



INDRADHANUSH 2018

ON WINNING THE
PRESTIGIOUS

**SHANGHAI
MAGNOLIA
SILVER
AWARD**

**INDIA DAY
CELEBRATIONS**

RECAP OF
**PAST YEAR'S
EVENTS**

**KAILASH KHER
MESMERISES
SHANGHAI**

REMEMBERING
PRAKASH MENON

**KERALA
FLOOD RELIEF
EFFORTS**

**ARTICLES &
INTERVIEWS**

happy दीवाली



Greetings

From

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And the management & staff



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PATRON'S MESSAGE



Shri. Anil Kumar Rai
Consul General of India, Shanghai

I, on behalf of my colleagues at the Indian Consulate in Shanghai, take this opportunity to wish all members of the Indian community in Shanghai and the Eastern China region, a very happy and prosperous Deepawali! May this festival bring peace, happiness and good health for all of us!

It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction for all of us that the Shanghai Municipal People's Government has duly recognized the valuable contributions made over the years by the Indian Association-Shanghai; and as mark of appreciation has conferred prestigious Magnolia Award, which was received by the past President on 12 September 2018.

I am sure that with the knowledge and wisdom of its members, the Indian Association-Shanghai will further contribute towards creating a peaceful and inclusive society based on the philosophy of वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् "the world is one family".

Indradhanush, a premier publication by the Indian Association-Shanghai with compilation of articles by its members coming from diverse walks of life and on range of topics; makes it even more colorful, interesting, and a magazine worth reading.

I acknowledge with appreciation the efforts made by the editorial board, the contributors, and to the collective efforts made by all the members of the Indian Association-Shanghai in bringing out this magazine.

Wishing you all once again a happy Deepawali!



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“ I thank you all for giving us an opportunity to serve you and I assure you that our team will continue to strive to strengthen the fabric of Indian community in Shanghai with our core values of “inclusiveness” and “transparency” that constitutes our motto of “ Seva” (selfless service) towards society.

**Mukesh Sharma
President ,
Indian Association**

Dear Friends,

On Behalf of the board of Indian Association, Heartiest wishes to you and your near and dear ones for this Diwali and Upcoming New Year 2019.

In 2018, your Indian Association (ia) completed 21 years and as you know your association has been bestowed with Shanghai Magnolia award in Sep 2018 by Shanghai municipal government for the outstanding contribution of Indian community. We must acknowledge that it is due to the rich contribution made by each one of you in your individual capacity, in capacity of social leadership you display through various cultural events, blood donation, charity initiatives, business engagements and other diverse set of regional celebrations which reflects a strong fabric of Indian community in Shanghai.

While IA has come a long way in past 21 years but we lost our dear friend and founder member of IA Mr. Prakash Menon in May 2018. Prakash Menon was a strong force behind IA and his contribution for over two decades is unforgettable. He touched lives of many. We all will miss him.

I would also like to thank Mr. Raj Khosa (Past President 2016-2018) for his exemplary contribution to Indian Association for near a decade.

I would like thank our committed sponsors who stand with IA as a strong back bone and our “Dream Team” who comes from diverse set of experience and regions in India, and most importantly I would also like to thank members of regional associations, several volunteers and nodal points who help IA to connect and execute all the events.

This year we have strengthened our digital reach through several social media channels and I would request you to continue giving your feedback on the activities of IA Shanghai at president@iashanghai.cn which will help us serve the society to best of our abilities.

Finally, I would like to thank our Honorable Consul General Shri Anil Kumar Rai and the entire team of Indian Consulate for providing their selfless help, support and guidance to IA Shanghai.

Thank you and best wishes for Diwali and New Year 2019!!



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CONSULATE EVENTS

PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS

9TH JANUARY, 2018

The 14th PBD celebrations were held at CGI, Shanghai Premises and was inaugurated with watching of the excerpts of EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj's address at the PBD convention at Singapore. It was followed by welcome remarks by Consul General Sh. Anil K. Rai where he reiterated Consulate's commitments towards the welfare of Indian community. He also briefed the gathering about the events being undertaken in the calendar year 2018 as part of Pravasi Bharatiya conventions, and invited the Indian community to participate and contribute. Community members were also briefed about a number of new initiatives taken by government, including about Swachh Bharat Kosh, and were



requested to participate whole-heartedly to make these initiatives successful.

The representatives of each Indian Association made a detailed presentation outlining their activities conducted in 2017 and plans for 2018. It may be noted that in their Annual Plan of activities for 2018, in addition to organizing regular events/festivals oriented events for Indian community, there is a strong emphasis on charity events targeting local community (including through blood donation camps) and on organizing activities for youths. The event also marked cultural performances by the Indian community members.



CONSULATE EVENTS

विश्व हिंदी दिवस

१० जनवरी, २०१८

भारत के महावाणिज्य दूतावास, शंघाई ने विश्व हिंदी दिवस का आयोजन किया (१० जनवरी, २०१८)

भारतीय महावाणिज्य दूतावास, शंघाई ने विश्व हिंदी दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया जिसमें बड़ी संख्या में भारतीय समुदाय के कई गणमान्य लोगों ने, भारतीय विद्यार्थियों ने एवं सर्वाधिक महत्त्वपूर्ण चीनी नागरिकों ने प्रतिभाग किया। आयोजन के अंतर्गत भाषण, गायन एवं कविता पाठ सम्मिलित थे, भारतीय नागरिकों की प्रतिभागिता उत्साहजनक थी। भारतीय शिक्षार्थियों ने समंभाषण, नाटक, गायन, एवं कविता पाठ किये, तथापि वयस्कों ने स्वरचित कविताओं का पाठन किया। प्रशंसनीय है कि इस आयोजन में वरिष्ठ नागरिकों ने भी अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज कराई। कार्यक्रम का सबसे रोचक भाग रहा एक चीनी महिला की प्रतिभागिता, जिसने हिंदी में एक सुरचिपूर्ण गायन प्रस्तुत किया। आयोजन के दौरान हिंदी के प्रति लोगों का लगाव व रुझान प्रसंसनीय रहा।



CONSULATE EVENTS

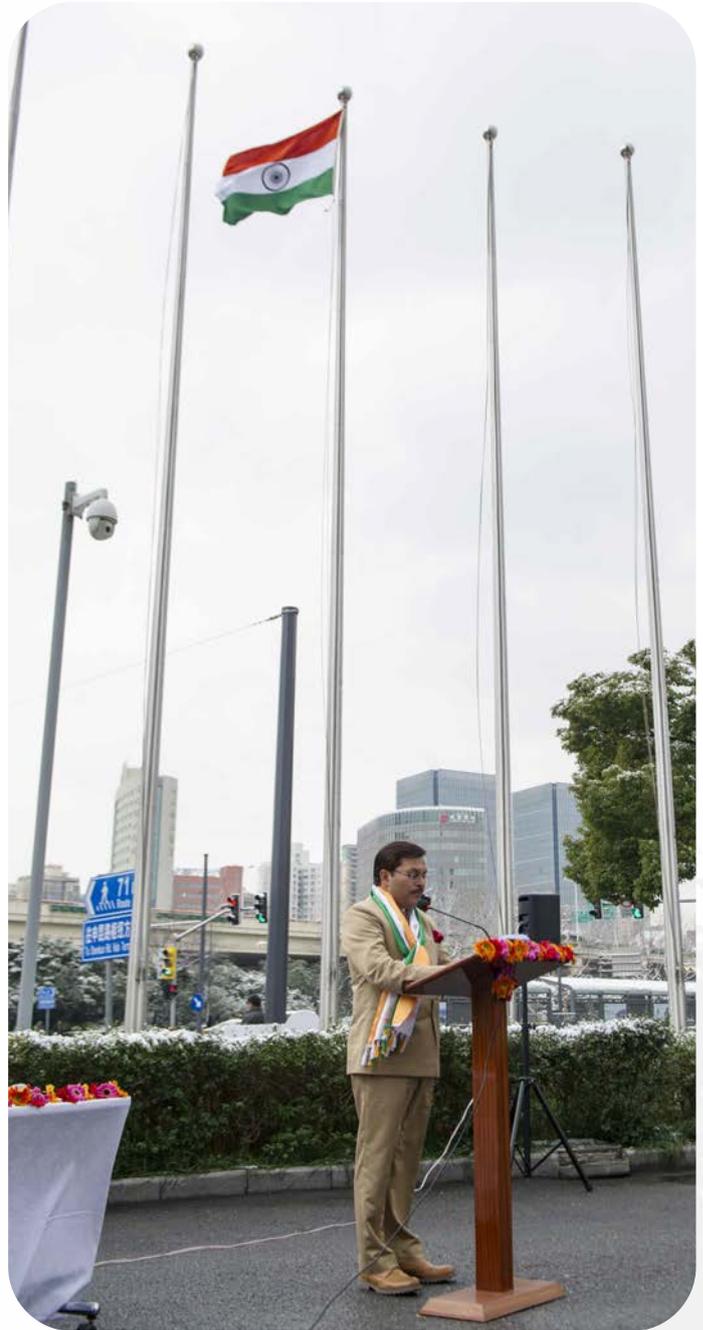
INDIA-CHINA (LIANYUNGANG) BUSINESS FORUM 19TH JANUARY, 2018

Consulate General of India in Shanghai along with Lianyungang Municipal People's Government jointly organized an India-China (Lianyungang) Business and Investment Forum in Lianyungang (located in Jiangsu Province) on January 19, 2018. The objective of the Business and Investment Forum was to introduce the investment opportunities available to Chinese companies in India in sectors like construction and engineering, smart cities, renewable energy, urban transportation, IT, pharmaceuticals, textiles and tourism as part of the 'Make in India' initiative.



REPUBLIC DAY 26TH JANUARY, 2018

The 69th Republic Day was celebrated at the Consulate General of India, Shanghai on January 26, 2018. Flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Consulate premises with enthusiastic participation from the Indian community members despite the freezing temperatures. Consul General unfurled the national flag and read out excerpts from Hon'ble President's address to the nation. A select group of Indian community members rendered patriotic songs on the occasion. An informal gathering over light refreshments at Consulate's Culture & Exhibition hall followed the event.



CONSULATE EVENTS

Consulate General of India in Shanghai along with Shanghai Tea Institute organized India Tea Promotion Seminar 2018 in Shanghai on January 31, 2018. The event was attended by nearly 100 participants which included prominent tea importers, tea-experts and members from media. The objective of the Seminar was to promote Indian tea in China and get feedback on possible strategy to increase the import and consumption of Indian tea in the Chinese market. Ms. Gao Shengli, Secretary General of Shanghai Tea Association, in her address mentioned about the millennia old tea culture of China and urged the tea importers to use the opportunity to know more about Indian tea and increase the choice of tea available in China.

TEA PROMOTION 31ST JANUARY, 2018

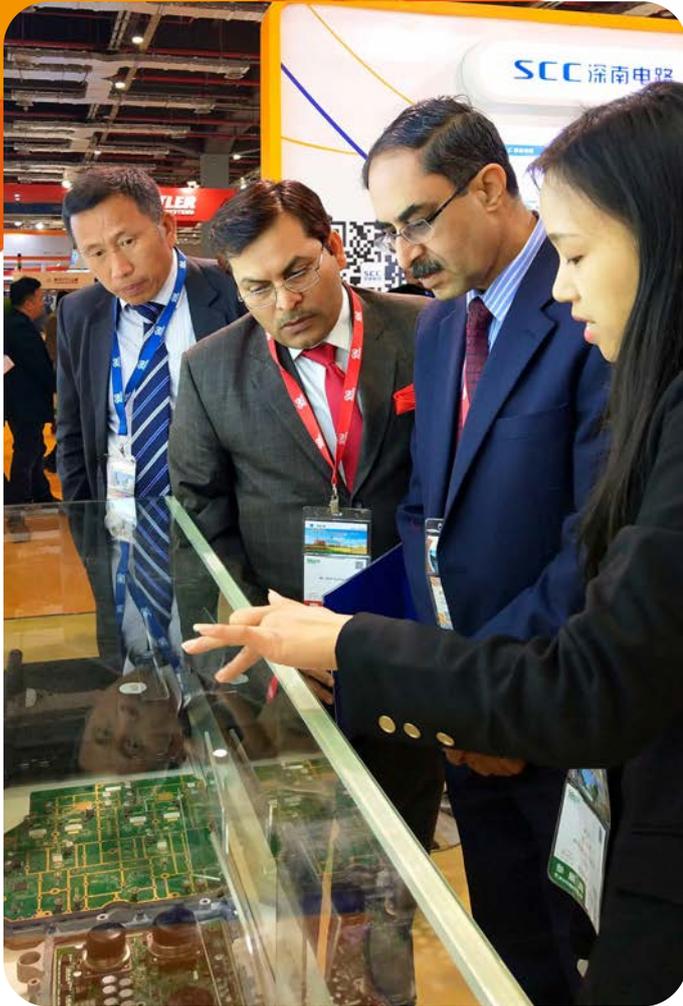


INDIA CHINA KEQIAO SEMINAR

19TH MARCH, 2018



Consulate General of India in Shanghai organized an India-China Business Forum on Textile Industry in Shaoxing (located in Zhejiang Province) on March 19, 2018. The objective of the Business and Investment Forum was to introduce the investment opportunities available in India to Chinese companies in textile sector as part of the 'Make in India' initiative. The seminar was attended by nearly 105 Shaoxing based companies together with the prominent businessmen in textile industry from Hangzhou, Ningbo and Yiwu in Zhejiang province. Consul General Shri Anil Kumar Rai in his welcome address appreciated the effort of Indian businessmen in Shaoxing in transforming the city as 'Textile City of China' and encouraged them to explore opportunities of taking their expertise to India and invest in India. He also apprised the potential Chinese investors attending the event about the advantages offered by India as an investment destination, and urged them to invest in India and establish manufacturing in India. A detailed presentation was made by Consul Mr. Naveen Kumar on 'Overview of Invest Climate and Textile Industry in India' and by Consul Ms. Aparna Ganesan on 'Integrating Indian Handloom Industry to Global Value Chain'.



