January 2022

ORLD FOR YOU

Tweeting Parag By Melwyn Williams

No More Nimmys

India Beyond 75: Looking Ahead By Prof Ujjwal K Chowdhury

Year 2021: Highs and Lows of Politic By Arjun Sharma Indian Diaspora Global Achievers 2021





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The Indian diaspora communities across the world has managed to make a mark globally in fields as diverse as academia, legal, arts, business, entertainment, healthcare, finance, media, philanthropy, politics, government, science, technology and more. India has been the cradle of great ideological thoughts. India has spearheaded the idea of AHIMSA (non-violence) promoting peace and harmony across the World.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Fellow Members of Indian Diaspora,

Year 2021 has come to an end and along with it brings the promises and hope of a new year for a pandemic battered world around us. Wishing you all a happy new year!

This is our inaugural edition of WFY (World For You) magazine with an Indian Diaspora focus. The Indian diaspora community across the globe has done remarkably well during the past years and especially in 2021. When the World was shivering in the clutches of death brought upon by the deadly pandemic the members of the Indian Diaspora stood shoulder to shoulder with others in bringing respite and care to the needy. We endured huge casualties too.

The healthcare industry across the globe is strongly represented by doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers along with the research and scientific scholars of Indian Diaspora. The technology companies and giants have mostly Indian diaspora members in their rank and leaderships. We have an amazing list of Indian Diaspora members holding high offices in various countries. Academic fraternity is no exception so is the business community as well. This would literally translate to the phrase "bloom where you are planted".

Indian heritage is a culture of diversity and inclusivity. India has been the cradle of great ideological thoughts. India has spearheaded the idea of AHIMSA (non-violence) promoting peace and harmony across the World.

Together let's make this World a better place by spreading the 'Spirit of Indianism'. Let us commit ourselves in building stronger communities with a culture of giving and inspiring social change. Let us engage culturally with the help of Indian wisdom passed on to us by our ancestors. Let's celebrate our success stories, share stories of our struggle and feast vibrantly and make the lives of those around us better. May this year bring you much anticipated peace, love and health.

See you soon...







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TWEETING PARAG

The new in-Vogue or in-Thing is to have an Indian Origin person to lead a global organisation. The new kid on the block is Parag Agrawal. The new CEO of twitter replacing Jack Dorsey. A few months ago, Parag was unknown to many in the world and even to Indians. The scenario has changed drastically now. One can find him on the covers of many magazines and periodicals, headlines of news and media houses, people boasting of their acquaintances with him and beyond that his life being dissected in many different ways to know him more. This might not have come easy to him. I'm sure he too had his share of sweat and immense hard work put into years of labour. Let's look a bit into his life and then on the probable answer to why he was made the CEO of twitter like many of his fellow Indian Origin CEO's.

India had invested immensely to attain technological excellence in the past couple of decades. The mecca of Technological studies is known as IIT in India. Every aspiring engineer in India wishes to acquire a degree from the IIT. Most of these well-known Indian origin CEOs of the technology giants are the products of IIT. Parag is no exception, he is from IIT Mumbai passing out with a B. Tech degree in Computer Science. He has been extremely brilliant in terms of his academic pursuits. He had cleared IIT-JEE securing All India 77th rank in 2000. He won a Gold Medal in the International Physics Olympiad of 2001, held in Turkey. Later, he received a MS & PhD in Computer Science from Stanford University.

Parag found a partner in Vineeta Agarwal. They got married after long



courtship. Parag got engaged to Vineeta in 2015 and got married in January 2016. The couple currently lives with their son Ansh, in San Francisco, California. Vineeta Agarwal has worked as data scientist at Kyruus, which is a management consultant for biotech, pharmaceutical, and medical device clients at McKinsey & Co. Vineeta is surely the pillar of strength and support to Parag as much as able handedly she manages multiple profiles, she continues her practice as a physician, seeing patients at Stanford as an adjunct clinical professor in the Division of Primary Care and Population Health. Not just this, she also writes for a venture capital company Andreessen Horowitz. Vineeta holds a B.S. in biophysics from



Stanford University, an MD and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard Medical School / MIT and is a General Partner at Andreessen Horowitz

Parag has spent his initial working days with Microsoft and Yahoo as leadership executive. He started working with Twitter almost a decade ago. He joined Twitter in 2011 as a distinguished software engineer, later in 2017 he was appointed as the Chief Technology Officer of Twitter. In December 2019, he was appointed as the in-charge of Jack Dorsey's project Bluesky, an initiative to develop a decentralized social network protocol. In a decade's time he rose up in the rank to become the CEO of twitter.

Now let's look into this phenomenon of having the trend of Indian Origin CEOs. The fact of the matter is that India is a huge, in fact the largest open market in the world. Indian Diaspora is a number now in terms of world data. The moment Parag's name was announced as the new Twitter CEO, the world went abuzz. As the news broke out people started searching all about Parag and him becoming the CEO and some even celebrated the same. The social medias are not just platforms now a days. They are much beyond that. They help business to run, survive and excel. The whole prospective of marketing has opened with a sea of data on a platter. India is a highly populous country and at the same time Indian Diaspora community is the largest in the world. If you need them in terms of numbers, you need to connect with them. Indians are known to be warm and sentimental. Without having any doubt in Parag's

capabilities and talent and having full faith in his credentials I'd like to say that by appointing an Indian origin CEO, twitter has garnered the entire Indian diaspora as a family to their advantage. Besides this, the work culture and pursuit of excellence the Indian Diaspora has exhibited across the globe has won the hearts of many. Too put it in perspective, twitter has taken a huge leap by appointing Parag as its CEO in two ways. One it gave twitter a window of opportunity into the hearts of millions of Indians across the globe; two Twitter opened its windows to the fresh breeze and amazing culture of inclusivity and diversity.

I strongly feel that it is no longer that twitter is tweeting but it's Parag Agrawal.

TWEETING Parag....



INDIAN POLITY AND THE WORLD



Baiju Thittala

Why are the Indian Political parties still deep-rooted in the nepotistic feudal system?

The democratic system should always work on meritocracy when selecting its party leaders. If you look around every state political party in Indian, they are deeply rooted with a nepotic feudal structure in place. On the contrary, if you look at western democracy, it's is predominantly based on meritocracy, classic examples would be Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Arnold Schwarzenegger

the former Governor of California. In Britain, Margert Thatcher, John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Jeremy Corben, Gerri Bird, Alan Johnson, there is nothing to suggest that political parties function on the nepotistic feudal credential.

However, one could argue there could be some exceptions in

Europe, but certainly not the way it is deep-rooted in Indian political parties.

Very interestingly, many Indians, even first-generation economic diaspora migrated to the west have been very successful. Needless to say, all those who have been successful were purely on their merit. But why not in India?

It is very disappointing and painful to see that our Political parties are, even now, merely or prominently functioning under the old notion of the Law of Manu, every man and woman's destiny is written whom they born. It has to change, political leaders must not keep their political goodwill kept in their 'will' where they did not have to even pay inheritance tax, it is not something that can be inherited at all.

It is not a problem in one party, but the deep-rooted in almost every Indian political party. But, the Indian left seemed different, but I don't know how could they see themselves as left. But they follow the path of other communist parties in other countries, so their relevance in Parliamentary democracy in India has become immaterial and/or irrelevant.

It has to start from the state level, and the congress party could only bring this change in India. Certainly, a top-to-down change would be next to impossible in the Indian context. So it has to be bottom to top change and it must be a gradualistic approach. More importantly, it must not be a change overnight, which would be a catastrophic disaster.

We could see a light at the end of the tunnel, as Kanhaiya Kumara and Jignesh Mevani, politicians merely on meritocracy, joined Congress Party, so change might be possible?

