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# Today

Monthly Newspaper

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## Don't want to enter politics, ABVP fight like 'lion that roars only once'-Gurmehar Kaur

Gurmehar Kaur may have become the face of the fight against the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), but she is not really basking in the limelight.

The 20-year-old, who took to the social media to attack the ABVP after the Ramjas College clash, said she was "saddened" that the issue had gained a political hue. "The issue on which I spoke went out of hand. I would like to clarify that I do not want to enter



politics," Gurmehar told at her residence in Jalandhar.

Kaur, a student of Delhi's Lady Shri Ram College for Women, expressed reluctance to speak about her past. "I just gave my opinion, and I never expected the whole thing to take such a turn. I had a really bad time. I am not in a state to talk about it, and I cannot take it anymore."

**Under the media glare:** Gurmehar's friends just • **More on P16**

## SIVARATRI CELEBRATIONS AT HARE KRISHNA TEMPLE CHANDLER



Hare Krishna Temple, in Chandler, celebrated the appearance day of Lord Siva on Saturday February 25th, 2017. Abhishekam started in the morn-

ing and continued through the day until the evening. There was a wonderful class given by HG Govindabhakta das. He explained • **More on Page 22**

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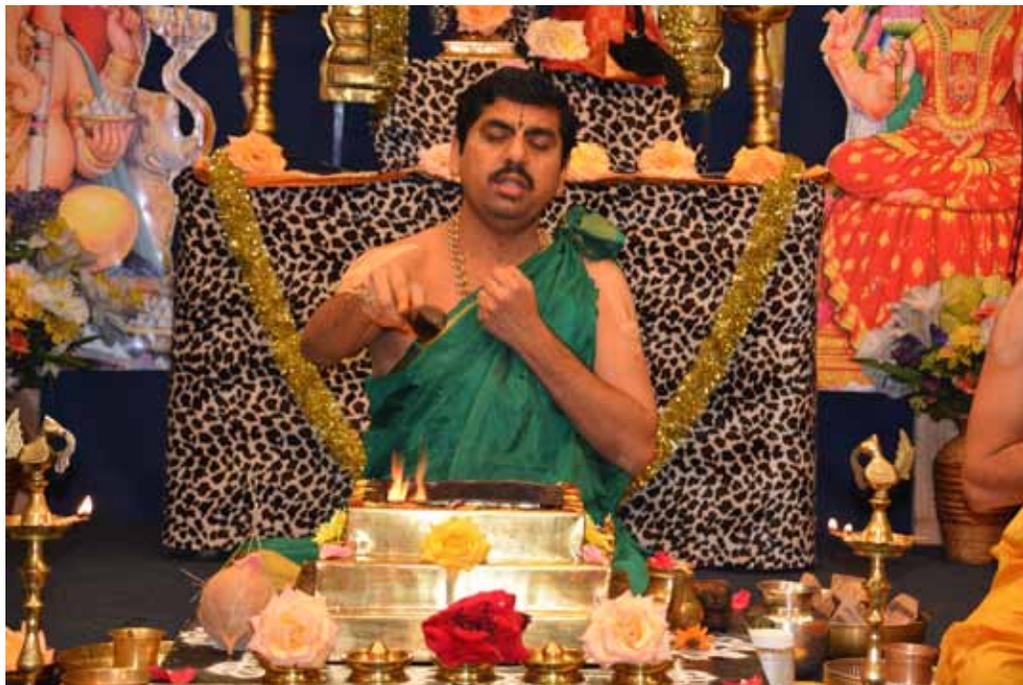


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# Sri Maha Shivarathri Pooja Celebrated at SVK Temple on February 24, 2017





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**Make America Great Hate Again with Selective Empathy...**

Empathy by the definition of the word is the feeling that you understand and share another person's experiences and emotions. Can a person really be considered empathetic if their feelings of empathy are selective and restricted for individuals of a certain race, religion, or background? I see and hear our government be empathetic towards hate crimes committed by immigrants that have hurt innocent citizens and why it is important to crack down on immigration related issues. But where is that empathy when innocent immigrants are hurt by those citizens the government is empathetic towards?

Does selective empathy really make America Great Again or does it drive the agenda of hate further? Even in jurisprudence, there is a concept of selective prosecution – a procedural defense in which a defendant argues that he should not be held criminally liable for breaking the law, as the criminal justice system discriminated against him by choosing to prosecute. But what about selective defense – where do defendants go when the government that is supposed to be fair and just is silent in the aftermath of crimes against them as if they never happened? Is it fair for them to have to ask the question “do we belong here?”

These questions come up as I read the blog of SunayanaDumala, the widow of the Indian engineer Srinivas Kuchibhotla who was shot dead in a hate crime in a bar in Olathe City (<https://www.facebook.com/sunayana.dumala/posts/1254788961284812>). While many news outlets, political representatives, professional companies, and other organizations have reached out to Sunayana with their condolences and compassion and offers of support,



**Editor's NOTE**

our President remains silent as if it never happened. Quick to respond to hate crimes in countries around the world, some of which that have not even transpired, and tweet examples of hate crimes committed by immigrants, he remains silent and does not even acknowledge the incident that took the life of an innocent, hard-working, legal immigrant and left his wife and family in a cloud of grief. Does turning a blind eye to these incidents make “America Great Again” or is it another step in the plan to make America Hate Again? By making sure only the negativity coming out of immigrants

is brought to public light and burying any contributions they make to the country or any harm that is coming their way because of citizens in this country, the current administration continues to go down the path of holding selective people accountable for their actions and sending the message that those that are not the target of the administration can literally get away with murder.

There are many immigrants that voted for our current President thinking that his war is on countries dominated by a certain religion and towards people of a certain religion so they are safe. What they failed to realize was that his supporters cannot differentiate between one type of immigrant and another and a war that is based on race or religion will leave no one safe; all wars come with collateral damage and that collateral damage could be their loved ones. I hope Sunayana's story serves as an eye opener for those that think they are not impacted by an administration that divides through fear and hate. My heart goes out to SunayanaDumala and I wish her strength and courage as she goes through this extremely difficult and unfortunate time.

-Deepa Kaur Walia

Editor, Asia Today, editor@asiatodayaz.com

**India knows how to do spring**

Holi, which is March 12 this year, is the annual Hindu religious festival in which people fling vivid colored powders and scented water at one another. Joy and giddiness collide in a fog of pigments. Holi festival has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of ‘good’ over ‘bad’. The colorful festival bridges the social gap and renew sweet relationships. On this day, people hug and wish each other ‘Happy Holi’. Holi celebration begins with lighting up of bonfire on the Holi eve. Numerous legends & stories associated with Holi celebration makes the festival more exuberant and vivid. People rub ‘gula’ and ‘abeer’ on each others’ faces and cheer up saying, “bura na maano Holi hai”.

The festival gets its name from the Puranic story of Holika. Holika was the sister the demon-king Hiranyakashipu. The king, egoistic as he was, desired that everybody in his kingdom worship him alone. Much to his ire, he found that his son, Prahlada, was a worshipper of Lord Vishnu. It was then that Hiranyakashipu decided to kill Prahlada in connivance with his sister. Holika had been granted



**Marketing Director NOTE**



a boon that gave her the power to remain unaffected by fire. To lure Prahlada into a fire, Holika sat him on her lap and pretended to play with him while Hiranyakashipu ordered his men to set the place where they sat on fire. It was then that Holika's boon failed her. In her sinister venture to kill the Lord's devotee, Holika was burned to ashes while Prahlada came out unscathed.

Another reason why Holi is significant is its association with Raasleela, the Divine Dance that Lord Krishna performed for the gopis, his devotees in Vrindavan on this day.

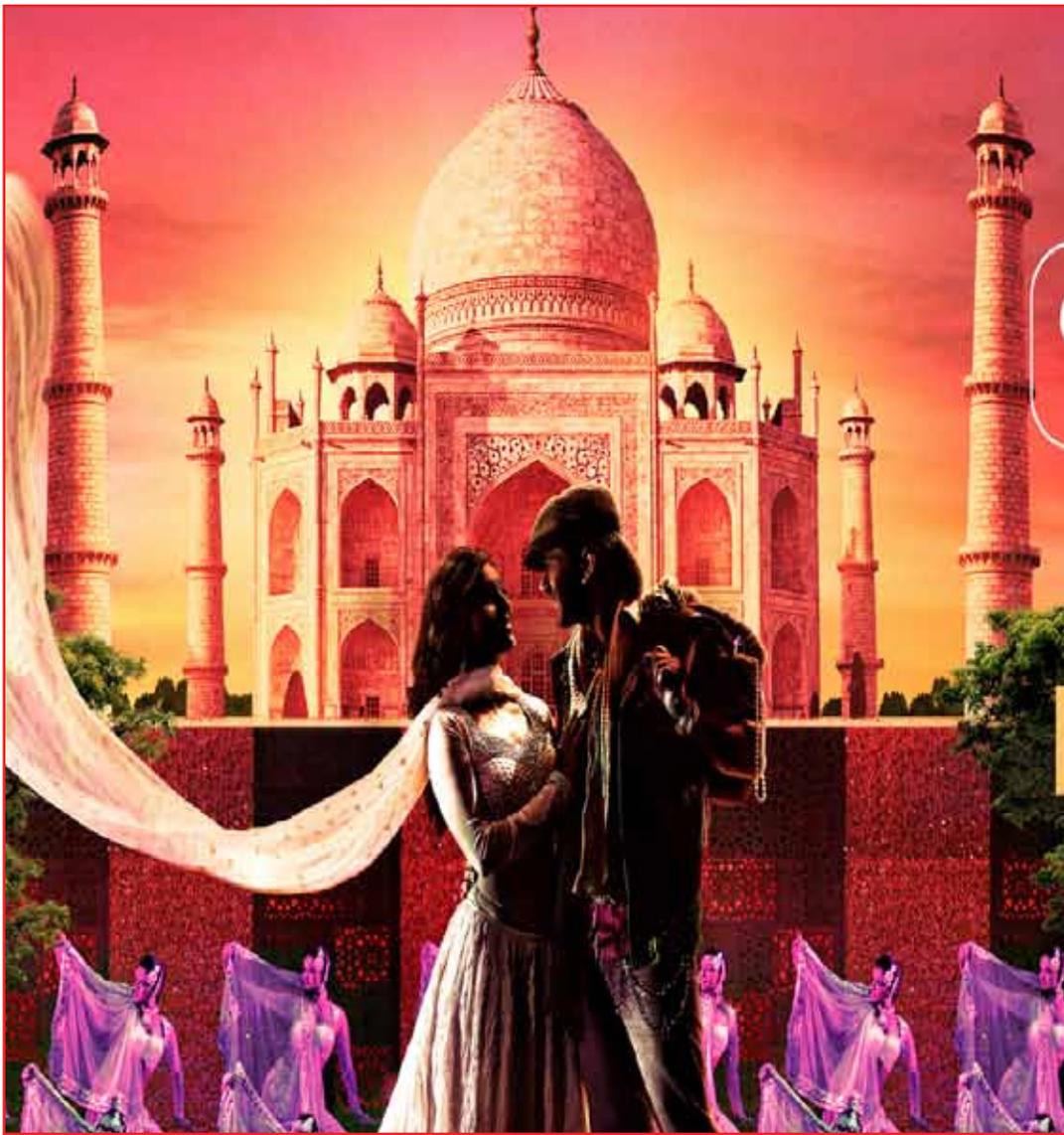
Another important aspect of Holi is its joy and fun. Contrary to common perception, spirituality is about enjoying

life to its fullest. The spiritual life is not about giving up our possessions but discovering higher, permanent joys. It is a path filled with serendipity and moments of sheer joy reflected in the life of Lord Krishna.

Thus, the spirituality that Vedanta speaks is of isn't meant only for ascetics in the Himalayas. It is a philosophy that is meant for men and women of the action. It is a vibrant, living knowledge that enables us to make life a celebration. So on Holi, we must remember to bring the color into our lives by living the principles of Vedanta.

-Manju Walia

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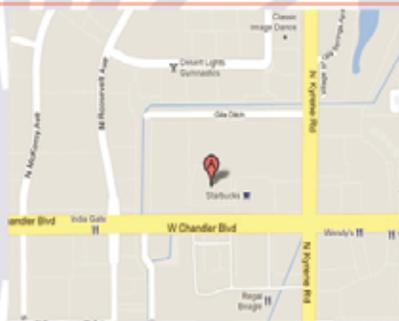
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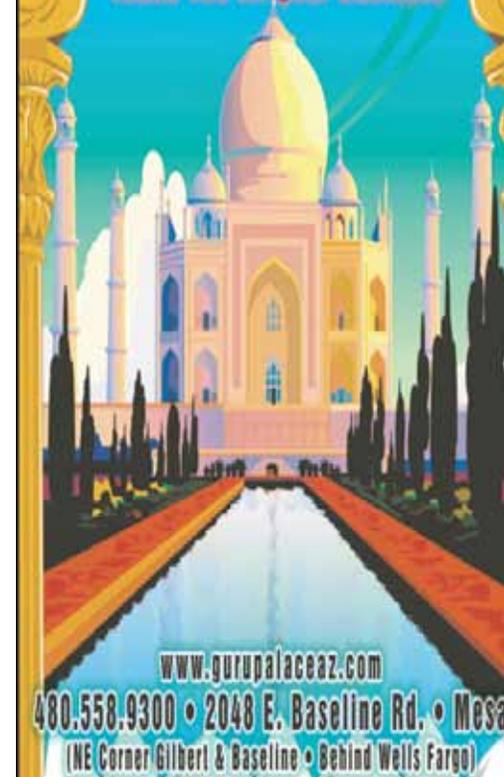


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1	Wed	Inauspicious day to start important businesses; only routine activities to be done
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3	Fri	Face all difficult situations today, a day of rewards, profit and success
4	Sat	Good for new ventures & activities, travelling, fasting, fulfilling promises
5	Sun	Do competitive, bold & winning deeds; don't loan money as it may result in bad debts
6	Mon	Good for new ventures & activities, travelling, fasting, fulfilling promises
7	Tue	2nd half of the day Nakshatra has a good spirit, beware of cheating in first half
8	Wed	Buy & install holy objects at home, perform trade, find new business ventures
9	Thu	Stick to routine activities, watch out for any danger, don't let out money to others
10	Fri	Inauspicious day, hair cutting, perform religious rites and ceremonies for the departed
11	Sat	Full Moon & Favourable day for new ventures, business, contracts or dealing with legal matters
12	Sun	Favourable day for meeting and developing new contacts or dealing with important matters
13	Mon	Increase in everything: Love, name, fame, personal growth, family life, money. This day aims at increasing positive things
14	Tue	Lucky day: Luck favours people who do their best and give their 100%. Help from unknown sources
15	Wed	Fulfillment day, but beware of schemers & back biting; Benefit from important activities undertaken today
16	Thu	Dhana Prapti: Recover outstanding dues and bad debts, chances are high for recovery.
17	Fri	A sweet day with positivity all over, love and romance, attachment & attraction towards others & surrendering to needs & desires
18	Sat	Lucky day: Luck favours people who do their best and give their 100%. Help from unknown sources
19	Sun	Increase in everything: Love, name, fame, personal growth, family life, money and resources. An Excellent day
20	Mon	Financial losses & bad debts may accrue. One will be fearful and unsure of actions; best is to avoid undertaking any important activity today.
21	Tue	Auspicious day, make new friends, new ventures, matrimonial & business alliances
22	Wed	Dhana Prapti: Recover outstanding dues and bad debts, chances are high for recovery. Good time only till 4 PM.
23	Thu	Mind may wander towards negativity, keep mind occupied with abundant physical activities
24	Fri	Day for undertaking activities aimed at recovering outstanding money; the day also brings undue mental stress
25	Sat	Favourable day, big results with least action; success in all your actions done today.
26	Sun	Karya Labh: Permanent benefit from important activities undertaken today
27	Mon	Amavasya day; minimize any important activity, perform Pooja, recite Mantras, fasting is a good idea
28	Tue	Auspicious day after 11 am for important permanent dealings. Day for family time with near ones.
29	Wed	Caution in dealing with automobile, housing & maternal relations. Stick to routine activities.
30	Thu	Dhana Nash: Avoid any financial transaction, may loaned may become a bad debt.
31	Fri	Rough day, risk from fire or accident, avoid journey or lending money

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**13th March - Festival of Jagannath Mishra**  
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**23rd March- Papamochani Ekadashi**  
**Special japa chanting 6pm onwards.**  
**Break the fasting between 7:18am to 10:31am**



**24th March- Disappearance of Govinda Ghosh**

**5th March Harinama & Picnic @ Desert Breeze Park**  
**Sunday March 5th 11:00am - 3:00pm**  
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**8th March Amalaki Ekadashi**  
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**Break the fasting between 6:46am to 9:12am**





**Sunday March 12th Sunday Feast Class**  
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**9th Disappearance of Madhavendra Puri**

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# Yoga Path to self realization

*dehino 'smin yatha dehe kaumaram yauvanam jara  
tatha dehantara-praptir dhiras tatra na muhyati  
(Bhagavad Gita 02.13)*



**Translation:** As the embodied soul continuously passes, in this body, from boyhood to youth to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body at death. A sober person is not bewildered by such a change.