MAKE IN INDIA IT & ELECTRONIC SEMINAR

21ST MARCH, 2018

Consulate General of India in Shanghai organized Make in India – IT & Electronics Seminar on 21 March 2018 to promote brand India and to attract investments in India in the IT & Electronics sector. The event was attended by a delegation from Government of India led by Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) and delegates from World Electronic Circuits Council (WECC), Electronic Industries Association of India (ELCINA), Indian Printed Circuit Association (IPCA). Consul General, in his welcome address, highlighted the opportunities available for the Chinese companies under flagship programmes of Government of India like 'Make in India', 'Startup India' and 'Digital India' and underscored that recent reforms undertaken by the Government of India had improved India's ranking in 'Ease of Doing Business'. He also mentioned that India had now emerged as one of the most open economies in the world for receiving foreign direct investments (FDI), on the back of a host of liberalization measures undertaken recently by the Government. He invited Chinese companies to invest in India taking advantage of favourable policy regime, relatively lower wages, special investment privileges such as tax exemptions, and robust business environment.



CONSULATE EVENTS

EXHIBITION OF INDIAN PAINTINGS

23RD MARCH, 2018

A special exhibition of paintings on Indian themes drawn by leading Chinese artists from Shanghai Artists Union was put on display at the Xuhui Art Gallery on March 24. The exhibit featured nearly 100 paintings drawn by a group of leading artists (Mr. Zhang Weiren from Chinese Artists Association; Mr. Luo Weimin, famous painter; Mr. Wu Gang, Associate Professor at Tongji University and Mr. He Wei, Associate Professor at Tongji University) from the Eastern China Region, who had earlier visited India in March 2017 at the invitation of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and interacted with leading Indian artists at workshops held in New Delhi, Varanasi, Jaipur and Agra. Most of the paintings on display featured composite culture of India, Indian iconic sites, including images of the banks of the river Ganges, Taj Mahal and Red Fort. The paintings exhibition will continue to be on display in at Xuhui Art Gallery for the next two weeks. It is expected that as a follow up, some of the select pieces would also be sent to India for exhibition in the second half of 2018.



CONSULATE EVENTS

INDIAN PAINTINGS

17TH MAY, 2018

Inauguration of a Special Painting Exhibition on India by Chinese Artists at Shanghai on 17 May, a Special Painting Exhibition "Culture & Arts Journey to India" was held at Long Modern Art Museum, Shanghai organized by Jade Buddha Temple. Paintings are made by renowned Chinese artists during their visit to India in early 2018. The paintings



CONSULATE EVENTS

INDEPENDENCE DAY 15TH AUGUST, 2018

A Reception was hosted to celebrate the 72nd Independence Day of India of 15 August 2018. Hon'ble Mr. Gong Daoan, Vice Mayor of Shanghai Municipal People's Government. Hon'ble Mr. K.V. Kamath, President of the New Development Bank. Madam Song Yan, Vice Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Commission, NPC, Shanghai. Mr. Wang Guoping, Vice Chairman of Study Group, CPPCC, Shanghai, Mr. Fu Jihong, Deputy Director General of Shanghai FAO, Madam Wu Haiyan, Vice Mayor of Lianyungang and other dignitaries from the governments of Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai attended alongwith Business leaders, Chinese friends, representatives of Indian companies and Members of Indian community.



CONSULATE EVENTS

INDIA CHINA PHARMA SEMINAR

20TH AUGUST, 2018



At the event CGI , Shanghai stressed that India is at the forefront in making affordable drugs while maintaining its quality and efficacy. The companies that were present under the auspices of Pharmexil, and many more pharma companies based out of India may help out in achieving affordable healthcare for all Chinese people of all ages. The meeting represented one of the best match between China and India because we complement each other.



CONSULATE EVENTS

INDIA TOURISM ROADSHOW 31 AUGUST 2018 INDIA DAY 1 SEPTEMBER, 2018

Honourable Tourism Minister of India, from the State of Kerala attended the show. People also know Kerala as 'Gods own country'. Minister of Tourism from the State of Maharashtra, whose capital Mumbai has sister city relationship with Shanghai, and representatives from Karnataka Tourism whose capital Bangalore is called as the Silicon Valley of India and an important attraction for Chinese business people; large presence of Tourism companies from India, indicates the importance and attention the Government and people of India gives towards developing good business relations and most important people-to-people relationship with China. Shanghai and the Eastern part of China, in particular. India wants to make India a destination of touristic choice for Chinese travellers.



CONSULATE EVENTS



CONSULATE EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2018



Curtain Raiser Event to the 4th International Day of Yoga
2018 Wuyi(China)
The 2nd International Regimen
YOGA FEST

As part of the fourth IDY celebrations in the eastern China region, the third event was held on the banks of Huangpu River. A large number of Yoga enthusiasts participated in the event. In addition, several distinguished guests from academia, media, and arts, including many Consuls General made it to the event. With the message of Unity, Yoga has become the new bond connecting India with China and with the world. CGI Shanghai would hold a series of events in different parts of Eastern China running through the month of Solstice, with the theme "Practice Yoga - Stay Fit"! The initiative of the event was taken by Super Brand Mall, Pudong which was possible with the support of sponsors namely China Coal, Sterlite Tech, Art of Living, Red Ridge.



CONSULATE EVENTS



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SHANGHAI MAGNOLIA SILVER AWARD

12th September 2018, Shanghai.



Congratulations to Mr. Raj Khosa and Proud Moment for all of us at Indian Association for winning the Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award on 12 Sep 2018 at Shanghai.

In last 30 years of Magnolia award history , the award has been received by CEOs/Noted leaders from Corporates and Academia but arguably it has never been given to a social organization such as Indian Association therefore it's a historic moment for Indian Association that Indian Association Shanghai's

(IA) Past President Mr. Raj Khosa (President IA May 2016-May 2018) has been chosen as one of the recipient of this prestigious award for year 2017-18.

On behalf of the vibrant Indian community of this wonderful Shanghai city, we congratulate Raj for receiving this award. IA will continue its journey ahead on the path of 'Seva' guided by our core principles of Transparency and inclusiveness.

“ This award and recognition is because of the hard work that IA has put over past so many years . This is a recognition of the amazing contributions of all the past and present board members & our wonderful community.
 - RAJ KHOSA



2018年“白玉兰纪念奖”获奖者
 “Magnolia Award” Recipients

<p>法国籍 区总裁 Christophe Pointeau, France, Chair China,</p>	 <p>卡萨雷先生 印度籍 上海印度人协会 主席 Mr. Raj Kumar Khosa, India, President, Indian Association Shanghai</p>
 <p>图尔多·斯蒂芬·拉提欧先生 瑞士籍 上海交通大学讲席教授 Mr. Tudor Stefan Ratiu, Switzerland, Chair Professor, Shanghai Jiao Tong University</p>	
<p>捷克籍 外交部国际关系特使 Mgr. Jan Kocian, Czech, Deputy Minister for Foreign Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Czech Republic</p>	 <p>施岱岭先生 德国籍 西德科东昌汽车座椅技术有限公司 Mr. Oliver Wolfgang Walter Stell, General Manager, Sitech Dongchang Automotive Seating Technology Ltd</p>



Kailash Kher takes Shanghai by Storm during IA's Diwali Nite!

The Indian Association, Shanghai has been celebrating Diwali over the years with immense grandiosity and distinction. It is a tradition which is getting enriched and amplified day by day as our vibrant Indian community in Shanghai is growing and replenishing each year.

In 2017 we achieved another milestone, with Padmashri Kailash Kher performing live at the IA Diwali Nite.

The show was a grand success and a real cultural treat for all Indians living in Shanghai, far away from their homeland.

We gifted a brand new SUV as a Grand Raffle Prize (Wuling Honggang) along with many more other prizes under a lucky draw and that was one of the biggest attractions of the event. We would like to thank all our sponsors for making it a huge success.

IA Diwali Nite **WITH KAILASH KHER**















DIWALI RAFFLE PRIZE WINNER



Consul General of Shanghai launches IA Official Account on WeChat!

“ Shanghai's Indian Association has grown from strength to strength over the years. And this new initiative of making the community more digitally connected only speaks of their commitment to engage more and engage meaningfully, using latest communication channels that we are all using.

Shri Anil Kumar Rai
Consul General of India in Shanghai



In a bid to taking community to engagement to the next level and being more digitally-forward, IA Shanghai launched its official WeChat account. The official account enables the members of the Indian community in Shanghai to be more connected digitally.

Members can now join IA, know about past, present and future events and activities, and even register for future events using a single Official Account, which also acts as a communication channel.



SHANGHAI'S GOT TALENT GARBA NIGHT



The entire Indian community reveled in camaraderie at Indian Association's much awaited, Dandiya Night, Shanghai's Got Talent. Held at the Grand Mercure Hotel's Ball Room on October 13th Saturday, the gathering saw excited participation from children, adults and senior citizens alike. DJ-Sameer was flown in from India, he dolled out chart-topping Dandiya, Garba as well as Bollywood numbers.

The event started with a message from the Hon'ble Counsellor General of India, followed by Aarti Puja, by the entire community together. Post that, the participants put their best dancing shoes on as prizes worth 4,000 RMB were on offer. Sitting at the pedestal of judges were Mr. Ashish Kabra, and Ms Bhavisha and Ms Dina Parmar.

ANOTHER EDITION OF IA DANDIYA ROCKS SHANGHAI





The winners in every category were as follows:

1. Group Winners:
Rangeelo Raas
(Leader: Shilpa Deshmukh)
2. Group Runners-up:
Gori Radha Ne Kado Kanudo
(Leader: Chaideli Desai)

Best Performers:

1. Child: Suhana Jain
2. Adult: Simoni Sheth

Best Costume:

1. Child: Divya Goyal
2. Adult: Priyanka Soni



From the Audience dance:

1. Best Performer (Female):
Pallavi Gore
2. Best Performer (Male):
Aditya Shah
3. Best Costumes (Female):
Shefali Kabra
4. Best Costume (Male):
Ravi Shah



The prizes were given away by sponsors, post which also the event continued with much excitement. Shanghai, it seems, didn't have enough of Dandiya beats, and we will be back again next year!







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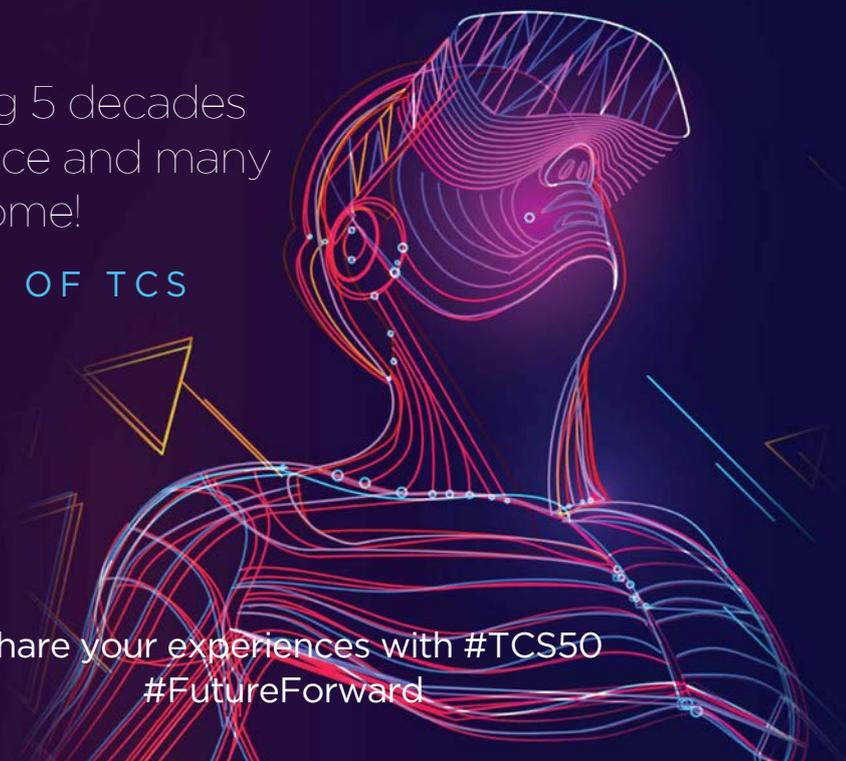


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Diwali Greetings

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Stray Birds on the Huangpu: A History of Indians in Shanghai

Little has been written in-depth about the Indian presence and influence in China - until now.

“Stray Birds on the Huangpu: A History of Indians in Shanghai,” a bilingual anthology tracing the history and capturing the present day of the Indian community, is attempting to address that issue.

The book’s co-editors, Mishi Saran and Dr Zhang Ke, have invited historians, authors and journalists from both countries to piece the forgotten puzzle together - from its origins to its whereabouts.

They have unearthed forgotten historic records, discovered important and fun incidents of this complex community, and delved deeper into how India’s future will develop in its neighboring country.

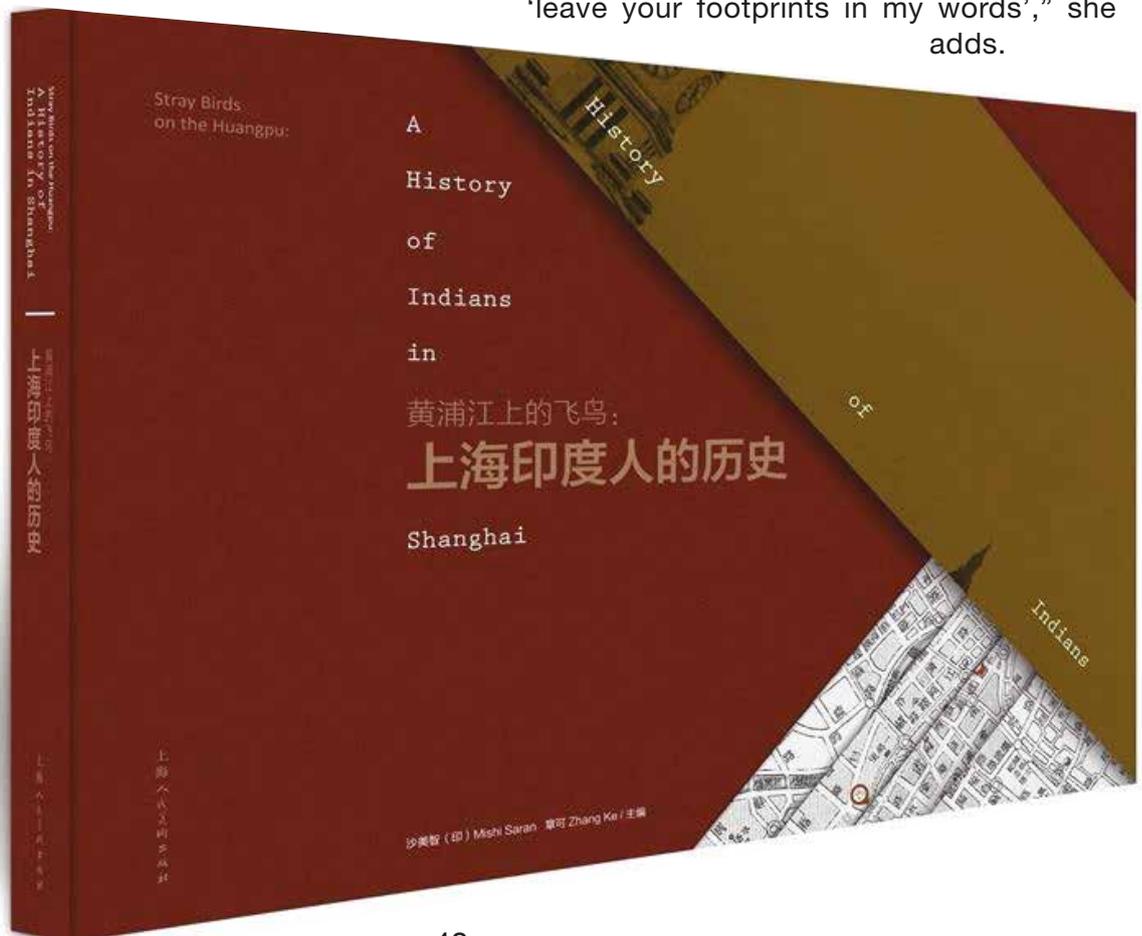
Saran, a Hong Kong-based author, has lived in Shanghai for

several years and traced the footsteps of monk Xuanzang in her book “Chasing the Monk’s Shadow: A Journey in the Footsteps of Xuanzang.” Dr Zhang is a professor of history at Fudan University.