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INDIA BEYOND 75: LOOKING AHEAD



Some statistics first. The GDP of India in 1947 was Rs.2.7 lacs crores, which accounted for 3% of the global GDP then. Today it is USD 2.62 lacs crores, which is more than 70 times higher than 1947, and is now 6.68% of global GDP. Not a great rise, since the per capita income in India in 1947 was Rs.250 annually, which now is USD 2200 (Rs.1.6 lacs roughly) annually, primarily due to several fold rise in prices over the decades, apart from some real income rise. Population of India in 1947 was 340 million, that of the USA today, and India today is at 138 crores, merely two crores behind China, and is expected to surpass China in 2022. The literacy rate in India in 1947 was pegged at 12%, which is now almost 74% of all adults. India has dropped one spot to 131 among 189 countries in the 2020 UN human development index after showing a steady rise over the years, and this measure was not there in 1947. India has shown a consistent downward trend in the World Happiness Report, which measures the perceived happiness of citizens in 149 countries on a number of factors. Meanwhile, India ranked 121st on the economic freedom index in 2021. The recently released 2020 WPFI has ranked India at 142, down 2 places from 2019, has been a subject of much discussion and debate.

The NRIs-PIOs officially number today around 32 million, while unofficial figures run above 40 million. These remittances contribute almost 3% of India's GDP in 2020 (more than their ratio to Indian population),



and they also shape the country's foreign exchange money of around 22% to 23%. Besides, NRIs often initiate charities and have been instrumental in offering financial assistance during testing times such as the ongoing pandemic, floods etc.

Some statistics that show a few hard facts. That we will be vastly different from what we were in 1947 is no brainer. But the slow progress of this century specially over the last two decades is worrisome.

As we are midway in the 75th year of our independence, we need to raise questions as to where do we go from here and how.

History has shown that all economies, state ideologies and governance structure have some problem or error or the other. What then a truly people-oriented democratic government can do is to ensure greatest good for the largest number of people in a nation. From this yardstick, some issues and questions can surely be raised.

Democracy: Representative or Participative, & how?

India has an elected government, in three tiers, from local-self governance, to provincial governance to

central/federal governance. Elections have been fairly regularly. But from the very start of independent India, the politics of vote-banks, done on the basis of castes or communities, divided on religious, linguistic or ethnic lines, has undermined the efficacy of democracy in India.

In recent times, it is worsening with the majority community, who are almost 4 out of every 5 persons in the nation, being made to feel insecure to lead to majoritarian polarization in politics, pushing people's issues to the backburner just ahead of elections.

India has for long needed an electoral reforms law, making communal or casteist polarization illegal, manifesto-based politics compulsory, all expenses of a candidate and his/her party to be included in election expenses (now only that of candidate are included), use of government resources by any ruling party being declared illegal, and model Code of Conduct being far more strictly implemented. Going beyond 75 years, Indian democracy needs an overhaul in its representative character.

Going beyond elections, participatory democracy needs a major push by genuinely honoring Right to Information, preventing hiding behind state secrets (except in very few sensitive matters), and ushering in some form of Right to Recall the elected representatives by the electorate.

Government: how representative is it after all?

Closely with the task of strengthening democracy in letter and spirt, the governance also has to be inclusive. Interestingly jut 33-35% of those adults who have actually voted (which itself can be around 60-65% of the total electorate) can get a government elected at any level in India. Hence, say by managing to get 20 crores of votes or even lesser, one can be in power in a nation of almost 140 crores (seven times). By bringing in proportionate voting or second choice with lesser weightage, this error can be rectified, as done in several leading Western democracies (US, UK, France, Germany, etc). truly find a completely trustworthy system of voting and vote preservation.

Further, to enhance true competitiveness of the polity, level playing ground is needed by strictly enforcing electoral expenses laws. Today the common expenses done by a party in an election are not considered as a part of the expenses of a candidate, and hence most parties incur huge unaccounted expenses in elections with money collected by fair or foul means, while their candidates show much lesser expenses of local campaigning. The use of government machinery in elections, calling for votes on the basis of sacrifices of the military which is of the nation and not a party, and suspected misuse of EVM machines surely hamper a competitive polity needed for a democracy.

Education: what ails the system and where can we begin to change? Ensuring Right to Education: how?

The author is a former Pro Vice Chancellor of an Indian university, and currently the Secretary of Global Media Education Council, consultant to a global university, and on the board of an ed-tech company of South Asia. Article 21 (A) of the Constitution of India was amended to provide free and compulsory education as a fundamental right to all children aged between 6-14 years. Article 15, 17, and 46 of the Indian Constitution safeguard the educational interests of weaker sections of the society. These comprise socially, economically, and educationally backward families including those belonging to scheduled castes (SCs), and scheduled tribes (STs).

However, we are still at 74% of all adult population

Hence, governance of such a narrowly elected government is bound to fall a victim to vote-bank politics and interests of smaller groups (communal or regional or caste-specific) more than maximum good for the maximum citizens.

Polity: how competitive is it at all?

The question of Electronic Voting Machines has also come up in recent times in the context of repeated malfunctioning of machines, errors usually favouring the ruling party at the Centre, several opposition forces raising questions on its neutrality and amenability to be hacked, and the fact that most Western democracies had introduced the EVMs and later withdrew in favour of ballot papers. The nation has to in literacy, and this is merely the ability of write and sign names. Around 1045 universities and 40,000 colleges are responsible for the higher education of Indian adults. The corresponding figure for Chinese universities is at 2700. The Indian school education system is one of the largest in the world with more than 1.5 million schools, of which almost twothirds are government-run. In contrast China has 96% literacy of all adult population with a law of compulsory ten years of school education.

Beyond numbers, the quality of education, its spread to the interiors, the digital divide and the availability of teachers are some other factors impeding Indian education at the mass level. While a progressive New Education Policy has been recently legislated in India, its promised 6% of GDP as public education investment has not been achieved even by half, and a massive bureaucracy impedes autonomy of education on one side, and the glaring limitations of physical and digital infra-structure proliferation impede quality of education on the other.

The available resources are further skewed against the girl-child. There is a whopping 21% gap between male-female literacy, in spite of the much-touted 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign which has been by now proven to be more a campaign than any major action on ground. The employability of women being low, girls being considered still as 'paraya dhan' to be married off by the larger masses, and the question of physical security of young girls and women moving out of homes to distant institutes, the eco-system continues to remain biased against the girl-child.

While the promised 6% of GDP/budget in public education needs to be fulfilled at the earliest (Delhi state has 24% in education, Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu all crossing 5%), liberalization allowing higher private and people's investments in education is the need of the hour. The compulsory education up to plus 2 level, integrating a vocational skill alongside, a promise of the Constitution is needed to be implemented in right earnestness, making Right to Education a fundamental, inclusive and accessible right for every child till 18.

Economy: Where do we go from here?

The crisis ridden economy of India, burdened with a huge debt. The internal debt of government of India is about Rs.131 lac crores. Foreign debt is at \$571 billion or Rs.44 lac crores. Total debt as on today is Rs.175 lac crores, which was Rs.56 lac crores, and the current government has been borrowing Rs.1.3 lac crores every week in the last 7 years. Our current gross debt is almost equal to the annual GDP of the nation. The interest itself is Rs.10 lacs crores plus every year, which leads to more borrowing, and we submerging into a classical debt trap.

The way out being sought is selling of all public assets, from airlines to insurance, from railways to banks, from factories to PSU companies, in the name of 'monetization of assets', and also increasing taxes and fuel prices.

We, actually need infusion of cash in the economy through limited printing of currency on one hand, and through return of Non Performing Assets which are loans to larger business houses. NPAs in Indian public banks has crossed 12 lacs crores, which was below 2 lacs crores in 2014, and that was bad enough. Rampant privatization does not help is proven by such a huge NPA burden on the economy. Also, we need a strong MSME focus, learning from the success of the newest Asian tiger, Bangladesh, which has a higher GDP and per capita income growth than India (even Sri Lanka). The people's sector of social entrepreneurship also needs regulatory support which is unfortunately just the opposite in India today with the development sector chocked from every quarter. Skilling in education, massive micro and mini entrepreneurship, and push to all ancillary industries are also needed to help grow the economy. There is a huge unfulfilled demand of low priced products and services within India, that needs to be tapped.

In Conclusion

Several other policy areas need refocus, which can be taken up in the next edition. We need to have a relook at foreign policy, health sector, agriculture revamp, sustainable industrialization, unleashing the power of the creative sector, and the like.

From singular vision to a diversity ingrained, from power-driven polity to welfare-driven polity, India@75 needs a relook at its way ahead on the lines of the mentioned roadmap.



