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Hello, everyone. We have enemies everywhere. Today, we're going to talk about the Seven Most Dangerous Enemies of Wealth. These are enemies that can take any, all, or some of your wealth much faster than you can imagine.

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To serve and support members of the Indian subcontinent community with an inspirational and educational magazine and to empower readers with an awareness of local, national and international news, events, and social happenings.

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Editor's View

Dear readers,

On behalf of the entire Desh-Videsh Media Group team, I want to wish all of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Let me echo some things that Chahna wrote in her article.

We are at the start of another fresh new year. Typical New Year's resolutions usually center around improving physical health through diet and exercise; or improving financial health via financial and tax planning. But because of the pandemic, the last couple of years has been particularly tough on our peace of mind, with some even experiencing one of the lowest emotional periods in their lives. Most of us haven't experienced this type of situation in our lifetime, so it can definitely take a toll on our mental health.

Two years of chronic stress is a long time to suffer. Not being able to see the end of the tunnel can allow negativity to creep into our thoughts. Therefore, a good new year's resolution this year might include a plan to replace negative thoughts with positive ones.

Let's face it: Negative thoughts are either about the past or the future. We may feel guilty, remorseful, or sorry about things that have happened in the past; and we may worry about things that could happen in the future. Mindfully reflecting on lessons learned can be constructive, prudent, and encouraging if it leads to positive change. However, letting negative and anxious thoughts overwhelm us can be counterproductive, not to mention depressing, scary, and stressful.

If we've tended to always look at things negatively and are used to not only thinking of the worst thing that could happen but dwelling on it in an unproductive way (rather than preparing for it in a prudent way), we're more than likely to continue to think in the same way, unless we break the habit. And yes--we definitely can break the habit of negative thinking, just like we can break the habit of smoking or not eating junk food. By no means will it be easy, but it is absolutely possible.

In 2022, let's look forward to taking control of our thoughts and removing negative thinking and replacing it with positive and calming thoughts.

Speaking of positive things, let me talk about our cover story, Kashi Vishwanath Dham. Let me take this opportunity to quote Prime Minister Modi ji. He said, while inaugurating the Kashi Vishwanath temple corridor,

> "*Vishwanath Dham is not just a grand building. This is a symbol of the Sanatan culture of India. It is a symbol of our spiritual soul. This is a symbol of India's antiquity; traditions; India's energy and dynamism.*"

He went on to say,

> "*For me, God comes in the form of people. For me, every person is a part of God. I ask three resolutions from the people for the country - cleanliness, creation, and continuous efforts for [promoting a] self-reliant India*"
>
> "*[A] long period of slavery broke our confidence in such a way that we lost faith in our own creation. Today, [speaking] from this thousands-year-old Kashi, I call upon every countryman [to] create with full confidence. Innovate! Do [things] in an innovative way.*"

What a positive message to Indians living worldwide!

Now let me talk about two memorable days that come in January. Indians can never forget in their life, these two days: January 26 and January 30. January 30, the anniversary of Gandhi's death, is a black day in Indian history; we wish that it never happened. Conversely, January 26, India's Republic Day, brings us enormous joy and happiness. We are presenting two articles on these two memorable days. Please make sure you read them and pass the message on to your friends, family, and especially to the youth in your family.



In this issue, we are also presenting an article on financial planning, The Seven Most Dangerous Enemies of Wealth, by Bimal Shah. We also present an article on immigration advice by Seth Finberg. The International Entrepreneur Parole (IEP) Program by the US Immigration Department is not a new program. However, not too many *Desh-Videsh* readers know about it, so we thought it would be very beneficial to our readers.

Let me end my column by wishing all of you, once again, a happy and most importantly a healthy New Year.

Take care. Be safe; be healthy!

Raj Shah
Managing Editor

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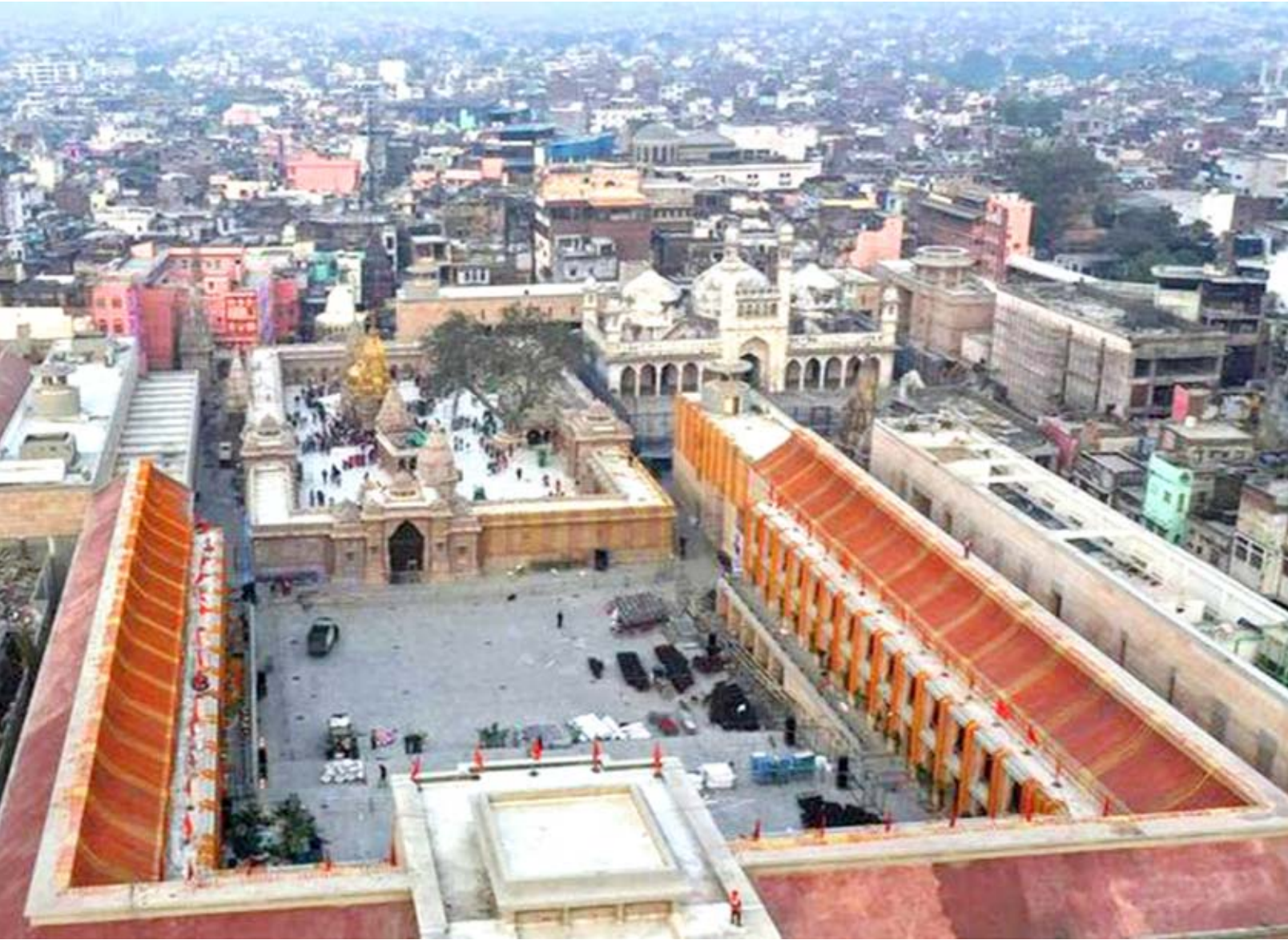
The Rejuvenation of Kashi: Pilgrims' Delight; India's Pride





On December 13, 2021. Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor, which has been a landmark development for the temple city of Kashi or Varanasi and the auspicious Vishwanath Temple complex. The newly built Kashi Vishwanath Dham corridor has transformed the 3,000 square foot area of the Vishwanath Temple into a massive 500,000 square foot complex with facilities for pilgrims. Such facilities include the Tourist Assistance Center, Vedic Center, Special Shelter for ailing persons, Bhogshala, City Museum, Viewing Gallery, Food Court, and more. Pilgrims can have a view of the holy river Ganga from the complex, take a dip in the river, and come directly to the temple for prayers. After its splendid makeover, the holy temple can now accommodate 50,000 to 75,000 pilgrims.

“Pilgrims can have a view of the holy river Ganga from the complex, take a dip in the river, and come directly to the temple for prayers. After its splendid makeover, the holy temple can now accommodate 50,000 to 75,000 pilgrims.”



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Paying his deepest regard to Lord Vishwanath, the Prime Minister began his speech by chanting "Har Har Mahadev." Expressing his devout respect for the holy city and its religious and cultural heritage, Modiji said, Kashi is ruled by the one with a "Damru," or Lord Shiva. It has been attacked by so many invaders through the ages, but no one could destroy its heritage and the significance of Kashi. Citing examples he mentioned, if there was an Aurangzeb to attack, there has been the courageous hero Shivaji to defend him. He stressed the importance of the 3 Cs in today's perspective, and he urged everyone to follow them. These 3 Cs are the Cleanliness, Creativity, and Creation of a self-reliant India, or Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Emphasizing the religious, cultural, and traditional supremacy of kasha, Modiji successfully upheld the national integration and unity of India, nurtured in the rich land of Kashi. He mentioned that Kashi is the land of the four Jain Tirthankaras, and the embodiment of nonviolence and austerity. "From the integrity of King Harishchandra to the knowledge of Vallabhacharya, Ramanand Ji," he said, "there are many sages and acharyas rooted in this holy land."



"Expressing his devout respect for the holy city and its religious and cultural heritage, Modiji said, Kashi is ruled by the one with a "Damru," or Lord Shiva."