“‘Stray Birds’ is a famous poem by Rabindranath Tagore, who visited Shanghai several times in the early years of the 20th century,” Saran says, explaining the book’s title.

“Stray Birds on the Huangpu: A History of Indians in Shanghai”

“In the poem’s first stanza, there is a reference to stray birds of summer who come to a window, sing and fly away without leaving a trace. Its narrator asks the birds to ‘leave your footprints in my words’,” she adds.





The two editors see the poem as a great metaphor for “much of the unrecorded history” they tackle in the book.

As the pieces in the book suggest, the bilateral trade goes as far as the 2nd century BC or earlier, while Indian traders started coming in crowds in the 18th century, first to Guangzhou and later mainly to Shanghai.

“There are remarkable similarities between past and present,” Saran explains. “The Indian community then and now is diverse in religion and includes Muslims, Sindhis and Sikhs. Anecdotally, I would say that the Indians in Shanghai hail from all over India, whereas earlier, Indian settlers were often more likely to be from India’s west coast, the origin of the trading ships.”



“ In our pages rest the ‘footprints’ of those silent, traceless Indians who came to Shanghai, sang their lives and left...

Mishi Saran

Co-author - “Stray Birds on the Huangpu: A History of Indians in Shanghai”



IA Badminton Championships sees 60+ participants across 5 categories!



As usual, IA's Annual Events calendar started on an exciting note with annual Badminton championship. The shuttlers from IA community waited for the day with much enthusiasm. Over 60 players participated in 5 different categories.



The highlight of the tournament were the young players in singles and women's doubles. Some of them were as young as 10 years, they were not just competing with seasoned players but giving them tough time as well.







**Among closely fought matches,
the winners and runners-up came out on top,
as follows:**

Category	Winner	Runners up
Men's Singles	Karthik	Rahul G
Women's Singles	Pavitra Sharma	Manju Bhansali
Men's Doubles	Karthik & Prabhu	Rahul & Prateek
Women's Doubles	Usashri & Jyoti	Pavitra & Neetu
Mixed Doubles	Rahul & Bandana	Sudhakar & Usha
Youngest Champion Boy	Aneesh Kolahpur	
Youngest Champion Girl	Maitreyi Bhat	

LITERARY EVENING



IA organized its First Literary evening on 15th October at the Raffle City Shanghai.

The event was graced by 2 prominent authors:

Prof Zhang Ke (Fudan University) - Co-Editor of the book " Stray birds on Huangpu- A History of Indians in Shanghai, spoke about the Stories from book and especially around the Stories of Sikhs in Shanghai.



Ankush Saikia (Celebrated Author of the Crime thriller series) - Author of 6 books and 1 Novel spoke about the scenario of writing in India and his work.

The event was well-attended and also live-streamed on Facebook in real-time on IA's Facebook page!

LITERARY EVENING



IA Super Sixes, the coveted Annual Cricket Championship of the Indian Association was held on 21st March 2018 at the grounds of Dulwich College, Minhang.

A total of 15 teams fought for the prestigious trophy in the spring of Shanghai.

The day saw very high quality of game. Even after losing initial pool match, Shanghai Badshah lifted the trophy beating Mighty Smashers in an exciting final match.

Running commentary throughout the tournament added to the fun element.

All rounder Sarvana Kumar from Shanghai Firebirds was awarded “Player of the Tournament”, as the Badshahs lifted the championship trophy!



**IA SUPER SIXES
DEFINES CRICKET IN
SHANGHAI, YET AGAIN!**



Continuing with its tradition of charity and contribution actively to Chinese society, IA organized its 7th successive Blood donation drive on May 12th, 2018. The event saw even wider participation from Indian residents of Shanghai and registered a 25% growth in terms of total numbers of blood units collected.

Following the success of the IA Blood donation drive in 2017 - where 744 Units of blood were collected till date, IA targeted crossing 1,000 units of blood, and ended up crossing the targeted number. Folks from all walks of life turned up in large numbers.

Blood donation is the need of the hour and the drive helps to spread awareness. This was made meaningful with the participation of over 100 medical students from nearby cities of Suzhou, Zhenjiang and Nantong. Following this, the IA also received congratulatory messages from the Deans and Chancellors of these Universities. After all, the first step towards transforming the mindsets of people are that those at the fore-front of medical fraternity (doctors) themselves lead by example and donate blood in large numbers, for the betterment and benefit of society at large.

The event was conducted in collaboration with the Shanghai Blood Centre (Red Cross associate) and was graced by Mr. Anil Kumar Rai, CG amongst several local Govt. representatives.



**IA BLOOD
DONATION
DRIVE
ALMOST
CROSSES
THE
TARGETED 1,000
UNITS OF BLOOD IN
A SINGLE DAY!**



IA BLOOD DONATION DRIVE



IA MIXER WITH MR. K V KAMATH IN COLLABORATION WITH CEIBS

IA Mixers has always been received with much interest among niche sectors of the Indian community in Shanghai. By inviting distinguished speakers on contemporary and relevant topics, the blend is perfect. This perfection was on display at last week's IA Mixer at CEIBS Campus where the legendary Mr. KV Kamath, President of New Development Bank, was speaking on Industrial Revolution 4.0!

Mr. Kamath touched on topics ranging from Mobile Internet to IoT, Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain, and how these are transforming and disrupting industries. Citing video streaming platform Netflix's role in the demise of video rental chain Blockbuster's demise.

“ Only those who dare to embrace new mind-sets will have a chance to survive.”

- Mr. KV Kamath

The business guru concluded his speech with an analysis of the role developing economies can play and how they can leverage the rise of the 4th Industrial Revolution. “China, India, and Africa will keep driving global growth”, given that “huge unmet development needs exist in these countries' economic context,” he said. “That provides an opportunity [for them] to leap-frog [ahead of others].”



The event, moderated by CEIBS Professor of Entrepreneurship Ramakrishna Velamuri, was attended by the school's students, alumni, staff, and many members of the Shanghai-based Indian business community.

भारतीय कौंसलावास में धूमधाम से मनाया हिंदी दिवस



शंघाई स्थित भारतीय कौंसलावास 14 सितंबर को धूमधाम से हिंदी दिवस मनाया गया । इस अवसर पर भारतीय समुदाय के लोगों के साथ साथ शंघाई अंतरराष्ट्रीय अध्ययन विश्वविद्यालय सिसु के विद्यार्थियों ने भी प्रतिभागिता की और अनेक कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत किए । कार्यक्रम में भारतीय समुदाय ने बड़बड़ कर हिस्सा लिया । सायंकाल 6.30 बजे से दो घंटे तक चले कार्यक्रम में भारतीय कौंसलावास की ओर से प्रतिभागियों को नकद पुरस्कार व उपहार देकर प्रोत्साहित किया गया । बड़ी संख्या में हिंदी प्रेमियों, शिक्षकों, विद्यार्थियों और भारतीय समुदाय के लोगों ने भाषण, कविता पाठ, लघु नाटिका का प्रस्तुतीकरण हुआ । कार्यक्रम का प्रारंभ करते हुए शंघाई अंतरराष्ट्रीय अध्ययन विश्वविद्यालय सिसु में आईसीसीआर चेयर हिंदी के विजिटिंग प्रोफेसर नवीन चन्द्र लोहनी ने हिंदी दिवस के आयोजन के विविध पक्षों की जानकारी दी बताया कि किस प्रकार इस बार मॉरीशस में संपन्न 11वे विश्व हिंदी सम्मेलन में बड़-चढ़कर दुनिया भर के हिंदी प्रेमियों ने प्रतिभागिता की । उन्होंने यह भी अवगत कराया कि इस समय संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ से भी हिंदी में प्रसारण कार्यक्रम प्रारंभ हो गए हैं , यह हिंदी के बढ़ते हुए प्रयोग और आवश्यकता का द्योतक है ।

उन्होंने बताया कि चीन में 15 विश्वविद्यालयों में हिंदी में अध्ययन-अध्यापन होने लगा है। इस प्रकार हिंदी भारत को दुनिया भर में जोड़ने के लिए पुल का काम कर रही है। उन्होंने हिंदी दिवस को राजभाषा दिवस के रूप में मनाए जाने के कारणों की चर्चा की और बताया कि हिंदी दिवस 1949 से भारत सरकार के कार्यालयों, शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में मनाया जा रहा है और अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भारत के प्रमुख दूतावासों, कौंसलावासों, उच्चायोगों में भी मनाया जा रहा है। इससे प्रवासी भारतीयों में भी हिंदी तथा देश की भाषाओं को लेकर एक जागृति आई है और वह अपनी मातृभाषाओं तथा हिंदी को लेकर विभिन्न आयोजनों से जुड़े रहते हैं। उन्होंने हिंदी दिवस आयोजन के लिए भारतीय कौंसलावास और प्रतिभागिता के लिए सभी प्रतिभागियों को बधाई दी।

इस अवसर पर 40 से अधिक प्रतिभागियों ने हिस्सा लिया। कविता पाठ के अंतर्गत शंघाई इंटरनेशनल स्टडीज यूनिवर्सिटी के 12 विद्यार्थियों ने सोहनलाल द्विवेदी, महादेवी वर्मा, अटल बिहारी बाजपेयी, बशीर बद्र, गोविंद गुलशन की कविताओं को प्रस्तुत किया। सिसु के विद्यार्थियों छन श्यूइंग, छन युए, छन आनलान, इन श्याओवेइ, मेइ योंगछी, चांग होंग, लेइ रुवशी, थ्यान श्री, ल्यांग वेइयान, गु शान, छ दान यांग चोंग, सांग ची आदि के कविता पाठ और हिंदी फिल्मी गीत "ऐसा क्यों मां" का प्रस्तुतीकरण किया गया। इसके उपरांत अचेना लाछेर ने रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर के हिंदी में अनूदित गीत गायन किया। भारतीय समुदाय के विद्यार्थियों ने एक लघु नाटिका (स्किट) प्रस्तुत की, जिसमें आदित्य भंशाली, गर्व जैन, सात्विक हेगड़े, अर्नव सिंह, प्रत्यूष, प्रत्यक्षा, अदिति भंशाली ने सशक्त अभिनय किया। प्रस्तुत लघु नाटिका का निर्देशन संयोजन रीना जैन ने किया।

इस दौरान भारत की अन्य प्रमुख भाषाओं की कविताओं के अनूदित पाठ की प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन हुआ। जिसमें 14 साल की उम्र से कम के प्रतिभागियों के पार्थ कौस्तुभ शर्मा, जय जोशी, श्रेयांश मेनन, रविंद्र चौधरी, तोषान उल्लास शर्मा, जितिन राजन और 14 से ऊपर के आयु वर्ग में भाग लिया शांभवी, जय श्री बोरा, अविनाश नरवारे, अनीता शर्मा आदि ने भाग लिया। जिसमें गुरुदेव रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर की कविता के अनुवाद विशेष रूप से सराहे गए।





भाषण प्रतियोगिता का विषय था “चीन में हिंदी फिल्मों के प्रचार, प्रसार और प्रभाव । वक्ताओं ने यह बताने की कोशिश की कि किस प्रकार चीन में भारतीय सिनेमा को ना केवल गम्भीरता से लिया और प्रमुखता से देखा जा रहा है, अपितु व्यापार की दृष्टि से भी फिल्म व्यवसाय ने भारत के लिए एक नया बाजार और दर्शक वर्ग बना दिया है । फिल्मों से दोनों देश के आम नागरिकों की एक दूसरे की जानकारी बढ़ रही है । चीन और भारत के संबंध फिल्मों के माध्यम से सुधर भी रहे हैं और चीन वासी भारतीय समाज के प्रति जागरूक हो रहे हैं । साथ ही चीनी नागरिक भारत जाना भी पसंद कर रहे हैं, इससे दोनों देशों के बीच विश्वसनीयता बढ़ेगी । भाषण प्रतियोगिता में शिरकत की रोहित कुमार झा, शांभवी, निधि शर्मा, रचना भगत, दीपक सुबुद्धि और सुब्रो अनिल दत्ता शामिल थे । प्रतियोगिताओं के अलावा हिमांशु चतुर्वेदी और हेमा नेगी ने भी कविताएं प्रस्तुत की ।

प्रतियोगिताओं के निर्णायक मंडल में आशीष गोरे, नवीन चंद्र लोहनी और चांग युथौंग रहे । विजेताओं को पुरस्कार वितरण कौंसलावास के सांस्कृतिक और सूचना कौंसुल प्रशांत त्रिपाठी, आई. ए. के अध्यक्ष मुकेश शर्मा, तथा निर्णायक मंडल के सदस्य आशीष गोरे, नवीन चंद्र लोहनी और चांग युथौंग ने किया ।

कार्यक्रम के समापन में कौंसलावास के सांस्कृतिक और सूचना कौंसुल प्रशांत त्रिपाठी द्वारा सभी प्रतिभागियों का धन्यवाद किया गया । उन्होंने सक्रिय प्रतिभागिता के लिए भारतीय समुदाय और शंघाई अंतरराष्ट्रीय अध्ययन विश्वविद्यालय के विद्यार्थियों की सराहना भी की और आयोजन में सहयोगियों को धन्यवाद दिया । कार्यक्रम का संचालन आईए की सांस्कृतिक प्रभारी बीना वाघेला ने किया । कार्यक्रम में भारतीय कौंसलावास की ओर से प्रवीन शर्मा, नवीन राणा व नितेश मेहता का विशेष सहयोग रहा । इस अवसर पर हिना चतुर्वेदी, इंद्रा रवींद्रन, राजीव रंजन, अमित देशमुख सहित भारतीय समुदाय के अनेक प्रवासियों ने भाग लिया ।

SEVA

SHANGHAI CHILDREN'S HOME

IA has been engaged in and supporting activities that are oriented towards charity regularly for years. "Seva" is one of the core objectives of the IA and in the DNA of every Indian. From annual blood donation drive, sponsoring education of Children to jointly building a school for earthquake victims in Sichuan province, your association has been actively delivering on this core objective.