ROLLERCOASTER 2021: FROM SEE-SAW OF PANDEMIC TO TALIBAN RE-EMERGENCE

Arjun Sharma

It was a mix of fear and hope in the year 2021 across the globe due to the Covid-19 pandemic raising its head in different corners of the world time and again and the race by every nation to vaccinate its citizens.

While the pandemic showed its catastrophic nature in countries like the United States, India, Brazil and United Kingdom among others, the major impact of the pandemic was seen on education of students across the globe as most of the institutions remained shut for a long period.

Even as the pandemic continued to dominate the world during 2021, world politics maneuver through rough patches many times. While the United Nations had declared 2021 as the International Year for Peace and Trust, no love was lost between India and China, Russia and Ukraine among others as skirmishes and battles were fought between these rivals. Soldiers from these nations lost their lives during skirmishes at different points of time.

However what attracted the eyeballs from across the world was the

comeback of Taliban in Afghanistan and its repercussions in the region. While the impact of Taliban on Afghans was witnessed on television screens, its diplomatic ripples were felt as far as the United States which was concerned over the use of Afghan territory by hostile forces.

What left many surprised was the reports of severe shortage of goods in the UK, USA and some other countries resulting even in protests at some places. Governments blamed supply chain problem for the shortage due to the sudden spike in demand for various goods after the lockdown ended in most parts of the world. This also led to price rise infuriating consumers in these countries.

Some even blamed the poor policies of the British government post Brexit last year. The impact of moving out of the bloc was witnessed this year as a large section of European Union (EU) labour on which manufacturing depended, left the country. Britain's trade with the EU has

already declined.

Migration of people from volatile



regions remained one of the major issues of 2021 that also hinted towards a changing policy of some of the European nations including France. Soon after the Afghanistan crisis, French President Emmanuel Macron stated that Europe will have a "robust approach" towards illegal migration from the country. Many saw Macron's stand as his preparation towards 2022 presidential polls in France.

A major political development early 2021 was Joe Biden taking over the reins of the United States. Even as Biden had entered the office claiming that he would remove the stringent restriction on border restrictions especially from Mexico, he struggled till the year ended. This happened especially due to court orders and resistance from different states along the border.

As in the past, climate change remained a contentious issue between developed and developing nations with the latter accusing the former of destroying the environment during the industrial revolution and putting entire onus on poor countries to thwart climate change.





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-VIPIN SHARMA-·DIRECTOR·



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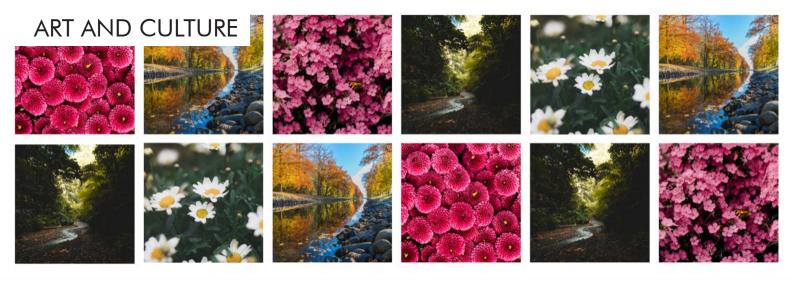
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THE STREAM FLOWS Koshy K Mathew

When dawn was in the skies, I saw, In a dream, a dry land torn into pieces, A river, its shores lost in barrenness. A blood-stained cloud moving in the darkness. Skyscrapers encased the wretched plain, Miners scraped for gold on the hilly region, A thick mushroom cloud is settling over it. A sound roaring in my ears as of the falling Rampart of a conquered city. The pond of agony is swelling, The river of death is weeping. The world is dying, come, let us Sing a requiem for the diseased earth... I see a stream is falling down, The water is transparent like a mirror. There all seemed young and beautiful The earth an unsung song, mountains full of joy, And love is running briskly among the tall wild tall grass.

I see my image, my inner soul In the flowers blooming, in the fruits ripening, In the birds singing, in the tempests roaring, In the crimson and black on the sky In the golden grass below; In the thousand things around the land and the sea. The stream swells, pebbles on its banks Look like jewels glittering. Spring is risen and Love is new Love is risen and Love is Lord of all. The boughs will put forth their tender buds And butterflies will begin flaunting their wings; Life will begin afresh in every nook and far down caves. Let us follow our lost boyhoods to the height of heaven. His love flows incessantly. God still walks in Eden among the old trees. Come, cherish it and wash away our sins, Ere we creep to the silence again.



BEST OF INDIAN CINEMA @2021: MY PICK Melwyn Williams

The pandemic has paved ways for new challenges and new ways of achieving and excelling at it. Film industry is no different when it comes to finding alternatives. The dominance of OTT platforms has proven to be a boon for some and doom for some. Some out of the box thinking and outstanding films were made during these times. I'd like to share with you my list of Indian region films that has stunned the audiences with their artistic and creative prowess. The list is in no way a ranking but just randomly listed. The below mentioned is not a review instead my suggestion of films to you. Find them and watch them. Happy viewing.



Avijatrik (Bengali)

'Avijatrik' (The Wanderlust of Apu), directed by Subhrajit Mitra and written by Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay & Subhrajit Mitra. The enduring and endearing character of 'Apu' is all set to return after 60 years. It is the sequel to the classic "Apu Trilogy", which were directed by Satyajit Ray.

The film stars Arjun Chakrabarty, Sabyasachi Chakraborty and Arpita Chatterjee in lead roles.

Aarkkariyam (Malayalam)

The story is set in the backdrop of the COVID lockdown of 2020 and its title in Malayalam means 'who knows?'. The film is directed and co-written by Sanu John Varghese; starring Biju Menon, Parvathy Thiruvothu and Sharafudheen in lead roles.

Bheemante Vazhi (Malayalam)

Bheemante Vazhi is directed by Ashraf Hamza and written by actor Chemban Vinod Jose; starring Kunchacko Boban, Chinnu Chandni, Chemban Vinod Jose, Suraj Venjaramoodu and Jinu Joseph in the lead roles.

Chello Show (Gujarati)

The film 'Chello Show' means 'Last Film Show' in Gujarati. The film is directed by Pan Nalin. The film features Richa Meena, Bhavesh Shrimali, Rahul Koli, Bhavin Rabari in the lead roles.

Drishyam 2 (Malayalam)

Drishyam 2 is a Malayalam mystery-thriller movie, which is a sequel to the blockbuster Drishyam. The film is directed by Jeethu Joseph. The movie stars Mohanlal and Meena in the lead roles.

Great Indian Kitchen (Malayalam)

The film is written and directed by Jeo Baby, starring Suraj Venjaramoodu and Nimisha Sajayan in lead roles.

Home (Malayalam)

Home is directed by Rojin Thomas and stars Indrans, Manju Pillai, Sreenath Bhasi, Naslen Gafoor in lead roles.

Jai Bhim (Tamil)

Jai Bhim is directed by Tha Se Gnanavel and is inspired from true stories, starring Suriya, Manikandan, Lijomol Jose, Prakash Raj, Rajisha Vijayan and Rao Ramesh in lead roles.

Joji (Malayalam)

Joji is directed by Dileesh Pothan, starring Fahadh Faasil, Baburaj, Shammi Thilakan, Alistair Alex and Unnimaya Prasad in the lead roles.

Karnan (Tamil)

The film is written and directed by Mari Selvaraj, starring Dhanush, Lal and Rajisha Vijayan in lead roles.

Koozhangal (Tamil)

Koozhangal in Tamil means Pebbles. The film is written and directed by debutant P. S. Vinothraj. The film stars Chellapandi and Karuththadaiyaan in lead roles.

Mandela (Tamil)

The film is written and directed by Madonne Ashwin on his directorial debut. The film being titled after the late South African President Nelson Mandela, stars Yogi Babu in the titular lead role while Sheela Rajkumar, Kanna Ravi, Sangili Murugan and G. M. Sundar play supportive roles.

Master (Tamil)

The film is written and directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. The movie stars Vijay and Vijay Sethupathi in the leading roles while Malavika Mohanan, Arjun Das, Andrea Jeremiah and Shanthanu Bhagyaraj play supporting roles.