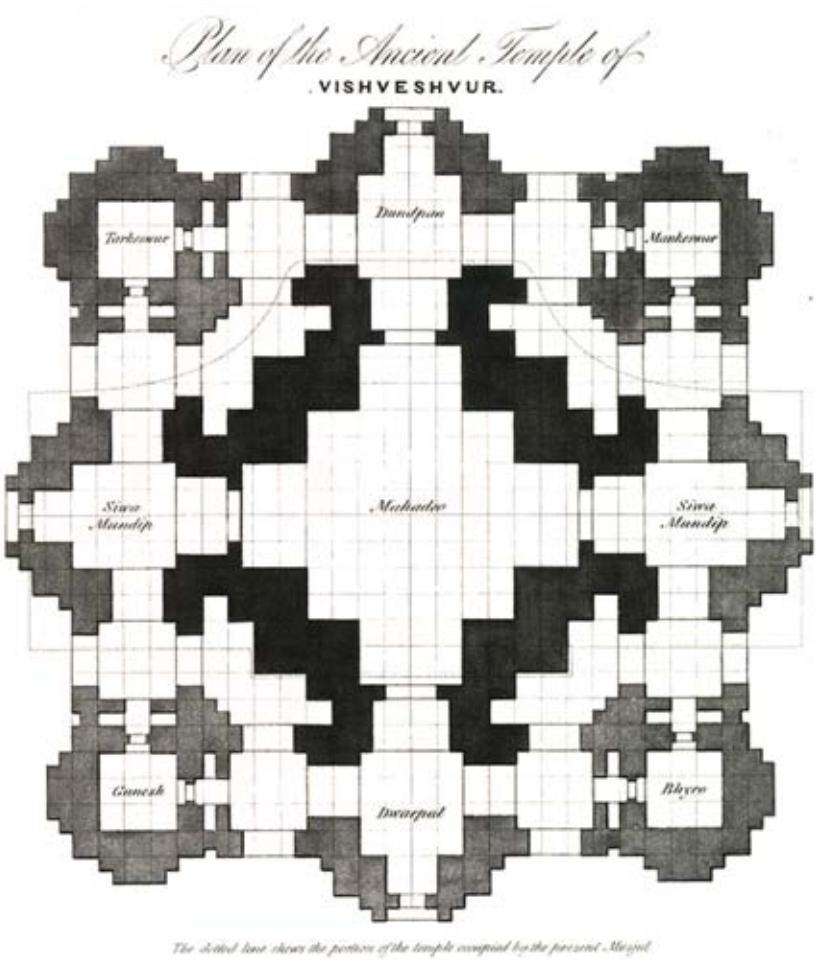
He honored Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Swami Vivekananda, and Madan Mohan Malaviya. He also paid his tribute to Rani Lakshmi Bai and Chandrashekhar Azad who fought for their motherland from this holy land. He also paid tribute to the creative maestros from here like Jaishankar Prasad, Munshi Premchand, Pandit Ravi Shankar, and Bismillah Khan.

The foundation stone for this project was laid on March 8, 2019, by the Prime Minister himself. Despite the pandemic, the workers continued with the construction work. Modiji



profusely thanked the workers for their relentless efforts, and—as a token of gratitude and respect—had lunch with them on the day of the inauguration. He visited the Kal Vairav Mandir, had a bath in the holy Ganga, and offered prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple. In the evening, he viewed the grand Ganga Aarti from a cruise. This was a special Aarti on the occasion of Shiv Deepotsav, where several thousand earthen lamps were lit, followed by fireworks and a special light and sound show.

The sacred city of Kashi, especially the Vishwanath Temple, holds special significance among Hindus as well as all tourists worldwide. More than 7 lakh devotees visit the temple every year. Being one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, this temple was founded in 1490. Many rulers have ruled the city, and it has faced many attacks. Even the temple was destroyed. It was last rebuilt and restored by Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar, the Queen of Indore.





The sacred city of Kashi, especially the Vishwanath Temple, holds special significance among Hindus as well as all tourists worldwide. More than 7 lakh devotees visit the temple every year.

The newly inaugurated corridor has been the first step toward enhancing pilgrims' pleasure and convenience. They will no longer need to cross the narrow lanes and bylanes and innumerable illegal constructions and impediments when coming to offer their prayers to Lord Vishwanath. Instead, they will be able to visit a wider, broader, and even more beautifully built temple complex overlooking the holy Ganga; and pray peacefully. Modiji's endeavor has liberated Kashi Vishwanath Temple of its dirty and gloomy surroundings and has renovated it to a wonderfully built complex—a point of pride for all Indians.

Historical Facts About Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi

- According to records, the Kashi Vishwanath temple was found in 1490. Kashi has seen the rule of many kings, one both famous and not so famous. It was also ruled by Buddhists for some time. Undoubtedly, the city has seen its share of slaughter and destruction. The temples were plundered time and again by the Mughals.
- The Kashi Vishwanath temple was last rebuilt and restored to its glory by the Queen of Indore, Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar. She took the initiative to restore the temple and provided the funds for it. Later, however, Akbar's great grandson Aurangzeb destroyed the temple and built a mosque in its place.
- The temple holds immense significance to Hindus, as it is revered as one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. There is a popular belief that Lord Shiva stayed here for some time.
- The Kashi Vishwanath Temple has three domes covered in gold! As per the popular belief, any wish is fulfilled if it is made after seeing the golden chatra.
- It is said that when news reached of Aurangzeb's plans to destroy the temple, the idol of Shiva was hidden in a well to protect it from destruction. The well, called the "well of wisdom," still stands there between the mosque and the temple.
- The divine shrine is visited by more than 7 million devotees year after year and has been restored and beautified with the Kashi Vishwanath Dham project by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government. On December 13, 2021, PM Modi inaugurated Phase 1 of the project.
- The main deity is known by the name Vishvanatha or Vishveshvara, meaning "Ruler of The Universe." Varanasi city is also called Kashi. Hence, the temple is popularly called Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

Facts and Figures: Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor

- The Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor Project was designed at a cost of $105 million, including $51 million compensation to acquire area for the complex.
- 314 properties were acquired, and 1,400 people were rehabilitated, without a single litigation in court.
- Over 27 ancient temples that reappeared during excavation were preserved in the corridor and restored to former glory.
- Gateways and structures leading to the temple were built with stones using traditional craftsmanship.
- The temple can now be accessed through the river Ganga by steps and escalators via a disability-friendly corridor.
- Apart from the Godolia and Saraswati Dwar entries, devotees can also reach via the riverfront using the new jetty for docking boats.
- The temple complex will host 27 structures including prayer halls, a museum, rest areas, a guest house, a food court, a security center, and information zones.
- The temple corridor will be secured with 300 CCTV cameras and baggage scanners.



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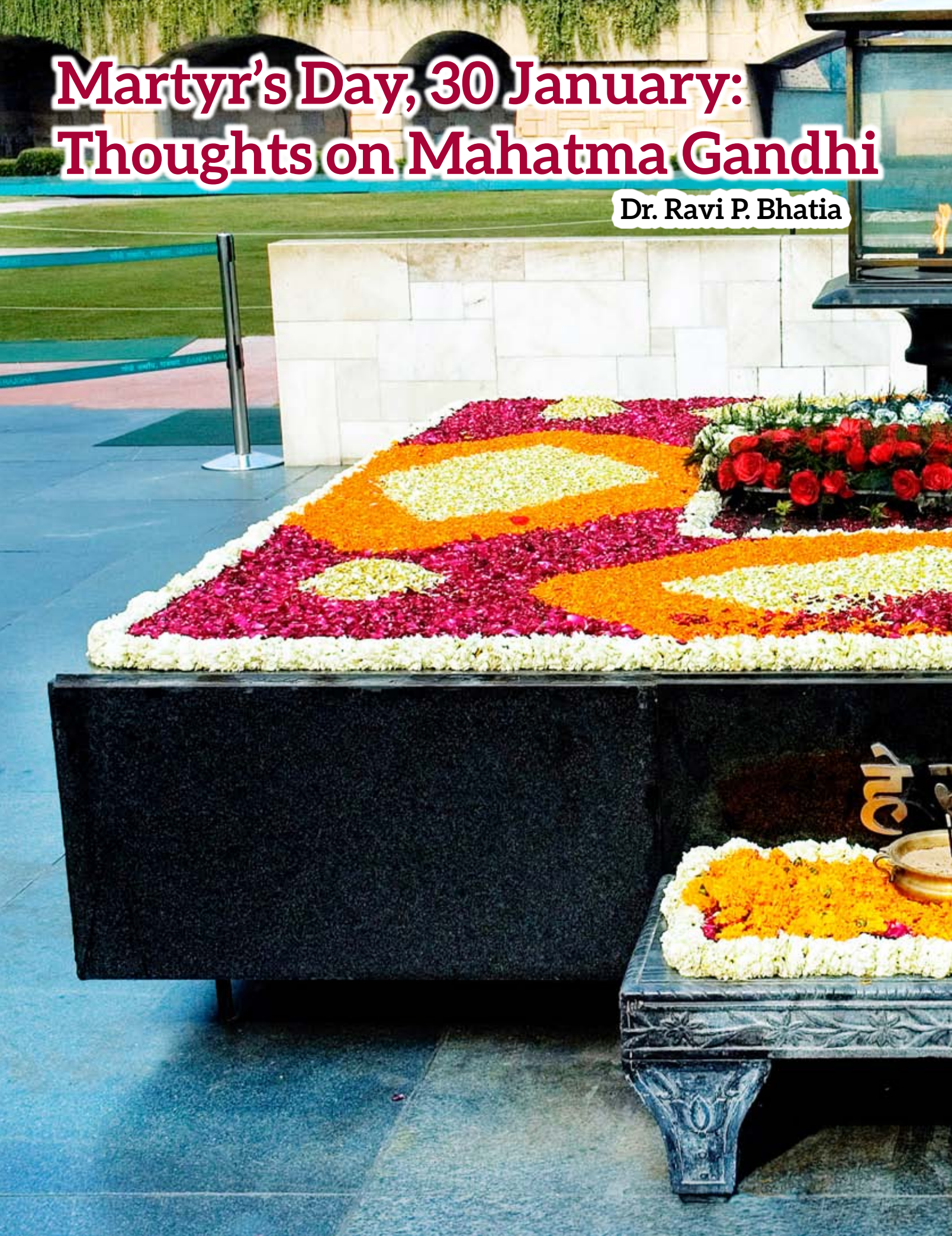
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Martyr's Day, 30 January: Thoughts on Mahatma Gandhi

Dr. Ravi P. Bhatia





Mahatma Gandhi, one of the greatest proponents of peace and nonviolence, was shot dead by a Hindu bigot on January 30, 1948. How could this have happened, has been debated and explained by scholars and the courts, which pronounced death sentences on the murderer. But the decision added one more act of violence to the other. Had Gandhi been alive he would perhaps not have agreed to the double murder.