Reflection by Chaitanya Charan:

We live in a culture where the new is incessantly glamorized – new gadgets, new fashions, new data, new news.

But we don't always need new information – what we need is timely access to the known. If students have prepared for an exam, they don't need any new information at the time of the exam – they just need to recollect what they already know.

At the Bhagavad-gita's start, Arjuna faces an emotional breakdown at the prospect of fighting a fratricidal war. Krishna helps him recover by reminding him of everyone's indestructible spiritual identity (02.13). By fighting for the cause of dharma, his eternal soul will get elevated, even liberated. By punishing those who have chosen to side with adharma, he

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*Information  
doesn't have to be  
new to be helpful –  
it just has to be  
timely*

~Chaitanya Charan

won't be killing them; he will be freeing them from their present bodies and circumstances. And their souls, being duly penalized and purged of the bad karma, will be appropriately moved forward in a new bodily dress to a destination suitable for their spiritual evolution.

The Gita's knowledge is not new. The Mahabharata, of which the Gita is a part, contains many references to the soul. Arjuna lived in a culture where knowledge of the soul was familiar, even foundational. What helped Arjuna was not the newness of the knowledge, but its timeliness.

Similarly, when we study scripture, we needn't let the search for the new distract us from the potency of scripture to help us with timely insights when we need them. By studying scripture regularly, not for gaining the titillation of finding something new, but in a mood of service, we will find ourselves enriched and empowered by how we find within it pertinent insights when we need them.

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**N**amaste everyone. "Yoga is a light, which once lit, will never dim. The better your practice, the brighter the flame." These were the golden words of highly renowned Yoga Guru B K S IYENGER. One of the higher purpose of Yoga is to control one's senses which is the main culprit of our association with this material world. This material world is defined as "dukhalayam asasvatam" which means full of miseries and temporary. So, if you want to brighten your life and free yourself from all miseries then keep practicing Yoga. More you practice better you become.

In today's so called busy life, balancing is very important. Be it a balancing between your personal and professional life, or your material and spiritual practice, the better you are at, happier and peaceful you would be. And so in this month, we are focusing on another balancing pose called Garudasana or Eagle pose. In Yoga balancing improves concentration and thus helps us to focus better.



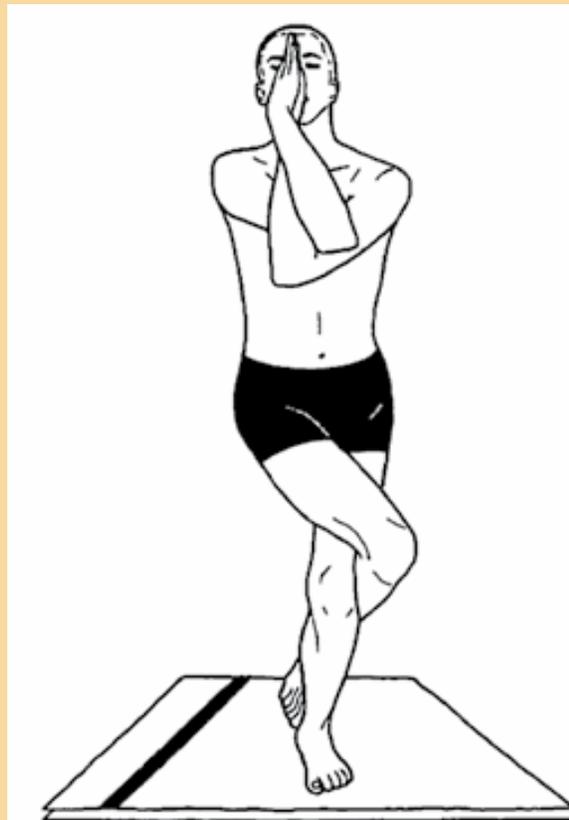
## Garudasana (eagle pose)

**T**he name Garudasana comes from the Sanskrit words garuda meaning "eagle", and asana meaning "posture" or "seat". In Hindu mythology Garuda is known as the king of birds. He transports the God Vishnu and is eager to help humanity fight against demons.

This standing asana enhances concentration. It focuses on the ankles, calves, thighs, hips and shoulders.

### How to Perform it:

- Come to standing position and focus the gaze on a fixed spot.
- Bend the right leg and twist it around the left leg. The right thigh should be in front of the left thigh and the top of the right foot should rest on the calf of the left leg.
- Bend the elbows and bring them in front of the chest.
- Twist the forearms around each other with the left elbow re-



maintaining below.

- Place the palms together to resemble an eagle's beak.
- Balance in this position for some time, then slowly bend the left knee and lower the body, keeping the back straight, until the elbows come down to the knees and the tip of the right big toe touches the floor.
- Keep the eyes focused on the fixed point. Hold the final position for as long as is comfortable, then raise the body, and release the legs and arms.
- Relax with the eyes closed. Repeat with the legs and arms the opposite way around.
- Practise up to 3 rounds on each side.

### Breathing:

- Breathe normally throughout the practice.

Awareness: Physical - on maintaining balance while lowering and raising the body.

Spiritual - on mooladhara chakra.

**Benefits:** Garudasana improves concentration, strengthens the muscles and loosens the joints of the shoulders, arms and legs, and is good for the upper back.



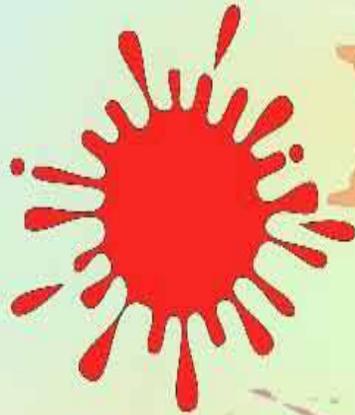
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# CITY OF CHANDLER PROCLAIMS FEBRUARY AS INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE MONTH

**C**HANDLER, Ariz- On February 18 the City of Chandler hosted the UN/UNESCO International Mother Language Day 2017 event, initiated by multi-lingual communities in Chandler at Chandler Public Library.

The event was part of a Chandler citywide initiative with Vice Mayor Kevin Hartke presenting the proclamation, signed by Mayor Jay Tibshraney, declaring the month of February as International Mother Language Month. Chandler Public Library will incorporate international language book collections and e-book collections to serve the needs of diverse communities of Chandler. Guests are asked to bring a book to donate to the library written in their own mother languages.

This event represented an international assortment of indigenous languages and community involvements ranging from Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, Filipino, Hindi, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Marathi, Navajo, Panjabi, Polynesian, Sanskrit, Tamil, Uyghur, Urdu, Vietnamese and many more and made available a light menu of favorite assorted snacks to share the diverse food culture. Local residents, representing the multi-language community spoke to express the importance of preserving mother languages and engagement of the communities at citywide initiatives.

The event was well attended by community leaders and members, including Keynote speaker Vice Mayor Kevin Hartke, City of Chandler; Chandler Public Library Manager Dan Lee, Mr. Jack Sellers, Board Member, AZ State Transportation Board and Former Vice Mayor, City of Chandler; Councilman Sam Huang, Councilman Mark Stewart, Kyrene Elementary School District Governing Board members Bernadette Coggins and Michelle Hirsch, and ED of Equal Opportunity, Governor's office Barry Wong.

The program started with welcome by Farhana Shifa Ahmed saying, "When great minds think alike, the impossible becomes possible and dreams come true." The program continues with National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance led by cubs and Leos of Phoenix Asian American Lions Club and children from the valley. Youth leader Jamila Rahim presented a power point presentation describing the History of International Mother language day, her deeply rooted pride as Bangladeshi American and the future of language preservation. Vice Mayor Kevin Hartke mentioned the uniqueness, beauty, and expression of each



language which not always carry the same weight as when translated.

The audience was enlightened with presentations on the history of the respective languages, demographic and the necessity for preserving languages for future generation. The speakers of the event representing their mother languages were, Afrida-Hoque - Bengali, Mai Li - Vietnamese, Abe Lai - Chinese, Manju Wallia-Hindi and Panjabi, Marie Cunning - Tagalog, Jegedesan Krishnamurti - Tamil, Ji Yong Ann and Kun Kim - Korean, Dr. Bhagyashree Barlingay - Marathi, and Matt Eberle - English.

Beside cultural performances being represented, the necessity for multi-lingual communities to preserve, protect and celebrate their languages in academic ways such as preserving their literatures and books, celebrating diverse languages in schools at all

levels, having multi-lingual literature sharing in writers groups, all designed to pass the rich heritage of each language to the next generation.

Chandler is one of the biggest cities in AZ with a growing number of diverse communities. Vice Mayor Kevin Hartke hopes by promoting International Mother Language Month in Chandler City it addresses the cultural and linguistic diversity of the city and maximizes the opportunities for community engagements in Chandler. As an advocate of cultural diversity, his effort to create and continue Chandler's legacy as a world-class community, Vice Mayor Hartke said, "Chandler committed to serve all members of the community without discrimination based on cultural and linguistic heritage and the City of Chandler is proud to create a greater platform for all diverse language groups." He also indi-

cated support to have a more celebratory and engaging event in 2018.

The continuation of this effort will be seen in the Chandler Public Library where manager Dan Lee expressed his full support and excitement of creating an International Book section, with an emphasis on an e-book collection. During the event, he presented the current programs of the library and encouraged attendees to take full benefit of the program to protect and preserve the many languages represented. Audience at this event donated almost 200 books in various languages.

Prior Vice Mayor Jack Sellers emphasized the needs of diverse language celebrations in schools, believing that the celebration of diverse language populations at all school levels will create a more harmonious and inclusive educational environment in our schools.

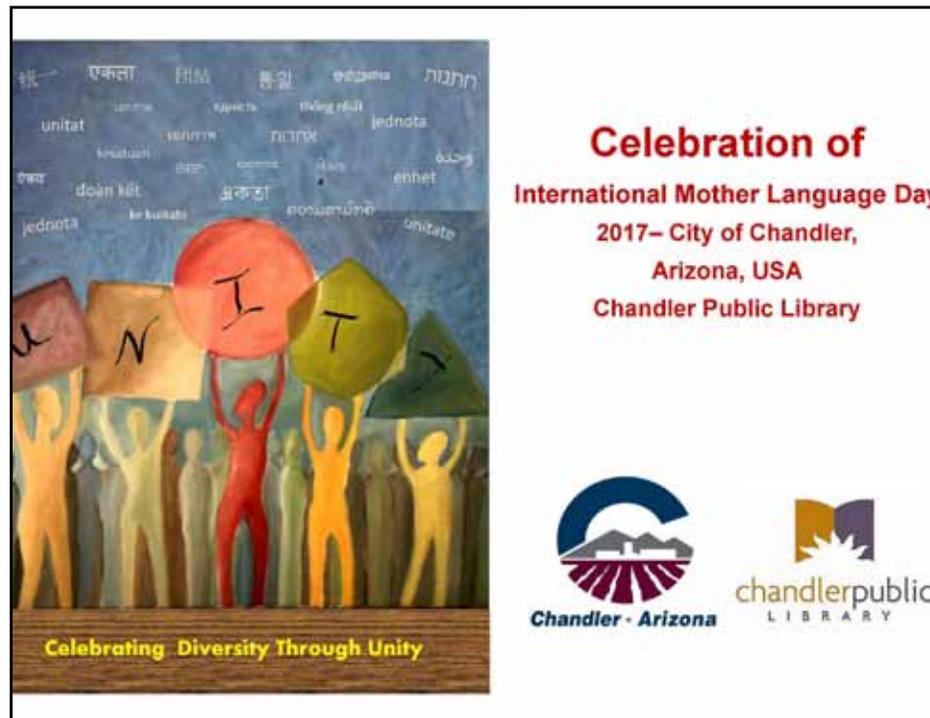
Mrs. Nancy Branch, Principal of Kyrene De la Mirada Elementary School, expressed that, "As the proud principal of Kyrene de la Mirada, an elementary school located in Chandler, Arizona, I am elated about the campaign being launched in Chandler that celebrates mother languages. Our school would be delighted to partner

with the City of Chandler in this important crusade. Ten percent of our students at Kyrene de la Mirada are English Language Learners and we honor and value the diversity of our students and families.

Celebrating the City of Chandler's International Mother Language Month during the month of February will be an opportunity we will seize and weave into our learning and special events throughout the month. As a school community, we recognize the importance of civic engagement and we believe it is our duty to be agents of change who help spotlight and commemorate the diversity of our community."

Along with City of Chandler, the Kyrene School board also placed this initiative on the agenda and indicated full support to promote the effort in that district. Kyrene School District board member Bernadette Coggin expressed her perception of the event, calling it "extremely educational and enlightening:to learn about the diverse languages in our community. American African Coalition Chairman Reverent Clyde Bowen called the harmony and unity he sensed at this event "phenomenal".

The program was sponsored by Kevin Dang, Garry Ong, Jae Chin, Muhammad Lasker, Matt Eberle, Jegede-



shanKrisnamurti, APIA Vote Table and AZ Growth and Unity Initiates (AZUGI).

Farhana Shifa Ahmed who spearheaded the packed house event was recognized by the City of Chandler as the "visionary" in her effort. She has been working closely with the diverse communities for many years and her motto is "Celebrating diversity through Unity".