Nayattu (Malayalam)

Nayattu which means 'The Hunt' in Malayalam is a film directed and co-produced by Martin Prakkat and written by Shahi Kabir. It stars Kunchako Boban, Joju George and Nimisha Sajayan in the lead roles and features Jaffar Idukki, Anil Nedumangad and Hakkim Shajahan in supporting roles.



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NO MORE NIMMYS

M P Joseph IAS (Fmr)Former UN and Indian Civil Servant

Tragedy stuck Vallamchira, a quaint little village near Manimala in the Kottayam district of Kerala on the night of November 28, 2021. A young 27-year-old woman, Nimmy, was found hanging at her husband's house. A promising life tragically ended.

Nimmy was working as a nurse in a hospital in Karnataka before she got a nursing job in Sweden. Filled with optimism and joy, Nimmy got making arrangements for a new professional journey. Meanwhile, the new Covid variant—Omicron broke out in Botswana (Africa) and other parts of the globe, sparking a wave of international travel bans and restrictions. Suddenly, Nimmy's travel plans to Sweden came under a cloud of uncertainty.

The new job was vital for Nimmy and her family. Media reports indicate that her husband had lost his job, which meant Nimmy carried the financial hope of the family. Once the trip to Sweden became uncertain, the stress got the better of the young woman. She then did the unthinkable. She committed suicide. With the specter of Omicron looming large on the horizon, many more Nimmys could be waiting to happen.

We are confronted with a potential economic affliction of significant proportions due to Omicron. The dreams of many who have recently traveled from India to overseas territories for better lives and opportunities could come under sustained economic and emotional threat.

In this clear and present crisis, the government should be prepared to support potential expatriates who fear for their futures. There are several steps that the government could take. Setting up a helpline could provide immediate succor. A helpline that is staffed with well trained personnel who can answer queries unambiguously and precisely could help mitigate fear and misinformation. A dedicated website for Indians travelina abroad for work and studies in the Omicron context could be also provide great help. In an environment of uncertainty and fear, rumors and misinformation



can fly thick and fast, multiplying the distress unnecessarily over what is as such a difficult situation. Providing real-time information and updates are key.

The government apart, civil society too has a responsibility. We need to find ways to route jobs to deserving candidates who have lost their jobs overseas, preferably in the country where they are residing. We need to come up with small and creative ways to support and help one another. The crisis is here. How we help each other deal with it, especially in foreign shores, is up to us.

#NoMoreNimmys

(The author would like to acknowledge the very valuable inputs provided by J. Sudhakaran, a political and policy analyst and strategic communications specialist, in the ideation and drafting of this Article)



JOURNALISM - ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PROFESSIONS

Dr. Shaison P Ouseph

As a filmmaker, teacher and positive change agent, I am interested in the fascinating true news of people's lives as well as their experiences, especially in this quickly changing world. My work captures present-in-the-making so we can learn from it in the future. Since 2001, I have a keen observer of the mainstream media (MSM) for public consumption in our country, India.

Anyone who has grown up in India and studied our Constitution has been introduced to one of the most fundamental concepts of our Democracy—our "Freedom of speech." It is often referred to as "the Fourth Estate/pillar," because it positions the role of the media alongside the three other pillars, the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. The value of the Fourth pillar cannot be overstated because the "watchdog" role of the press has been critical to the functioning of our Indian democracy. In truth it has profoundly influenced not just our history but the very destiny of our country.

The history of Indian journalism was part of my basic training and we were taught to honour and defend the code of journalism: "Always check your sources, check your facts, and interview multiple people. Leave no stone unturned in pursuit of the truth." As we are aware, today the mainstream media functions as a propaganda machine of the government and for the selected rich. We were also taught about the danger of "yellow" journalism, a term used to describe newspapers that present little or no legitimate news but seek an audience through misleading headlines, sensationalising, and ultimately tampering with the truth just to increase sales.

Journalism has become one of the most dangerous professions around the globe.

Journalists in pursuit of the truth are regularly persecuted, imprisoned, and even killed. Daniel Pearl who worked for The Wall Street Journal was beheaded in 2002 in Pakistan while searching for the truth about terrorism, and Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident, and journalist for The Washington Post, was assassinated and dismembered by agents of the Saudi government in 2018 at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. The list of journalists who have sacrificed their lives to seek out the truth is long and bloody! Let me not mention the list from India.



The role and importance of incorruptible journalism was underscored in many countries, including America. "The Pentagon Papers," containing a history of the U.S. role in Indo-china, were secretly turned over to The New York Times in 1971 by Daniel Ellsberg, (a senior research associate from the Centre for International Studies at MIT). The publication of the Pentagon Papers in the press clearly indicated that the American Government had been lying to the American people about the effectiveness of the war in Vietnam. It was a watershed moment in American journalism. Consider the Tiananmen Square massacre that took place in Beijing, China in 1989, when students massed together to protest the cruelty of the communist regime. Not only did the Chinese government soft sucking the uprising, they also forcefully silenced all the news about it.

It's hard to discuss these issues publicly or even privately. Civil discourse is now an "endangered" form of communication. We are not being told the whole truth, but that the story we are being fed is fabricated and designed deliberately to convince us to accept the official narrative.



INDIAN NURSES -AN INEXORABLE JOURNEY

Recorded history of nursing in India begins in from 17th century before which a traditional birth attendant took care of maternal and child health needs in villages. Though East India Company started a hospital for soldiers in Madras in 1664 and military nursing was introduced in India, the extend of nursing related knowledge and information is not known. Subsequently, India witnessed building of numerous hospitals in different parts of the country. Still there is limited information as to the role of nursing in those hospitals. Florence Nightingale suggested a system of nursing for hospitals in India and with this goal sent some nurses that graduated from Nightingale School of Nurses in London to start nursing school in India. The first nursing training for Indian women was started in St. Stephens Hospital in Delhi in 1867. The 18th and 19th centuries witnessed birth of several nursing schools, mostly mission hospitals, that trained Indians. Each school had its own way of training and curriculum for nurses and midwives. In the first part of the 20th century, Mid India and South India Boards were set up and established standards and uniform education programs for the training schools in their jurisdiction and conducted examinations to award diplomas. Today, Indian Nursing Council (INC), the autonomous body under the Government of India established in 1947, regulates standards and training for nurses. Currently there are 2909 INC

recognized nursing schools in India providing education to thousands of women and men, awarding diplomas to auxiliary nurses and midwives to PhD to nurses. Despite the level and number of graduating nurses, the nursing profession is still struggling for a adequate professional place and social status in India. Nurses' working conditions in majority of the facilities have been unacceptably unfavorable and lack resources, their roles are undervalued, case load is unbelievably heavy, and they are being paid poorly. As the nurses started finding opportunities outside the country, initially to the middle east and then to richer countries like European nations, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States where they enjoyed far better working conditions, decent remuneration, much better professional status, growth and promotions, higher educational paths and social recognition. For many nurses, working in India is because they did not get an opportunity to fly out. The huge demand for nurses in the affluent countries pulled nurses to migrate out. At the same time, increase in domestic need and outmigration of nurses have caused India in shortage of almost two million nurses to meet the healthcare needs. India is one of the two top countries from where nurses migrate to other countries. The beginning of Indian nurses' migration to the United States can be attributed to several open immigration law that until 1965 favored migration from doors for



people from Asia. Indians that came to the US as students or professionals were able to obtain letters from hospitals offering jobs. Using this letter, many nurses were able to fly in. Private hospitals that faced critical nursing shortage also brought in nurses from Philippines and India. Another major group of nurses that joined the nursing force in the US was through family-based visa avenues. The Europe, opened up sponsoring. Currently 6 per cent of the estimated 500,00 foreign born registered nurses are Indians. Indian nurses are recognized to be playing an important role in the provision of healthcare and are well regarded by the society at large. They are more ambitious and are engaged in all disciplines of healthcare, availing the opportunities to contribute more through higher studies. Number of Indian nurses are providing treatment to patients as nurse practitioners is rapidly growing. Nurses who have DNP or PhD are taking nursing profession to much higher level as nursing faculty or nurse scientists. As the organization of Indian Nurses in New York State, we are proud to promote nurses and nursing students in their thrust to be in the forefront of leadership through collaboration with universities and by providing continuing education as we have been professionally serving the community health education for better health and well-being

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LIFE IN DIGI AGE

As I took my little one off to college for a visit. My always active, curious and analytical mind suddenly became vulnerable, realizing that my son would be long gone soon and would be braving the world on his own.