As in some other cases, Mohandas Gandhi was sent to the UK to study law by his rich father. He completed his law degree from the Inner Temple in London and returned to India soon after. Fate had other plans for the young Mohandas. He was invited by a well-known firm owned by Dada Abdulla, which had a shipping business, to come to South Africa. Gandhi accepted the offer and set sail in 1893. He remained in South Africa until 1914. It is said that Gandhi came to South Africa as Mohandas but went back as Mahatma.

South Africa was a turning point in the life of Mohandas. He saw racism, cruelty and demeaning behavior by the British government against local and the nonwhite populations there. Gandhi himself suffered this discrimination on a few instances and developed a series of thoughts and course of action in consultation with some scholars and religious personalities and his correspondence with Leo Tolstoy.

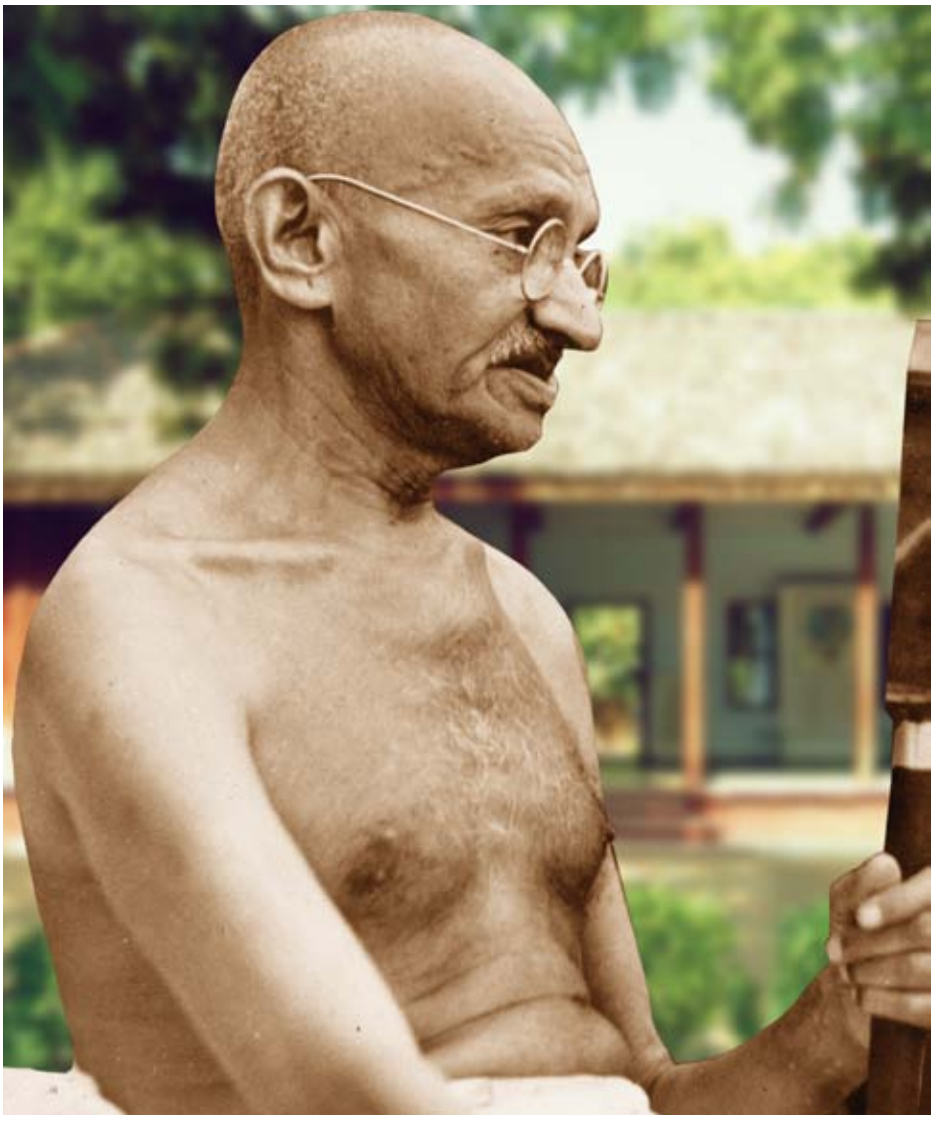
Because of these, Gandhi wrote a few pamphlets and a book, which he called Hind Swaraj (Home Rule). This small book that was penned in 1909 while Gandhi was returning by ship from England to South Africa is a masterpiece and it is worth recalling today for some of its pertinent aspects including emphasis on Nonviolence.

This book that I am referring to as HS (Hind Swaraj) has twenty chapters on aspects of civilization, politics, machinery, education. The two important chapters were on Passive Resistance and Swaraj that are relevant even in contemporary situations. Passive Resistance or Satyagraha (the word that has entered the English language) has been adopted by India to free itself from the British colonial rule but has been used in several other countries of Asia and Africa to become independent and reduce aspects of discrimination and injustice. Gandhi was also against violence in any form. Today, his birth anniversary – 2 October, is known as the International Day of Nonviolence.

The British government in India had somehow seized an original Gujarati version of HS as being subversive. Reacting to this, he wrote "I don't know why this has been done – there is no trace of violence in any shape or form in Hind Swaraj..."

Some important aspects of Satyagraha according to Gandhi were Truth, fearlessness, Poverty, Simplicity, and even Chastity. He also emphasized the strength of purpose, not necessarily physical strength.

In South Africa, Gandhi had interacted and influenced several leaders including Nelson Mandela, Bishop Tutu and others on the meaning of Satyagraha. Even in the USA Martin Luther King Jr. had used this course of action to reduce open racism in the country. He had stated that Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.



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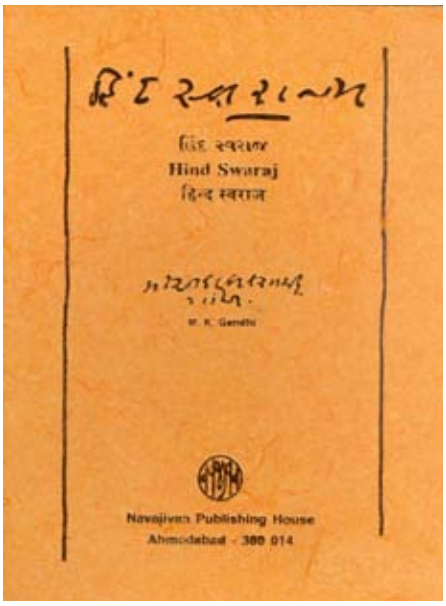
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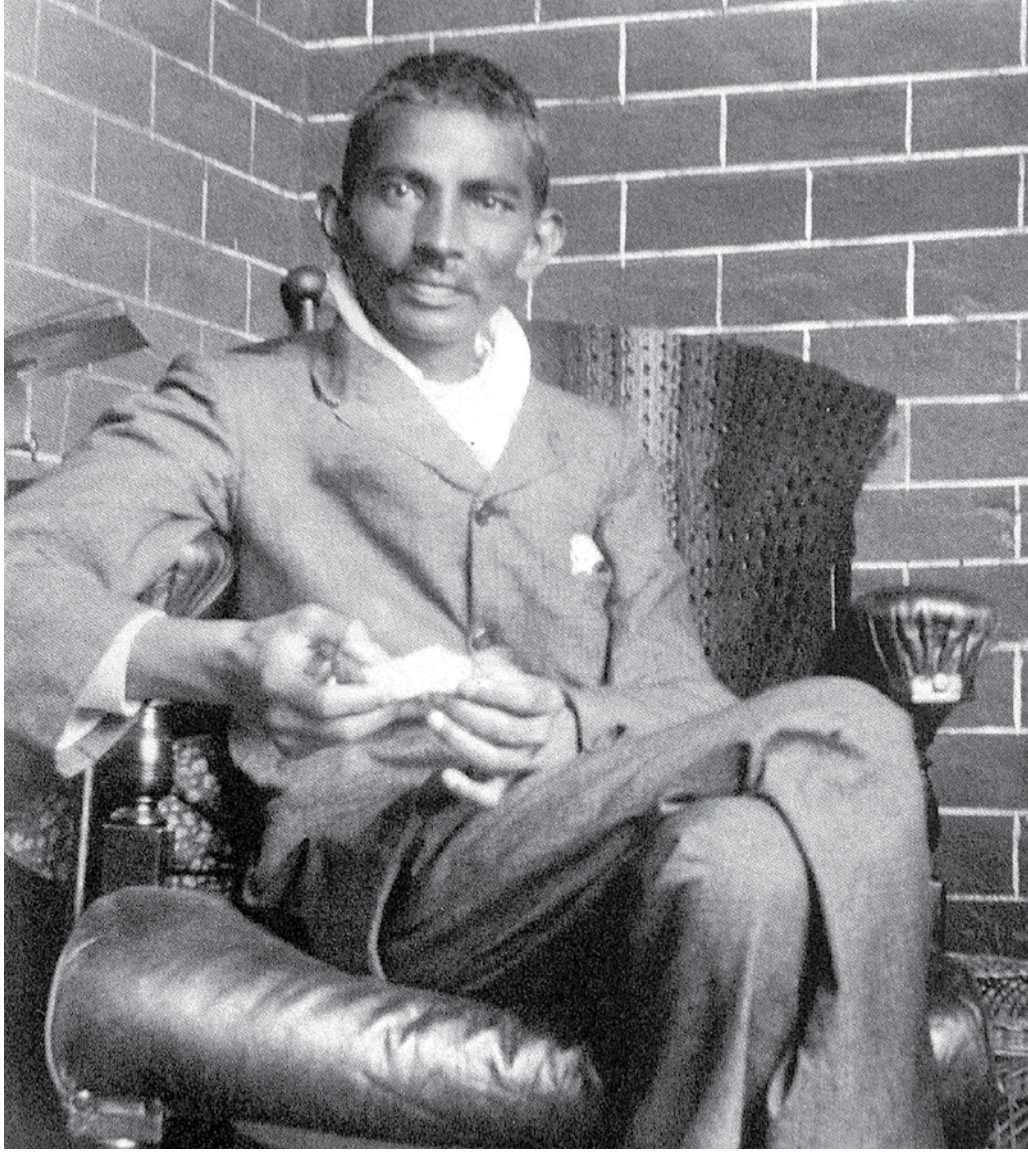
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“Aspects of Satyagraha According to Gandhi were Truth, Fearlessness, Poverty, Simplicity, and even Chastity.”