With a vision to give more sustainable and perennial character to the Seva activities, your association has reached an understanding with the "Shanghai Children's Home" located at 9977, Zhong Chun Road South in the Minhang District.

Members of the community are invited to express their love and "Seva" spirit by way of volunteering their time at the school. This is what really matters.

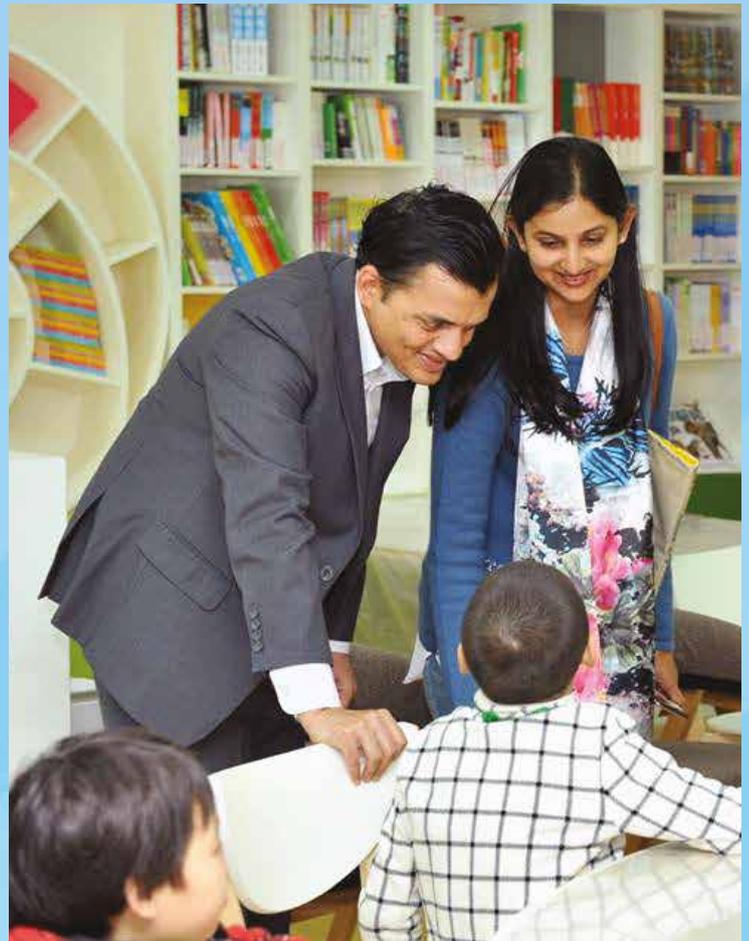
Volunteers are expected to take one child to the Rehabilitation Centre on campus and shower them with love and care.

If you are able to spare 2 hours per week for one season of 3 months (Monday 2 - 3:30 pm) please email us on iashanghai@live.com or contact Tapan Gadodia on 18802151133.



Shanghai Children's home, established in 1911, is the city's oldest and largest specialized state run orphanage and has been used by the central government as a model for orphanages throughout the country. It is used as a showcase orphanage for China and visited by leaders of the stature of Mr Xi Jinping. The criteria for living in the home are : orphans below the age of fourteen, without relatives or friends available to provide care, infants who have been abandoned, and children below the age of thirteen whose parents are Shanghai citizens but are legally prevented from being able to care for their children and who are without relatives and friends.

The able bodied children are employed after age sixteen, disabled children are transferred to another welfare institute after the age of fourteen. Abandoned children or orphans are either sent for adoption or reunited with their birth families.



IA SPEECH COMPETITION ON “ACHIEVEMENTS OF MODERN INDIA”



LIST OF WINNERS:

Age category 6-11 years

1st-Yash Mandhania

2nd-Suhana Jain

3rd-Rehan and Mayukh

Age category 11 and above

1st-Ritthick

2nd- Anagha

3rd- Ananya Vasishtha &
Annmary Abraham.



IA Speech competition was held today at 10:30 am at the Indian Consulate. Speeches on “achievements of modern India” were made in different languages including a rare spoken language like Sanskrit. A very proud day for all of us!!

We would like to thank The honourable Consul General of Shanghai Mr Anil Rai and Mrs Harshita Rai who graced the occasion and encouraged the young participants with their kind words.

We would also take this opportunity to thank the three amazing judges Nithya , Shilpa and kinjal, who took time out of their busy schedules to come and judge the competition. Thank you to all the parents who encouraged their children to take part and a very well done to all the lovely children who made such informative and interesting speeches. All in all a very enlightening day for us all.

IA MIXER WITH MS SHRADHA SHARMA IN COLLABORATION WITH AMCHAM



BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING:

CONNECTING THE LAST MILE - THE ENTREPRENEUR'S CHALLENGE



Most Indian business professionals in Shanghai look forward to IA Mixer series, where accomplished professionals from diverse backgrounds share their thoughts and ideas. The most recent one had none other than Ms Shradha Sharma Founder & CEO of YourStory Media.

The event was conducted jointly with the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Shanghai), and was held at the Indian Consulate in Shanghai on 28th of August 2018.

The title of the event was “Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Connecting the last mile - The entrepreneur’s challenge”, and being the entrepreneur that she is, Ms Shradha Sharma did full justice.

In a fireside-chat with Mr. Mukesh Sharma,

President, Indian Association, Shradha brought out the key tenets of her “own story” of building “YourStory” from the ground up. In the Q&A session as well, the audience was fully engaged asking questions ranging from personal choices, to women entrepreneurs to the difficulties in raising funding for one’s venture. Among the many things Ms Sharma said, one of the more memorable ones was “not getting too attached to one’s salary.”

The event was graced by Mr. Anil Kumar Rai, Consul General of India at the Indian Consulate in Shanghai, and many members of the Shanghai-based Indian business community, as well as of members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai.

IA THANKS THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO KERALA FLOOD

Hope brings resilience.

Our Brothers and Sisters in Kerala have been fighting a tough battle for past few months.

While we cannot reverse what happened but true to IA's core principle of "Seva" your Indian Association(IA) along with Kairali group in Shanghai and with support of each one of you residing in Shanghai has collected the donations on IA's new digital WeChat channel.

The collected amount was handed over to the Honorable Consul General of India Shri Anil Rai and with his support handed over to Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Culture, and Tourism - Mr Alphons on 1 Sep 2018 at Shanghai.

While IA has been involved in Charity initiatives such as Blood donation , Shanghai Children home support & Economically weak segment students in China for several years , however this was the time where we all Stood together and extended the Support to our motherland.

IA would like to thank each one of you who came forward to support this noble cause. This also signifies the power of technology and digital payments that we could collect record payments in such a limited time.

We all wish and pray for the speedy recovery of the situation in Kerala for our brothers and sisters.

*Regards
Mukesh Sharma*

IA KERALA RELIEF FUND



BAL DIWAS 2018



BAL DIWAS 2018



BAL DIWAS 2018



BAL DIWAS 2018



BAL DIWAS 2018





दुनिया का आठवाँ आश्चर्य तियानलोज़खंग किलोऊ



तियानलोज़खंग किलोऊ यह वास्तविक आश्चर्य है, दूसरे विश्व युद्ध के बाद दुनिया की निगाह में आया यह स्थान 2008 से पक्के सड़क मार्ग से जुड़ने और यूनेस्को की सूची में शामिल होने के बाद यह दुनिया के पुरानी सभ्यता को समझने के लिए आसान हो गया | वृताकार और चौकोर (आकार) के ये आवास लगभग 700 साल पहले के विशिष्ट प्रकार के मिट्टी और लकड़ी से बने हैं | हक्का लोगों के ये आवास पीढ़ियों पुराने संरक्षण के बाद मानव समाज के लिए तैयार संस्कृति और सभ्यता का खजाने का खुलासा करने वाले हैं | हक्का वंशावली बहुत लंबी है, उनकी वर्तमान पीढ़ी मेहमाननवाज है | हमारी चाय पार्टी के बाद मैंने उनकी स्थानीय चाय भी खरीदी | वर्तमान में अपनी नई पीढ़ी को शिक्षा के द्वारा आधुनिक समय-समाज से जोड़े यह समाज स्थानीय पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रति भी समर्पित है |

हक्का बुजुर्ग पीढ़ी अपने जीवन में परिवार में पोषित हैं | परंपरा के साथ ही आधुनिक सुविधाओं व तकनीकी से जुड़ी हक्का समूह की नई पीढ़ी अब किसान, व्यापार के साथ आधुनिक व्यवसायों को भी अपना रही है | श्यामैन लगभग 4 घंटे के रास्ते पर यह जगह वास्तव में पर्यटन की दृष्टि से बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है | भारत में अनेक ग्रामीण पर्यटन स्थलों पर जाने का अवसर हुआ है पर और दुनिया के अनेक दुनिया के अनेक देशों में भी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में घूमने का अवसर हुआ , परंतु इस तरह की बनावट के भवन में पहली बार देखने का अवसर मिला ।

क्या वास्तव में बहुत विचित्र नहीं है कि चीन का यह स्थल अत्यधिक संवेदनशील स्थल पर होने के बाद भी बहुत देर में लोगों की जानकारी में आया। एक दौर में यह भी बताया गया कि यह विशेष तौर पर युद्ध के लिए बनाया गया कोई भवन है जिनके भीतर लोग रह कर अपनी युद्ध की तैयारी कर रहे हैं और यह सब चमत्कार जैसा लगा जब लोगों ने वहां जाकर देखा कि वहां पर सैकड़ों वर्षों से युगीन सभ्यता निवास कर रही है, और पुरानी सभ्यताओं में से एक है। लोग जब चीन के इस स्थान पर बसे उनकी पीढ़ियों ने विकास तो किया किंतु उनको विकास की जो असली रसद है वह पहुंचनी अब शुरू हुई है।

गोल और चौकोर भवनों के भीतर एक रहस्यमई का आनंद की स्थिति है, अनेक भवन अभी भी आम लोगों की यात्रा के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं है, किंतु एक विशेष भवन जो आज का व्यापारिक संस्थान की तरह प्रयोग में आ रहा है और लोगों के देखने के लिए उपलब्ध है। हम पर्यटन करते हुए इस जगह तक गए जरूर लेकिन तिलिस्म की तरह एक के बाद एक मन में नए प्रश्न जागते रहे। आखिर इस तरह के गोल भवन इतनी समय पहले किस प्रकार बनाए गए होंगे। हमारी गाईड ने बताया कि वह स्थान वास्तव में चीन वालों के लिए भी उतना ही आश्चर्यजनक है या था जितना कि बाहर के लोगों के लिए है और वह स्थान अब चीन निवासियों के लिए पर्यटन की दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण है। हक्का लोग यहां पर सैकड़ों वर्षों से रह रहे थे और उनकी अपनी परंपरागत सभ्यता और संस्कृति आज भी उसी रूप में जीवित है। वह मंदिर में जिस प्रकार से पूजा करते हैं और जिस प्रकार उनके विवाह अनुष्ठान होते हैं वह भी अपने आप में अलग है। यहां के बुजुर्गों को और जवानों के बीच एक खास तरह का तालमेल भी है। बुजुर्ग पीढ़ी आज भी जवानों को पूरी तरह मदद करती है। व्यापारिक कार्यों में ही नहीं बल्कि अध्ययन के क्षेत्र में भी यह लोग आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। लोग अब अपनी नई पीढ़ियों को न केवल पढ़ा रहे हैं बल्कि उनको पढ़ने के लिए दूरदराज के क्षेत्रों में भेजते हैं और उनके लिए स्वयं मेहनत करते हैं।



पहले पड़ाव में हमारी कार एक ऊंची जगह पर ले ले गई । जहां से यह गांव न केवल दिखाई देता है बल्कि एक तिलिस्म की तरह लोगों को चमत्कृत करता है । यहां मुझे चीन और अन्य देशों के लोग मिले । आ चीनी लोगों ने मुझे भारतीय जानने के बाद विस्मय से बातचीत की , और कहा कि किस तरह वह न केवल और चीन की संस्कृति बल्कि भारतीय संस्कृति को भी महत्वपूर्ण समझते हैं अनेक लोगों ने मुझ से हाथ मिलाए, गले मिले और अनेक लोगों ने मेरे साथ फोटो भी खिंचवाई । मेरे लिए भी एक विचित्र अनुभव था कि मैं पहली बार किसी दूरदराज के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र का भ्रमण कर रहा था और मुझे इतना प्रेम चीनी लोगों से मिल रहा था ।

यह यात्रा विस्मय भरी थी इसका कारण यह भी था कि हम को नहीं पता हम कहां और क्यों जा रहे हैं । लेकिन जब हम पहुंचे तो अचानक लगा कि हम एक दिन ऐसी जगह आ गए हैं , जहां के बारे में बहुत देर बाद इतिहास खोजा जा सका है । यह चीन के लिए विशेष भ्रमण स्थल /पर्यटन स्थल की तरह विकसित हो रहा क्षेत्र है । जहां पर लोग न केवल प्राचीन सभ्यता और संस्कृति से जुड़े हुए हैं बल्कि उनको धीरे-धीरे आधुनिक जीवन और जीवन सुविधाओं से भी जोड़ा जा रहा है । यह मेरे लिए भी एक विचित्र अनुभव था इससे पूर्व चीन के इस प्रकार ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में जाने का अवसर प्राप्त नहीं हुआ था ।