I started drawing parallels of my own far from home college experience, and how my parents coped with my departure from protected, comfortable home.

Son's college did great at educating parents on what to expect and how to handle monetary as well as emotional support. A fellow parent introduced me to a concept of a mobile app which in modern world allows to let go of kids and at the same time keep an eye on their activities and location. Given my natural IT inclination and Security, sound bites of it reminded me of spyware. Finally when son was off to college I decided to give it a try.

Created a circle of trust in this app with wife, skeptical about trial period and if it will stop working or force me to adopt premium paid services, neither happened. Once convinced that it was relatively easy to use and not a battery drain for mobile phone, i added my younger one who is normally around the community playing with his friends and struggle to find out which area he is off to. And finally the main goal was to convince my college undergrad freshman to acknowledge and accept to be in family trust circle and give up his location anonymity.

Yes, the hesitation is real, are you ready to give up your location privacy to all your family members. Luckily in this case elder one was already aware of it and after his own research on downsides and benefits, he gave it a go. We are now a happy Life360 family circle. It did not stop my elder one to join separate trust circle with his friends

Physical movement these days are limited to living room to Kitchen due to ongoing pandemic, however Wife and I relied on the app to stay connected as digital fairies around our College undergrad as he walked 12-15 KM every day in his campus. While fixated on couch most of the day, it was interesting to see app map his whole day movements for us. Downsides, it did give away our plans to Children, they knew exactly where we were picking up food or we are on our way to surprise them. We joke around asking them to add us to their friends circle as well.

It did let us know that our little one is now enjoying his new found freedom and skipped his early morning classes, but it's a balancing act between Parenting and Privacy, we do realize eventually kids will get off the leash , move to different states, maybe



different country, but until then, this app brings some solace to virtual live connection to family

Like everything else, this app has some trenches as well, if user does not turn on Wi-Fi and solely relies on Cellular connection , triangulated location can be way off. It recorded me being in apartment complex a mile away while i was in office. Another one around App maker monetizing the location data and selling it for analytics and advertisements without anonymizing user information. Solution was easy with an inbuilt option to stop app sharing data with 3rd parties. While it is helpful and fun at times, it's no replacement of Video conference and voice calls that we have with loved ones in small circle of trust.

As kids grow , we become better parents. I discovered newfound respect for my parents as well. Give it a try with your friends or family, remember to use technology responsibly and always with human connection

P.S, am not affiliated to Life360 or it's partners and similar apps from other competitors would be equally good choices.



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KITCHENS OF INDIA

India, famously known as 'The Land of Spices' has always been known for the rich taste in its food. As diverse it is in its cultures, languages and traditions, the diversity in its fooding habits is no less. Every state here has some dishes that have become inseparable from their state's name, like 'Punjab's Chole, kebabs of Lucknow, Hyderabadi biryani, sweets of Kolkata, Mumbai's Vada-Pav and the list goes on. In all, every state's households in India have some unique and flavorsome dishes that have a story of their own, biryani being one of them.

So, in this edition of the magazine, let's talk about the 'World of Biryani'.

A plate of biryani with rice, meat and spices is a complete meal in itself. Each spoonful of this traditional dish is infused with aromatic spices and rich flavors. Lovers of the dish, swear by its distinctive taste. However, a key fact that most biryani lovers do not know is that despite its various local varieties, biryani did not originate in India.

During the Mughal reign, Awadh (now Lucknow) was the capital of their kingdom, which is how the Awadhi biryani with its delicate flavors got its name. When Aurangzeb became the ruler, he sent his Nizams to Hyderabad and Arcot and their chefs created the Hyderabadi and Arcot biryanis by infusing the local flavors.

With the Nawab Wajid Ali Shah deposed to Kolkata, his chef created the traditional Kolkata biryani by adding potatoes, which are now integral to the biryani of that region. Tehri biryani, a vegetarian version of the dish, is believed to have been created during this time as food for bookkeepers of the court who would not eat mutton biryani.

Below is the recipe for a mouth-watering Lucknowi Mutton Biryani:

Ingredients

- 3 1/2 Cups Basmati Rice
 1 kg Mutton
 4 Large Onions Thinly Sliced
 3 Tbsp Ginger Garlic Paste
 1 Tsp Kashmiri Red Chilli
 4 Tbsp Curd
- Biryani Masala 2 Tsp Cumin Powder 1 Tsp Turmeric/Haldi Salt To Taste 3 Tsp Sugar 4 Bay Leaves
- 2 Pinches Of Saffron
 5 Black Cardamoms
 4 Cups Water
 5 Tbsp Ghee
 2 Tsp Rose Water
 Pinch of Nutmeg Powder

Instructions

- Step 1 Begin by soaking the rice for minimum 30 minutes after thorough washing.
- Step 2 Caramelize one half of the onions slices by frying them with a little salt and sugar and cook on low flame.
- Step 3 Wash the mutton well and then marinate with salt, turmeric/haldi and set aside for 15 minutes. Drain the excess water.
- Step 4 In a heavy bottomed pan, heat the ghee and add the rest of the onion and fry until brown. Add the mutton one by one.
- Step 5 Fry the mutton on high heat and switch off the heat once the raw smell goes.
- Step 6 In another bowl, mix the curd, ginger garlic paste, red chilli powder, biryani masala and cumin powder, and add the mutton, coating each piece properly.
- Step 7 Add the mutton to the pan again and on high heat, braise the mutton till the fat melts.
- Step 8 Add 2 cups of water and cover and cook until 3/4 is cooked well. This process can take upto 50 minutes depending upon the quality of the mutton. (You can also use the pressure cooker for faster cooking).
- Step 9 In a deep pan, boil the water with cardamoms, 1 bay leaf and the soaked basmati.
- Step 10 Cook until half done.
- Step 11 Switch off the gas and drain the water after 4 minutes.
- Step 12 Divide the rice into two parts and spread on a wide plate.
- Step 13 Drizzle melted ghee.
- Step 14 Your mutton should be ready side by side.
- Step 15 Meanwhile, soak the saffron in little warm milk.
- Step 16 Next, in the pan, place the bay leaves at the bottom.
- Step 17 Add half the rice and a little sprinkle of saffron milk.
- Step 18 Keep making the layers with mutton being the next. Do not mix.
- Step 19 Now add another layer of the rice, so on and so forth.
- Step 20 On the top, add nutmeg powder and then the caramelized onions.
- Step 21 Sprinkle the rose water and cover the lid to trap the steam. Cook for 30 minutes but do not let the biryani becomes dry.
- Step 22 Serve warm with raita and chutney.

TRAVEL AND LEISURE

TRAVELOGUE

Rameshinder Singh Sandhu

RAMESHINDER SINGH SANDHU unfolds his best four experiences -thanks to their uniqueness, from some of the most fascinating pockets of the globe

The more you travel, the more you realise that travelling is certainly the best investment. After all, travelling is also a classroom, rather no ordinary classroom – with no walls at all, which silently evolves us in not one but many ways. But when it comes to exciting travel memories, it is the unique tours we indulge in, that weave so many for us. Surprisingly in my case, many such tours were never part of my itinerary, maybe to teach me that travelling also rewards through surprises.



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA: THE BOEING FACTORY

Located in Everett, not far from Seattle downtown, it's a treat for any aviation fan, where guided tours are offered in groups. Housed in the largest building of the world by volume (472 million cubic feet), I admired taking note of large passenger planes in their various stages of assembly. Truly, I felt part of some travel show on TV. Interestingly, our elderly guide was a retired pilot and she had so many intriguing facts to share. It was fascinating to see the jumbo jets, the 787s, 777s being readied, and also how the cranes were being used to carry certain parts. I wanted to take pictures, like many others but Boeing does not allow any photography there.

The tours begin from the Future of Flight and Aviation Centre, from where visitors board the bus to this factory building, located minutes away. The tour takes little less than an hour. Seattle is also home to the world's famous aviation museum, called Museum of Flight, which I also explored. It is home to several historic planes, including the world's first ever made Boeing 747, Concorde, and a retired Air Force One, to mention some.