Swaraj can broadly be interpreted as Self-Rule as opposed to being ruled by a foreign power. According to Gandhi, it also means control over one’s mind. He also strongly criticized the colonization by any foreign power.

England had colonized India and several other countries on our planet – in the East and West. It was this that led to the statement that The Sun never sets on the British Empire. England had through violent means of guns, grenades, naval power and subterfuge colonized Australia and New Zealand and eliminated large sections of tribal people, their culture and language. In the West, they had adopted similar methods to overcome the tribal populations of America and had gradually overcome the other colonial powers – Spain and France to form what is today the USA. In 1789, George Washington had taken an oath as the first President of the newly formed country.

Gandhiji had written in HS that removal of colonial power is not enough unless the people who formed the government in Self-Rule, adopted peaceful and harmonious means toward the people at large and allowed local cultures, languages, religions to flourish. He would not have been happy to note that these have all but

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disappeared in the countries referred to above. In Australia, there is only English for its citizens; in New Zealand, at least one tribal language – Maori survives.

Fortunately in India, despite colonialism, our cultures, cuisines, languages, religious faiths, and customs survive. Gandhi had stated in HS that Hindi should become India's national language although people should also learn the English language.

Gandhi's ideas, his various writings, including HS and others had influenced several people and leaders across the globe.

Sometime back, I read that Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, had resigned from the office to which she served for 16 years. In the interview, she gave, it shows her having led a simple life with her husband in their apartment; even cooking and washing clothes by themselves without any servants or maids. She had not shown any favors to her relatives or anyone else. She was applauded overwhelmingly by her country people at the time of her resignation from the office of Chancellorship.

I wonder if she had been influenced by Gandhi's ideas or writings. All kudos from an ordinary Indian to Angela!

Dr. Ravi P Bhatia is an educationist, Gandhian scholar and peace researcher. Retired professor, Delhi University. His new book, A Garland of Ideas–Gandhian, Religious, Educational, Environmental was published recently in Delhi.





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The Seven Most Dangerous Enemies of Wealth

By Bimal Shah



Hello, everyone. We have enemies everywhere. Today, we're going to talk about the **Seven Most Dangerous Enemies of Wealth**. These are enemies that can take any, all, or some of your wealth much faster than you can imagine. I have included in this article simple steps that you can take today—steps which can help protect your wealth from these enemies.

Enemy #1: Lack of Planning and Discipline:

• **The Lack of a Systematic Financial Decision-Making Process:** Without proper planning and discipline, it is impossible to build wealth—whether slowly or otherwise. 94 percent of the time, failure to build wealth is the result of having had an improper system of money management.

• **The first step is to have a budget.** Then, we need to find out if there are any expenses that aren't really necessary to maintain the lifestyle you live. If you have discovered some of those, bingo! You now have discovered **Hidden Assets.**

Purpose of Doing a Budget for the Wealthy: The purpose of the budget for the wealthy is not to find out where the money is going, but to allocate the spending of money where it brings **happiness and meaning** to your life.

• **The next step** is to maintain three types of primary personal bank accounts:

1. **Lifestyle Account:** A bank checking account where we pay everyone else.
2. **Planning Account:** This is a bank checking or savings account from where all your planning takes place.
3. **Wage Account (Emergency Account):** You need to title your emergency account as a wage account, including wages of up to six months.

Planning for security against the enemies of wealth is a foundation to being wealthy **(WEALTH + SecuritY = WEALTHY)**

Enemy #2: Debt:

Many misunderstand debt. Some might feel we should live debt free, while others believe that leveraging debt is good. You should understand two fundamental rules of thumb when it comes to debt:

Rule # 1: Debt-to-Liquidity Ratio: At a minimum, you should maintain a ratio of at least 10 percent liquidity to debt; and a 25 percent ratio is very good.

Rule # 2: Differentiating between Good Debt and Bad Debt: For any debt below 6 percent—whether it be a home loan, an equity line, or a property loan—there are tax advantages; and business loans or lines of credit that are not in the double digits fall in the category of good debt.





Enemy # 3: Taxes:

It is absolutely imperative to pay the least necessary tax. In order to make sure you are paying the least necessary tax, you should be working with a team of people including a certified public accountant, an independent third party administrator, attorneys, independent insurance agents, benefit experts, and independent financial advisors.

Enemy # 4: Unexpected Events:

It is very important to be fully prepared for the unexpected, as unforeseen events could result in major changes in your life, family, business, or livelihood. Such events could include death, sickness, loss of job, or loss of business. The solution is having insurance that is right for you.

Enemy #5: Losses:

The best way to make more money is to lose less money. Many chase high returns—as making a lot of money too soon has a lot of greed and excitement attached to it. However, it is very important to understand the system of market cycles. Also, someone shouldn't put their foundational college educational fund assets and retirement assets at very high risk.

Enemy # 6: Lawsuits:

It is absolutely imperative to protect your assets from lawsuits. Secondly, and at the same time, it is absolutely essential that you work with a good attorney who can provide you the best asset protection planning according to your needs and objectives. Thirdly, please make sure your assets are properly aligned to the plan you have structured.

> "Enemies that can take any, all, or some of your wealth much faster than you can imagine."



Enemy # 7: Unintended Heirs & Separation:

It is very important to plan your legacy. If you do not, strangers and the government will inherit your money and assets. It is also possible to plan for a multi-generational legacy that could continue well beyond three generations.

Lastly, separation/divorce is an extremely sensitive issue. I would say divorce can be worse than death. Proactive investment in quality marriage counseling (both before and after marriage) is well worth any cost.

In conclusion, taking the simple steps outlined above can help protect your wealth from these seven most dangerous enemies of wealth.

About the Author



Bimal Shah, as a financial advisor for 21 years, has helped the community to preserve and protect their assets, build lasting legacies, increase their income, and reduce the taxes they pay. To contact him, please email him at info@bizactioncoach.com or call him at 561-208-4032.

> “At a minimum, you should maintain a ratio of at least 10 percent liquidity to debt; and a 25 percent ratio is very good.”

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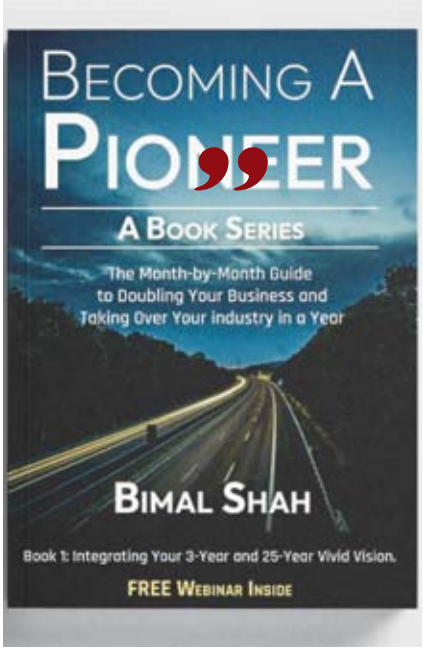
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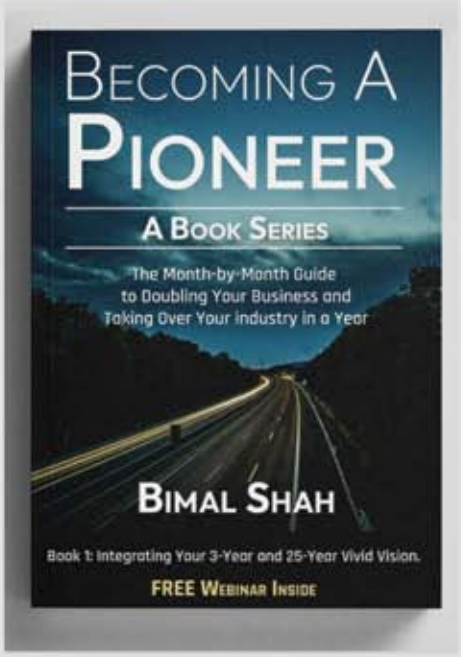
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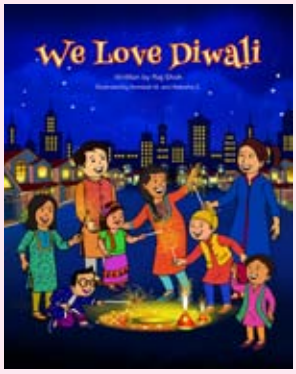


