeing Catalina Island Conservancy on a jeep tour is one of the best things on this island. You can see awe inspiring views and wildlife of this island. This island features 60 unique plants and animals.

Taking the tour of Nature Center at Avalon Canyon helps you understand the history of the island along with browsing the flora and fauna. They help hurt eagles at this center. If you are an avid bird lover, seeing those birds taken care of, is an experience in itself.

Two Harbors is mainly for people who love to fish and camp. Less crowded than Avalon, you can see ocean from all campsites. Hermit Gulch Trail Loop is a narrow trail with loose rocks, but the views are awesome. Trans Catalina Trail is a bit steep, take lots of water. You can see deer or bison on this trail, along with spectacular scenery.

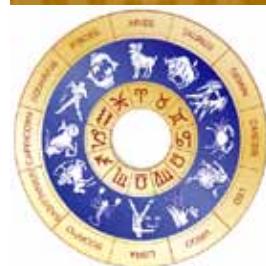
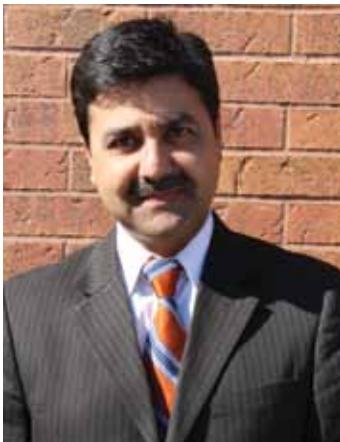
Lots of water activities to do in Catalina like scuba, canoeing, paragliding, water skiing, jet skiing, river rafting and tubing. Zipline is not something to be missed, if you are an adventurous person. Golf gardens Miniature golf and Catalina Island Golf course are two places to go for golf lovers.

Dolphin and whale watching Boat tours, Submarine tours, Catalina Adventure sailing; these are some very nice tours to create wonderful memories, along with catching the glimpse of Dolphins, whales and other fish, if you have enough time on hand.



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