Admission: Ticketed attractions, advance booking recommended due to the popularity

Useful links: museumofflight.org and www.boeing.com

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA: COOK'S COTTAGE

It's a cottage which was shipped all the way from England to Australia, and I came across it during my leisurely walk in the city's Fitzroy Gardens. Thanks to many visitors heading in which curiously enthralled me towards it. There two volunteers standing outside had this exciting tale to share: "It's a home which was built in 1755 by British navigator and explorer – Captain James Cook's father in Great Ayton Yorkshire, England and in the year 1933, when it was up for sale, Melbourne local Russell Grimwade bought it for gifting it to Melbourne to historically mark its centenary of European settlement in 1934," they unfolded, happily adding, buy the ticket and explore inside. How could I have not gone in? I began my old world extravaganza by first dressing myself in a traditional attire as other visitors did and headed in, stepping in first in their living room with a fireplace, and then upstairs in the bedroom. I felt transported to the old world and I couldn't believe that I was standing in the same home, which came on a ship. From its lovely window, it was fascinating to catch its kitchen garden as also maintained by the Cook's family in England, on which they also remained dependent for many medical needs, besides use in the kitchen.

Admission: ticketed attraction, advance reservation is not needed

Useful links: www.captaincooksociety.com and www. visitmelbourne.com

LYNDEN, WASHINGTON, USA: GRAVEYARD TOUR

Lynden is a small border town of Washington, known for its Dutch heritage, and hence many rightly call it 'Mini Holland', where majority of its residents have Dutch roots. While I was here, visiting my uncle for a week, I came across a small board outside a graveyard, stating guided tours timings, during my walk. As I had never imagined graveyard tours, I was thrilled and began to imagine how such tours must be. Excited and curious, I arrived on the day of the tour at the graveyard, where I was soon joined by five elderly women from the town, followed by the guide, who arrived in a black and white suit in an old car. We first met in his small wooden office in the middle of the cemetery where he shared some rules and then took us straight around the graves, holding a file, with many historical facts. He and other locals with me were excited to welcome me as I told them that I was a tourist from India. It's good to be part of unique tours, I told them. He introduced us to first graves -first librarian's grave, first policeman's... and then various trends seen in the cemetery, especially the design of graves. I loved the way he read the details of many graves and also took us to some mysterious graves, which we were very much expecting. The tour lasted for 40 minutes, and there were no restrictions

on photography. However, the same night, I had a scary dream. Location: the very same graveyard. But the best part was that some very beautiful epiphanies, adages and realisations crossed my mind during this tour. One of them: 'Enjoy your life before it melts.'

Admission: free tours, donations welcome. I also learnt that not only this but many graveyards offer free guided tours, be it any corner of the world.

Useful link: www.lyndenwa.org

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA: THE GOAL

When I was in Adelaide, every local recommended me to visit its old prison, now a museum. Known as the 'Adelaide Goal', it remained active from 1841 to 1988 and was then soon converted into a museum. I had never been to any jail earlier and neither had I ever thought of touring a jail during my travels but since this prison carries tons of history and rare stories, I had to visit. Many told me it's haunted and when I approached the ticket window, I got the confirmation, even before I asked. "This is your self guided map but I would like to inform you that this Goal is a haunted place but our resident spirits won't harm you. In case you want to experience their presence, book a night here, which is very much possible or take our haunted tour late in the night...", I was told. I was alone as I walked in and I felt very different there, some kind of fear running in me. Just on the back of the cells were graves of the late prisoners, who were hanged in the very same jail, minutes away from the cells. I marched to the hanging room, where vibes were strange and walking along the graves did scare me as there was no soul around -just me and some odd looking birds as if flying to keep an eye on me. Thankfully, as I reached the canteen section, where prisoners once dined, I came across a family from Scotland. We swapped our feelings of being here, and we ended up asking each other the same question: 'how did you feel in the hanging room?' The guide map given to me also described details about prisoners, their crimes and even the spirits that visit. After having spent about an hour (an hour is a must for detailed exploration), I stepped out, with a rare experience.

Admission: ticketed, advance booking not needed. Night stay or haunted tours –not for the faint haunted

Useful links: www.adelaidegoal.sa.gov.au and www. southaustralia.com

HEALTH AND FITNESS

PSYCHOLOGY OF INDIAN DIASPORA

Amirtha Raj George

There is a significant difference between the diaspora Indians of the first generation and the next generations

Part I

First Generation

The Indian-ness or the Indian identity is very strong and prominent in the lives of the first generation of Indians. The first few months and years in a foreign country seem to be like living away from one's own home. "We and others" that seems to be their feeling, the spontaneous line of thinking, the natural and normal behavior. There are aspects and elements which are deeply imbedded in the Indian psyche and it is almost impossible to wean way those significant elements when they leave India. They tend to carry with them at least five important elements which are deeply rooted in them. They are the language, religion, caste, food habit and culture. The beginnings

of integration through assimilation is a process depending on many factors. But every diaspora Indian would want to integrate with the local community and experience the assimilation and have the Indian pride to feel that "Mine is a success story" here in this country. There are also other elements, but for most Indian diaspora these seem to be the defining aspects of Indian-ness.

For most Indian diaspora the world is very small, their family, place of work, place of worship and school/ college. Young and old they are all deeply rooted in their family. The relationship with the parents, grandparents, uncles, cousins, etc., continues for the first generation. They tend to relate with the people who speak the same language in a foreign country. The one medium which would naturally help to interact is the local language for communication and interaction. The struggle of having to learn a foreign language is relative depending on the age, interest,



exposure, etc. But as long as one does not learn the language of the land, their interaction would be limited to those who communicate their language. The women who have a little more exposure tend to learn the language faster than the men. Men tend to be shy about making mistakes or forming incorrect or incoherent sentences, but for women those are not that important to prevent them from learning a new language.

Most Indians tend to carry their religion with them. The amount of involvement in religious activities, celebrations, rituals and communitarian activities are carried along with them when they travel to foreign countries. Natural search for a holy place of their religion, a temple, a church, a mosque or any holy place of their religion draws them to relate to the same God with whom they are very familiar with. This is deeply rooted in the lives and psyche of Indians. The bonding takes place with the people of the

same religion and with those who worship the same God/s. Religious bonding with others takes place through the media of 'God/gods'. Therefore, it takes to while to have the same feeling of closeness with the people. The intimacy with the divine is natural and almost instant, but the relationship with the people of the same faith takes a while; to interact freely and to feel comfortable with them requires a few more aspects.

The curse or the most natural mindset of being Indian is its caste system. Whatever way one would want to look at it, it is going to be there. Whether you are educated or uneducated, whether it is reasonable or unreasonable, whether it is realistic or unrealistic, whether it is religious or irreligious, butevery Indian accepts the fact that it is social. Within India one of the first unasked query is 'what is your caste!' There are many Indians living abroad would spend sleepless nights wanting to find out the background, particularly the caste one belongs to. We do not tend to discuss this with foreigners, for the obvious reasons that they would tend to think, that Indians are backward, unreasonable, unrealistic, irrelevant, stupid, difficult to comprehend, etc. For these and many other reasons Indian diaspora avoids talkina about it with foreigners and say it is very special to all Indians. This caste system defines, determines and identifies among Indians abroad who one is and what is one's background, etc., etc. The caste system is a baggage an Indian would find it extremely difficult to unload and carry

whenever and wherever there is a gathering of Indians. There is a sigh of relief and happiness that one belongs to the same caste and the bonding is unbelievably instantaneous. But it takes a while to know what caste one belongs to....

One thing Indians definitely carry with them is their food habits. The taste buds do not change overnight to adjust to the local food. For years they would tend to cook the same way the 'mother' had taught them and/or have learnt from the home of the in-laws. The type of food that one continues to eat is a marker or an indication how deeply rooted you are to being 'Indian'. That which is common to all the Indian cuisine is the curry and that being pungent. But other than that the variation of curry and the level of pungency depend on the region one comes from and also on every conceivable dish of Indian origin. There is nothing Indian about the food, because we have to be very specific from which region or state of India one comes from and much more specific would be from which district of the state one comes from. There is nothing richer than the food habits of Indians. The variety is incredible, the types are unbelievable, that every Indian who begins to cook seem to produce a new recipe with new ingredients. That which is very special to Indians is their food habits and certainly it takes a long time before they begin to acclimatize and accept the local food. 'It is never the same' is the curt remark after a meal.