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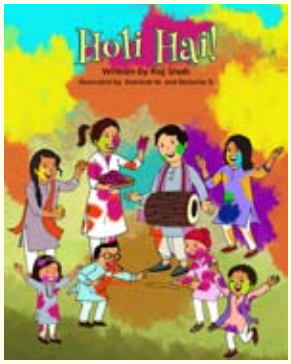
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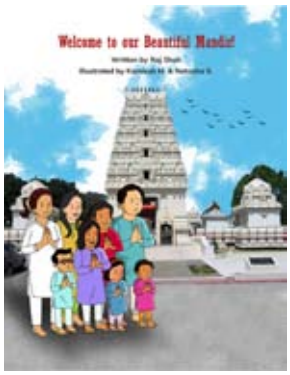
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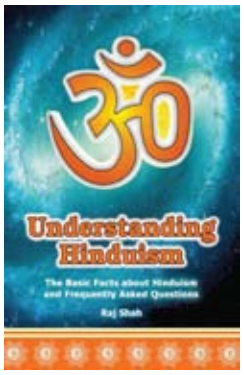
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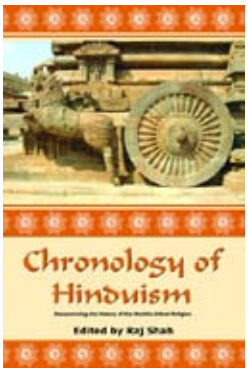
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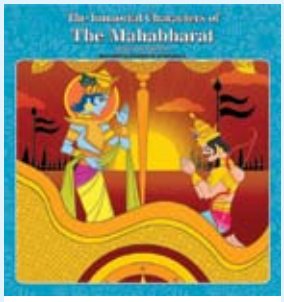
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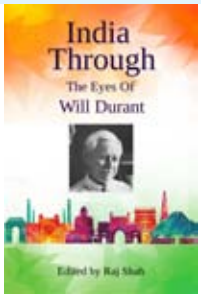
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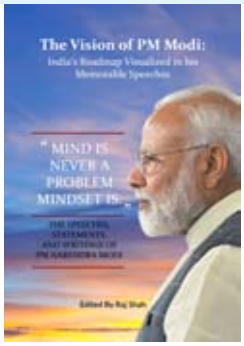
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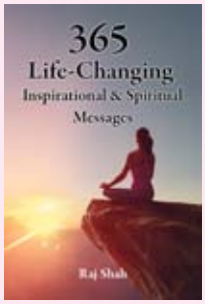
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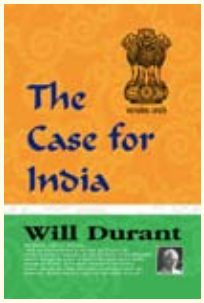
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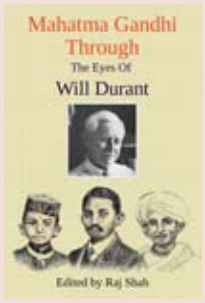
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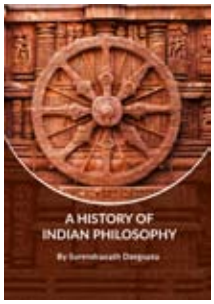
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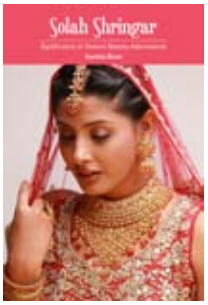
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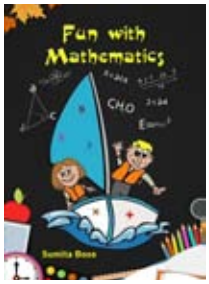


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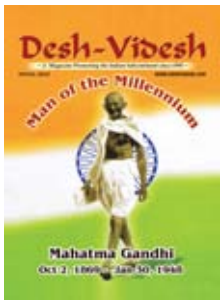


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Immigration Solutions for Entrepreneurs

Seth Finberg

If you are an entrepreneur and are looking to come to the United States to form a startup, there is a new program called International Entrepreneur Parole (IEP) that you may want to consider. IEP allows startup founders to legally move to the United States to work for and grow their company. Since there is no specific "startup visa," this grant of parole is the closest thing the U.S. currently has to a startup program. IEP allows entrepreneurs who provide a "significant public benefit" by creating jobs for American workers and helping to expand the U.S. economy to enter the U.S. and stay for 30 months (2.5 years). To be approved for this program, each entrepreneur must provide a detailed description of their central and active role in the startup entity.

> "Most successful U.S. companies with foreign founders are or were financed with personal, family"

Advantages of International Entrepreneur Parole:

- You do not need an employer sponsor like most work visas such as H-1Bs or L-1As/L-1Bs.
- Up to three co-founders per company (can self-petition) and apply for IEP.
- You can be the boss of your company and have significant ownership. Visas such as H-1Bs have complicated legal hurdles to overcome when employee ownership is involved.
- You need only own 10% of the company—which can even be given to you as compensation, as opposed to requiring a substantial direct personal investment.
- You do not have to start a brand new company. The U.S.-based startup may have existed up to 5 years before you file the application.
- You do not have to be a citizen of a particular country to apply for IEP, unlike investment visas such as E-2s unavailable to Indian nationals in most instances.
- You do not have to satisfy a specific "prevailing wage" requirement to apply for IEP. Many visas such as the H-1B require a complicated labor certification.
- Your spouse and minor children (under 21 and unmarried) are also eligible for parole. Your spouse can apply for employment authorization—and can work for the startup, work for another company, or start their own company.



Disadvantages of International Entrepreneur Parole:

- IEP is a parole and not a visa and does not lead to a green card.
- IEP is temporary and therefore should be used as a platform for other immigration paths.
- IEP is a very new program; and consequently, very few applications have been granted. It is unknown how successful the program will be in the future.
- Each applicant will have to show a household income that is greater than 400% of the Federal Poverty guidelines. This would be around $52,000 for a single entrepreneur, or $106,000 for a family of 4, and it increases based on family size by around $18,000 per additional family unit.
- Your company must have raised at least $250,000 from "qualified" U.S. based investors or has received at least $100,000 in "qualified" government grants, or an appropriate combination of the two.
- The "qualified investors" must be U.S. based. You must be able to meet these minimum qualifications without your own personal funds, funds from a family member, or funds from any business entity that you or your family have any direct or indirect ownership stake.
- If you have not met this threshold fundraising benchmarks, you will need to provide compelling evidence of your company's potential for rapid growth and job creation.
- The initial parole will not be re-granted after the initial 30 months if you do not continue to meet the definition of an "entrepreneur":
  - You do not continue to play a central and active role in the startup OR
  - Your ownership stake in the company is diluted to less than 5%.
- The initial parole will not be re-granted after the initial 30-month period if your company does not continue to meet the definition of a "startup entity."



Conclusion:

IEP is at least an intriguing option to consider for entrepreneurs, especially for Indian nationals. The founder can be both an owner and manager/executive of their startup; does not have to directly invest any minimum amount of personal funds in the company; and can avoid the lengthy process of labor certification. However, IEP is a new program which has a lot of uncertainty, including delays in processing time and the lack of a proven track record of approved parole applications. Another concern is that external investment thresholds are high for many otherwise worthy applicants. Most successful U.S. companies with foreign founders are or were financed with personal, family, or overseas funding sources. Unfortunately, these traditional funding sources are not considered when qualifying for IEP. Additionally, you may have to divert valuable startup resources and pay yourself a salary high enough to exceed the federal household poverty guidelines by 400%.

While IEP may not be suitable for many entrepreneurs or startups, it may still be a viable alternative to consider. Entrepreneur parole may be worth exploring if you are considering leaving your currently sponsored U.S. job; if you are an international student entrepreneur; or if you do not qualify for any existing program. If you choose to pursue IEP or any other business immigration solution, I highly recommend that you work with immigration attorneys. Experienced attorneys can navigate the complexities of the IEP process and explain the risks, rewards, and time frames of your immigration strategy.

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Attorney Seth Finberg is a 2005 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law and is a member of the Georgia Bar and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). He is the owner and founder of Finberg Firm PLLC (located in Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and he represents clients nationwide in the areas of business- and family-based immigration. Mr. Finberg is an active member of the Miami Asylum Office Committee for AILA South and Central Florida, and he serves as a legal captain in pro bono clinics for Temporary Protected Status and Citizenship. Seth has been recognized for his outstanding pro bono service by the South Florida chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, winning their 2021 Pro Bono Champion award. He can be reached by phone at (954) 249-6603 or by email at seth@finbergfirm.com at his Weston office currently, or at his new Hollywood office starting in February 2022.





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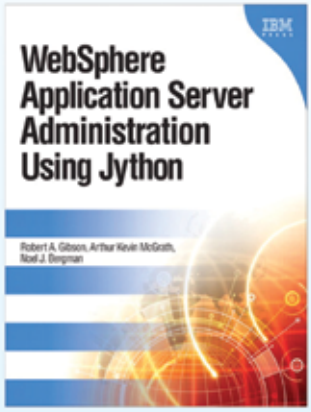
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New Year; New Mindset!



Happy New Year, Desh Videsh family!

Here we are at the start of another fresh new year. Typical New Year's resolutions usually center around improving physical health through diet and exercise. But because of the pandemic, the last couple of years have been particularly tough on our peace of mind, with some even experiencing one of the lowest emotional periods in their lives. Most of us haven't experienced this type of a situation in our lifetime, so it can definitely take a toll on our mental health.

Two years of chronic stress is a long time to suffer. Stress takes its toll. Not being able to see the end of the tunnel can allow negativity to creep into our thoughts. Therefore, my friends, a good new year's resolution this year might include a plan to replace negative thoughts with positive ones.

Yoga teaches us that to achieve anything—whether our aim is to feel blissful in life or to achieve our goals—one must be focused. To mindfully maintain your focus, like an archer aiming an arrow you must be able to first clear your mind of unnecessary



distractions and not allow errant thoughts to disturb you. *Yoga Vasishta Sara Sangraha* says that "if the mind is controlled and re-channeled into positive fields, it yields a rich crop of progress and happiness"—a feast of joy.

How can you remain in that blissful space if that personal space (like a private garden) is being intruded upon by a crowd of negative thoughts (like a pack of stray dogs) competing to crowd you out of your own peace of mind? Keeping negative thoughts at bay is a very common struggle! But doing so in a masterful, ancient, awe-inspiring, and peaceful way that restores tranquility (such as singing to the dogs to calm them) is a learned skill.

How can you maintain your peace and equilibrium—and help others find it too—even in the midst of chaos? *Yoga Vasistha Sara Sangraha* affirms that "peace is my true nature, and so it cannot be created. Only agitation is created. When they end, peace alone remains."

To achieve peace, we must become conscious of the flow of thoughts and recognize where our minds tend to go. Often, we enter a negative state without realizing how we got there. So, the first challenge (and my focus



> "Abraham Hicks said that "when you focus on the good, the good gets better."

for today) is to become aware of our current state of mind.

There are small things you can do to overcome this challenge.

For example, one way to remind us to stay positive is by leaving ourselves little notes with positive affirmations. My cousin and I tape little notes to ourselves on our mirrors. I've even created a daily reminder in my calendar with words of affirmation. My 10 AM reminder is "I am plenty" (in other words, "I've got what I need"; "I'm up to the task"; "I can do this"– "I've got this"). And boy, does that encouragement help me when I'm at work!

Something else that helps: I started an annual ritual a few years back. At our New Year's eve family get together, I ask everyone to reflect on, and write down, what we want to eliminate in the new year– whether fear, insecurity, or other obstacles. After that, we burn all our pieces of paper in a bonfire (or using a candle flame). Tangible, physical, memorable, and mindful actions like this can help us shed negativity, liberating us and making us feel lighter and freer. Moreover, sharing this "burning" ritual together helps bond and connect us even closer as a family and mentally reinforces the fact that together, we can help each other reduce negativity in the coming year.