The Bangladesh Community of Arizona has been observing this day as

their cultural and heritage pride from 2000 under the leadership of past BAP president MD. Mahabub Rahim. In 2014, Farhana Shifa Ahmed with the support of MD Rahim and guidance of MoshuiAlam and Mohammad Lasker took a major step to outreach and bring the valley organizations, performers, and leaders together to celebrate International Mother Language Day.

The International Mother Language Day initiative was launched in

1952 after a horrific attempt at ethnic cleansing by language dominance, which erupted into a dispute and resulted in the loss of innocent lives in Dhaka on February 21, 1952. Subsequently, after many years of activism led by a worldwide consortium of indigenous cultures, this basic Human Right was unanimously ratified in 1999 by both The United Nations and UNESCO. Considered a milestone for Human Rights, International Mother Language Day preserves cultural integrity, dignity, and language so the essence of indigenous cultures and languages are preserved for coming generations.

While it is essential for official languages to exist in service of travel, trade, communication, and commerce on the continents, it is equally important that the ancient fabric of indigenous cultures maintain their cohesive attributes, to strengthen and enrich community.

As part of this initiative, communities and schools will be involved with Chandler Public library, School and many more programs actively throughout the year. Artists, writers, educators, cultural performance groups, theater artists, community and organization leaders, languages schools, teachers, volunteers all are looking forward to a more unifying and celebratory month of February in 2018.

## Real Estate News of Arizona - March 2017

By Aartie Aiyer

Hello Friends,

We are in the beginning of the year and time to look forward for Holi - The first major festival for the year. Time to play with those colors, dance to the music and of course treat on some good old Holi sweets.

Along with the festivities, also comes a new report that sees Arizona shifting into higher gear this year, with the pace of economic growth nearly doubling and the state's population passing 7 million. Employers are attracted by Arizona's lower business costs, particularly relative to other West Coast states, corporation relocations, expansions of companies and healthcare are driven factor for the growth of valley.

Multifamily properties are coming back in demand, as Phoenix is one of the largest city in US. Investors are attracted by its lower pricing and rental demand. Q3 reports for 2016 average rent per unit was \$854 and expected rent to in-

crease \$1,016 by 2020. Rents increased 6% to 7% year-over-year during the last three quarters. Heavy supply could drive up vacancies over 5% by 2018, but healthy economic conditions and demographic indicators make this market attractive.

Let's take a look at the January sales of Residential Properties in Maricopa County-

- Total Sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for January are 5,248 whereas, December were 6,199 and November was 5,976

- The Active listings for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for January are 19,643 whereas, December were 18,266 and November was 20,071

- Pending sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for January are 5,511 whereas, December were 3,978 and November was 5,667

The total home sales by financing were-  
Cash Sales - 1,384

Conventional - 2,595  
FHA - 869  
VA- 357

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

- Total Sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for January are 516 whereas, December were 651 and November was 607

- The Active listings for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for January are 2,145 whereas, December were 2,138 and November was 2,332

- Pending sales for Single Family, Town-home, Condos, for January are 674 whereas, December were 434 and November was 603.

Rockefeller Group and Investment Property Associates, LLC announced the development of two new Livbranded Class A apartment communities in the metroPhoenix area. The projects, located in the Deer Valley and in Goodyear, will total 711 units and provide an amenityrich lifestyle experience that is increasingly in demand

as the region continues to benefit from some of the nation's fastest population growth.

Let's take a peek in commercial side-

Omninet Capital sold the LeCota Office Park at Bell Rd in Phoenix for \$9.4 million or about \$111 per square foot. The 2 buildings total 84,900 square feet constructed in 1985 sits on two acres of land.

West Coast Capital Partners acquired the Anthem Medical Plaza comprised of four medical office buildings in Anthem for \$10.6 million or about \$213 per square foot. The properties were constructed in 2003.

Acacia Capital Corporation sold the Argenta Apartments at Broadway Rd and the Verona Park Apartments at Extension Rd in Mesa for \$71.45 million, or about \$102,000 per unit. The Argenta totals 396 units and the Verona Park Apartments contain 304 units over a combined 520,773 square feet.

PEM Real Estate Group sold The Enclave at the Foot-

hills apartments in Tucson for \$21.8 million, or about \$73,000 per unit. It was built in 1986 and renovated in 2006, the threestory, 300unit multifamily property totals 260,976 square feet sits on 11.7 acres.

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 accuracy 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-geeni, Realty times, azcentral, wall street journal.

# Yellow has become the color of this season!

Gone are the days when it was said, 'Yellow Yellow dirty fellow' as nowadays the color is making its presence heavily felt in the outfits of several leading ladies of Bollywood and Hollywood. Be it rich canary, bright mustard, or lime – 50 shades of yellow are already finding a place in the wardrobes of eminent actresses. Everyone has fallen for the charm of this color.



Be it red carpet events or award functions, actresses have flaunted their outfits with utmost grace. It's time you throw monochrome outfits out of your wardrobe and get sunny this season with yellow!

*How are you wearing Spring Yellow trend?*



*How are you wearing Spring Yellow trend?*



Gorgeous Deepika Padukone has taken the world by storm. And not just that, her red carpet appearances have been a talking point lately. So, while her dress was heavily criticized at the MTV Awards in 2016, this year has been entirely different for the actress.

Sharing Pantone colors swatches for Spring/Summer !

Add this trend to your wardrobe in many ways. It can be an accessory – Scarf, Handbag, Statement Necklace.

1. ZARA top // 2. ZARA Skirt //
3. TOPSHOP // 4-5 LULUS

My Outfit: Sabrina Dress NY & Company Old Dress from 2015. Checkout complete post on <http://hmaan.com/spring-trend-yellow/>



# Mammoth lakes – Nature's Glamour at its best



**Amardeep Kaur**

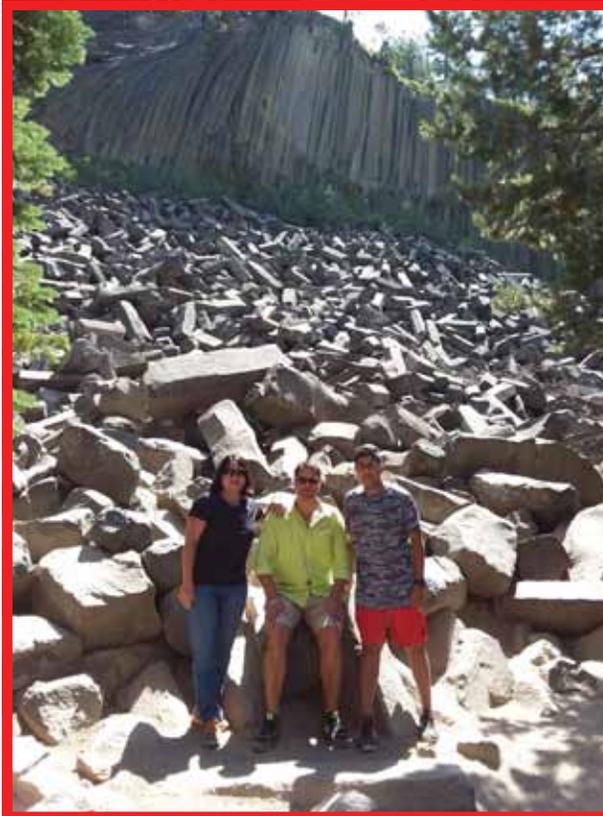
Ever wondered fate has something good planned for you, while you are thinking otherwise. Well, it happened in real life. We planned a sudden trip to Yosemite. As expected did not get hotel bookings in Yosemite.

Got hotel bookings in Mammoth lakes, which is near Yosemite. Turned out Mammoth Lakes was such a spectacular travel destination in itself.

The picturesque Mammoth Lakes has lakes, creeks, mountains, waterfalls, and stunning views, not to forget it is a ski destination for ski lovers. Mammoth Lakes is in Mono County, California. The town of Mammoth lakes is on the elevation of 7,000 – 8,000 feet. The mountains that surround the town have an altitude of up to 12,000 feet. The temperature in summer here can go till 75- 80 degrees. Rarely goes below 10- 20 degrees in winter, mostly at 30- 40 degrees in winter.

Mammoth Mountain is one of the most popular places in the area. Mammoth Mountain Ski area is almost five miles outside of the Mammoth lakes town. It is considered one of country's largest resorts. It has skiing, snow tubing, snow mobile adventures, and scenic Gondola rides. Gondola ride is something not to be missed here.

If you are the sporty and adventurous kind, go to Mammoth lakes in winter, so that you can enjoy skiing, snow tubing and ride on snow mobiles. Mammoth Mountain Bike Park is one of its kind. As soon as you get out of the Gondola, be ready to be amazed while biking on top of the mountain.



Rainbow falls are just like their name. There is a rainbow at the bottom of the falls. You have to hike to reach at the rainbow falls, but the hike is worth it as the falls are breath taking. Go to Minaret Vista for watching sunsets and even beautiful Milky Way skies at night.

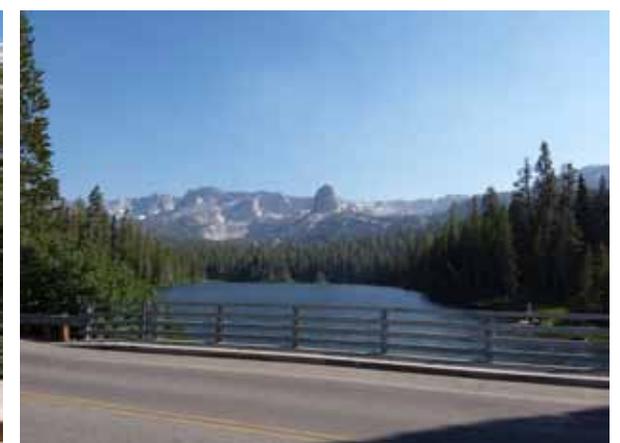
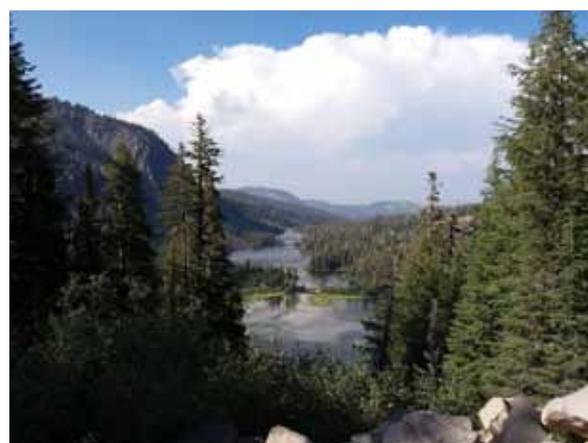
Devils Postpile National Monument is situated on Sierra Nevada range west side of slope. The ba-

salt lava had erupted and cooled here into a wall of columns. These columns were then covered under a glacier, which has given it a smooth top and hexagon patterns. The flora and fauna here is so captivating.

There are so many lakes worth seeing here at Mammoth lakes. Each has its own unique beauty and features. Convict Lake, Lake Mary, Garnet Lake, McLeod Lake, Skeleton Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Twin Lakes and Crowley Lake; all of these lakes are awe inspiring. Crowley Lake is famous for fishing and for boating. Convict Lake has beautiful mountain reflections and easy hiking trails. The convict Lake got its name from the convicts shoot out at this lake long ago. Now, people go there camping, fishing, horse-back riding.

Horseshoe Lake has amazing rock formations around it. The forest is also delightfully well formed around the lake. Tranquil landscape makes Lake Mary awesome for visitors. One of the most photographic hikes is Lake Garnet hike. Situated in the Ansel Adams Wilderness, Lake Garnet is a charmer in its own. A stunning beauty McLeod Lake is a perfect place for picnic, swim, hike or just relax on its shore, while taking in the nature's bounty. Skeleton lake is one of the most scenic lakes with clear blue waters and great hiking trails. Twin Lakes are located at the base of Mammoth Mountain and as the name suggests they are connected. When you look from above the mountain, twin lakes provides unparalleled panoramic view.

All in all, expect to be surprised, expect nature's perfection, and expect tranquility at Mammoth Lakes. A nature loving and adventure loving tourist's heaven.



# Happening Events with a Twist... A Golden Celebration of Commitment and Love

Article by Asia Today,  
Photos by RMW Photo and Video

This month we are proud to highlight a celebration of a tale of commitment and love – a Golden Jubilee Celebration to celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss for Saroj and Vinod Gupta. A glitzy, golden gala to celebrate this monumental milestone was the talk of the town and one that left the couple being celebrated extremely pleased with the hard work and effort of their children, family, and friends to make this moment extra special and memorable. In their own words, “Both Saroj and I would like to thank all who were there for taking time and being there, in spite of rain, and for joining us in our time of joy and celebrating a milestone. And for converting the moment into an unforgettable event. We would also like to thank our children for devoting endless hours, resources, and efforts in organizing the event and making it a memorable event.”

An event of this caliber could not be possible without the support of some exceptional vendors. American Royal Palace, the venue and decorator, went above and beyond to accommodate all needs including last minute needs to make sure that as guests entered the hall, they were surrounded by such majestic beauty that they forgot where they were for the evening. Guru Palace, the caterer, did an exceptional job bringing different tastes of India together and making sure the food was



more than just your standard buffet. In addition to the traditional staples such as Chicken Tikka or Paneer Tikka Masala, the buffet had perfectly done specialties such as Goat Masala and there were special stations for the couples' favorite foods such as Makki Ki Roti and Sarson ka Saag, Chole Bhature, and Gajar ka Halwa. Most of the food was made fresh on site, including fresh tikki and samosa chaats as well as Naan and Bhature. Last, but not least, the crowd could not stop raving about the fresh made Falooda dessert, another Indian delicacy. While the food spoke for itself, the caterer went an extra step bringing décor and colorful umbrellas

to really ring in the authentic look. Mehul of Jhakaas Entertainment provided light, sound, and live Dhol in addition to his foot-tapping numbers that kept the crowd on the dance floor throughout the evening. Sneha Dhole provided an elegant and beautiful cake, while Yusuf Salim created a collage backdrop photo station with the couples' photos for people to pose in front of and take pictures throughout the night. And, last but not least, all you have left from an event are great memories timelessly captured in beautiful photographs, courtesy of RMW Photo and Video.

It was clear that the perfect mix of talent came together to make this an

exceptional evening, one that the couple will cherish for years to come. And why not? 50 years together is a great reason to celebrate. Congratulations once again to Saroj and Vinod Gupta on 50 years together and wishing them continued love and happiness in the coming years!

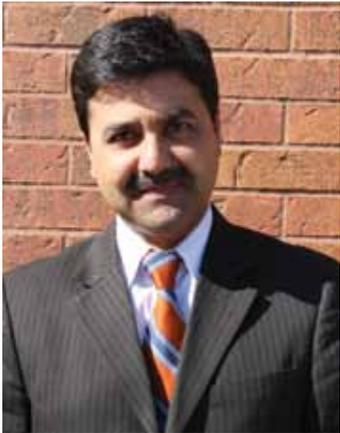
(Asia Today is interested in highlighting your parties in its future editions. Private parties with no commercial or non-profit ties, please submit your entries to editor@asiatodayaz.com with pictures from your event and a description of what makes it unique for a chance to see it in the next edition!)