मेरे साथ हमारे ही विश्वविद्यालय में हंगेरियन भाषा में अध्यापन करने वाली हंगेरियन प्रोफेसर अन्ना पीको के अलावा दो अन्य प्राध्यापक थे जो एक बीजिंग में पढ़ाने वाली कोरियन भाषा की प्रोफेसर नेन्जू जो और छेंदू के एक विश्वविद्यालय में प्रबंधन के प्रोफेसर डेल कोकर हैं । हम तीनों के लिए विशिष्ट स्थान बन गया क्योंकि यहां पर आने के बाद हमें जिस प्रकार के सांस्कृतिक और विशिष्टता के दर्शन होते हैं वह वास्तव में आनंदित करने वाला अनुभव था । और यहां पर पहुंचने के बाद हमें लगा भी की दुनिया में प्रेम की कोई भाषा नहीं होती और जिनसे आप मिल रहे हैं शायद आपके लिए या आपके जीवन के लिए नए लोग भी नहीं है क्योंकि जीवन में शायद इसी तरह आप से नहीं लोगों की मुलाकात होती है ।

इस पांच मंजिला गोलाकार भवन में प्रवेश करने के बाद तो चमत्कार जैसा अनुभव हुआ । पता चला कि यह वास्तव में युद्ध के समय अंदर छुपने के लिए प्रयोग में आने वाली जगह भी थी । और इन दीवारों पर युद्ध के प्रयोग के लिहाज से दूसरी मंजिल तक कोई खिड़की और दरवाजे नहीं थे । तीसरी मंजिल तक भीतर से छुपकर से हथियारों से वार बाहर किया जा सकता था , गोलियां चलाई जा सकती थी । इसके अलावा यह जो भवन है यह इस विशेष प्रकार की मिट्टी और लकड़ी के बने हैं । वह भी विशिष्ट प्रकार की मिट्टी और लकड़ी से बने भवन सात सौ साल बाद भी उपयोग में आ रहे हैं, जहाँ सैकड़ों लोग रहते हैं । प्रत्येक परिवार को कुएं का पानी मिल जाए इसके लिए पहली मंजिल (भूतल) में भी अंदर ही अंदर व्यवस्था है और इन मकानों की गोलाई के अंदर रहकर अपने आराध्य की पूजा हेतु मंदिर भी बनाया गया है ।

यहां पहुंचने के बाद हमारी मार्गदर्शक महिला ने बताया कि किस तरह यह स्थल है वह अपने आप में अलग है । उन्होंने हमें एक दुकान चाय बेचने वाली महिला से परिचय कराया और वहां पर उन्होंने भिन्न-भिन्न तरह की चाय के अलावा अपनी स्थानीय चाय भी पिलाई और यह विशेष प्रकार की चाय है जो यहां पर सर्दियों में भी स्वास्थ्यवर्धक रहती है और लोग प्रायः स्थानीय चाय से ठंड से लड़ने की शक्ति प्राप्त भी कर पाते हैं

लगभग दो घंटे तक इस परिसर में रहने के बाद का हम लोग जब बाहर निकलने लगे तो देखा एक बुजुर्ग महिला जो लगभग 95 वर्षों की बताई जा रही थी अपने खिलौने बेच रही थी उन्होंने । जब साथियों ने टूटी-फूटी चीनी भाषा में हम लोगों ने बातचीत की कोशिश की तो उन्होंने अपनी भाषा में जो बताया कि वह महिला अपने रुचि के कारण यह सब करती है ताकि उसका मन भी लगा रहे उसके लिए इस तरह के व्यापार या आय के बजाए लोगों से मिलने और उनसे अपनी बातचीत करने की उसकी रुचि पूरी हो जाती है ।

हक्का लोग यहां आए तो बाहर से थे और इसीलिए उनको बाहरी के तौर पर ही लंबे समय तक जाना भी गया । आज भी उनकी पहचान एक अलग सांस्कृतिक समूह के तौर पर है किंतु इसके बाद ही स्थानीय लोगों ने न केवल को उनको अपनाया बल्कि उनसे उनका व्यवहार भी प्रेमपूर्ण है । सन् 2008 के बाद यहां सड़क के जुड़ने से लोगों के यहां आने के कारण और पर्यटन दृष्टिकोण से महत्वपूर्ण हो जाने के बाद यहां पर विकास कार्य हो रहे हैं । यहां की स्थानीय आवश्यकता के लिए अनेक सुविधाएं भी जुट रही हैं यहां पर वर्तमान जीवन की प्रगति के संदर्भित आईटी उत्पादों को भी पहुंचाने का तैयारी हो रही है ।

स्यामैन चीन के पूर्वी क्षेत्र में बसा हुआ एक महत्वपूर्ण पर्यटन और ऐतिहासिक शहर ही नहीं है बल्कि सामरिक दृष्टिकोण से भी यह एक महत्वपूर्ण है । यहां से ताईवान के मध्य चलने वाले लंबे समय के विवाद और युद्ध को लेकर भी अनेक कहानियां पता चली है लेकिन यह महत्वपूर्ण स्थान होने के बाद भी उसके नजदीकी स्थलों की जानकारी बहुत समय बाद पता चलना इस बात का भी सबूत है कि चीन में अनेक महत्वपूर्ण स्थानों की खोज या ऐतिहासिक अध्ययन की हाल के दौर में हुए हैं उनमें यह स्थल भी एक खासा महत्व रखता है ।

तियानलोज़ुखंग किलोऊ सही अर्थों में आश्चर्य है ।

MAKAR SANKRANTHI - BATHUKAMMA

TELUGU ASSOCIATION OF CHINA



Telugu Association of China was formed in 2014 by a group of enthusiastic, culturally conscious Telugus working and living in China. TAC's aspiration and aim are to evolve into an umbrella organization, a proud common platform, for all city-specific Telugu groups across China.

The idea is to harness strength in numbers and find meaning, identity, pride and a sense of belonging in a foreign land – all to sustain and nourish our roots in a common culture and rich traditions, and thereby shape a shared future.

This we intend to accomplish by being in touch via regular communications, and by promoting awareness of our common ancestry/roots and a spirit of community through socio-cultural events. TAC will

strive to main a vibrant profile online through social media, messaging apps, websites, apps, etc.

TAC is already active in Shanghai, launched at Beijing in August 2016. It now has a growing presence in Changsha, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Kechao, Kunshan, Shenzhen, Shaoxing and Suzhou cities in China. It is set to grow bigger.

Conceivably, TAC will evolve to coordinate with external publics or stakeholders such as Indian embassy and its consulates in China, business and industry chambers, other similar Indian regional groups in China, and organize activities like charity drives, food festivals, donation campaigns, for noble causes.



1. MAKARA SANKRANTHI (మకర సంకీర్ణం)

Makaraa Sankranti (Sanskrit: मकर संक्रान्ति) is a festival day in the Hindu calendar, in reference to Surya (sun) deity and has been observed according to solar cycles.

It falls in January every year and marks the first day of sun's transit into the Makara (Capricorn), marking the end of the month with the winter solstice and the start of longer days.

The festivities associated with Makara Sankranti are known by various names such as Maghi (preceded by Lohri) in north India and Sikhs, Makara Sankranti (Pedda Pandaga) in Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Sukarat in central India, Magh Bihu by Assamese, and Pongal in Tamilnadu.

The festival, Sankranti, is celebrated for four days in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana:
Day 1 – Bhogi (భోగి)

Day 2 – Makara Sankranti (మకర సంకీర్ణం-వెదద పండుగ), the main festival day

Day 3 – Kanuma (కనుమ)

Day 4 – Mukkanuma

Bhogi (భోగి)

The day preceding Makara Sankranti is called Bhoghi. This is when people discard old and derelict things and concentrate on new things causing change or transformation. At dawn, people light a bonfire with logs of wood, other solid fuels and wooden furniture that are no longer useful.

Makara Sankranti (మకర సంకీర్ణం)

The second day is Makara Sankranti. People wear new clothes, pray to God, and make offerings of traditional food to ancestors who have died. They also make beautiful and ornate drawings and patterns on the ground with chalk or flour, called "Rangoli" or "muggu" in Telugu, in front of their homes. These drawings are decorated

with flowers, colors and small, hand-pressed piles of cow dung, called "gobbemma" (గోబ్బెమ్మ). Rural children and young girls will go house to house; sing songs and ask for treats in some areas (or pocket money), melas (fairs), dances, kite flying, bonfires and feasts.

Kanuma (కనుమ)

Kanuma is very intimate to the hearts of farmers because it is the day for praying and showcasing their cattle with honor. Cattle are the symbolic indication of prosperity. On the day after Makara Sankranti, the animal kingdom is remembered and, in particular, cows. Girls feed the animals, birds and fish as a symbol of sharing.

Mukkanuma (ముక్కనమ)

The fourth day is called Mukkanuma which is popular among the non-vegetarians of the society. On this day, farmers offer prayers to the elements (like soil, rain, fire for helping the harvest) and the (village) goddesses with their gifts which sometimes (and these days mainly) include animals.

This year Makara Sankranti celebrated on January'2018 at Embassy Club in Shanghai

2. UGADI (Telugu New Year)

Ugadi (Ugadi, Samvatsaradi, Yugadi) is the New Year's Day for the people of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka states in India. It is festively observed in these regions on the first day of the Hindu lunisolar calendar month of Chaitra. This typically falls in March or April of the Gregorian calendar.

The day is observed by drawing colorful patterns on floor; mango leaf decorations on doors called toranalu (Kannada: Torana), buying and giving gifts such as new clothes, giving charity to the poor, special bath followed by oil treatment, preparing and sharing a special food called UGADI

PACHADI, and visiting Hindu temples. The PACHADI is a notable festive food that combines all 6 flavors – sweet, sour, salty, bitter, spice and astringent taste. In the Telugu and Kannada Hindu traditions, it is a symbolic reminder that one must expect all flavors of experiences in the coming new year and make the most of them. It is called Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra, but sometimes observed a Gregorian day earlier because the lunar day starts and ends in Hindu calendar according to the position of the moon.

This year Shanghai Telugu Association conducted the Ugadi at Mercury hotel in Shanghai.



3. BATHUKAMMA (Floral Festival)

Bathukamma is floral festival celebrated predominantly by the Hindu women of Telangana and some parts of Andhra Pradesh. Every year this festival is celebrated as per Shathavahana calendar for nine days starting Bhadrapada Pournami till Durgashtami, usually in September–October of Gregorian calendar.

Bathukamma is celebrated for nine days during Durga Navratri. It starts on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya and the 9-day festivities will culminate on "Saddula Bathukamma" or "Pedda Bathukamma" festival on Ashwayuja Navami, popularly known as Durgashtami which is two days before Dussehra.

Bathukamma represents cultural spirit of Telangana. Bathukamma is a beautiful flower stack, arranged with different unique seasonal flowers most of them with medicinal values, in seven concentric layers in the shape of temple gopuram. In Telugu, 'Bathukamma' means 'Mother Goddess come Alive' and Goddess Maha Gauri-'Life Giver' is worshipped in the form of Bathukamma

It is the festival for feminine felicitation. On this special occasion women dress up in the traditional sari combining it with jewels and other accessories.

This year, Bathukamma festival was celebrated in Beijing by the China Telugu Association on October 20.

Over and above all these socio-cultural activities, TAC's vision envisages a future where all Telugu people in China contribute proactively to the larger community, and evolve intellectually and professionally, to be not only in tune with the globalized world but also exploit all the opportunities it presents.

Come, join us, strengthen CHITA, discover the pride and joy in being a connected, culturally conscious, global-minded Telugu. Let us grow and prosper together and help make the world a better place.

Best Regards
Ashok Kumar Gupta Ega



SHANGHAI ADDA

Durga Puja



Durga Puja-the ceremonial worship of the mother goddess, is one of the most important festivals of India. Apart from being a religious festival, it is also an occasion for reunion and rejuvenation, and a celebration of traditional culture and customs.

In Shanghai, a community of Bengalis called "Shanghai ADDA" celebrate it too which is unimaginable for many & that includes my own parents. Their initial reaction was - China te abar Pujo! Huh.. Moja hocche (Puja in Shanghai! Huh.. Are you joking?) & I am sure this must have been the case with many others as well. Well.. that's the passion and pride we all carry from our Motherland. Isn't it?

There is so much to do - you need to book the event hall, Get Purohit Maharaj from Kolkata, Work on his Visa, Tickets, Get Sponsors, Make arrangements for food, Decide on Menu, Bhog distribution for the puja, Cultural events, events for kids like drawing competition, sending invitations to other different communities etc.

But all that just doesn't seem to be tiring as there is a vanity to follow this Bengali & Indian Culture, Tradition, Language, Festivals in China & Durga Puja happens to be the moment as everyone join hands and comes forward to celebrate this wonderful festival.

I, on behalf of the entire Shanghai Adda community wish you all Happy Diwali. May the festival of lights be the harbinger of joy and prosperity. Keep Smiling!

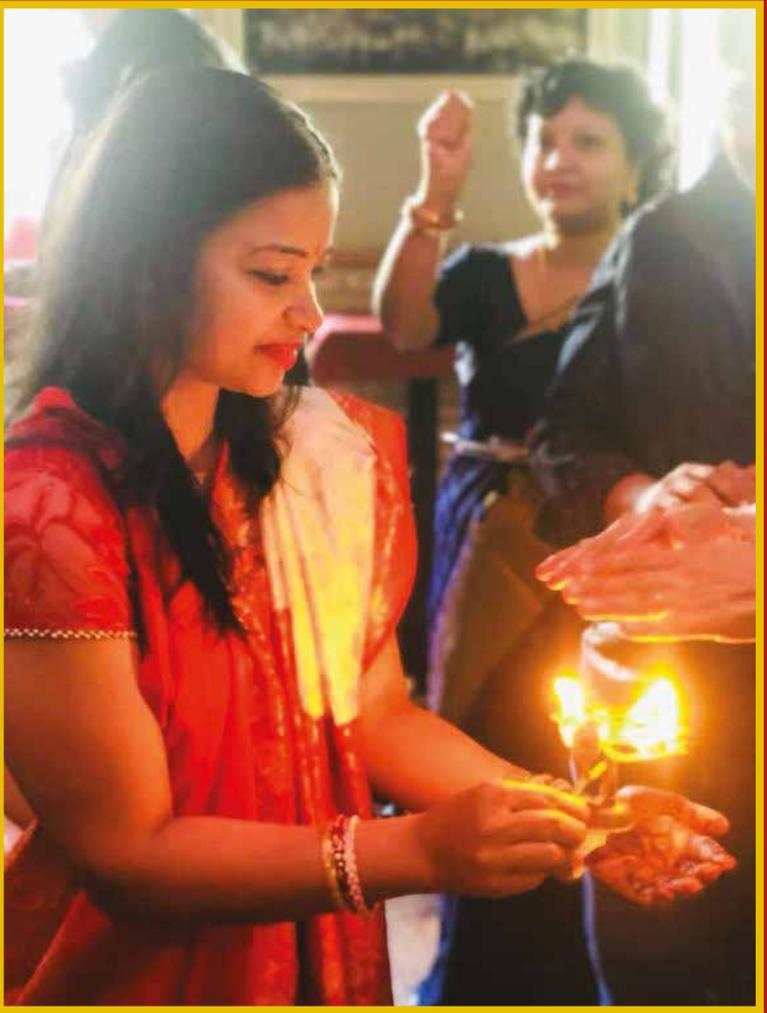
Best Regards,
Subranil Dutta
President – Shanghai Adda



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IMAGINARY REAL WORLD

I want to share a story about my dream, where I explored the underworld.
May be center of earth !!