Lastly, Abraham Hicks said that "when you focus on the good, the good gets better." The substitution of negative thoughts with positive ones can help remind us of all the good there is and help reprogram our minds to attract abundance instead of deficiency. When we feel like we cannot achieve something, it's best to tag on the word "yet." Maybe we haven't achieved it **yet** - but it IS coming!

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Saffron: A Treat for the Taste Buds, and for the Mind and Body

by Gita Hari





Be it imparting a host of health benefits or adding a distinct colour, flavor, and texture to culinary delights, the uses of a few saffron strands are unparalleled. This spice—produced in Jammu and Kashmir—was recently hailed for its uniqueness by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly radio address Mann ki Baat. Gita Hari explores several applications of saffron in everyday life.

Touted to be one of the most expensive spices in the world, saffron (Crocus sativus), popularly known as kesar, is the golden-hued stigma of the purple crocus flower. Each crocus bears up to four flowers, each with three stigmas. The reason behind its high value is the simple fact that harvesting saffron is a labor-intensive process and is conducted entirely manually. On the outset, the flavor profile of this spice is not easily definable. It exudes a strong exotic aroma that is not overpowering. And once added to food, it not only adds a beautiful colour to the dish but also adds a distinct flavor. Although this almost 4,000-year-old spice was first said to have been produced in Greece, one of its major producers today is India, especially in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir. Such is the quality and exclusivity of the Kashmir saffron that it was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in 2020. In his monthly radio address to the nation (Mann ki Baat) in January 2021, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highly praised Kashmir saffron, calling it "unique." "It has a strong aroma [and a] rich colour, and its threads are long and thick, which enhance[s] its medicinal value. It represents the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. If we talk about quality, then Kashmiri saffron is unique—and it is entirely different from [the] saffron of other countries," PM Modi had highlighted.







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Health Benefits

The advantages of the spice as a therapeutic agent were ascertained by ancient Egypt and Rome. One of the most common and age-old applications of saffron has been in Indian kitchens for treating fever and the common cold. According to a paper published by the United States National Library of Medicine (a branch of the National Institutes of Health), crocin—the orange water-soluble carotene, which is one of the components of saffron—can trigger apoptosis (programmed cell death) in many human cells, including that of cancer, leukemia, ovarian carcinoma, and soft tissue sarcoma. "As per a study published by the US-based National Center for Biotechnology Information, saffron was initially used for depression but it can also be used to treat epilepsy, people who have asthma attacks, digestive disturbances, and fever. It is best absorbed in the stomach with milk, but can also be had with warm water," says Dr. Shakkeel, chief medical officer of Viveda Wellness Village, Nashik, Maharashtra. Furthermore, Pranati Bollapragada, head of nutrition and dietetics of Dharana at Shillim, a wellness retreat in Pune, informs us, "Saffron contains more than 150 volatile compounds which include carotenoids and safranal (also an antioxidant). It is rich in vitamin B that assists in elevating serotonin levels—which, in turn, help fight depression." Health experts believe that saffron contains such potent antioxidants as safranal and picrocrocin, which help in reducing insomnia. The presence of manganese, a nutrient known for its subtly sedative properties, helps in inducing sleep. Saffron also contains a compound called crocetin, which curbs the blood's cholesterol level, thereby putting heart-related ailments in check. But like all good things, saffron should be consumed in limited portions.

Culinary Benefits

Saffron's resilience and adaptability has come a long way from just being an ingredient to foster good health. It finds a wide variety of applications in the culinary arts, too. Chefs and gourmand swear by the flexibility of its use and its ability to imbue a strong flavor, along with its ability to add a dazzling golden yellow hue to dishes like zafrani murgh (where chicken is



cooked in aromatic Indian spices, with saffron being the key ingredient) or lend a delicate touch to sweet treats like shahi tukda (clarified butter-fried bread slices dipped in thick sweetened milk) or ras malai (small, flat cakes of curd cheese immersed in thickened milk). Sprinkling a few saffron strands into a dish can uplift the gourmand's culinary experience from delicious to sublime. Saffron's mainstays are milk- and rice-based dishes like turmeric latte, biryani, pulao, and meat dishes. Throwing light on its usage, Nilesh Limaye, chef culinaire of the entrepreneurial venture All About Cooking, says, "Traditionally, saffron must be mildly roasted to release its oils and then soaked in warm water or milk. I use this decoction to infuse flavor, colour, and texture to my saffron and ginger sauce." Amit Kocharekar, executive chef of Mumbai-based hotel The Resort, says, "Soak saffron in water and rub it on meat to obtain maximum flavor and desired colour." To get the most out of this pleasant spice, it is best to use it on its own and not with too many other zests. Chef Limaye specifies, "It must be used sparingly, and [at] the end. If mixed with other spices, its flavor can get masked. However,



saffron works best when combined with ginger, lemongrass, rose water, cardamom, or nutmeg." Saffron is more than just another culinary ingredient in the kitchen. It is an all-around high performer. From possessing compounds and antioxidants that impart a host of health benefits, to possessing delectably delicious properties that elevate a dining experience, its use and benefits are truly unmatched. PM Modi's appeal to the nation to purchase Jammu- and Kashmir-produced saffron will not only help saffron cultivators but will also further the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

About the Author



Gita Hari curates healthy Sattvic cuisine for premium hotels. Her recipes have been featured in the health columns of leading newspapers. The recipient of WomenAchievers' Awards, Hari has con-ceptualised, scripted and hosted shows on television and the digital platforms as well.

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An excerpt from a Republic Day speech by the Honorable Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Every year, on the eve of Republic Day, the president of India delivers an annual speech which often calls for collective introspection. The speeches seek to remind Indians not only about how far the country has come since its inception, but also how far we must go in the pursuit of the core ideals that the makers of our Constitution had spelled out.

The honorable Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam served as the 11th President of India. A man of science, Dr. Kalam was also a symbol of hope, progress, and vision for many Indians. In his memorable speech, delivered on the eve of Republic Day 2007, he talked about the nation's poverty eradication progress, economic progress, and technological leadership. He spoke of the necessity of progress in science and of fostering the spirit of entrepreneurship within Indian families.

Similar to former US president John F Kennedy's historic words, "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country," President Kalam's message for that day's speech was, "What can I give to my nation?"

Let us celebrate our 73rd Republic Day on January 26, 2022 by remembering this most inspiring speech by the Honorable Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, our 11th President of India.

Raj Shah
Managing Editor





In the eighties, children always used to ask me questions such as "When can I sing the Song of India?" Today, the youth are asking me, "What can I give to India?" This shows that the nation is on a positive growth trajectory.

The change in the pattern of the questions is indicative of the transformation which has taken place over the years. Also, I receive many emails and letters asking me "What can I give to India--my country?"

When I study the letters, messages, and emails that I have received and also the personal interactions with the people, I can clearly see abundant opportunities in which every citizen can contribute. I thought of sharing this with you: My topic of this address will be, "What can I give to my nation?"

In Indian history, our nation has come across a situation, all at one time: an ascending economic trajectory; continuously rising foreign exchange reserves; increasing domestic investment, with investors' confidence rising steadily; the global successes of Indian managerial and entrepreneurial talents; global recognition of India's technological competence; the energy of 540 million youth; umbilical connectivities of more than 25 million people of Indian origin in various parts of the planet; and the interest--shown by many developed countries--in investing in our engineers and scientists through the setting up of new Research and Development centres in India.

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The distinction between the public and the private sectors, and the illusory primacy of one over the other, is vanishing. Also, there is a trend that many young people are opting for creating new enterprises instead of being mere employees.

Providing leadership for the one billion people with multi-cultural, multi-linguistic, and multi-religious backgrounds is indeed the core competence of our nation. Our technological competence and value systems, along with our civilisational heritage, are highly respected by the world community. Also, Foreign Institutional Investors find investing in India attractive, as the returns are high and assured. Indian industrialists are also investing abroad and opening new business ventures.

When I was with the 20th Squadron of the Indian Air Force, I experienced how our fighter pilots can meet any challenge offered by multi-targets, achieving victory through the use of radar-guided missiles and electronic warfare systems. We cherish the valour, commitment, and devotion to duty of these gallant personnel of our Armed Forces. Our Police Forces and Intelligence agencies complement each other and provide safety and security to our citizens from unscrupulous elements, criminals, and extremists.

Many persons from these forces have laid down their lives while protecting the nation, the flag, and our people. We salute them all.

My interactions with our citizens in India and abroad, particularly the youth, demonstrate to me the positive energy flowing from individuals--energywhich makes them eager to give all they can to make India developed. The attitude of giving, demonstrated by every citizen and each group, will definitely be an enriching factor for the whole nation--a factor leading to an accelerated development process.



When the nation marches towards its missions, many challenges will come on the way. Courage is a very important trait for all sections of society in overcoming these challenges.

I would like to narrate one incident. On 8th June 2006, I was in the flight seat of an Su-30-MKI. The captain of the aircraft was Wing Commander Ajay Rathore. The duration of the flight was 40 minutes. I participated in all flight actions. When I landed, there were many youth and media personnel present.

One young man asked me a question:

"Mr President, please tell me: Since you were flying in this supersonic

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fighter aircraft at the age of 74, were you afraid at any time during the flight?"

I told the young man,

"All ... 40 minutes of the flight, I was busy at the controls and the instruments and experiencing the "g"-force buildup. I was advised by the captain to track targets and to also look at the ground using the synthetic aperture radar. In addition, I was observing the performance of the instruments (which had been developed indigenously). I was continuously busy during the flight operations and I didn't have time to allow fear to enter into me."

Now, dear young friends who have assembled in front of me and the nation, I have a message of courage for you:

Courage to give;

Courage to think differently;

Courage to invent;

Courage to discover the impossible;

Courage to travel into an unexplored path;

Courage to share knowledge;

Courage to remove pain;



Courage to reach the unreached;

Courage to combat problems and succeed--

these are the unique qualities of youth."

As the youth of my nation do, I too will work--and work with courage--to achieve success in all my missions.

My dear citizens, let me once again wish you a very purposeful and happy Republic Day!