## Give Life a Direction, Purpose & Meaning!

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- How to support Weak planets & to take advantage of Strong Planets
- Find the right Marital Partner, match horoscopes before tying the knot
- Choose right career path for self and children according to horo-



- scope
- Know what diseases can afflict & how to avoid or weaken them before-hand
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Above all: Find remedies through Vedic Mantras, Colour Therapy and use of Metals & Gems

**KRISHNA PANDIT: 905-910-1441**

## Don't want to enter politics, ABVP fight like 'lion that roars only once'-Gurmehar Kaur

couldn't get used to the sight of mediapersons waiting outside her house every time they dropped by. "This has turned into such a big issue that we are scared even to say anything. Political parties have gained the most out of this," said a family friend on the condition of anonymity.

"Gurmehar takes after her father, who was so strong and forthcoming. She should not be troubled by mediapersons and politicians," said another acquaintance.

The martyr's daughter, for her part, wished that the media glare would move away. "It is not acceptable that people get to see my house, the place I stay, in the newspapers. It doesn't feel good," she said, adding that even having a meal peacefully was difficult with everybody bombarding her through phone and email.

"I am through with this. I came here from Delhi to get some rest, but the media is hounding me here too. I am unable to go outside, and nobody is able to come in either," she said.



**A lion roars only once:** Gurmehar said she would not take her fight with the ABVP any further, drawing a comparison to a "lion that roars just once".

"I would be grateful if I were just left alone because neither my family nor I want to talk about it," she said, even as the woman constable deputed by the Jaland-

har police for her protection looked on.

Her mother, Rajvinder Kaur, also asked the press to refrain from asking questions that will "disturb" Gurmehar.

### An article on the way?

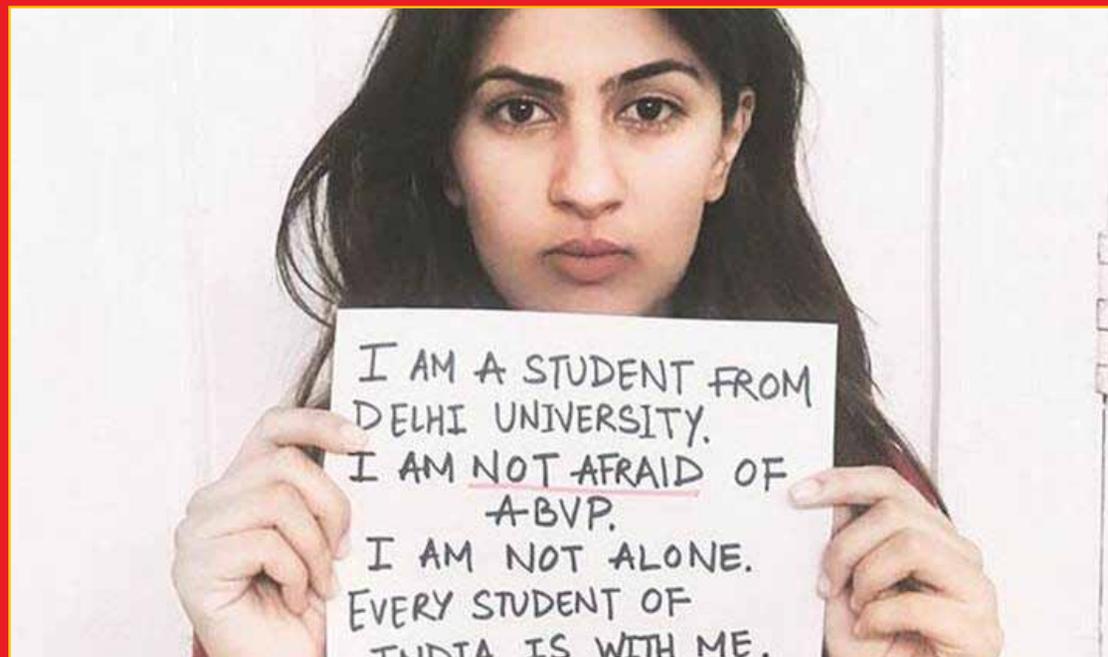
Gurmehar claimed she may write an article on her confrontation with the ABVP soon. "I love to read books. I also like to write. So I may just pen an article on the entire issue," she said.

Besides being an author, she is a national-level tennis player. "I am thankful to everybody who supported me. But for now, I would just like to focus on my future. I will soon go back to Delhi and work towards completing my master's degree," Gurmehar said.

## Those Supporting Gurmehar Kaur Pro-Pak, Should Be Thrown Out: Haryana Minister Anil Vij

NEW DELHI: Adding insult to injury for Gurmehar Kaur, the Delhi University student who led a campaign against in-campus violence and blamed students' group Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad or ABVP for it, Haryana Minister and BJP leader Anil Vij on Tuesday said that all those in her support should be thrown out of India. "Those who are supporting Gurmehar Kaur are all pro-Pakistan. Such people have no right to live in India and they should be thrown out of the country," Mr Vij told reporters.

The Lady Shri Ram College student had launched a social media campaign against ABVP - the students' group linked to the BJP - in the aftermath of the February 22 violence at the Ram-



jas College over invitation to Umar Khalid, a JNU student charged with sedition.

But on Tuesday she pulled out of a protest march saying, "This is all I can take". Ms Kaur has alleged that she received

rape and death threats.

The march drew huge crowds.

Ms Kaur was also trolled on Twitter for her video post on India-Pak peace and criticised by junior Home Minister Kirren

soldier, was killed in 1999.

Mr Rijiju said the 20-year-old was being used as a "pawn" by the "Leftists who support Afzal Guru". "In the interest of this nation, for the security of this nation, we have to be absolutely clear that these people should not pollute young minds of India," he told NDTV.

Yesterday, Mr Rijiju even re-tweeted a post by champion wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, who appeared to mock Gurmehar Kaur's comment on Pakistan. She was earlier trolled for it by Virender Sehwag and Randeep Hooda.

Mr Sehwag later said that Ms Kaur "has a right to express her views and anyone who threatens her with violence or rape is the lowest form of life".

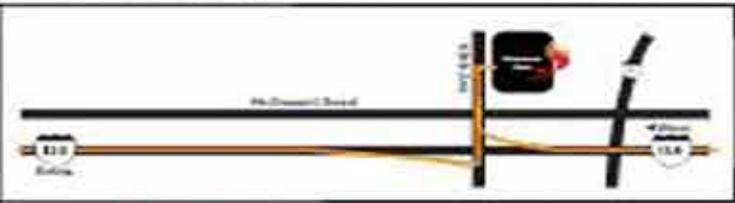
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# INDIAN SENIORS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA (ISAA) - LA PRINCESA La Princesa Jan



On January 31, 2017, the morning got started with beautiful "Bansuri Vadan" by HariprasadChaurasiya as the photo show from the last meeting went on. We paid a tribute to Gandhiji's memory on his 69th "Punyathithi" as we played "RaghupatiRaghav Raja Ram" bhajan. Jitubhai narrated an incident of big explosion in Dahej, Gujarat where safety was certainly an issue. Also, he mentioned how the seat belt law has saved over 12K lives since its inception in 1983. The advice has been to "wear your seatbelt". A number of video clips including- Rear Passenger seat belt, AbhinaJaoChhodkar, Betiyan, Beautiful Shadow Art, Bachalo Papaji, Creative Dancing, Hitler on Democracy, Incredible Magic, Major Speech by New York Mayor, Wo Jab YaadAaye were shown. A clip also showed the celebration of Chinese New Year beautifully. Our luncheon today celebrated the 75th birthday of Joe Solomon. On this occasion he cut the cake as everyone sang a happy birthday song. Thanks to Joe who provided today's cake. Kamalsh Patel complimented the desert with GulabJamun too.

On Feb 07, 2017, a special program got underway with a very educational and informative quiz that was prepared by Nihir -the grandson of Lataben and BhagavanjiDalal. It appeared that the seniors passed it quite well. The next clip was "AapkiAdalat" with well-known witness -Tarek Fatah. The audience enjoyed the successful arguments in India's favor. The program concluded with a short garbadance by the ladies.



Om Bistro came through by serving a delicious "pav-bhaji" luncheon with dahiwada and khaman. Thanks to ISAA for the treat.

Announcements: The Travel & Tour committee had a short video on the caverns in Tucson area. The T&TC has picked March 14, 2017 as the date for travel. All who are interested in joining the day trip please contact Renuka, or Chandrika or Shshikantbhai at your earliest. The cost including the food will be \$50 per person.

On Feb 14, 2017, it was a warm atmosphere during the socialization period. Could it be due to the fact that the main sound of greetings was "Happy Valentine's Day"? This sure turned into a musical event of song and dance as one after another popular songs were played. This was very thrilling as Punjabi music and songs found their way into the system. Thanks to Meena Sharmaji.

Everyone who participated had a ball. This continued for almost an hour. Today it was also 41st wedding Anniversary of Chandrikaben & Jasvantbhai. Many congratulations to them. Re-



అన్నిటికంటే ముఖ్యమైనది ఏమిటంటే... (The text continues with details about the ISAA events and community news.)

1. Happy Birthday to Shashibhai
2. How happy these ISAA ladies are!
3. Miniben sponsored luncheon, honoring Sarojben Parekh visiting Sarlaben from Rajkot!
4. Happy Valentine Day
5. Fun celebrating Valentine Day at ISAA
6. Playing cards is a serious business!
7. Happy Birthday Joe – ISAA loves you!

interested. We did not forget the President's Day celebration. Jitubhai made a brief presentation about his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, UAE and Hyderabad, India. He was excited about the possible transformation into safety and other practical aspects of the economy. The video clip by the East European singers on "chalichali re patang" was in style with great passion. Today's luncheon was sponsored by Miniben in its entirety.

Jitubhai thanked Dr. Mishraji for his recommendation to have ISAA be listed on the internet. This would help others in knowing more about the organization. Umaben and Surinder's grandson was recognized with great pride on his achievement in the development of alternate power source- Nero Battery. Renukaben and Shshikantbhai talked about the trip to Tucson on March 14, 2017. If interested one must pay \$50 per person by Feb 28. The ISAA members observed a moments silence to pay tribute to Kumudben (Mr. R. Javia's wife), who passed away on Feb 20, 2017 in the evening.

ally double celebrations. Subsequently Miniji gave a beautiful talk on the Valentine's Day and its equivalent day - Kamdev and Rati's day as it's known in India. This entailed a historical background going far back as Rig Veda. The luncheon was just fabulous as planned for the day. Over sixty people enjoyed the day.

On Feb 21, 2017, Mahashivratri was celebrated with an outstanding presentation by Mini Panditon historical background on Shiva, Jyotirlingam Temples in India, and Atmashtakam. The presentation is attached for those



## Indo-American Foundation of Arizona

(Registered Non-Profit Organization under Section 501 (C) (3))

Hindu-Jain Temple Ekta Mandir with Community Center, Mailing Address: PO Box 35275, Phoenix, AZ 85069



All are cordially invited for the



# 19th Annual India Festival

Saturday, March 25, 2017 11:45AM-6:45PM

at the Indo-American Community Center, 2809 W Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85017

**MEET & GREET LOCAL LEADERS**

Support Non- Profits & local Businesses!

SAVOR DELICIOUS INDIAN FOOD BY NON PROFITS VOLUNTEERS, SHOP FOR JEWELLERY, SARI, ARTS/CRAFTS & ENJOY VARIETY CULTURAL PROGRAMS BY OUR LOCAL TALENTS



**DO NOT MISS:**  
GRAND MELA with GREAT WEATHER, FOOD, FUN, MUSIC & DANCE!

**For Volunteering, Sponsorship, Booths and Participation please contact:**  
Event Chairs: Sudhir Kalra 623 414 8248, Kulbhushan Chhibber 480 250 0779  
Business Booths: Lokesh Joshi 480 438 6776  
Food Booths: Ravindra Ameta 602 284 5194  
Cultural Programs: Neha Gupta 623 500 8206, Sita Raman 623 332 3264, Sangeetha Sethia 480 390 4316  
General Information: Subhash Thathi 480 797 0625, Jagdish Sagar 480 235 5001

Anniversary celebrations include  
**Sarvadevata**  
Yagna/Havan/Homa, Abhishek,  
Archanas, Special prayers to  
Deities

All are cordially invited for the

## Ekta Mandir Pran Pratishtha 9th Anniversary

Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM at Ekta Mandir

(9th Anniversary of Idol installation ceremony instilling the divine presence)



All are requested to sponsor programs & get  
divine blessings.

**Sponsorship:**  
Dhwajrohan Sponsors - \$1001, Pramukh Yajaman - \$501 : Yajaman - \$251  
Sarvadevata Homa/Havan - \$101, Krishna & Rama Shodshopachar puja - \$101,  
Main Balaji Abhishek : \$101, Main Shivling Abhishek : \$101

**Please Contact:**

Event Chairs: Venkatesh Gurumurthy 480 381 9976, Lokesh Joshi 480 438 6776  
Priest Sudarshanji 602 320 3460, Mahendra Devgania: 602 708 0733,  
Sudhir Kalra 623 414 8248, Nitin Jain 480 621 9196, Subhash Thathi 480 797 0625,  
Jagdish Sagar 480 235 5001

### PROGRAMS

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Main Balaji & Shivji Abhishek & Jain Puja  
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Krishna & Rama Shodshopachar puja  
12:30 pm - 07:00 pm Utsavmurthi Abhisheka & Archana by devotees  
04:00 pm - 05:00 pm Sarvadevata Havan  
05:00 pm - 05:30 pm Dhwajrohan  
07:30 pm Maha Arati

Ekta Mandir invites everyone to a VERY Memorable

## Holika Dahan

on Saturday, March 11, 2017

05:30 PM Satyanarayan Katha and Puja  
07:00 PM Holika Dahan  
07:30 PM Maha Aarati



### Sponsorship:

Holika Puja - \$51  
Family/Individual Archana - \$21

### Upcoming Events

Sri Rama Navami on Tuesday,  
April 4, 2017  
Hanuman Jayanti on Monday,  
April 10, 2017



### Please contact:

Event Chair: Sudhir Kalra 623 414 8248, Lokesh Joshi 480 438 6776  
Priest Sudarshan ji: 602 320 3460, Mahendra Devgania: 602 708 0733

Namaskar, and Sat Sri Akal to all my readers.

A long time before there was one very wise human. When he grew up he started visiting the temples and holy places. Everywhere he went he saw two things together: Happiness and Sadness, Positive and Negative, Fear and Freedom, Love and Hate, Separation and Unity, Day and Night.

One day he thought; it's an unending phenomenon. Where is the oneness? That was the question in his mind. All of sudden he heard the internal voice "Visit the wild forest," and he went there. He saw one hut. With surprise he went inside. There was one man in deep sleep. After some hesi-

tation he sat down. After a long wait the sleeping person woke up. They both looked at each other. The visiting person asked the hermit: "Sir, are you living alone here?" He started to laugh. "No. I am not alone." Surprisingly he

# Dark House



asked again. "I don't see any other" He started to laugh again. The visiting person questioned again. "It must be my mistake, but I question again." And the hermit answered "Yes. It is your mistake." "All of the universe is living with me." The visitor asked

again "Then why don't I see anyone but you?" The hermit answered again, "Because you're living in a dark house."