One day I was digging for fun, and I saw a letter. It read “welcome to the underworld”. The letter was covered with dry mud. The letter was torn. I continued digging, there was a sound. The sound I heard was not like sound that I ever heard before. This sound was from some strange marbles. Digging further, my hand hit marbles. I took the marbles in my hand. They were like our planets and green one was appearing like earth. The wrapping said “press the green one to enter”.

I press the button. My heart was beating out of my chest as I got sucked in the marbles. I looked through my eyes and I saw the most amazing things. I could not believe what I saw. Blue flying ball grinding me to a strange door there was another letter for me to read, it said “get ready for adventure”.

I had a free falling to the core of the earth or may be that green marble. There was another world, a world with small creatures. However it look like fairytale, small people small houses small cars small trees and tiny schools. Everything was like toy world. That small green marble was full of life

- from outside to inside. People in that marble were rushing, crushing and surpassing each other in some race. While, they were hardly moving an inch after running for whole day. I wonder, how should I tell them - there is much bigger world out there. How can I take them out of their dreamy world. Suddenly, a little doll started singing the song in my ear. I looked at her.

I saw a clock, it was my alarm clock ringing. My mother was asking me to wake up for school. Aha ! I am still wondering, it was me telling those tiny people or someone telling this message to me ? Are we real or creation of some more advance race ?

What an exploratory dream !!



The term 'culture' is derived from the word cultivate and generally refers to a set pattern of behaviour followed by a set of people belonging to the same nation or geographical region. Thus culture of a nation is characterized by the thought patterns, habits, by the way people react to a situation, and by the ideas, values, beliefs, customs and traditions.

Culture is not inherited; it is learned. In Samskritam, culture is called samskaaras. The word Sa skāra is derived from the Sanskrit root meaning "to refine". It means nurturing a society uniform in culture and character and having the same ethical ideals and spiritual aims. This responsibility to nurture a new-born was entrusted to women in all societies of the world but over time the situation has changed.

Because of the exposure to externalities the mind got confused, distracted and diverted; it started becoming entangled with externalities known as attachments and attractions. This took the mind away from the principles and values, from the tradition and customs. People became self-centred. Becoming selfish is a positive trait but being self-centered is giving

importance to one's desires and attachments. Karmas were executed through attachments and attractions and not through consciousness or through culturing.

Women today are trying to adopt masculine culture and are trying to compete with men in every possible field. Not very long ago we know of three women prime ministers who altered the history of their own nations – Ms. Thatcher, Ms Gandhi and Ms Meir. They did break the traditional stereotypes but did they actually bring about a change in the world per se? Women today across the globe are trying to follow similar steps. However, in the process they are only increasing animosity, enmity and distress instead of infusing a culture where fairness and justice could be granted to women. Heading a position and actually leading the society are two different things.

People often say culture has been lost in time. Culture is not lost. Culture exists; we got trapped and lost track of our path. With numerous changes taking place, the society is heading from the safety of the familiar to the hazards of the unknown. This is because

ROLE OF WOMEN IN MOULDING THE RIGHT CULTURE



cultures are deep-seated and pervasive. Adaptation to change is not possible without affecting culture.

When we talk of culture, in the Chinese culture, men and women are symbolic of the yin and yang energy, the positive and negative energy or the dynamic and static energy. The yin energy is the feminine energy and represents the right brain or the spiritual brain. Taoism teaches that there should be a balance between these two forces which will result in justice, harmony and order. An imbalance of these energies results in chaos. The same symbolism lies in Shiva and Shakthi in Sanathan Dharma or what is known as Hinduism. Both are complementary to each other, each is essential to attain fulfilment, each is incomplete without the other. In fact, we should ponder over why two different species – man and woman were created? Both are not contradictory but complementary, supporting and essential for a complete society.

The underlying belief of many cultures is the assumption that men and women have different roles to play and accordingly possess different capacities. This to some extent helps to understand the gender roles or the set of behavioural norms associated with men and women. It explains the position of each sex within the family, the legal rights, the public status, education, and the function in society.

Women across the globe have been given importance in the society and families. In fact, even before the societies and families, we always refer to the native language as 'mother' tongue, and we call a nation as one's Motherland. Several religions across the world worship female deities where women are considered symbols of power and prosperity. Why should women seek to be like men? Women have been bestowed with qualities that only they possess. Let us learn to respect and honour the nobility in us.

Mother is the first Guru of the child. We know how children imitate elders and hence they imitate whatever parents do. For a society to have the right culture every family must have the right culture. The family in turn shapes on how the woman of the house moulds it. So the responsibility of a society with the right values rests collectively and individually on every woman. Just as the Motherland always replenishes the creation she has given birth to, it is the responsibility of every mother to nurture

and mould the child in the right culture.

Culture is learned and it starts from the moment the fetus is conceived. In the womb, the child adapts similar characteristics as the mother, especially in thoughts and behaviour. Not same, but similar characteristics. The fetus can revive memories from the past lives and hence when the mother speaks with anger the fetus can recollect moments of anger from the past lives and store it in memory. It can thus even revive memories of love when it experiences the mother speak with love. The fetus can identify songs, taste and even recognize words from the past. Does not this place a great responsibility on the mother to evoke memories of love and affection rather than of anger? There are instances when the mother has been constantly chanting OM during pregnancy, one of the first words that the child utters after birth is OM.

The role of the mother is to nurture, nourish and bring up the seed with the divine qualities. If, during the pregnancy or culturing, she has devilish thoughts or chooses devilish activities, if she develops emotions, attachments and pluralities, the seed that is delivered also has these characteristics. The child is also attracted towards the materialistic world. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary, that a woman should be happy, positive and guided to remember and practice spiritual thoughts and noble karmas. Knowledge is prevalent but how to apply the knowledge in life requires training. This is the culturing that women are expected to provide to their off springs and family in general.

The formative years of a child are critical to his culturing just as a pearl is cultured. Through the mother the child values and recognizes the quality of trust, which the mother projects. The child knows the mother is always there and this lends a sense of security to the child, critical to his growing up into a normal healthy adult. Children normally look up to the mother as the role model and hence it is the responsibility of mothers to be the role model.

It is very important to utter words that are profound in truth and knowledge. Since the child spends most of the time with the mother, it is the responsibility of the mother to ensure the child imbibes the right values and receives the right culturing. This in turn enables him to be a responsible human being and prepares him to take care of his duties and responsibilities in life.

IN CONVERSATION WITH **EXSHANGHAI**PATS

Sudhir Shenoy



help, drivers, etc unlike in the West. At the same time Shanghai has world class infrastructure like roads, bridges, promenades, sports facilities, beautiful sights and attractions from heritage structures to modern architecture and truly international culinary options from street food to fancy dine pubs and restaurants. Shanghai truly has something for everyone !

3. Please tell us about your 50/50 goal, how did it come about? When is the 50/50 finale and where? Any special plans?

1. Please tell us about your stay in Shanghai, how long, area you stayed in, community connect, any events you attended in particular?

I moved to Shanghai around November 2013 and we returned back to India in January 2015. We lived in Jinqiao, Pudong during this time and even though our stay in Shanghai was a relatively short one, we joined in every possible community event from the Indian Association of Shanghai's Diwali, Holi and other festivals to the Chaiti, Marathi Mandal's Ganesh Chaturthi and even the Bengali Associations Durgotsav. We as a family are huge Indophiles and we look for every opportunity to reconnect to our roots.

2. Could you point out one thing that Shanghai offers to foreigners that no other place does?

Having lived in Europe prior to Shanghai and of course in India, I believe Shanghai offers a fantastic confluence between the East and the West. The people are warm and friendly, the culture is very family oriented like in India and you have access to resources such as house





My 50 x 50 goal emerged from rather humble beginnings. During our stay in Switzerland in 2009, I was getting to the brink of obesity and my family history of diabetes was a major risk factor and it triggered me into physical fitness through running and cycling. This remained at a very amateurish level till we returned to India in 2011 where I got into a group of colleagues who were already into marathon running. I joined the Dream run at the 2012 Mumbai Marathon doing 6K and while I enjoyed the experience I felt underwhelmed and felt I could do much more. This led to my first half marathon in Delhi during Sept 2012 and the endorphin high had me hooked.

I started running regularly and travelling with the group of friends to run across India. I started running wherever my business travel would take me and running in a new city in the early light of dawn revealed a very different side to the city that I relished. Within the first few marathons I realized that running marathons in different cities gave me the combined pleasure of two of my favorite hobbies - travelling and running and therein was the genesis of my 50 x 50 goal to run 50 unique marathons before I turned 50. It felt like a achievable goal and yet enough of a stretch that would make it feel like an achievement.

4. Did Shanghai have a role to play in your

50/50 goals and how did the stay in Shanghai help?

I was barely into my teens in terms of the number of marathons when I first moved to Shanghai and finding a group of equally crazy desi runners in Shanghai gave me a tremendous boost towards my goal. Having the ability to run around Century Park pretty much any time of the day and having the company of friends to do the long runs on weekends and for street food or even breakfast with beer were such a huge boon to sustain me on the journey. I truly believe running was the biggest factor that made our short stay in Shanghai a huge catalyst for integrating and making friends much faster than it would otherwise have been.

5. Any message for the folks in Shanghai?

People tend to complain about the air quality in Shanghai and I remind every such person that the quality of people in Shanghai more than makes up for that. I think we added far more years to our life and of course life to the year we were there because of the experiences and the friends that we made in Shanghai. The Indian community in Shanghai is truly vibrant and united and a role model for being able to integrate themselves and thrive in a very different environment to make it home.

IN CONVERSATION WITH EXSHANGHAI PATS

Pankaj Garg

Life is full surprises & I too had a big one, while enjoying my summer in the Shivalik Mountains..., when my company's President called up to invite me for a leadership role in Shanghai. Stomach full of butterflies, feet above the ground & mind shooting at different tangents, that's how we felt, with a whole lot of anxiety, curiosity & uncertainty in the air. While family pulled us back, kids didn't want to leave their friends and Pooja, my wife didn't want to venture beyond her network, I decided to go for it and explore the wonderland called Shanghai.



We had a 'love at first sight' moment with this beautiful city on our first visit for house hunting. While scanning from small cosy apartments in the downtown to lavish palatial villas in the outskirts, finally we found our nest at Shimao Riviera Gardens, with a very diverse neighbourhood connecting the continents, from Pacific to Americas. Kids found their solace in a quintessential school - BISS Pudong. Candy, our agent, presented Shanghai as a real dreamland, cruising us through local lanes to magnificent malls, from vegetable markets to sky-scrapers, from street food to scrumptious Chinese cuisines.

Finally, in September 2012, we landed at Shanghai, this city of shocks & surprises and our transition from this dreamworld to the reality began. Welcoming us was our driver, Mr Zhai, who had never trespassed beyond

Mandarin in his life. So, we figured that life without Mandarin would be a never-ending game of Dumb Charades. Despite this, Mr Zhai was a great support from day 1, as he not only guided us through the city, helped us

to shop but also took great care of us with an always smiling face. Our next shock was a beautiful Chinese girl with an iPhone, wearing a leather jacket, who walked into our apartment & introduced her to be our 'Ayi'. Despite very little English in her vocabulary, she was professional to the core and transformed our

house into a palace every morning.

As for the basic needs, the bread a lot sweeter, the milk tasted unreal and McDonald's with no vegetarian options, we started hunting for food to suit our taste buds. To our surprise, we found so many local mouthwatering dishes, like BabiManTou, Nadu's MaLaXiangGuo, Shabu Shabu's divine hot pot (Les Beauty), Simply Thai at IFC Mall and the best of all, the "Noodle Prasad" at Jade Buddha Temple (oops, Ramdevi's Mandir as introduced by Amit Waikar), on occasional Saturdays.

Moving on, kids had their share of shocks while walking into a school with over 90% expat faculty having unfamiliar accents; and students coming from different cultures, geographies & languages appreciating different cuisines. Touchwood, the teachers & 'buddies' helped them to overcome these

hurdles and just in a few weeks, kids fell in love with the school that followed endless play dates, sleepless sleepovers and they found a new world of their own.

Being Indians at heart, we started looking for fellow Indians and fortunate for us, Indian Association had always been there & presented to us, a beautiful united India by bringing Indians together, celebrating all festivals, organising sports' championships, keeping the Indian culture alive and even holding blood donation drive - the gift of life to China from India!

Thanks to IA, we got introduced to a few wild creatures who believed in running & cycling till eternity, followed by early evening to early morning parties. Privileged to be a founding member of the Shanghai Indian Runners (SIRs), together we clocked 100s of Marathons across China while encompassing the tricolour on our chests, and each of these Marathons followed hours of guzzling pitchers at Paulaner's. It became our life forever.



Reflecting back, we remember Shanghai for its manicured landscapes, respect for traffic, CCTV cameras at every nook & corner, care for water-bodies & senior citizens, millions of electric cycles, LED flooded roads, rare sight of policemen/ politicians, vibrant nightlife, hard-working people, old ladies dancing on Bollywood tunes, shops loaded with fakes, men exposing their pot-bellies and the best of all, vegetable vendors shouting “bhindi palak” at the sight of Indians.