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Contact: 407-699-7331
Email: office@chinmayaorlando.org
Host: Chinmaya Mission Orlando

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When: 2022-01-04, 9:00 AM
Contact: 407-279-7073
Email: chinmayabalavihar.kissimmee@gmail.com; Madangurdial@hotmail.com
Host: Chinmaya Mission Kissimmeee

Mahabharat Satsang

When: 2022-01-06, 11:00 AM
Contact: 904-692-4121
Email: staugustine@chinmayamission.org
Host: Chinmaya Mission St. Augustine

Yoga Teacher Training

When: 2022-01-09
Contact: 904-438-4008
Email: elizabeth@radiantyoga-wellness.com
Host: Radiant Yoga & Wellness

Shrimad Bhagavatam

When: 2022-01-09, 12:00 PM
Contact: 904-692-4121
Email: staugustine@chinmayamission.org
Host: Chinmaya Mission St. Augustine

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Jacksonville

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When: 2022-01-22, 3:00 PM
Where: Bolles Middle School
2264 Bartram Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Contact: 904-351-6655
Host: Indian Cultural Society of Jacksonville

Tampa

Committee Inauguration & New Year Celebrations

When: 2022-01-29, 5:00 PM
Where: Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Community Center
2620 Washington Rd
Valrico, FL 33594
Contact: Arun Chacko, 813-728-1686
Host: Malayalee Association of Tampa

Maha Kumbhabhishekam

When: 2022-02-09
Where: The Hindu Temple of Florida
5509 Lynn Rd
Tampa, FL 33624
Contact: 813-962-6890
Email: contactus@htfl.org
Host: The Hindu Temple of Florida

South Florida

Republic Day - Uttarayan and Lohri

When: 2022-01-30, 11:00 AM
Where: 16801 Miramar Pkwy
Miramar, FL 33027
Contact: 954-543-1539
Email: board@irccflorida.com
Host: Indian Regional & Cultural Center

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Ranveer Singh Was his Only Choice for Kapil Dev, says 83 Director Kabir Khan



It is the celluloid portrayal of the magic of June 25, 1983, when the Indian Cricket team created history by winning the World Cup for the first time.

The movie 83 is due for release in theaters on December 23, 2021.

Based on a real-life incident, the film narrates the wonderful journey of the Indian Cricket Team in the World Cup of 1983 where, starting as underdogs, they ended up being world champions.

It was a proud moment for all Indians, especially cricket lovers, when India was put on the map of international cricket.

The film is directed by Kabir Khan and is produced by Reliance Entertainment, Phantom Films, 83 Film Ltd., Sajid Nadiadwala, Kabir Khan, Vishnuvardhan, and Deepika Padukone.

Ranveer Singh is playing the role of former Indian captain Kapil Dev, and Deepika Padukone his wife, Romi Dev.

Director Kabir Khan, in his recent interview, mentioned that ever since he came on board as a director of the film, he had only Ranveer Singh in mind because of his fantastic ability to make a role believable.

The trailer of the film was released on November 30, 2021, and was hugely appreciated by both the film's fraternity and the viewers.

It seemed that director Kabir Khan was right in his choice.

Ranveer looked like the celluloid version of Kapil Dev both from his actions and gestures, which overwhelmed both his and Kapil Dev's fans.

Cricket and film lovers are eagerly waiting to watch the historic moment again on the silver screen and feel the passion!



Priyanka Opposes Being Called 'Nick's wife': 'Should I add my IMDb link?'



Eminent actor and entrepreneur Priyanka Chopra was highly disturbed at merely being called the wife of Nick Jonas in a news report covering the promotion of her upcoming film *The Matrix Resurrections*.

She was amazed and asked why women are still being treated this way.

After winning the title of 'Miss World' in 2000, Priyanka has had a celebrated and successful film career in Bollywood for more than 12 years, after which she featured in the popular Hollywood TV series 'Quantico' in 2015.

Ever since then, she has been vocal about equality and the rights of women along with addressing discrimination based on color.

She was amazed by having been given such an introduction; and she took to her social media handle to raise her objections.

She said that it was surprising that such a comment on her featured in a report at the very moment she was promoting one of the most famous film franchises of which she is also a part.

Criticizing the report for forgetting all her hard-earned achievements and for its referring to her merely as the wife of someone, she was extremely disturbed over it and became sarcastic about it.

In this sarcastic mode, she commented that it would be convenient and informative if she were to share a link to her IMDb bio where her successes and accomplishments are outlined, so that people can identify her as someone who is not just the wife of Nick Jonas.

Priyanka also tagged her husband in the post.

It was surprising that the promotional event had no connection with Nick Jonas.

Still, Priyanka had been mentioned as his wife in the report.

Hopefully, Nick—who, in celebrating their anniversary last December, told the world how grateful he was to be 'married to the most wonderful, inspiring, and beautiful woman' ever—will lovingly and graciously respond by saying he would be honored to be known as 'the husband of Priyanka.'

Asha Bhosle celebrates 75 years of her Music Career at *India's Best Dancer – Season 2*

The living legend Asha Bhosle has completed 75 years of her music career, and this milestone was celebrated at a special episode of the dance reality show *India's Best Dancer – Season 2* of Sony Entertainment on December 5, 2021.



Adorning the seat of a special judge of the show, she highly praised the young dancers' performances to her blockbuster songs like 'Jhumka Gira Re' and 'Ek Haseena Thi' .

Ashaji expressed her deep desire and love for dancing, and said that she wanted to learn dancing from childhood.

However, per her family tradition, she learned classical music and gradually became the singing superstar of Bollywood.

Despite that, she said that in her heart, she is a dancer.

She sang her national award-winning song Umrao Jaan 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai'; and the entire set—including the judges Malaika Arora, Geeta, and Terence Lewis—was left mesmerized by the singing prowess of the 88-year-old singer.

Another star attraction of the show was a video message by another living legend, Amitabh Bachchan, where he was seen congratulating Ashaji for her magnificent music career, on behalf of the entire film industry.

Asha Bhosle thanked him and wished him good health and long life.

She also recalled her duet song with Big B 'Does Lafzon Ki Hain Dil Ki Kahaani' from the film *The Great Gambler*.

Overall, it was a splendid show graced with the appearance of Asha Bhosle.

Vicky Kaushal plays Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw in Meghna Gulzar's *Sam Bahadur*



Yet another masterful biopic for Vicky Kaushal.

After the high critical acclaim and viewers' praise for his portrayal of Bhagat Singh in the film *Sardar Bhagat*, he is preparing himself to play the role of the war hero Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw who successfully led India as the chief of the army in the Bangladesh Liberation War against Pakistan and helped in the liberation of Bangladesh.

2021 being the golden jubilee year of the Indo-Pakistani war and India's victory, Meghna Gulzar is extremely happy and honored to be the director of such a significant film.

Sam Manekshaw's long and illustrious military career lasted for four decades, and he fought five wars.

He was the first Indian Army officer to get promoted to Field Marshal He played a significant role in the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war as the Army Chief of Staff.

Apart from Vicky Kaushal as Sam Manekshaw, the cast of *Sam Bahadur* also include Fatima Sana Sheikh as the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and Sanya Malhotra as Manekshaw's wife Silloo.

Meghna Gulzar highly praised these two actors and expressed her hopes that these two ladies will do complete justice to their roles.

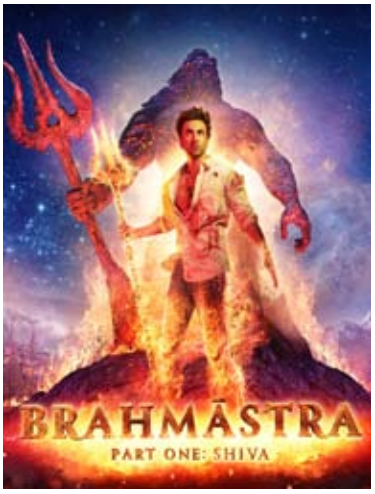
The lead actor Vicky Kaushal is enormously happy and excited to share the screen with these two talented actors of contemporary times.

He further added that, according to his knowledge, both the late Prime Minister and Silloo Manekshaw had a great influence on the life of Sam Manekshaw.

Both leading ladies expressed their gratitude and happiness to get the opportunity of playing such important roles in Meghna Gulzar's film *Sam Bahadur*.

Brahmastra Trailer Release

The trailer for the Karan-Johar-produced and Ayan-Mukherjee-directed film *Brahmastra* was released on December 15, 2021, in New Delhi.



The release date for the film has been mentioned in the trailer as being September 9, 2022.

There has been a lot of discussion and speculation about the film for quite some time.

According to producer Karan Johar, director Ayan Mukherjee started working on the concept of the film 7 years back.

He was pleased to see the trailer and the huge round of appreciation accompanying it since its release.

Brahmastra has an impressive and high-level star cast.

With Ranbir Kapoor and his rumored girlfriend Alia Bhatt in the lead roles, the film also stars Amitabh Bachchan, Mouni Roy, and Nagarjuna Akkineni.

The trailer begins with Ranbir Kapoor's voice saying that there are some powers in the universe which are beyond the comprehension of human beings.

Then, Alia's voice asks him why it is only he who can view such things.

She then wants to know from the character named Shiva (Ranbir Kapoor) what his actual identity is.

Brahmastra will also be dubbed in 4 south Indian languages: Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.

The noted director S. S. Rajamouli will present the film in these languages.

The film is believed to be set in two timelines of this era along with the pre-Mahabharata era; and the central character Shiva travels to both eras.

This is supposed to be the first film of a trilogy.

Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release next year.

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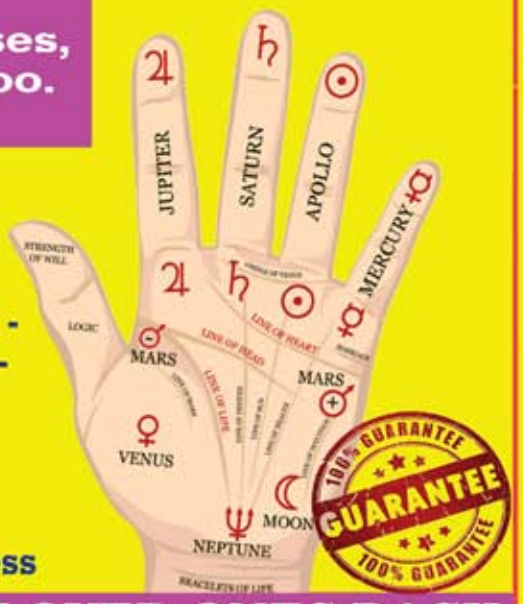
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Anupamaa's Rupali Ganguly Wishes Her 'Anuj' a Happy Birthday

Rupali Ganguly, the lead character of the super hit TV serial *Anupamaa*, wished her co-star Gaurav Khanna (playing the role of Anuj) 'happy birthday' recently. She called her the 'National Crush'.