Then the Hermit questioned the visitor, "How many holy places have you visited?" He answered, "Sir, I have visited uncounted number of them." Hermit asked "Then, why are you here in the forest?" Again, "Sir, I'm trying to find the oneness." Hermit answered, "Then you need to visit one temple more. There you will find the oneness"

The visitor asked "What is the name of that temple?" The Hermit answered, "Sir, it is your mind." The visitor was surprised by the answer. He asked again to the Hermit, "Please help me to understand this secret." The Hermit said, "You need internal light to visit your own self. Without internal light the whole world is living in the pitch dark." The visitor pleaded,

"Sir, I'm helpless, please guide me so I can see my own mind."

Hermit said "Hey innocent child, do you know that little thing the people call as a mirror? Everyone sees everything except their own face without a mirror." The visitor, "Sir, where can I buy that mirror that can show me my own mind?"

"My Dear, you need a key that can open the internal temple which is your own mind." Visitor questioned again, "Who can give me that key?" Hermit answered, "The spiritual teacher."

My dear readers, your faith in one God, Reverence and Devotion, Meditation and Prayer will give you the internal key. When you start to pray, surrender yourself to the divine and cry like a little child for his mother, and he will listen. One day will come when you will see the glimpse of the divine light. That is the internal key. Meditate every day. Serve the creation with unconditional love because the creator is in the creation. Creation is the physical existence of the creator. God bless you with divine grace.

Please pray every day for Love and Grace.

PS: I am thankful to "Asia Today" It is my privilege that I can reach the readers through it.



Gyani Ji,

Harbhajan Singh Sandhu  
GHSSandhu@gmail.com

||Sri LakshmiNarsimha Vijayate||



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Rima Desai

# NO MORE TIME-OUTS

How do some parents get it 'right', their kids don't throw tantrums and they seem to have the best bond, is it just about having an easy kid or good luck? I want to share MY RECIPE OF SUCCESS which involves ZERO TIME-OUTS. Put in simple words it is called MINDFUL DISCIPLINE.

I want you to know that this works with difficult kids, special needs' kids, bad kids and easy kids. It is applicable to ANY situation in your life with your child. It will improve your relationship with your child, reduce stress and improve health all at the same time. It is easy and doesn't require you to have any special training besides the WILLINGNESS to do it. It depends on how badly you want your relationship with your child to improve.

**RULE 1:** No Time-Outs. You might think I am crazy, the whole world uses Time out! Just because everyone does it, it doesn't mean it is right or helpful. I want you to introspect. The purpose of Time-outs or punishments is to help

children learn and not repeat mistakes, to be more responsible and from what I know, time-outs only make children angrier. The aim of a discipline is to calm a child and teach them a good lesson, time outs just don't do that!

Time outs make your children feel ignored, ashamed and left-out. Hence, let's replace time-outs with more supportive discipline.

**RULE 2:** Acknowledge the child's feelings before you do anything else.

"I see how upset you are, how angry you feel. I am feeling angry too". It is wonderful to show children that it is okay to feel negative emotions and that doesn't make them negative. Emotions are not negative, actions are. Hence, if you want your child to regulate their anger, 1st teach them to RECOGNIZE those emotions at a go! It is almost like teaching a child to tell you when they are hungry. We are creating AWARENESS here and helping them connect to their inner self.

**RULE 3:** Model. You cannot teach a child to calm down by screaming at them. They learn more by seeing than by hearing you. If you are pointing fingers and blazing eyes at them, you are TRIGGERING them more and more. If on the opposite you come from a NON-

THREATENING STANCE - looking into their eyes with care and just silence and patience, you will get immediate positive results because that breaks down their WALL OF DEFENSE in an instant!

**RULE 4:** DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE if you don't want them to. DON'T Threaten, judge, criticize or reject. Instead, CLEARLY TELL THEM WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO- "I want you to pick up your shoes and put them where they belong. I want you to do that every day on your own as soon as you come home from school. I may remind me once or twice until it becomes your habit. If I continue to see you ignore this, you may help me clean all of our shoes". Did you see how simple this is?

**Vs.**

"How many times have I told you to keep your shoes in your spot, you just increase my work and are lazy! "If you were a child, which one will make you want to co-operate and change your behavior?"

**RULE 5:** Create productive solutions beforehand for the child. May be a chart to remember that when we get angry, our body feels charged up, our hands feel more pressure and heart

feels more aggression. To remove that aggression or to calm it down we can either punch pillows, go to our silent, safe spot, talk to our soft toy or use a stress ball. There are tons of wonderful instruments one can use like STRESS BALLS, SOFT TOY PUPPETS, PILLOWS, PUNCHING BAGS, SOOTHING PLANTS, etc. to calm one down. Again, if you model that, they will pick it up without you having to TRY and TRY.

**RULE 6:** Stop judging and blaming your child and even yourself. Saying that "You are doing this wrong and you always do it and blah blah..." doesn't help anyone. It only makes the child feel horrible, angrier, more defensive and it makes you more and more distant from your child. Creating a BOND IS SO CRUCIAL because in moments of distress, the bond that was built in good times will keep you and your child united. How much does your child trust you, how connected are you

**RULE 7:** Stop reading more and more articles and start applying the basic rules: SHOW LOVE, SHOW CARE and APPRECIATION with words, quality time, not with toys and expensive holidays.

(Theguidingstar.org)

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## HOW TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

by Dhreya Desai

To keep our community safe, we have to stop polluting it. To save air pollution we can let our friends travel in our car so that we use lesser cars. This will keep the air clean. We don't need to buy 3 or 4 cars per family. Use trains and buses when you can. We also use many pesticides today. Someone may catch the poison from the pesticide and die. My mom told me that plastic is not good for earth. We are using so many plastic things today – cans, bottles, bags, zip locks. I want us all to use more cloth and paper bags than plastic bags and more glass bottles instead of plastic bottles because when animals try to eat, they may eat the plastic and die because their body cannot digest it. Plastic also emits a chemical that we cannot see, it can kill somebody.

**Please save our Earth.**

**About Dhreya:** Dhreya Desai is 6 years young and loves to talk, share her thoughts. She is an inborn artist, social and a natural communicator.



### WHY IS IT GOOD TO GO TO SCHOOL?

*A poem by Dhreya Desai*

It is good to go to school because you will learn.

You will make new friends.

There will be some exciting things and some things that are boring.

You will make mistakes but you will learn from them.

The boring things might lead to something exciting for you.

*E.g. I did not like to learn about the human body, I found it boring. Then one day we made an art project to show how red blood cells look in our body. Our teacher gave us cheerios to put in red liquid in a transparent bottle. It look so stunning and that is how my boring subject became exciting.*

*And this is why it is good to go to school.*

# SIVARATRI CELEBRATIONS AT HARE KRISHNA TEMPLE CHANDLER

why we celebrate Sivaratri and some important facts about Sivaratri as mentioned below. Maha Prasad was served. There was ecstatic kirtan.

There are 3 reasons why we celebrate Sivaratri.

1. As per our Purana in this tithi (it's date as per Sanskrit) Lord appeared as Rudra Incarnation.

2. Same tithi Lord Shiva got married to Mother Parvathi, so this day is considered as the wedding anniversary of Lord Shiva and Parvathi.

3. As per Vedic text on same tithi at the end of kalpa Lord Shiva destroy everything.

## True transcendental qualities of Lord Shiva

1. Lord Siva is a guna avatara of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He is in charge of tamo-gua, the mode of ignorance, needed for the destruction of the material world. However, he himself is unaffected by tamo-guna.

2. Lord Śiva is the agent of the Supreme Lord who interacts with the material energy directly. He is the controller of material energy, Durga who runs the material world. However, he himself is not overcome by Maya.

3. Lord Siva is known as Bhūtanātha, the master of the ghosts and spirits. He presents himself in a way that attracts these sinful entities,



so that he can preach Krishna consciousness to them and elevate them from their sinful situation.

4. Lord Siva is described in the Sri-mad Bhagavatam as the greatest devotee of Lord Krsna or Vishnu. Vaishnavanam yatha shambhuh: among All Vaishnavas, Sambhu is the greatest. Hence he always engages himself in meditation of the Supreme Lord.

5. Lord Śiva likes the devotees of Krishna more than his own, because he himself is a devotee.

6. Lord Śiva is known as Ashuto-sha, one who gets pleased very quickly. When his devotees ask for mate-

rial benedictions and worship him, he quickly gets pleased and awards them whatever they want because he considers them as a disturbance in his meditation on the Lord.

7. Lord Śiva tells Parvathi devi: mukti pradata sarvesam visnur eva na samshayah: It is beyond a doubt that only Lord Vishnu is the bestower of liberation for everyone.

8. Lord Śiva has a transcendental body, which is spiritual, not material unlike the other devatas.

9. Lord Shiva is known as Mahadeva, as he is the greatest of all devatas

10. Lord Śiva's position is interme-

diate to jiva-tattva (ordinary living entities) and vishnu-tattva (Supreme Lord) So he is neither an ordinary living entity nor the Supreme Lord

11. Lord Śiva always tries engage himself in the service of the Lord. Examples: He always mediates upon and chants the holy name of the Lord, He takes the Ganga on his head as it emanates from the Lotus feet of Vishnu.

12. Lord Siva is one of the 12 mahajanas, who sets standards of devotional service to Lord Krsna

13. Devotees of Lord Śiva enter Kailash, where they are further trained in pure devotional service to Krishna and hence given opportunity to be elevated to Vaikuntha planets

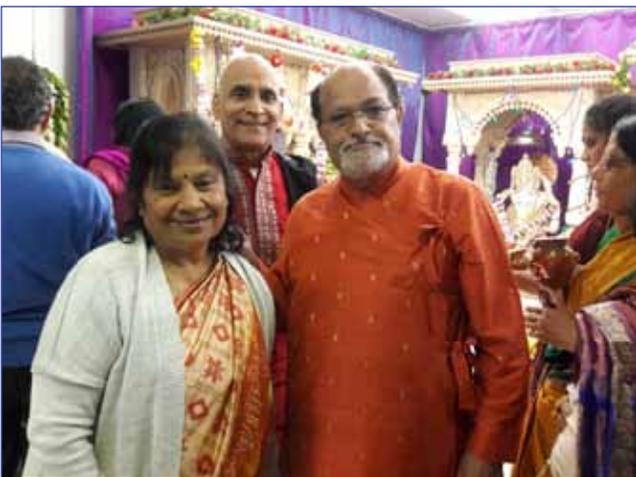
14. Lord Śiva heads a Vaishnava sampradāya named Rudra sampradāya which teaches pure devotional service to Krsna.

15. Lord Siva's temples are almost always found near Vishnu temples, as he takes care of the dhama as Kshetra paala. Examples: Lingaraja temple near Ananta Vasudeva, Ananteshwara near Udupi, etc.

Let's offer our respectful obeisances to the greatest Vaishnava, Lord Siva. **Hare Krishna! 100 S Weber Dr, Chandler, AZ 85226 480 705 4900 www.radhakrishnaphoenix.org**



# MAHA SIVARATRI CELEBRATIONS AT HINDU TEMPLE of AZ



# Sri Srinivasa Kalyana in Melbourne

Melbourne devotees welcome Lord Srinivasa to Sri Krishna Brundavana!

- Sri Kiran K Rao ( SVK Temple – Priest)

There are very few moments in one's life when you know you are participating and witnessing a historic event that defines the start of a new journey! We devotees in Melbourne were fortunate and blessed to witness and participate in such an event this past Sunday, January 29th, 2017!

Sri Srinivasa Kalyana is a grand event even in India (or any part of the world). It is literally the Divine wedding – of Lord Srinivasa and his consorts Goddess Sridevi and Bhoodevi! Months of meticulous planning, practice and preparation results in a grand and pompous wedding of the Gods complete with all the festivities of a traditional Hindu wedding. The atmosphere is super charged and festive just as much as it is divine. It is the ultimate celebration with Song, Dance and Rituals with participation from all walks of life! Adults and Kids, Ladies and Gentlemen, Young and Old, Rich and Poor all participate together, as a family, in a daylong celebration to witness the celestial wedding on earth.

In Melbourne it was special for another reason! It marked the foundation for the first ever Lord Srinivasa temple in Melbourne!! This marked the start of a new innings for Sri Krishna Brundavana – now christened as Sri Venkata Krishna Brundavana. So it is the first ever Sri Venkata Krishna Temple in the Southern Hemisphere!! The Brundavana was now complete – first Lord Krishna then Raghavendra Swamiji and now Lord Srinivasa. We are heading another step closer to having our own Matha / Temple established in Melbourne. And we, the devotees in Melbourne having worked tirelessly for over 4 months, could not believe our eyes as we welcomed the smiling Murtis of Lord Srinivasa, Goddess Sridevi and Goddess Bhoodevi as they arrived in Melbourne after a 30 hour journey – direct from Tirumala Temple to Melbourne!! Devotees wept tears of joy as they welcomed the grand processions of the Gods to the wedding altar! Years of our prayers were being answered – Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Beloved Shri Sugunendra Teertha Swamiji, our revered Shri Prasanna Acharya and the entire SKBM team!

It is a dream come true – our grandkids can proudly tell their grandkids that your ancestors were present when the foundation stone was laid for this magnificent Australian temple, the greatest in Southern Hemisphere! Your great-great grandmother had danced



as she welcomed the Lord and your great-great-grandfather was holding the Pallaki of the Lord!! Yes... we still have a lot to work to get that part of our dream to come true, but this is the start of that historic journey!

As Swamiji once said, the Lord comes only where there is Bhakti and devotion. He does not need any special invitation, any grand preparation or any special welcome... all he needs is Bhakti in our hearts and devotion in my mind! We truly felt like Shabari Devi on that day – our material offerings didn't amount to anything significant to the Lord of the world, yet the Lord Almighty was here and graciously accepted our Bhakti and offerings with a smile on his face!

Our dear Brundavana now feels complete – we have Lord Krishna to always guide us in the right direction by giving us the (Bhagavad) Gita Amruta; Lord Srinivasa along with Goddess

Sridevi and Bhoodevi give us the true Wealth (which is knowledge) and our Beloved Guru Raghavendra Swamiji eternally bless us with Bhakti unto the Lord! As Swamiji says, Lord Venkateshwara is Lord Krishna appearing in a different veshha (costume) for the benefit of his devotees in this Kaliyuga. So in other words, he is Lord Venkata Krishna!

Over 1200 devotees from across Melbourne and Australia witnessed this rare event. Every minute ritual was performed with utmost devotion by the veteran, Shri Kiran Acharya who had flown in especially from Phoenix (USA) to conduct this maiden ceremony in Melbourne. Kiran Acharya is the chief Priest of the Phoenix Sri Venkata Krishna Kshetra Temple, one of the most senior students of Swamiji, one of the earliest priests to visit and settle in US (close to 20 years), and a very self-disciplined priest in all his activities... and

this was evident in the methodical and detailed manner in which he conducted the entire ceremony.

Over 40 musicians and singers from across Melbourne offered their art as a seva to the Lord and enthralled the audience with songs for every ritual. Under the watchful and meticulous coordination of Smt. NethraSreenaathji, the team had an enchanting song for every occasion; just to name a few "Venkatachala Nilayam Vaikuntha-Puravasa" was an apt song during the MahaMangalarti or Vadiraja Swamiji's powerful Haryashtakam "Smara Krishnam Bhayaharim" during Tulabhara of Swamiji. The songs were meant for the particular Pooja Krama and was beautifully rendered by the local artists.