China is home to many breathtaking sights and we too had a short glimpse of them during our stay in Shanghai. We cruised along the ‘Yangtze River’ & the ‘Three Gorges’ while posing “with the 10 RMB note”; touched the clouds at the ‘Yellow Mountains’

(Huangshan); scaled ‘The Great Wall’, living the history of China; and walked through ‘heaven’ in Hangzhou. Exploring the east further, we had a lifetime experience at ‘Harbin’s Ice Festival’, decked up with heat pads & multiple layers of clothes to brave through -40 degC there and having the first glimpse of Siberian Tigers & snow-white Polar Dolphins. Another memorable journey was a weeklong adventure to the ‘Hawaii of the East’ - Sanya (coincidentally, it’s my daughter’s name too); enjoying the blue seas, speed boats rides, seafood delicacies and snorkelling through the underwater flora & fauna.

After exploring China, Shanghai also delivers a platter full of memories to cherish such as - dining at the Pearl Tower, visiting the bottle-opener, the longest underwater tunnel at Ocean Aquarium, having the iconic hot dogs at IKEA and ferrying across Huangpu, enjoying star-studded Fireworks’ show, apart from the very exclusive Tulip festival, Sakura festival, Oktoberfest, the glittering skies of Shanghai from

Christmas to Chinese New Year, hanging out at the Apple Store, walking along the Bund, never-ending malls, the colourful Yuyuan, the aisles of Xintiandi and living India at ‘Kebabs of the Grille’. Needless to say that the list is never-ending and so are memories.

Though over a thousand days passed by since we left back to Mumbai, every bit of Shanghai is still live in our hearts. Shanghai brought in a plethora of opportunities, possibilities & gave new directions, new perspectives & new meanings to our lives. Given a chance, we’ll not shy away from taking the first flight back to Shanghai and relive our dreams in this wonderland.

BIVASH MUKHERJEE - MAGNOLIA AWARD WINNER

BRIDGING THE CULTURAL DIVIDE BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA

When he first arrived in Shanghai in 1999, Bivash Mukherjee never imagined the city would become his home for the next 20 years.

The Indian-born journalist initially arrived here to assist the launch of Shanghai Daily, the first English-language daily in the city. In ensuing years, he became a bridge between Chinese and Indian cultures.



The Mumbai native came with international experience under his belt, after working in newsrooms in Moscow and Bangkok. He said he had read a lot about China before coming to the country.

“When I received the invitation from Shanghai Daily, I decided to come and have a look myself,” he said. “I figured I would work here maybe for a year or two, and once the paper was firmly launched, I would leave. At least that was the plan.”

In his first months in the city, he took long nighttime walks through the city, discovering its soul and creating an emotional bond with Shanghai. At the same time, he formed deep relationships with Chinese colleagues at the newspaper.

“People (expats) who worked with me back then have gone,” he said. “But I just stayed... for the nice colleagues here. My father used to tell me that I should be in a place where I am wanted. I also managed to travel a lot in China.”

Mukherjee’s long tenure in the city has given him a front row seat on recent history. He witnessed the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the Shanghai 2010 World Expo. He was also in the city during the SARS outbreak and worked on news coverage of the Sichuan earthquake.

He married an Indian woman, who joined him in Shanghai. Their two children were born in the city. He named his daughter Chinmoyee – “Chin” for China and “moyee” a word for affection and love.

“When she was delivered in the Shanghai No. 1 Maternity and Infant Hospital in 2002, half of the Shanghai Daily office was there,” said Mukherjee. “They came to help me communicate with doctors and to support and congratulate me. That’s the kind of warmth that tied me to the city.”

As night desk editor, Mukherjee started out working on city and business news before switching to sports around the time of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

“Sports is exciting in this sports-mad country,” he said. “I used to follow only football, cricket and tennis. But the variety of disciplines in China, like badminton and table tennis, also fascinated me.”

Work on a daily newspaper kept him up-to-date with a changing China and Shanghai.

“China is constantly trying to change, build and create,” he said. “Once this country decides to do something, there is no stopping it. It has a young and informative generation. With the Belt and Road policy, we see China building more

connections with the rest of the world. Development is always a positive story.”

Mukherjee’s inquisitive nature led him to look for connections between the traditions and culture of China and India, the world’s two most populous nations. He was keen to foster a closer understanding between his birthplace and his adopted home, and in the process, he evolved into an unofficial goodwill ambassador. One of his most significant contributions to that process was a self-made documentary entitled “Gurudev – A Journey to the East.” The film, which traced Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore’s visits to China in the 1920s, is now a regular feature at Sino-Indian conferences in both the countries.

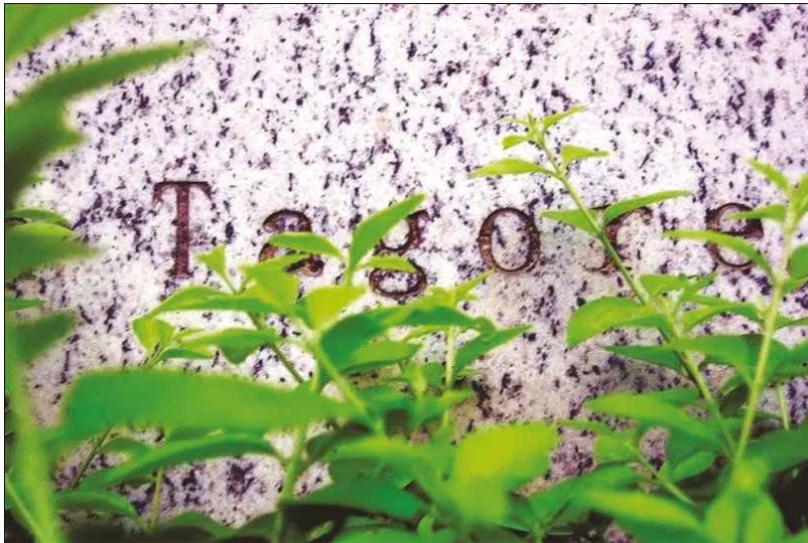
The film started with a small discovery during a stroll through the back alleys of Shanghai.

“I walked into a neighborhood near Yan’an Road and found a plaque with Tagore’s name on it,” said Mukherjee. “It was the only name in English and I was curious. I took a Chinese colleague back to the spot the next day to find out about the board. It turned out the great poet used to live there.”

Research ensued.

“I looked for books and materials from the library and archive offices, and sought information from experts and Chinese poets like Zhao Lihong,” he said. “I also went back to India to dig out as much as I could.”

Mukherjee then wrote an article for Shanghai Daily about his discovery.



“But the article could be no longer than 2,000 words, and I had so much more to tell,” he said. “That was when I decided to pour all the information I had uncovered into a documentary.”

The film caught the attention of the Indian Consulate in Shanghai, as well as other Chinese who were interested in that period of history. It was screened at the Shanghai Writer’s Association, the Indian Embassy in Beijing and universities in Hong Kong, Singapore and

the US.

“I was on night shift, so I worked on the documentary during the daytime and holidays,” he said. “Everything was at my own expense, including hiring a video editor. Some of my colleagues offered help in translation as well as searching for music and recordings.”

Mukherjee is modest about the achievement.

“It is not a brilliant documentary because even the camera I used was a small tourist camera,” he said. “But it was a work of passion and the need to tell a story. After all the screenings, I received even more material from those who saw my film. I will expand the film if time and energy allow.”



Following the documentary, a bust statue of Tagore was installed by the Indian Consulate at the intersection of Nanchang and Maoming roads. The statue was made in India and transported to Shanghai. Presiding over the

unveiling was then Indian President Pratibha Patil.

Every year, the Indian community in Shanghai organizes musical activities around the statue to celebrate Tagore's birthday.

Another of Mukherjee's discoveries was a Sikh temple on Dongbaoxing Road in the Hongkou District. It's used as a residential building now.

Mukherjee talked with residents of the building and collected information about the structure, which was designed by an American architect.

"The residents there were very warm-hearted, showing me around the place and telling me old stories," he said.

When Mukherjee's article on the temple was published on Shanghai Daily, it immediately caught the attention of the Sikh community worldwide, who praised the paper's efforts to highlight a slice of history that few Sikhs remember. Other media followed up on the story. The structure is a protected state relic.

"Some Indians from the Sikh community and even those living abroad contacted me after reading the story," he said. "Every time people who come to Shanghai want to see the temple, I show them around it."

Mukherjee also became a "tour guide" for Indian filmmakers visiting Shanghai. Among them was Raam Reddy, who won an award at the Shanghai International Film festival in 2016 for the Indian regional film "Thithi."

"I showed him around the city at the end of the festival," Mukherjee said. "He was charmed by Shanghai's beauty and prosperity. I did the same with a few other Bollywood directors as well."

Mukherjee recently contributed to the book "Stray Birds on the Huangpu: A History of Indians in Shanghai." The book, relating to stories of Indian people living in Shanghai, was launched at the 2018 Shanghai Book Fair.

"The book is like documentary research," he said. "It shows that Indian connections with China date back centuries."

Mukherjee also helped in promoting the Chaiti Arts Festival, an event initiated by a few of his friends to focus on classical Indian music and dance.

"India goes beyond Bollywood," Mukherjee said. "It is a country of rich culture and history, just like China."

Not many people were aware of the Chaiti Arts Festival when it began in 2013.

"This year, all the tickets were sold out and 80 percent of the audience was Chinese," he said with obvious pride.

Mukherjee's wife and children love living in Shanghai, but they are returning to India this year because the daughter has reached high school age and the fees for international schools are beyond the family's means.

"If I too have to leave the country someday, I will definitely miss the people here," he said. "They are the real reason I have stayed so long."

Mukherjee, who was honored with the city's Magnolia Silver Award in 2014, was presented with the Magnolia Gold Award

this year.

"It's a great feeling to be honored by a city," he said. "All these years, I have been sharing my stories and experiences in Shanghai and China with people from my homeland. The stories usually differ from what they hear and read in other outlets. That's what I keep telling them – you have to communicate with the people yourself to really begin to know a country."

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A spark from the stars- Nova

The story of a few students making a mark in Shanghai

During the fall of 2016 Darpan Agarwal, a freshman student on student exchange in Spain realised what the power of networking meant especially when in a new country. As a freshly graduated boy from Bareilly, son to a doctor known in every household there, never had he thought he would one day be owning his own business firm in a country booming growth charts. As every Indian child Darpan too had looked up to my father and had hoped o have achieved what he had once he grew up. However, little did he know that true hearts desires will always lead you to the right path and so suddenly after appearing for his MBBS examinations he realised Business was what he wanted to pursue and there couldn't a better learning place than in China itself. He got enrolled in Shanghai Jiaotong University, one of universities today in the world (According to Financial Times it ranks 2nd in Asia for business schools) as a student for masters in International Business & management and flew here during the fall semester.

For anyone who comes to this city would understand when we say it reeks of numbers. May it be the number of towers or the number of expats living and making lives for themselves. In these numbers Darpan saw an opportunity of having studied in a course with maximum Europeans and Americans and travelled extensively - an opportunity of getting them together over different occasions. And so the inception of Nova Events came as a result of experience + learning. During the course of his stay in Shanghai he understood the process of opening a new company in the city, with different legalities and visa formalities.

Around the same time he met Yeji, a Korean student part of the Korean Student Association run by the Korean consulate, Benny Ding a Chinese young Entrepreneur, Avneet Singh Bagga a professional in Shanghai city along with Khalid Hossain a fellow student having



had the experience of working with Nobel Laureate Professor Mohd. Yunus. As W. Clement Stone has said, "Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement." Hence with a team of strong willed students and professionals alike the dream of conquering the Shanghai skylines started to become true. Over the period of 6

months already Nova events has organised not only indoor events but also outdoor activities with all together expat crowd of 1100 people. They have roped in the best of the media firms during each of their events hence expanding their promotional campaigns to all across the social media, web channels and WeChat official accounts. From Shanghaiist to Chope, BonApp, Sherpa's, 247 tickets & also TimeOutShanghai.. - Nova events has now grown as a tribe with reaches all across. During their last 2 events the article reach had crossed 2k within days and all the events until now have been completely sold out weeks before the events. Their tag line 'We bring people together' is a cornerstone to their business strategy.

As people in their early 20s to have brought



people from across the city together under different occasions is a challenge they take with humility and without forgetting their own values and morals. Today Nova events reigns are in the hands of Darpan Agarwal and Avneet Bagga who along with their team have some really promising projects in their pockets.

As people who started as students their aim now is to make Nova Events a Events firm for intellectual, networking, happy occasions alike. Be it theme parties, networking events, sports meet ups, yacht/cruise events. Nova Events is capable of getting anything planned today. They also have future strategies on making it a huge data sourcing company on the same lines of SmartShanghai - a platform from where anything and everything related to Shanghai can be researched. Along with cooperations with many high end 5 star hotels such as Hotel Peninsula, Pullman group of hotels, Hotel Indigo,Hotel Banyan tree to name a few.

Nova literally means a star showing a sudden large increase in brightness. Nova Events team truly hopes with right opportunities and encouraging platforms they will become humble glowing stars in the Shanghai society.

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MUSIC IS FOOD FOR THE SOUL



In the last decade or so, China and Shanghai in particular has seen quite a lot of cultural activity from the Indian community which is a commendable effort by any international community. All of these cultural activities showing different traditions of India has found a permanent place in the annual calendar of festivities among the Indian diaspora to the extent that we find ourselves celebrating festivals of

different Indian region in Shanghai which otherwise we might not have been part of. I salute this unity in diversity.

Bollywood & Cultural events have created a buzz about India in the recent few years. CHAITI is one of them hence my subject of interaction through this magazine. Personally I am an ardent fan of Indian Classical Music & dance from my childhood which I missed being away from home for a long time. CHAITI has been able to bring back a lot of those old memories of my life.

A few years back, a small group of music lovers did the unthinkable. They met on a cool summer evening and deliberated on the idea of a festival that was to celebrate the arts of India by creating CHAITI. As the famous Stephen King once said ***“You can, you should, and if you’re brave enough to start, you will....”***

In just a little over five years, Chaiti Arts Festival has come to be associated with the Indian performing arts in China. What started off as a nostalgic craving for serious classical music has grown to become an important

“ An exchange of dialogues between the visiting Indian artists and Chinese artists allows for an understanding of history and application of ragas and wide range of instruments being used in Indian classical music.”

Siddharth Sinha

segment in Indian cultural activities here, and more importantly, in China's cultural calendar. From a handful of Indians at its very first standalone event in 2013 to a near-sellout crowd in 2018, the musical dream turned out to be a musical journey taking shape of a proper festival that charmed all hues of music lovers along the way.