Gaurav Khanna's (aka Anuj Kapadia's) 40th birthday was celebrated on the set of the serial Anupamaa with great enthusiasm. Rupali Ganguly (aka Anupamaa Zaveri) wished her on-screen friend a very happy birthday and also called him the 'National Crush', considering the huge fan-following towards him and the chemistry between him and Rupali. Portraying the roles of two close friends in the serial, both Rupali and Gaurav share a good, close-knit bond in real life, too. Rupali took to her social media handle to wish her co-star Gaurav 'happy birthday' and thanked her for being a wonderful 'Anuj' to her character, Anupamaa. She also posted a beautiful picture of the two of them together.

Gaurav Khanna, who prefers to celebrate his birthday while working, recalled his birthday celebrations during childhood when his mother used to call his friends on his birthday.





Hailing from Kanpur, Gaurav had to work hard and run the extra mile in order to achieve his desired success. The pandemic and the lockdown put him in the backseat. However, landing the role of Anuj Kapadia (or 'AK') in the serial *Anupamaa* has been a game-changer according to him. The huge popularity both of the serial and of his talent has made him immensely popular, increasing his fan-following to a great extent. That is the reason her co-star Rupali termed him the 'National Crush'.

Anupamaa's producer Rajan Shahi organized a surprise party for Gaurav. It was a fun-filled event, including a celebratory cutting of the birthday cake; and all the members of the cast enjoyed it. His co-stars, including Jaswir Kaur and Madalsa Chakraborty, took to their own social media handles too to share their well wishes.

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Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin's Neil Bhatt and Aishwarya Sharma Tie the Knot



Popular serial *Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin*'s two actors Neil Bhatt and Aishwarya Sharma got married in a traditional ceremony on November 30 at Indore. They fell in love on the set of the serial.

ACP Virat Chavan of the popular serial *Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin* got married to his jilted lover in the serial Pakhi. In the story of the serial, love may not have blossomed between them; but in real life, the two actors Neil Bhatt and Aishwarya Sharma fell in love with each other while working on the serial together. Finally, they tied the knot on November 30 at Indore. It was a traditional Indian wedding ceremony with pre-wedding festivities like Mehndi, Haldi, and Sangeet.

Both the bride and groom looked beautiful and happy in traditional wedding outfits at the marriage ceremony. Aishwarya wore a bandhni-printed red lehenga with swastika signs on her blouse; and traditional jewelry. Neil wore an off-white traditional outfit for the groom with a red turban and shawl. From the pictures posted on their social media handles, the groom was mesmerized to see his beautiful bride, as clearly evident at the time of the tying of the mangalsutra. The couple celebrated all the pre-wedding ceremonies in colourful dresses. All the ceremonies took place in the presence of their family and close friends.

After the marriage, both Neil and Aishwarya returned to Mumbai and organized a gala reception party at Mumbai on December 2. Many of their colleagues, like Ayesh Singh, Kishori Shahane Vij, Sheetal Maulik, Yash Pandit, and Sneha Bhawsar, attended the party. However, the star attraction of the party was the presence of the eminent actor of yesteryear, Rekha.

The couple also received a warm reception at the sets of *Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin*, where they cut a cake together in presence of the cast and crew of the serial.

Special Screening of Kangana Ranaut's *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi* as Part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in Beirut



A special screening of Kangana Ranaut's *Manikarnika* was organized at the Indian Embassy in Beirut as part of celebrating the Revolt of 1857.

It was indeed a great honor for Kangana Ranaut's film *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi* as it was nominated for a special screening at the Indian embassy in Beirut on December 18, 2021. The screening in collaboration with Zee Studios was a part of the celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and remembering India's first war of independence, the Revolt of 1857. The film is based on the life, grooming, and struggles of the Queen of Jhansi, Rani Lakshmi Bai, portrayed by the talented actress Kangana Ranaut.

The film was released in 2019 and became one of the biggest blockbusters of the year. Kangana Ranaut was conferred the National Award for Best Actress. The film depicts the tremendous patriotism and single-handed struggle and bravery of the Queen of Jhansi, Lakshmi Bai. It is this spirit of patriotism that has brought this accolade to the film. Kangana took to her Instagram handle to announce the news. Her fans and followers were very much elated at the news, and congratulated her. She also profusely thanked Zee Studios for this event.

The film had a worldwide release on January 25, 2019. Along with the original Hindi version, there were Tamil- and Telugu-dubbed versions of the film. Apart from Kangana, the other members of the cast included Jisshu Sengupta as Laxmibai's husband Gangadhar Rao, Atul Kulkarni as Tatya Tope, Richard Keep as General Hugh Rose, Danny Denzongpa as Ghulam Ghaus Khan, Suresh Oberoi as Bajirao II, Edward Sonnenblick as Captain Gordon, and Ankita Lokhande as Jhalkari Bai.

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Ankita Lokhande Marries Vicky Jain



Eminent TV actor Ankita Lokhande tied the knot with her longtime beau, Vicky Jain, at an elaborate traditional ceremony in Mumbai.

Finally, the wedding bells rang for Ankita Lokhande. She married her longtime boyfriend Vicky Jain at a gorgeous traditional ceremony in Mumbai. Both the bride and groom looked amazing in their wedding dresses. They uploaded pictures of their wedding, which was hugely appreciated and blessed by their fans and well-wishers. Ankita looked lovely and pristine in a gold-embroidered, ivory-colored lehenga designed by the ace designer Manish Malhotra. It was his special bridal collection, 'Nooraniyat', hand-embroidered with gold crystal beads and antique zardosi artwork.

Groom Vicky Jain was also dressed in Manish Malhotra attire. His beige sherwani was also from the 'Nooraniyat' collection with delicate zardosi work, with matching ivory dhoti and custom-made shoes from the designer. They were a perfectly matched couple and got married in a beautifully decorated royal venue created at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Mumbai. They celebrated pre-marriage ceremonies like Mehndi, Haldi, and Sangeet with great enthusiasm. Festivities were celebrated with family members and close friends. Ankita's *Manikarnika* co-star Kangana Ranaut attended the Sangeet ceremony. The groom came to the marriage in a vintage car.

Ankita made her television debut in the serial *Pavitra Rishta* in 2009. She portrayed the role of Archana in the serial. She is currently playing the same role in the sequel to *Pavitra Rishta*. She was featured in the blockbuster film *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi* as Jhalkari Bai; and she will be seen in *Baaghi* 3. Her best boyfriend of more than 3 years has now begun the journey of married life. Just after the marriage, Ankita's birthday was celebrated at an intimate surprise party by her husband Vicky, who wished her 'happy birthday', tenderly calling her 'Mrs. Jain'.

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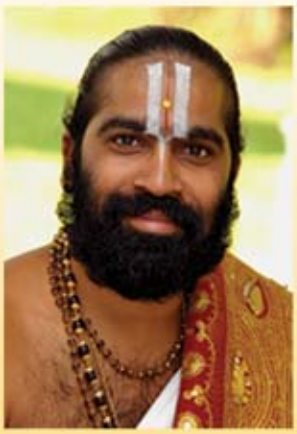
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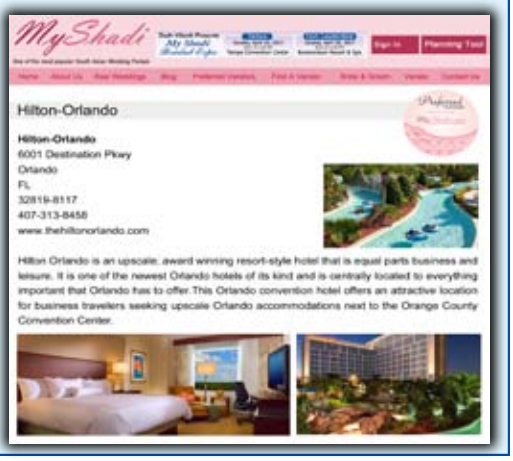
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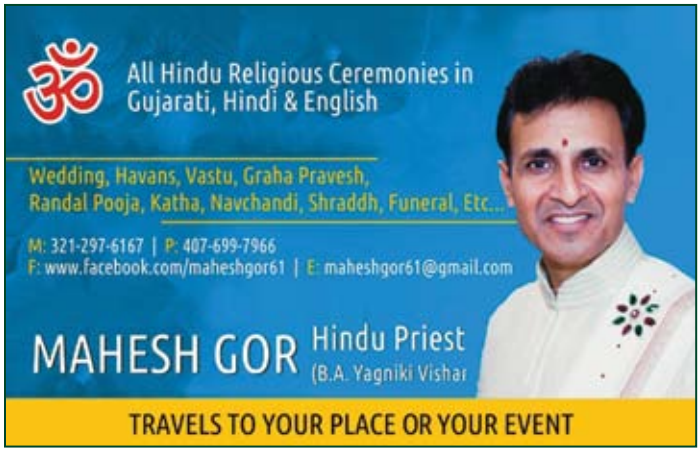














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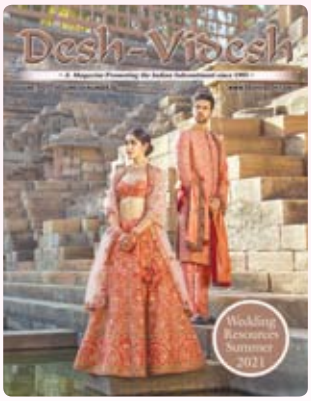
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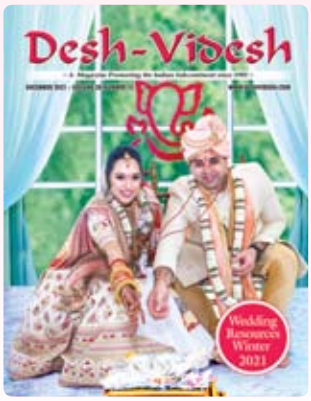
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