Kids charmed the audience with the traditional Welcome dance as the brides and groom arrived at the Mantapa. Ladies performed enchanting dance performances - including the traditional Kollata dance and a Classical Bharatnatyam performance - and offered it as Natya Seva to the Lord. The priests continued with the customary Oil bath ceremony to the brides and groom. The priests, Kiran Acharya and Vishwa Acharya, instinctively broke into a humorous dance during the garland exchange ceremony to see who would first get to put the garland onto the other person.

Blessed are the devotees who got to don the role of the parents of the bride as they got the punya of Kanyadaana. Tears of joy flew on their smiling faces, as if they were performing the Kanyadaana of their real daughter! And why not, because all the events were so real. Hopefully the Almighty will bless them with the same Punya.

And then the Mangalya Dharane ceremony had the entire hall resounding with claps and cheers! Swamiji then performed MahaMangalarti to the newlyweds! We devotees of Melbourne surprised Swamiji by conducting the first ever Tulabhara ceremony as our humble way to say Thanks. This time we only used gold coins (colloquial for local currency coins), but we pray to the Lord that the next time it may be the real ones. As Swamiji later explained the Lord is so kind that just for the task of carrying / bringing the Lord from Tirupati to Melbourne, the Lord thanked him back by offering money equal to his weight. The Lord will never let any devotee return empty handed!

Swamiji, in his characteristic witty style also mentioned that Melbourne



has now justified its status of being the most liveable city in the world - Lord Srinivasa, the richest Lord in the world, has also chosen Melbourne as the city to live and has arrived with his PR (Permanent Residency) to stay! And as is traditional after marriage (in modern days) the newlyweds are seeking a new and bigger house to stay! Swamiji announced to move to a newer premise – which is larger, much closer to the city, convenient to all forms of public transport and walking distance to the Southern Hemisphere’s largest shopping mall (Chadstone Shopping Complex)! Even the Lord needs to keep his wives happy –so what if he is heavily indebted in loans, he still has to take care of their shopping needs.

Hundreds of volunteers worked tirelessly to conduct the entire event

smoothly under the able guidance of the SKBM priests – our chief priest, Shri Vishwa Acharya, Shri Nagendra Adiga Acharya, and Shri Nitish Acharya. After all this is the largest event they have ever conducted, yet they smiling took on each task. Months of tirelessly running around to carry out a variety of errands- from inviting guests for the event to preparing all the necessary props for the event; several sleepless nights of preparing for every minute of the event, culminated with a picture perfect ceremony! We sincerely thank all the devotees who participated in this holy wedding ceremony and made it a grand success! Devotees were enthralled at the end of the ceremony – most of them were pleasantly surprised at the grandeur and asserted that they had never seen an event of

this magnitude outside India. And this is just the second year running for SKBM! All devotees were treated to a sumptuous and elaborate wedding luncheon prepared under the guidance and leadership of our Chief Cook, Shri Venkatesh Acharya. Devotees left spell bound and looking forward to the opening of the new temple – christened as Sri Venkata Krishna Brundavana, Melbourne!

We look up to Swamiji and our dear Prasanna Acharya for their continued guidance so that we can have many more such exciting and devotional firsts for Melbourne.

With Pranamas, Hare Srinivasa!  
 – Sanjiv Kulkarni  
 || Shri Krishnarpanamastu ||





Waheguru Ji ka Khalsa! Waheguru Ji ki Fateh!

## GURDWARA MONTHLY

A Monthly digest of Gurdwara Programs and Events

### MARCH 2017 Programs & Events

18 Phagan, 548 – 18 Chet, 549 Nanakshahi Era (NE)

**Mar. 10-12 (Fri-Sun) – Hola Mohalla Festival (Actual: Mar. 13).**

To learn more about this festival visit:

[http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hola\\_Mahalla](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hola_Mahalla)

Akhand Paath by Sangat

Akhand Paath Arambh: Fri. 5:00am

Akhand Paath Bhog: Sun. 11:00am

Shaheedi Bhai Subeg Singh and

Bhai Shahbaz Singh Ji (Act.: Mar 10, 1746)

Delhi Fateh March, Baba Baghel Singh Ji (Mar 11, 1783)



Hola Mohalla Festival

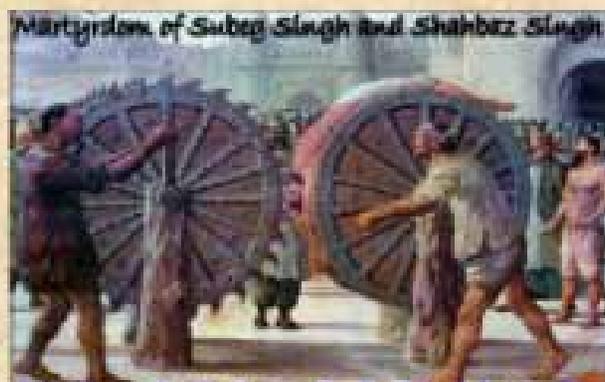
**Mar. 14, Chet 1 (Tues) – Nanakshahi NEW YEAR 549.**

*HAPPY NEW YEAR Everyone!!!*

Sangrand Monthly Program (10:00am – 11:00am)

EcoSikh – Sikh Environment Day.

See: <http://www.ecosikh.org/programs/sikh-environment-day/>



Shaheedi Subeg S & Shahbaz S

**Mar. 19 (Sun) – Joti Jot Siri Guru Hargobind Ji (Actual: Mar 19, 1644).**

Homeless Langar Seva. Call 602 741 8021 for more info.

**Mar. 26 (Sun) – Gurgaddi Siri Guru Har Rai Ji (Act.: Mar. 20, 1644).**

Joti Jot Siri Guru Angad Dev Ji (Actual: Mar. 28)

Gurguddi Siri Guru Amardas Ji (Actual: Mar. 31)

**Amrit Sanchar is coming up in April.  
Are you ready? Contact Ragis.**

#### **Regular Programs:**

Main Kirtan Diwans on Fridays (7 PM – 9 PM) and Sundays (10 AM – 1 PM).

Morning Banis: 5:30 AM – 6:30 AM followed by ASA-DI-VAAR to 8:30 AM.

Evening Banis: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Sukhmani Sahib every Wednesday: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Please check Gurdwara notice board for latest details of all Programs and Events

Waheguru Ji ka Khalsa! Waheguru Ji ki Fateh!



Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji



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## Style alert: Major fashion collaborations to watch out for in 2017

From Gigi Hadid and Tommy Hilfiger to Rihanna and Manolo Blahnik, 2016 was a generous year when it came to high-profile fashion collaborations. So what can we look forward to for 2017?

**Bella Hadid:** Supermodel of the moment Bella Hadid is working on her debut jewellery collection with LA brand Chrome Hearts. Details are being kept strictly under wraps, and an



official release date has yet to be announced, but the house is known for unique, rock-and-roll-inspired pieces, so we can expect something urban and edgy. Hadid broke the news on Instagram a few weeks ago, saying: "So damn excited! You have no idea what's

coming!"

**Rita Ora**

Could singer and actress Rita Ora be planning another project with Adidas, or even be preparing to strike out on her own? She debuted her 15th collaborative collection with the sports-

wear giant back in November, but told WWD she had something else in the pipeline too. "I've done so much for this brand, and we've done so much together, that we couldn't just leave it like that," Ora told the site. She added, "I've been working with Adidas for three years, and I have learned a lot about them and about branding, and the collaboration has led me to great ventures coming in the New Year."

**Alber Elbaz**

Former Lanvin designer Alber Elbaz is rumored to be teaming up with Converse in Japan on a new sneaker, set for release early in the new year. WWD first reported the news several weeks ago, and although neither Converse nor Elbaz has confirmed the rumours, anticipation is mounting.

Elbaz also announced in October that he will be releasing a new fragrance created with perfumer Frédéric Malle next March.

# Attention, brides-to-be: Here's how you can find the perfect wedding trousseau

Every girl dreams of being a glamorous bride. And the bridal trousseau is a sacred collection of all that's essential not only in terms of tradition, but also, when it comes to expressing your personal style.

So, if you are a bride-to-be, this is your cut-and-keep guide to shopping smart. So, starting from your makeup for your vanity case, to footwear to go with every outfit, jewellery and the all-important bridal outfit — here are expert tips that'll help you shop. So, from knowing your fabrics and the finer details of embroidery to time management — be the model bride — a multi-tasker who doesn't let pressure get to her.

Buy jewellery in the end: We love to try the jewellery and feel the aura of being a bride. But make sure you shop for jewellery after finalising your bridal ensemble so you can choose a set that matches. If you have a heavy bridal lehenga pick simple and subtle jewellery.

Sometimes, we are not able to judge what will look good on us. So, the best way is to wear a black scoop-neck top while going for jewellery shopping. Also, take a trustworthy friend or family mem-



ber along to help you pick the designs.

Embroidery over patchwork: Designer Gautam Gupta advises that you choose embroidery instead of patchwork. "Many lehengas are made using patchwork, instead of embroidery. The patch is prone to coming out easily," he says, adding, "Your heels can rip

them apart."

Time and fabric is crucial: Designers or boutiques require around three months to finish the lehenga after you have purchased it. So start shopping on time. Designer Gautam Gupta says good quality fabric is always light. He also adds, "Try the outfit. The quality of the fabric, inner

lining, zipper and embroidery can only be judged when you wear it."

Don't just splurge on ethnicwear: Indian brides have a tendency to pick up tons of ethnicwear at the time of the wedding, and then soon realise they need a variety of looks for work, holiday or just a casual day out. Do pick up

a few western staples as well, such as a black dress or a white shirt.

Designer Leena Singh says a fusion look is a good choice. "Formal brocade jackets, dhoti with short tops are a good pick. Buy colours other than bridal hues, otherwise you'll soon get bored," she says.

All you need in your vanity kit: Make sure you pick two vanity kits, a big one to accommodate everything and a small pouch with multiple zippers for the time you will be travelling. Makeup artist Ishika Taneja says, "Irrespective of the basic makeup essentials like foundations and compact, do pick a colour corrector, lip and cheek stain, light diffuser concealer, liner pens and makeup fixer."

Get your shoe game right: Footwear is the last thing a bride shops for and many-a-times, it's a last minute pick. Shoe designer Vanshika Ahuja suggests that one should pick heels matching the embellishment and not the base colour of the garment. For those who love heels and want to pick one, make sure they are not higher than four inches — after all you have to spend almost a day in those.



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## Review: Bara by UR Ananthamurthy

UR Ananthamurthy was already established on the Kannada literary scene when AK Ramanujan translated his controversial novel *Samskara* into English. While most translations from the original *bhāṣā* are by and large ignored by the English-speaking readership in urban India, Ramanujan's translation was not. While it is difficult to say how much of this was because of Ramanujan's own formidable stature as an excellent poet, translator and scholar of international repute, the translation made Ananthamurthy something of an icon among several of the English-speaking intelligentsia. *Samskara* focused on the prejudices and fallibilities of an agrahara, and its critique of Brahminical bigotry was a recurrent theme in Ananthamurthy's work. Both *Samskara* and his hard-hitting short story *Ghatashraddha* (made into a powerful, disturbing film by Girish Kasaravalli) reiterated, among other things, that female sexual hunger was real and did not necessarily end with widowhood. Though this theme was hardly new to Indian literature the bourgeoisie outrage that greeted it (as also the work of Vijay Tendulkar and several other creative artists around the same time) was characteristically extreme.

Ananthamurthy's novella *Bara*, meaning drought, was published in 1976, over thirty years before its belated translation appeared posthumously (he died in August 2014). MS Sathyu directed a Kannada film based on the novel in 1982 and a Hindi version titled *Sookha* a year later. *Bara*'s context (the Emergency) is specified at the very start of the novel with an ironic reference to the CPI's support of Indira Gandhi's government but the novel's strength is its abiding relevance to the Indian situation. Being in denial for political gain is a familiar enough strategy and the CM's fear of his rivals means that the deaths of men and cattle go unremarked while corrupt locals and police officials enjoy political patronage.

Ananthamurthy spares no one. The bureaucrat Satisha sees the contradictions between his idealism and his life-style but enjoys his power and perks as district commissioner, the nawab's erstwhile palace which houses him and his family, the nawabi stature people consequently bestow on him, and lets "the iron grip of his ethics" relax without realizing it. Though he and his wife Rekha try to stay true to their beliefs, sending their son Rahul to the ordinary local school and not the privileged one run by the Armed Forces, Rekha cannot



resist telling her Delhi buddies about the "crude language and... lice" Rahul had picked up in school – a detail that is sardonically described as having "enhanced" their "stature in influential social circles in Delhi." Despite his anguish over the prevailing drought Satisha bathes in "more water than there was in all of Kamma Street" which he had just visited while Rekha channels the used water to grow a green lawn so as not to "waste" it. Solicitous friends and colleagues bring the couple tomatoes, eggs, a birthday cake from Bengaluru – foods that are almost vulgarly out of place in a village where nothing grows.

Satisha's efforts to enlist the help of Bhimoji (president of the local farmers' unit and secretary of the Municipal Workers' Union) accentuate the incongruities of his situation. Bhimoji is a seasoned unionist, a "small-time politician" who ribs Satisha about their differences in social status, Satisha's leftist brother-in-law, and his naiveté about political realities, terming him a "socialist bureaucrat" out of sync with the times: "Let me be honest with you. Are you a bureaucrat? A revolutionary? You delude yourself that you can be both... Why can't you get what a petty politician like me can understand? ...I don't make a mishmash of a clean conduct, a hefty salary, and revolutionary thoughts. The forces that stand still will move due to people like me. Why doesn't it occur to you that I could have a vision too?"

There are many bizarre dimensions to the visions of people like Bhimoji. The CM sees the drought as a photo-op for him to inaugurate two more "gruel centres" with the corrupt hoarder he is shielding presiding over the ceremony and donating land as a measure of his goodwill. The secretary of the Cow Protection Group berates Satisha's position ("what is the point of saving barren cows which only gobble up the feed?") with unassailable if dubious rhetoric: "Aren't our poor people barren too, Sir? Are they educated? Are they strong? Can they give birth to healthy children? They can gobble up the entire stock of grain. Why don't you let them die, Sir?"

In the end it is Bhimoji who becomes the catalyst for change, leading the poor in a revolt which tests Satisha's principles. Ostensibly a move against the hoarders, the situation soon deteriorates into a riot which ends with Satisha ordering the SP to fire at the mob. The CM resigns, the government is forced to declare a drought, and Satisha loses his job, becoming a lecturer instead – a demotion that is a rueful reflection on our sustained devaluation of academic life!

In the lengthy interview with Ananthamurthy at the end of the book, the author frequently plays the Devil's advocate, making for a somewhat mystifying experience. Ananthamurthy has always been controversial and outspoken but the interview has him express views on topics ranging from the Emergency to communism to cow protection to smalltime politicians, and some of his responses are disappointingly flat. He describes Satisha as "a JNU product", Rekha as coming "from the world of JNU" – whatever he means, such phrases are stereotypes one would not have expected from him. In the same unsatisfactory vein, the cow protector Govindappa's perspective becomes "one way of describing inhumaneness... he has a point of view"; Bhimoji is "a great pudaari", someone who "knows every ideology... can use them and misuse them, and change them". There is even a flip-flop on the Emergency: it did "a few good things" and men like Devraj Urs "used caste to go beyond caste." These well-intended but rather jumbled thoughts appear to have punctuated the storyline in *Bara* as well, weakening its powerful essence. Ananthamurthy himself admits that he was not happy with the work initially but changed his mind later ("I got back my respect for the story" is how he puts it). It remains a politically valid piece as he says at the end of the interview, but it lacks the compelling thrust and cogency of his earlier work.