Indians carry with them their local culture. The culture lives on for a

long time. There are Indians living in different parts of the world, may be second, third or more generations, but that which lives on in a community of Indians is their culture. The culture determines a group of people and keeps them together. But India does not have one culture, so the Indian culture lives on differently in different countries depending on the place of their origin in India. The first generation tends to follow the culture as purely as possible, while the successive generations would tend to assimilate local cultural elements and adapt to the situation and place. Culture gives identity to them. Among the many elements that which lives on for a long time is the culture. But often what we find would be the modified version of the culture. But we Indians are happy with the "juggard" and comfortable with the modified version rather than no Indian culture at all.

The first generation of Indians have one foot in India and one in another country. They go through lots of inner turmoil and struggle. They process their line of thinking from Indian style to a different and new style. They would tend to develop a new type of behavior from the traditional behavior they are used to. They would want to 'instantly' feel comfortable in the new place but unfortunately it takes a long time, and in most cases this happens with the successive generations who are born in a foreign country or who came to a country when they were very young and had done all their studies there. But the second or the successive generations of Indian diaspora is different.....

SPIRITUALITY

LIFE OF A MISSIONARY

I always loved my Indian culture no matter which part of the world I lived in. Growing up as little girl in Southern India my favorite subject was History. I especially loved Indian History where so many brave kings reigned over their people, eventually forming the diverse and yet rich culture seen today. The celebrations, the customs and traditions, the music and its various art forms were the most delightful subjects to explore as a student.

As teenager when I was further exploring my Christian faith in our parish, I encountered the joy and the satisfaction I felt while serving others in imitation to the living Saint Great Mother Theresa of Calcutta. In late 80s and early 90s the Church of Kerala flourished with many religious congregations. The number of vocations to religious were so great that many European founded congregations established their convent in Kerala to gain more vocation to their particular religious order. In the mean time, a desire to serve the Lord increased in my heart. Although I had this desire, I was a bit confused as to which order I should enter. The missionary spirit is in my heart was burning. It was something I couldn't keep to myself any longer.

One evening I shared my desire with my Mom while she was preparing dinner. To my surprise, she was so happy to know that I wanted to be a nun. However, the question remained in my mind, "Where should I go?" Many sleepless nights while holding a rosary in my heart I earnestly prayed to our Mother Mary to show me the way to Her beloved Son.

As always, God makes his will known to his people in his own time. Through one of the Capuchin Brothers I came to know the order of The Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth who have missions in different parts of the world. I did not waste any time at all. The following day I set out for the convent and stayed there for a week to see if I liked this way of life which I fully embraced. Nothing seemed to be an obstacle on my way to enter the convent, except the permission from my beloved Dad. Well, God took care of it in a miraculous way. In 1992, I came to the United States to complete my religious formation. It is here I came to love and appreciate more the beauty of our Indian culture and its diversity. After my first profession as a



Franciscan Sister of St. Elizabeth, I was assigned to assist in a classroom.

As I serve the Lord as a teacher in a multicultural setting it is great to meet many other cultures including mine. I have been a teacher and religious Sister for about 26 years. I can tell you I am so happy to be where I know God has called me to be. I am proud to be an Indian and I strive to be a witness to God's love toward His people. No matter which part of the world I am living in, there is always an opportunity rise up and share my culture with others in a joyful way. Though I miss my Mother Land very much, I never miss its rich heritage which I always carry in my heart. I also carry her love toward the human race, family values, respect toward all people, finding a common ground in a diverse culture to promote peace and harmony, courage to stand up for the poor and marginalized and much more. Above all, one very important gift I inherited from my home is faith, without which my mission work in America will not make any sense. Thank God for the wonderful land who gave birth to many missionaries!

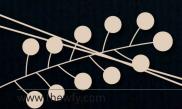


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INSPIRATION FOR YOUTH RAJEEV BAGGA

Saji Chacko

The name Rajeev Bagga may not ring a bell for most Indians. The Deaf and Dumb special player's achievements speak louder than most able bodied sportspersons. These include a win over the great Prakash Padukone in 1987--his crowning glory came in when he was named 'Deafalympian of the century in 2001. No other Indian sportsperson has been crowned with such a citation. 'The 54-year old Rajeev is currently based in London with his wife Rita Mistry after he moved to London in 2000. He is now a coach and has been associated with helping out the English and Austrian badminton teams.

Rajeev, who was born in an Army background (His father was Brig SR Bagga), lost his hearing and speech when he developed meningitis as a 3-year-old. This would have shattered and broken the heart and minds of most –but not Rajeev. He soldered on and tried his hand at various games which included tennis, cricket, hockey and badminton.

Eventually, Rajeev settled for badminton and started making waves. Unlike most special players, he started competing with able bodied sportspersons—which speaks something about his fortitude and character. 'From the very beginning, I knew that I had to compete with the able bodied and triumph over them. I didn't want to restrict myself to playing in the special category as that would have meant not competing against the very best.," he said.

The most amazing part of Rajeev was his concentration and self belief. He played in an era where there were hardly any electronic scoreboard,. Since he could not hear the referee shout the points, he had to be very alert as he himself had to keep count of the scoring.. This apparent 'disadvantage' for most was turned into a advantage for Rajeev.



Slowly but surely, Rajeev started to make his presence felt at the local and national level. The highlight of his career came when he stunned All England champion Prakash Padukone in the Jammu Nationals in 1987. It was a red letter day for Rajeev as he had always idolized and wanted to emulate Prakash's achievements.

Rajeev began his international exploits when he won the mens singlea and doubles title at the World Para Games in Christchurch (New Zealand) in 1989. Thereafter he won a record 14 gold and 8 silver medals in the World Para Games—a feat which not been broken in the annals of the sport. It was for this domination that he was adjudged the Deafalympian of the Century.

Even though Rajeev is a UK citizen now, his heart still beats for India. "I continue to support the Indian cricket team and closely follow their performances. I al also in touch with my friends in India," he signs off.



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INDUSTRY 4.0 AND INDIAN RESPONSE TO DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Pradeep Lavania

India to increase spending on key technologies - Ready for new age of digitization says Pradeep Lavania, Co-Founder & Director of WalkingTree Technologies.

The pandemic's global impact put a strain on organizations, especially those with plans of expansion. The Director & Co-Founder of WalkingTree, Pradeep Lavania spoke to WFY on the impact the pandemic has had on the Indian economy, what areas will see advancement, and the general vibe around technology in India.

"Due to the pandemic, digitization took a massive leap in 2020. The impact was such that organizations across different industries had to shift their priorities and increase focus on IT," he said. "This brought forth the need for further investment in technology and that digitization is the way forward. Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence are getting traction. It is an exciting time for the Indian tech community."

Pradeep believes that a growing number of companies are now migrating from legacy to digital systems, and this is possible only through digital transformation. To achieve successful digital transformation Indian companies are already adopting DevOps methodologies. From spotting patterns to uncovering new revenue sources, DevOps is critical to digital transformation.

"It's difficult to have one without the other," says Pradeep, "The fact is it's a step in the right direction and a much needed one. Since organizations have now realized the benefits of digitization, the cogs can be fixed. While we are some distance away from achieving full potential, we're heading towards it and that is what matters." He further spoke of the need to understand the challenges related to digitalization and how to solve them.

As someone who works in the tech industry he is eager to see the developments India will make in 2022. On that topic he spoke of how India is set on increasing spending on all aspects of IT in 2022, and that the forecasts predict the IT industry's revenue to touch \$300 to \$350 billion in the next five years.

An area of significant growth is Al/ML. "A growing number of organizations are now investing in Al to address various business challenges across IT, security, and data analytic functions," said Pradeep. "Already innovative solutions are being developed to handle large volumes of data. Al/ML models are set in place to make critical business



decisions. All this indicates also, a need for gathering high-quality data to train these AI/ML models."

Speaking further on the overall vibe around technology in India, he said "The talk in India is technology and everyone wants to get on its bandwagon. New, innovative ways of solving problems using technology seems to be the norm. Judging by the current market, India is well on its way to becoming one of the top technologically advanced countries."