*Vrinda Nabar is an author, critic and a former Chair of English, Mumbai University*

## POET OF MONTH Langston Hughes

Born in Joplin, Missouri, James Langston Hughes was the great-great-grandson of Charles Henry Langston (brother of John Mercer Langston, the first Black American to be elected to public office). He attended Central High School in Cleveland, Ohio, where he began writing poetry in the eighth grade. His father would discourage him from pursuing writing as a career, in favour of something 'more practical'. Langston's tuition fees to Columbia University were paid on the grounds that he study engineering.



### Life Is Fine

I went down to the river,  
I set down on the bank.  
I tried to think but couldn't,  
So I jumped in and sank.

I came up once and hollered!  
I came up twice and cried!  
If that water hadn't a-been so cold  
I might've sunk and died.

But it was Cold in that water! It was cold!

I took the elevator  
Sixteen floors above the ground.  
I thought about my baby  
And thought I would jump down.

I stood there and I hollered!  
I stood there and I cried!  
If it hadn't a-been so high  
I might've jumped and died.

But it was High up there! It was high!

So since I'm still here livin',  
I guess I will live on.  
I could've died for love--  
But for livin' I was born

Though you may hear me holler,  
And you may see me cry--  
I'll be dogged, sweet baby,  
If you gonna see me die.

Life is fine! Fine as wine! Life is fine!

**D**on't overspend to impress others. You may find that someone you really cared for in the past has come back into your life. You may find that others do not do things the way you want; however, if the job gets done, let it pass. Do your job and don't ask for favors. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**ARIES**



Mar 21 to Apr 20

**D**on't get so wrapped up in being rich that you overlook the fact that your plan may not be as solid as you thought. You will reach the most people if you speak out at an organizational function. Your child-like quality may get you into big trouble this month if you neglect your responsibilities. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**TAURUS**



April 21 to May 20

**Y**our self confidence will attract members of the opposite sex. Stand up and propose your ideas, and you'll be surprised how many people will follow you. You can't win and they won't listen. Your ability to help others will win you points. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**GEMINI**



May 21 to June 21

**U**se discrimination and play hard to get. Get busy trying to make more money. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. Patience will be of utmost importance. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**CANCER**



Jun 22 to Jul 22

**F**amily members will not be happy with the amount of time you are spending away from home. Don't make financial contributions in order to impress others. Interaction with colleagues will only be upsetting. This is a great day to start that new health regimen you've been talking about. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**LEO**



Jul 23 to Aug 23

**Y**ou won't be admired at home if you haven't been taking care of your share of the work. Don't do something silly just to get back at your mate. Try to deal with it quickly; don't dwell on past regrets. Take care of your personal needs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**VIRGO**



Aug 24 to Sep 23

**T**ry to be reasonable. Keep calm. Someone around you is bouncing off the walls. Changes to your self image will be to your benefit as long as you don't over pay. Time to deal with institutional environments, government agencies, and matters of a private nature this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LIBRA**



Sep 24 to Oct 23

**Y**ou have a tendency to think that no one else will do things properly. You have more than enough on your plate already. Be prudent and don't be led down the garden path. Arguments with relatives may lead to a split in the family. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**SCORPIO**



Oct 24 to Nov 22

**D**on't start any arguments unless you're prepared to accept irrevocable results. Business trips will be more productive than trying to fight the red tape facing you. Take things slowly, especially for the sake of those you love. Problems with females you live or work with will try your patience and cause temper flare ups. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS**



Nov 23 to Dec 21

**B**e careful while traveling. Try to avoid being extravagant this month. Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**CAPRICORN**



Dec 22 to Jan 21

**Y**ou may find that your documents are not in order. Someone may be trying to damage your reputation. You will want to complain about the injustice that is going on, You may find that your documents are not in order. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**AQUARIUS**



Jan 22 to Feb 19

**P**raise will be yours if you have been pursuing your goals. You won't be able to keep a secret. You may be emotional and quick to judge others. You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**PISCES**



Feb 20 to Mar 20

## Top 9 dishes to try this Holi

It's that time of the year when Rang barse in Bachchan's voice will play at every nook and corner of the city. It's time to get drenched in coloured water and devour mouth-watering delicacies. While you'll be splashing colours at each other this Holi, we give you a list of 9 scrumptious dishes that will add taste to your celebrations.

### Namakpare

Holi is all about getting those frequent munchies while you are busy playing with colours. Who has the patience to wait for a whole meal on this day? Take fistfuls of these diamond-shaped salted munchies and stuff them into your mouths. Wash them all down with a chilled glass of Thandai and do full justice to these Nimkis!

### Gujiya

Gujiya and Holi are synonymous to each other. These sweet dumplings are made using maida, carefully filled with just the right amount of delightful khoya and an assortment of dried-fruit. It is then fried in pure ghee and dunked in sugar syrup. You can also get creative with the stuffings and go all nom nom...



### Malpua

After playing with colours the whole day, sudden hunger pangs are sure to drive you crazy and these sugar dripping malpuas must make it to the table. Holi food fiesta cannot be deemed complete without this scrumptious delicacy. This Indian sweet dish is a sugar syrup soaked pancake prepared from a batter of flour, milk and cardamom.

### Bhang Thandai

A Holi special post cannot go without a special mention about Bhang Thandai. This deceptively simple look-

ing drink is packed with the goodness of milk, dry fruits and spices. With the temperature rising steadily, escalate the spirit of Holi and let the Bhang flow!

### Kaanji Vada

Kaanji Vada is a common sight during Holi in almost every household. If you're tired of eating everything sweet and want to give your taste buds a change, then this is a perfect savory option to go for. Kanji vada is a sour and salty blend of crispy vadas dipped in spicy water. The spicy water is fermented for over three days, after which

it is flavoured with rai, mustard, chilli and different varieties of salts.

### Bhang Pakora

Is there anything better than a steaming hot Bhang Pakora giving you a tipsy feel on Holi? Bhang Pakora is not as strong an intoxicant as the beverage but is surely a great munching option to pair with your Thandai.

### Baked Karanji

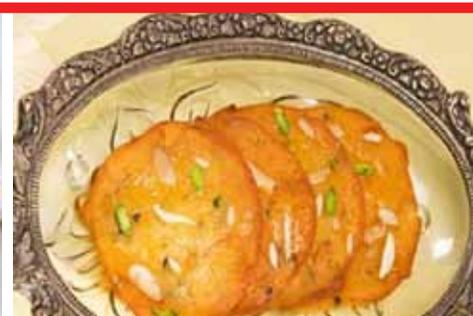
Baked Karanji is a healthy version of the regular gujha. Instead of deep frying this snack, you can simply bake it in the oven. It is an easy recipe that you can make in minutes and since it has a long shelf life, you can also store it and serve with tea.

### Coconut Laddoo

There are various ways you can make coconut laddu. It can be made by adding condensed milk, jaggery or khoya to grated coconut. Laddus can also be made using dried coconut. This easy recipe uses coconut and sugar syrup. A must try Holi recipe!

### Lavang Latika

Lavang Latika is a traditional North Indian mithai. Stuffed and deep-fried pastry is soaked in sugar syrup and is served as a sweet. Try this easy to make dessert recipe that is loved by kids and adults too.



Want to get your kids to enjoy fruit and still indulge in a chilled treat? How about making some fruit popsicles? They're a healthier alternative to aerated drinks and high-sugar syrups. These popsicles are not just a natural fix, but thus also make for a smarter dessert idea. They help you stay hydrated and give you an energy boost. What's more, you can use just about any fruit — strawberries are in season, so start with those. Here are a few tips on how to make the cold sticks...

#### HOW TO MAKE THE COLD POPS

- Mash the fruit in a bowl and spoon it into the popsicle moulds.
- Add some juice or lime water for extra taste.
- Place these in the fridge.
- When semi-set, insert a stick in each and re-freeze.

## Tried fresh fruit popsicles yet?



- When set, run the moulds under cold water to ease out the pops.

#### DIFFERENT KINDS

There's a lot to try out. Use fresh orange or mosambi that are always in season. Mix pomegranate (the fruit has a low glycemic-index and is recommended for obese and diabetic patients) with lemon and a little cinnamon. Try hibiscus with pomegranate by mixing hibiscus tea with pomegranate juice, opt for peach pulp with honey or make the popsicles yoghurt-style by adding fresh yoghurt to the mix. With the summer coming up soon, you can also make coconut water popsicles as the fruit is high in potassium and extremely hydrating.

# Rangoon movie review: Kangana Ranaut, Shahid Kapoor's ambitious film is deeply flawed

It may be one of the most awaited films in recent times but Rangoon is a royal misfire.

Within minutes of the movie's beginning, you realise the promise of a heart-wrenching period drama was a farce -- a set-up to promote a self-indulgent film that doesn't know what it wants to be.

## Film Review

**Rangoon**

**Cast:** Kangana Ranaut, Saif Ali Khan, Shahid Kapoor  
**Director:** Vishal Bhardwaj  
**Rating:** 2/5

The film's plot, set in the 1930s, is thin. Producer and former action star Rusi Billimoria (Saif Ali Khan) is the friend, patron and lover of Miss Julia (Kangana Ranaut) -- an orphan he bought for Rs 1000.

Julia, inspired from the iconic Fearless Nadia, is a top action star when the Second World War begins. She is exuberant, slightly cynical and keeps repeating, 'bloody hell' -- only that her character is grating enough for the audience to say it back to her.

Julia seems to be taking a cue from the top Western heroines of the 1940s, but her feminism isn't liberating and appears to be solely driven to prove the adage that beautiful women are dumb.

She accidentally gets trapped in the beautiful jungles of Arunachal Pradesh with cocky Jamadar Nawab Malik (Shahid Kapoor), the third vertex of the love triangle. He has been a war prisoner and serves in the Queen's army.



There's little more to Malik than his deliberately hardened expressions and rippling muscles.

Until this point, Rangoon appears to be reaching a point where it could be called a 'love story in the backdrop of war.'

But it turns out to be a tug-of-war, between the Bhardwaj who made Maqbool and Omkara and the Bhardwaj who made Matru Ki Bijli Ka Mandola and Haider.

Two stage coordinators comment on everyone from Hitler to Churchill like Om Puri

and Naseeruddin Shah did in Maqbool. In another instance, the sound of a train engine transforms into a song like 'Aao na' from Haider.

But it also wants to play with symbols like the 'pink buffalo' in Matru Ki Bijli Ka Mandola. Some scenes ever appear to take a leaf out of Mad Max: Fury Road.

This confusion crawls on to the actors' faces, especially Saif Ali Khan, whose seriousness is only pierced by stunts that belong to Sajid Khan films. Probably he was

hoping for another Omkara, but all he has got is more intense Rustom.

Everything boils down to Kangana Ranaut's Julia and her antics. She is undoubtedly a rock solid performer, because if there is one actor who shines despite odd writing, it's her. She is terrific as a theatrics-loving stuntwoman. The poor script never lets Julia reach her pinnacle but she steals the show even with small scenes -- her sitting on Saif's thigh on a slight signal and then defying him seconds later, her

monologue on being a kept -- but the meandering story loses too much steam too quickly.

The wild swing of story plays the spoilsport.

The chief architect of this mess is General David Hardings (British actor Richard McCabe). Never shy of trying his hands at Urdu poetry, Hardings is an old-school villain, the kind who loves to laugh fanatically before killing their victims.

Harding's character stretches on both sides and restricts the love story from blooming, let alone intensifying.

The movie is picturesque. Colours come out of the screen and soothe our minds. Lighting and choreography are pitch-perfect. Every beat is nuanced, every frame caresses the bleeding hearts that keep waiting for the fire to ignite.

Being a period film is another challenge for Rangoon as special effects lack authentication in war scenes. The elaborate costume planning comes to rescue though.

It's an ambitious film where Bhardwaj wants to merge two worlds:

One inspired from Shakespearean tragedies and other motivated by the valiant lovers of the Indian cinema. In the end, neither comes alive on screen -- on top of it a messy climax that topples whatever hard work was done building a world of romance.

At 167 minutes, Rangoon isn't only long but painful. And this isn't the pain of love. And it doesn't end in pleasure.

## Thugs of Hindostan: Aamir Khan's new sardar look is not from the film

Recently, Aamir Khan fans went gaga when a picture showing the Bollywood star in a turban started doing the rounds. Some media reports even claimed it was the first look from his ambitious project with Amitabh Bachchan, Thugs of Hindostan.

However, makers of the Vijay Krishna Acharya directorial have now refuted the claims and said it is not Aamir's look from Thugs of Hindostan. The 'sardar' look, showcasing Aamir in the



get up of a Sardar, is his look from another venture.

A spokesperson of the film said in a press statement, "The Sardar look that has been doing the rounds is a look from a very special collaboration of Aamir and not from Thugs of Hindostan."

Aamir Khan will be seen playing a Sikh character for the first time in Thugs of Hindostan. The film is scheduled to hit the screens on Diwali, 2018.

## Ayesha Takia on getting trolled for her new look: People have morphed my pics

**A**yesha Takia, who is getting trolled on social media for her new look in which she appeared to have fuller lips and cheeks, has made a statement on the matter. According to her, some 'vicious' people and gossip columns have distorted the pictures.

Takia told Indian Express that because she is constantly in touch with her fans through Instagram, they believe her and still support her. "Online trolling and bullying has reached a new level I guess. A handful of vicious people and gossip columns have decided to totally morph and distort my pics but the truth will prevail as I'm on social media every day and shooting out and about people can see what I really look like and luckily I have amazing followers on Instagram who I interact with daily, so they have not believed these lies and supported me all the way," she said.

The actor's pictures from a recent event went viral a few days ago. While it is still not clear whether it was bad make up or if she had gone under the knife, Twitteratti seemed to have



made up its mind on being nasty to the actor. She was trolled for 'trying to look like Kim Kardashian' and 'ruining her beautiful face'.

Takia also reacted on the controversy with a picture on Instagram on Friday.

She shared a motivational quote from famous American burlesque dancer and model Dita Von Teese. "You can be the ripest, juiciest peach in the world and there's still going to be someone in the world who hates

peaches," it reads.

In another pic shared on Sunday, she wrote that she doesn't care about false rumours.

"Hey all you fabulous ppl, let's be super proud of who we are right now coz it's freakin 2017 and we ain't letting no bullies bring us down. I love myself and you should love yourself too. Be who u wanna be n do what u wanna do, don't allow insecure souls to try n calm down ur confidence. Be fabulous n #StopSelfieShaming , stop

picking on ppl for who they wanna be it's lame AF. Opinions are like a\*\*\*\*\*s, everyone has one, so screw what others think and OWN it baby #ILoveMyself #dontCareAboutFalseRumours," she wrote with the picture.

Her Instagram account, which is not verified, has 1.8 lakh followers.