As digitization continues to be a key ingredient in India's digital agenda, Pradeep is certain that organizations will keep privacy and security as their top concerns, while creating digital workplaces, enhancing data analytics, AI, and data privacy will be areas of spending in 2022.

"Since the very beginning of WalkingTree Technologies, we've dedicated ourselves to providing exceptional service for our customers, and that begins with an exceptional team. We have consciously invested in our ever-growing team to bring deep expertise in cloud services, software, and infrastructure. Our diverse talent and experience makes us distinctly suited to drive innovation as we accelerate our transformation and bring differentiated solutions to the market."



TAXATION OF INCOME IN INDIA – IMPLICATIONS FOR NON-RESIDENTS

CA Babita Jaggi

Taxation regimes are sometime so confusing that most of us struggle to understand the basic provisions of the law and very often, simply give up the idea to have to do anything with taxation.

In this article, we try to decode the important provisions of Income Tax law in India and present them in a simple, easy to understand manner for a better understanding of our readers.

Residential Status

Simply put, any person who has not been in India for a period of 182 days or more in a financial year is a 'Non-Resident'.

Financial year for the purpose of Indian taxation laws is a period that starts from 1st April of any year till 31st March of the following year, e.g. the Financial year 2021-21 starts from 1st April 2020 and ends on 31st March 2021. So any person who has been in India for 182 days or more during this period with be a 'Resident in India' and a 'Non-Resident' if he/ she has been in India for a period less than 182 days.

Taxation of 'Non-Resident'

The tax treatment of a person's income is dependent on his/her residential status under the Indian law. While a 'Resident in India' is taxed on his global income, for a 'Non-resident', only the income received (or deemed to be received) or accrued or arise (or deemed to accrue or arise) in India is taxable.

Accordingly, 'Non-Resident' taxpayers are taxable in India in respect of the following incomes:

- Any Salary or Professional Charges received for services provided in India;
- Any Capital Gain earned on transfer of a capital asset located in India;
- 3. Any rental income from a property situated in India;
- Dividend received from a company in India;
- 5. Interest income earned from any deposits;
- 6. Any income that is deemed to be received or accrue or arise in India – this mainly consists of all income accruing or arising, directly or indirectly, through or from any business connection in India or through or from any asset or source of income in India.

Tax Deductions

'Non-Resident' taxpayers are also entitled to claim various deductions allowed under the Income Tax law in India. The deductions are available in



respect of certain investments (e.g. Life Insurance Premium, ELSS) or expenses (e.g. Medical insurance for self and family and parents, education expense for self and children) or repayment of housing loan availed in India, etc.

Avoidance of Double-Taxation

India has 'Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements' (DTAA) with various countries to help 'Non-Residents' avoid paying double tax on the same income i.e. in the source country from where such income has been earned and then also in the country of their Residence. DTAAs are helpful in determining the place of taxability of any income and also entitles the taxpayers to claim a deduction or set-off for the taxes paid by them in the source country. Any non- resident taxpayer shall be aware of the DTAA status of the country of his residence with India and benefits and reliefs allowed under the same in order to minimise his/her income tax burden and also seek professional help whenever required.

Disclaimer: the information provided in this article is generic and is for information purposes only. Taxpayers are advised to check specific provisions of law and check the latest legal provisions as law is subject to changes from time to time.

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BECOME AN INFLUENCER AND IMPROVE YOUR BRANDING

In today's competitive social media presence and an increasingly individualized society, it is vital to understand the importance of branding. Your branding influences your business development, whether you are an actor, investment banker, real estate agent, politician, religious leader, or working in any other industry.

Branding is the ongoing process of creating a prescribed image or impression in others' minds about yourself or your business identity.

Branding yourself means developing a unique professional identity and a coherent message that sets you apart from others in your company or your industry. I share a few valuable tips that might help you in creating your brand:

• Be yourself while building your

platform

- Thoughtfully craft your brand
 persona
- Generously share your expertise
- Own your social media *handles and space
- Recognize your distinctiveness and your assets
- Recognize your principles and set your priorities
- * Handle. In the online world, a handle is another word for a username. It can refer to the name you use in chat rooms, web forums, and social media services. Handles, on the other hand, are public usernames to identify people online.

Previously, it was essential designing and printing business cards when you attend events was one of the ways to endorse your branding. However, in the current



times, your network promptly connects via social/professional networks.

30-SECONDS ELEVATOR PITCH (EP)

Imagine how quickly commercials on TV sell a product or service within 30 seconds; similarly, it is equally necessary for professionals to have a consistent and concise 30-seconds elevator pitch. A quick, engaging introduction that we use at networking events.

An EP is a short, persuasive speech that you use to spark an interest in yourself or your organization or a project, idea, or product. The goal is to earn a second conversation.

The idea originated from being



in an elevator with your ideal opportunity owner and maximizing the chances to reconnect. For example, suppose you are an actor and land up in the same elevator with your favorite film director. In that case, you have about 20 to 30 seconds to sell yourself before the genius exits out of the elevator.

PUNCTUALITY BUILDS TRUST

Respect for time goes a long way in any professional career. Make sure to show up 15 minutes before any appointments, listen, and build trust. After the meetings, remember to send a thank-you note and follow-up on any pending matters. It is also appreciated when we include related posts.

"A brand is a promise. A good brand is a promise kept."

COMPLETE PROFILE

As an influencer, make sure you have completed all your social media profiles and especially on LinkedIn. This action is directly relevant to branding that keeps you current in your chosen field, opens doors for you, and creates a lasting impression on clients. In addition, regularly updating your profiles and website(s) with fresh content is a must; this develops loyalty and trust.

The brand you build is perhaps the most critical way to stand out as an influencer and how people remember you.

Branding often comprises the claim of one's name to various services or products. For example, I share my multiple handles on social media:

- Website www. tusharunadkat.com
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Please feel free to follow me and ask more questions if you may have, and I'll be happy to respond at my earliest convenience. All the best!



HARNAAZ KAUR SANDHU - MISS UNIVERSE 2021

She has made India proud!

Actor-model Harnaaz Sandhu made history on December 13 after she was crowned Miss Universe 2021, beating contestants from 80 other countries.

It was after 21 years that India had brought home this title.

"Bringing the glorious crown back after 21 years to India is a moment of greatest pride," Sandhu was reported saying. During the final question and answer round, Sandhu was asked what advice would she give to young women on how to deal with the pressure they face today.

"The biggest pressure the youth of today is facing is to believe in themselves, to know that you are unique and that's what makes you beautiful. Stop comparing yourselves with others and let's talk about more important things that's happening worldwide." "This is what you need to understand. Come out, speak for yourselves because you are the leader of your life, you are the voice of your own. I believed in myself and that's why I am standing here today," she said.

Before Sandhu, only two Indians have won the title of Miss Universe — Sushmita Sen in 1994 and Lara Dutta in 2000.



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LEENA NAIR - CEO-CHANEL

India born Leena Leena Nair, 52, will take over as the Global Chief Executive Officer of French luxury fashion house Chanel, joining the ranks of Indian-origin head honchos of global corporate world.

Nair was earlier the first female, first Asian, youngest ever chief human resource officer of Unilever and a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive.

"I am humbled and honoured to be appointed the Global Chief Executive Officer of CHANEL, an iconic and admired company. I am so inspired by what CHANEL stands for. It is a company that believes in the freedom of creation, in cultivating human potential and in acting to have a positive impact in the world.

I am grateful for my long career at Unilever, a place that has been my home for 30 years. It has given me so many opportunities to learn, grow and contribute to a truly purpose-driven organisation. I will always be a proud advocate of Unilever and its ambition to make sustainable living commonplace," Nair said in a post on LinkedIn.



DR. NEENA GUPTA MATHEMATICIAN

Neena Gupta, a mathematician and professor at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, has been awarded the 2021 Ramanujan Prize for young mathematicians from developing countries.

Gupta received the prize for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.

"I feel honoured to receive this prize however, this is not enough.

As a researcher, I feel there are lot more mathematical problems that we have to find a solution for. Getting recognised for the work definitely motivates to do work harder in the research field," Gupta reportedly said.

Gupta is the third woman to receive the Ramanujan Prize. She is also the fourth Indian to win this prestigious prize.





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INDIAN DIASPORA GLOBAL MOVEMENT



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