The 30-year-old was last seen opposite Shahid Kapoor, in 2010 film Paathshala, a year after her wedding with Farhan Azmi, son of Samajwadi Party leader Abu Azmi.

## Amitabh Bachchan, Varun Dhawan and Alia Bhatt walk the ramp for charity



**K**nown for his elegance and graceful personality, Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan walked the ramp for fashion designers Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla. The 74 year-old, who has been riding high with the success of Pink, walked the ramp for a charity for children suffering from Cancer.

"Charities, exists from donations. We all gather here to provoke you and to urge with folded hands, to make generous contributions as you can. It is a very sad site to see young children suffering from cancer and your contributions can give opportunity to these children to live a full and healthy life," Bachchan said.

## Watch Anushka Sharma, Diljit Dosanjh in a love ballad from Phillauri, Sahiba



**A**nushka Sharma has shared the latest song from her upcoming production venture, Phillauri.

Titled Sahiba, the song recreates the timeless appeal of the Mirza Sahiba folklore from Punjab, weaving the tale of unrequited love in a musically enticing, contemporary form.

Written by Anvita Dutt, the song has a very sufi-romantic taste to it. Romy and Pawni Pandey have lent

their voices for the song while Shashwat Sachdev has composed the music. "It is not everyday that you get to create a love ballad in a Bollywood film. Sahiba is a song that intends to show the depth of the love story of the two characters in Phillauri. It is simple, beautiful and poetic," Shashwat said in a press statement.

Starring Anushka Sharma, Diljit Dosanjh, Suraj Sharma and Mehreen

Pirzada, Phillauri is about a friendly ghost whose love story unfolds in the backdrop of a current day Punjabi wedding.

Directed by debutant Anshai Lal, written by Anvita Dutt and produced by Fox Star Studios and Clean Slate Films (Anushka's production banner with brother Karnesh Sharma), Phillauri is set to release worldwide on March 24.

# Chai with Dr. Sabrina Dhanjal of Protection Plus DentalCenter

The Asia Today Team had the pleasure of meeting a Doctor of Smiles, a dentist who has been voted one of America's Top Dentists 4 years in a row from 2011 to 2014 – Dr. Sabrina Dhanjal of Protection Plus Dental Center. Dentistry is in the blood of Dhanjals. Dr. Sabrina is the daughter of Dr. Sewa Singh Dhanjal, who came from India in the 70s and started practicing here in the US and became a renowned dentist. Born and raised right here in Phoenix, Dr. Sabrina was always inclined towards medical care due to her heavy family influences. Pursuing her father's passion which she also thoroughly loves, she attended dental school in California and has been practicing for the last 10 years.

During our conversation, it was very evident that she loves dentistry and enjoys what she does a lot. It is more than a profession and a large part of her life. It allows her to balance her professional and personal lives while being a very rewarding field. When you treat somebody in pain and are rewarded back with a smile, there is nothing more satisfying than that. A smile is the best form of communication and bringing a smile to her patients' faces brings her a lot of satisfaction.

When asked about her upbringing as an Indian in the US, Dr. Sabrina replied that even though she was born here she had grandparents from both sides that were always around to nurture her. Born in a Sikh family surrounded by relatives has ensured that she has a good grasp on her mother tongue, Punjabi. As children, her brother and her both attended Gurudwara every Sunday where she played the harmonium and he played the table for kirtans. She feels fortunate to have been raised in such an atmosphere and have the opportunity to be a part of such a great religion such as Sikhism where people learn to serve others and she carries that same practice of



serving others into her profession.

As is often the case when a child follows in the footsteps of a parent, all are anxious to know if there was any influence or pressure to choose that profession on the child and so were we. Dr. Sabrina always knew she wanted to be in the medical field and she was very clear regarding that goal in her life. Initially, she wanted to be an ophthalmologist but later changed di-

rection towards dentistry. Following in her father's footsteps, she started her practice at an early age of 23. In addition to dental school, she has taken specialized courses for implantation and surgeries as well as a two year orthodontic course in Phoenix. Dr. Sabrina Dhanjal gives much of the credit to her dad for teaching her the intricate procedures.

Dr. Sabrina Dhanjal and her team

have specialized skills to treat both adults and children and their practice is a one stop shop for any dental issue. This includes preventive care, cleaning, cavity filling with both silver and white options, and, in case of bigger cavities, performing root canal treatments. They also provide services such as wisdom teeth extraction and implantation, services that require a special degree which she has completed. And, last but not least, they also provide partial and full dentures, as well as braces. With a super experienced mentor, her dad, the team is well specialized to handle all dentistry needs.

When asked if they want to keep the family tradition going and if she has an interest in her children following dentistry, she stated that she did not want to force anything on them. They should be free to choose and make their own decisions in life and even though she chose the same profession as her father, it was ultimately her own decision. Her final message to our readers is that it is critical to brush and floss daily for healthy teeth. Flossing should be done every day before going to bed so that no food particles are trapped. A healthy diet is also important and we must avoid drinking sodas which are terrible for the teeth. Intake of fluoride is necessary because it strengthens teeth enamel so drink fluids with fluoride or use toothpaste with fluoride on it. After consuming any kind of sweets, wash your mouth immediately so no particles are trapped inside which can erode teeth.

Asia Today thanks Dr. Sabrina Dhanjal for her time and valuable advice to her readers. We wish her practice continued success in the coming years. Feel free to reach out to Protection Plus Dental Center at (623) 932-0539 or visit their website at <http://www.protectionplusdentalavondale.com/> for additional information.





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# A Father's Home is Son's Home Always, But Not the Reverse\*



Dr. Jaswant Singh Sachdev  
M.D., F.A.A.N.  
Phoenix, Arizona

The title of this article is a statement made by my childhood friend, one of the celebrated Punjabi authors of modern times, with more than a dozen books to his credit. He stated this quote\* in one of his books *Maalaa Mankay* (loosely translated as *The Rosary Beads*). While this was mentioned in another context, a close perusal of the Western lifestyle reveals that the relationship between married or settled children and their parents, more or less, follows this pattern. Usually no questions are asked and no discussion takes place about this, for children are completely independent and are not expected to be responsible for the care of their elderly parents. The parents not only accept this fact, they consider it rather normal. To practice the opposite, in fact, is almost considered abnormal.

In the Eastern culture, the situation is also changing in that direction. However, there was a time, when Indian culture produced sons like Shravana, whose story about obedience to his parents is an Indian folk-lore, well known and deeply ingrained in the mind of each one of us. In order to fulfill the desire of his elderly blind parents for a pilgrimage to the holy places, Shravana, a young boy, decided to carry them on his shoulders using a kavadi made out of bamboo stick. He placed his father on one side and his mother on the other and took them to the holy places wherever they wished. Shravana never considered his parents a burden; rather, he lived and died for them.

But times have changed and culture has transformed. Our thought processes have taken a turn entirely in the opposite direction to what it used to be in the past. There are no more Shravanas to be found anywhere or talked about. As soon as a child is independently able to handle his or her affairs physically, financially and otherwise, a desire to seek freedom from the parents to find one's own abode starts to supervene. The actual extent of physical and mental distance between the parents and children may depend upon many variables, including but not limited to the country, culture,

religion, and the location of the child's job.

Today, young people in the West as well as in the East are primarily concerned with themselves, believing in and seeking full personal freedom emphasizing privacy rather than interdependence. They are being drawn to self-indulgence over and above anything else. It is of no concern to them if their actions require shunning away and shirking their family responsibilities, including the support and care of their elderly parents. Instead of sharing their lives with their elders, today's children would rather prefer not to have them as part of their lives at all in any aspect.

In reality, looking at the lives of different species in our wider universe, one finds the same phenomenon of seeking freedom from the parents' clutches. Once the offspring have matured enough to hold their own, their behavior towards their parents is almost the same as that of modern day's youth. Don't the offspring of the mammals and birds only hang out with their parents until they are able to exist independently? And don't they usually fly away leaving their parental nests or run away from their abodes at the earliest as soon as they are able to live independently and withstand separation?

Yet it is also important to realize that humans are created somewhat differently, given that they have been blessed with speech on top of intelligence. They have ways and means to exhibit emotions, memories, and conscience. Their higher cognitive abilities help them in distinguishing and determining right from wrong, easily and verifiably.

Parents always attempt to keep their doors open for their children and try to maintain relationship even after the children have established their own nests and have their families. In spite of children's complaints about having no time in their busy schedules for the parents, the latter are always ready to accommodate and welcome their children any time, day or night, no questions asked. In fact, the faces of parents often glow with pleasure,

regardless of West or East when their children decide to visit them even for a short duration. When any kind of problem arises in children's lives, such as difficulty in paying the mortgage, not having a place to stay or any other issues, children know that their parents will always be around to fall back on.

Gurbaani says "Jaisaa baalak bhaaiye subhaaiyee, lakh apraad kamaaway; kar updes jhirkay bahu bhaati bahur pitaa gal laaway!" It implies "Given its nature a child may make thousands of mistakes; father will teach and scold his child so many times but still ends up hugging his child close in his embrace". In fact the love of parents for their children even goes a step further. But the reverse is not true, neither in humans nor perhaps in other species.

To add weight to this concept, I am reminded of a colloquial statement that my mother used to make in her own ethnic vernacular. "Dhee usri, te Bhain visri" In other words as soon as a daughter arrives on the scene, the relationship of mother with her sister even starts to fade away.

Let us now pause for a while and look into the aspect of fading relationship between the offspring and parents as parents grow older. To some extent, it seems to be a kind of necessity born of the times we live in. Most Western parents would not ordinarily ask for or want their children to be bothered with their, the parents, own age-related issues during their fading days. They realize that the children have their own lives to live, and that they, the parents, should try their best not to interfere.

Somehow, this thought process is relatively less prevalent among the immigrant communities. Having brought the cultural baggage from back home, they nurture this desire, albeit to a varying extent, to show dependence upon their children. And this may be for a reason. First of all most immigrants in the West, unfortunately try to maintain a distance from the indigenous communities and do not show much eagerness to get involved in local affairs. Perhaps, this may be due to the language barrier and/or

their lack of adaptation to the cultural differences. Little do they realize that the unfortunate outcome of such behavior could ultimately lead to non-availability of many other resources that otherwise could have helped them if needed in future. Having not much to do, the only outlet they have in this alien world is to try and fall back upon the company of their children provided that was possible.

Finding a big lacuna in their lives, they wish to continue maintaining hold on the company of their grown up children. The children, on the other hand, having been born and raised in the West, are used to an independent lifestyle with no time to spare for their elderly parents even if they so wished. Naturally they behave much like what they see around them in the rest of the world. Some of the Western homes might not have that kind of warmth, coziness and nearness that their parents offered to their children as they were growing-up.

Thus the immigrant parents' desire to live with their children born and raised here, like the grandparents i.e. the parents of immigrants did by living with their children i.e. immigrants themselves, merely ends up just like that—a desire only. It does not translate into reality. That kind of joint-living may be on its last breath and certainly no more like it was decades ago and that too, provided it even exists in the true sense of the word! The reality is that time must move on. The sooner one accepts and adapts to the changes brought about by the changing time; the better it will be for everyone concerned.

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\*Author of a previously published book, "Square Pegs, Round Holes" [www.SquarePegsRoundHolesBook.com](http://www.SquarePegsRoundHolesBook.com) and *Sikhism: Points to Ponder. Perspective of a Sikh Living Abroad,* and a recently released *Masterpiece about issues pertaining to Indian Subcontinent diaspora*, 3 "One Coin, Two Sides" [Link http://inkwellproductions.com/one-coin-two-sides.htm](http://inkwellproductions.com/one-coin-two-sides.htm)  
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# IACRF Celebrates Valentine Day!

Contributed by:  
Dr. Prakash V Kotecha &  
Ramu Ramakesavan

## Valentine Day Celebrations:

We had a large turnout for the Valentine's Day celebration on February 19. Alma and her crew had surprised us by decorating the tables in bright red linen. Thanks to the Bajpayees, all women were presented a beautiful long stem red rose by their valentine!

In the first celebratory event, all the men lined at one end of the hall and faced the women who had done the same several yards away in the middle of the hall. The highlight of the event was the women serenading the men with the beautiful song 'bahut pyar karte hai tum ko sanam.' The men reciprocated their romantic gesture by serenading the women in return!

The second event tested if the men knew their valentine's fashion statement of the day! All the women stood in a row with one foot forward behind a temporary curtain made of a long and dark bedsheet. The curtain was raised slightly to show the women's stretched foot with their bright and expensive footwear! The men were challenged to identify their valentine based on the shoe/sandal on the row of feet! Yes, some men failed this test!

**Presentations:** On the first Thursday, Ramu and Babulal presented an analysis of our lunch service and a made a few new proposals to streamline the lunch service, like two or more families jointly sponsoring a lunch and part catering.

The highlight of the last



Thursday of the month was a presentation about the Air India Kanishka tragedy of 1985. Ramu and his team role played the conversation among the pilot, co-pilot, flight/ cabin crew and the ground control as heard on the last 30 minutes of the voice recordings from the black box. The women portraying chatty air-hostesses lent color to the patronizing comments made about them by the flight crew. The pictures, sound effects and the details about the tragedy, rescue mission, recovery operation and Ramu and Doris' involvement in the subsequent political lobbying and police case were breathtaking. Some in the audience were very disturbed by the story and the impact of the presentation that they had to leave the room.

**Other highlights:** Every second Thursday is Anthakshri day at the senior club. There

was spirited participation from both men and women. The new face was Gurbachan Kaur from India with Sita-ben Patel. Brinda and Kumar Krishnamurthy were our new members. They had moved to sunny Arizona from equally sunny Dubai.

Feb 23 was the wedding anniversary of Uma and Surinder Aggarwal. The lovely couple cut a cake and everyone sang the happy anniversary song. The new faces for the day were Ambaben Lukhi with Shantiben/Lalitbhai, Koki-la and S Y Modi with Kaniza/ Abbas. We had three new members Saroj and Ashok Madhok and Munnuswamy Kripanand. It was nice to see Manjuben Patel back after a four months break.

It was decided to move the bhajan program on the first Thursday to the Ekta Mandir as it was just across the street

and an appropriate venue. It has been decided to turn the Mar 9 meeting to a picnic at the beautiful Rio Vista Park in Peoria. Sarla Dave welcomed everyone to join the India pilgrimage tours she organizes between May and September.

Umesh suggested including regular karaoke events as we had so many talented singers. Another request was to invite speakers with expertise on aging issues

Prakash / Pushpa Deshmukh donated a cutting board, while Ramu/Doris donated oven mitts and pot holders to the kitchen.

Lunch sponsors for the month included Meena and Raman Bhavsar, Neela and Mohan Kwatra, Babulal and Nayna Mehta and Uma and Surinder Aggarwal.

## Obituary:

Kumudben Javia's passed

away on the 20th of February 2017. Members observed the silence for two minutes for the peace of the departed soul. The last rites were held in the Best Funeral Home in Peoria on Sat, Feb 25.

Murugan K Patham, present Vice President of IACRF and past President of Indian Association of Phoenix, who passed away on Jan 30, 2017 at a young age and we observed two minutes silence as homage and respect to him. It was followed by bhajans led by Srikantbhai, who started it with the Gandhiji's favorite, 'Vaishanava Jana To.'

Senior Group meets every 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.

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