With the festival's growing popularity came responsibility. And Chaiti Arts Foundation, a non-profit entity, came into being. The foundation is managed by two Indian families — Siddharth Sinha and his wife Madhumita along with Ravi Shankar Bose and his wife Soudamini. The real task before them was not just about organizing the festival but ensuring its visibility among the locals and expatriates alike. Introducing a completely new genre of



music to the locals was a path-breaking task. Imagine having to explain the fine intricacies that distinguish a sitar from a veena or even a tanpura; a mridangam from a tabla; the sarod and the sarangi; or the fine complexities of Carnatic and Hindustani music. Rather than get disheartened and chuck up the sponge, the foundation took upon itself the task of “teaching” the nuances that make Indian classical music so special and unique. It invited well-known Indian artists who flew in to give lectures and demonstrations at well-attended workshops and training programs. They are now an integral part of the annual Chaiti activities in China .

The workshops helped in generating a wider audience. To the majority of Chinese who had only been aware of Bollywood and film music, Chaiti opened up a whole new world to them. A Chinese colleague, who after great persuasion showed up at the first event, is now a regular feature — along with her family — at all the Chaiti concerts! Another youngster, who attended a workshop by sitarist Ustad Shujaat Khan, came back completely enamored. All the hard work was beginning to pay off.

Along with classical music, Chaiti dared to be different and introduced various dance forms from India to a captivated Chinese audience. Word spread and as the crowd grew in anticipation, Chaiti slowly began to spread its wings by staging performances in Beijing , Nanjing and Suzhou among others. The workshops and programs helped to a large extent in dismissing the notion that classical Indian music and dance is followed only by the elite. While that is obviously heartening, expenses began to mount as well. A near-packed audience ensured that the music kept flowing but a live performance was always going to be an expensive affair.

The flagship event is supported by the Indian Embassy and Consulate in Shanghai and backed by the Confederation of Indian Industry. It receives generous sponsorships from Indian companies based in China which helps in meeting the costs to an extent but it is still far away from becoming a rewarding venture. Not to forget the close group of friends who relentlessly volunteer for every event of CHAITI without whom it may not have been successful. The organizers never fail to appreciate and recognize this invaluable support.

With Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and his equally talented sons, Amaan Ali and Ayaan Ali, next up in 2019, it will be a notch up for the hardworking people behind the Chaiti Arts Festival. Along with the hysteria that is Aamir Khan here, Chaiti's contributions in bridging the great cultural divide between India and China are no less significant. And equally praiseworthy is the efforts of few good men in bringing people together.

*Wishing you and your family a very
Happy and prosperous Diwali*

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GANESHOTSAV 2018

BY SHANGHAI MARATHI MANDAL



You can take an "Indian" out of "India" ... but you can not take "India" out of Indian, I read this sentence somewhere but could experience it in real term at Ganesh festival organized with traditional fervor by Shanghai Marathi Mandal, at Shanghai. Marathi NRIs of Shanghai took the mantle to celebrate the Ganesh Utsav 12 years ago and again showed great commitment to carry forward the tradition this year too. Their decision to include the diversity of cultures from other parts of India like West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, along with Maharashtra made the occasion even more delightful to watch with theme of captivating Indian Cultural Heritage.

While everyone got absorbed in charged up Indian atmosphere the noticeable presence of the First Citizen of India in Shanghai, yes

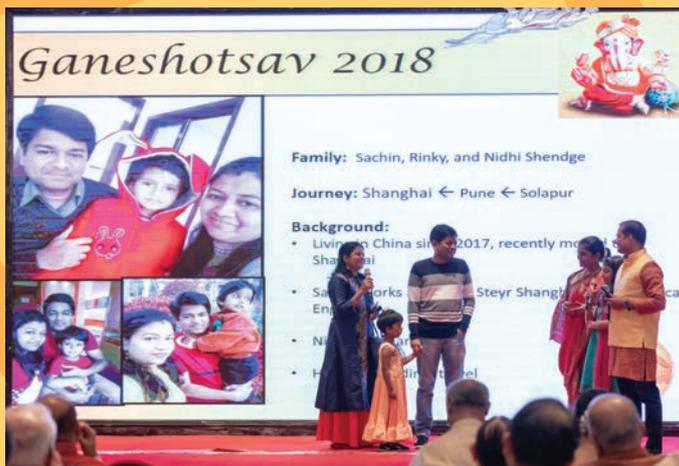


the Consul General, The Consulate of India, right throughout four hour long celebration, along with people from different parts of India including children and senior citizens, reflected the era of New India where seamless connection and affectionate mingling is visible between honorable Government representatives and diverse capacity crowd of 300+ Indian residents in China desiring to take the Spirit of India towards pinnacle of self actualization on foreign land.

The tradition of welcoming the new families is always a very well received part of the event. One can see the joy and happiness on the faces of new families who have been seeing Shanghai and China till recently via prism of apprehension, information vacuum and language problem, were now beaming while getting merged in to Indian community. They found a larger caring Indian family today for sure and must have returned to their homes more secured and assured.

M o m e n t o u s performance of the Ganesh Vandana set the right launch pad for the exciting performances to follow. The famous dance form of Kathak showcasing dances on songs from three different time periods, including dance fusion on Spanish/English song was remarkably impressive.

Rani Laxmibai or Rani of Jhansi's fight with mighty invaders and her heroic story of valour and courage cascading in to glorified icons of the modern times depicting the



"Women Empowerment" was very impactful.

The journey of soulful "Natya Sangeet" Maharashtra's very own vocal art from its humble beginning at Sangli around 180 years and how it withstood the test of time to prove its relevance and worth even today, was very nicely weaved and narrated. The

concept of Natya Sangeet which played vital role in many ways, from elevation of the musical landscape in Maharashtra by Legendary Bal Gandharv, scuttle messages of fight for own rights by Veer Savarkar, social messages of Acharya Atre made immortal by singer Bakul Pandit until

recent upsurge and revival through Katyar Kalajat Ghuslee (कट्यार काळजात घुसली) and the same was performed gracefully by the artists.

Ravindranath Tagore's creation "Chitrangada" a famous dance drama based on the life of warrior Princes, who made Arjuna the great, to accept her on her own terms. Message of equality in relation with companion, lyrical display of emotions in a women, her dignity, her respect, individuality and worthiness stood out even today as key message was c o n v e y e d remarkably well by the team.

After powerful social messages it was time to shift the gears and young Indian kids sparkled to showcase the buoyancy and exuberance of Bollywood. The inclusive

characteristics of Indian culture is also visible in Bollywood as kids assimilated dance forms of Indian, Jazz and Belly brilliantly. This was a very high decibel show indeed.

Pinga dance, the next performance, taken from Bollywood film Bajirao Mastani was also very well performed.

Kathputlee dance the famous puppet dance show from Rajasthan done by small kids got great applause, the theme encouraging people to do meaningful things as life will go some day but its love story will remain forever.

Even smaller kids, some of them might be performing for the first time stole the show as they told the tale of tails of animals very importance its own individuality and utilize the diversity.

Two back to back skits also received rapt attention of the audience. The importance of protecting environment with clear message that judicious use of natural resources by stopping blind exploitation is key to survival of mankind on planet earth was very well acted. The story of true love which tragically culminated in river Chenab in the timeless Sohni Mahiwal also performed very elegantly.

The colour, courage and tradition of Rajasthan is crafted in tribal folk dance named Ghoomar, it was wonderful to witness as it gave the opportunity to see the



diversity with colourful costumes and dance style. Remarkably well performed by the group and highly appreciated by the audience. The fusion between Kuchipudi and Chinese dance was also very graceful and spectacular. The old spirit of co-existence of India and China came alive while watching the performance.

Jogwa, the custom performed in the devotion of Goddess Renuka (Yellama) in Maharashtra to win over evil and blind faiths depicts reformatory religious practice done by women in majority. The folk dance done by artists was power-packed, very thoughtfully choreographed and scintillatingly executed with impacting costumes and energetic panache.

The final performance was Mauli Pandharpur wari, the most important annual pilgrimage of Maharashtra culminating with thousand of devotees in Pandharpur. The divine devotion with traditional saffron headgear, dancing with traditional instruments during Kirtan done magnificently by the group which was befitting for the final impact.

The audience was thrilled and felt devotionally delighted, the instantaneous cheering by many with high decibel slogans like "Ganpati Bappa Morya" and "Mangalmurti Morya" during the performances were well and truly

epitomized the appreciation by them for artists and their involvement. Kudos yet again to anchors, all the core team members of Shanghai for selfless contribution and all volunteers for their well coordinated efforts. It was divine pleasure to say, one more time, loudly and clearly,
Ganpati Bappa Morya@Shanghai !!!

Best Regards
Ashish Gore

CORRECTION: The article was incorrectly credited to another author in the earlier version of this magazine. This has been corrected in the online version and in future prints of the magazine.



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International Women's Day Event



International Women's Day Event was successfully organized on 11th March 2018 at Pullman Shanghai by Parenting Group . Nidhi Sharma, Founder – Parenting Group opened the event by a welcome note. She also highlighted the purpose of the event which was to “Celebrate Womanhood and Rising Power Of Women”. Attendees of the event included great speakers, accomplished panelists, inspiring & aspiring women & amazing men belonging to 15 different nationalities. The event was well-planned to integrate the intellectual sharing by Speakers & Panelists with the idea behind the event.

Highlights of The Event:

First Speaker was Mr. Jeffrey WL Tan Coach, Author and Speaker shared the secret formula of successful leaders, both female and male , which is knowing who you are ,why you behave the way you do, and understanding your purpose in life. Ms. Donna Huang HR Director, Asia Region , Westinghouse Electric Company talked about Women's career Development . Her Speech was mainly to encourage women to take the technical or engineering background as career.

Third Speech was on Urinary Track Infection given by Dr. Quan Fang MD PhD, Chief Surgeon. Currently Dr. Quan is practicing in Shanghai East International Medical Centre.



From left : T Bird Luv, Paula Mueller, Olga Yanovskaya, Nicki Leaper, Sylvia Sun , Donna Huang, Margarita Lukavenko & Nidhi Sharma(Organiser)

Panel Discussion:

The Insightful Speeches were followed by a Panel Discussion on the topic ‘Rising Power Of Women’. The panelists included few powerful ,empowering and successful women from diverse fields . Margarita Lukavenko co- founder of The M&Y Group was the moderator of the Panel Discussion. Panelists included Nicki Leaper, London born, Shanghai based Leadership & Personal Development Coach. Olga Yanovskaya, co-founder of Her Century, an international mentoring network. Paula Mueller National Member Relations Manager,European Union Chamber of Commerce in China . Tbird Luv -Transformative Artist founder of Transformative Arts Lifestyle . Ms. Sylvia Sun working for more than 20 years’ in Contract and Commercial area in Westinghouse Electric Company & Ms. Donna Huang , HR Director in Westinghouse.

Insights

The panelists gave useful tips and empowering stories. Their values and views would live on and continue spreading ,empowering more and more women and men around us.

Some of the sharings are summarised below :

- Sit at the table, participate in the discussions, speak your opinion and ask questions. Take the initiative and leadership roles more often so in a few years time you till reach much further than you otherwise would.
- Use your unique strengths - empathy, ability to listen, or whatever else it is - share it with others by speaking up.
- ‘Be more confident, speak up and share more, take initiative’.

· In 5 years time we hope that there will be more equality in the representation of women in the society and what we will focus on topics that empower both men and women equally. To get there, however, we need to make the right steps now. We need to empower women to rise higher in their self-esteem, leadership and initiative, while at the same time having the support of men in the society. Before you sleep - put your arms around yourself and say "I love you!" - Tbird.

· Before you sleep - put your arms around yourself and say "I love you!" - Tbird.

· Whenever you do anything well, pat yourself on the shoulder to give yourself credits and remind yourself how awesome you are! – Paula

· Everybody needs a mentor or a few mentors! How do identify who can be your mentor? That's when 'the power of a cup of coffee' comes in: simply invite the person you are inspired by / interested in what they do for a coffee and share your thoughts with them. If your energies click, and you can see that you can learn more from this person, get them as a mentor – Olga

Team Games & Lucky Draw

The event took interesting turn with Team Games to provide camaraderie amongst attendees. It brought lots of excitement & laughter in the room. Same spirit was followed in the Lucky Draw Prizes with long list of prizes & attendees enthusiasm reached at the highest.

Lucky Draw Winners

The Event wouldn't be felt completed without the resonating performance by T. Bird Luv on Flute . Everyone was completely imersed in love for music and proceeded for snacks and networking with refreshing minds.

Parenting Group would like to thank my co-organisers,speakers, panelists & volunteers in making a memorable experience for all of us.

Sponsors

The event was supported by Westinghouse Electric Company , St. Michael Hospital, Shanghai East International Medical Centre , Columbia Clinic, FIELDS, gre3n,Sticky Steps, Dragonfly, KUNEKUNE, REV,NAH Studio, Chaiti Arts Foundation, Un Caffe Bar, Bombay Bistro, Her Century & T Bird Luv.



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THE ROLE OF CHINESE INVESTORS IN INDIA

Overview and Economic Opportunities in India

China's economic progress has created capital available for reinvestment. As China's growth slows there are fewer high return domestic-investment opportunities, and investors should turn their attention to other markets for new opportunities. According to CB Insights, in 2013-2015 Chinese made 188 investments in US tech startups. However, with regulations increasing in the US, investing in that market is increasingly difficult, and with more and more tech developing in other markets around the world investors should focus elsewhere. A major emerging market to pay attention today is India. In recent years India has been one of the world's fastest economies, averaging over 7% a year. India has also proven to be conducive to entrepreneurship with start-up companies thriving in India. After the U.S. and China, India has the largest number of unicorn companies. This economic growth and rapid development of startups creates a huge opportunity for foreign investors. The investment being poured into India has been rapidly growing over the last few years. The deals in India initially were mostly of smaller scale, but recently larger investors like Tencent and Alibaba have been getting involved with significant outlays of capital. The majority of the money being poured into Indian companies is in the earlier stages or later stages, leaving some companies in between with a cash crunch. One common fear of the Indian market is that there are too few exits for investors, but the purchase of India's Flipcart by Walmart provided further validation of Indian start-ups. India similar to China in terms of terms of size and population, and it is experiencing rapid growth that is similar to China's with about a ten-year lag.

One significant difference between China and India, is the demographic breakdown of the population. India Demographic movements in India have project India to be the world's youngest country by 2020 with 64% of the population in the working age range with the median age being 28 (<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/india-population/>). This gives Indian companies several advantages. For one, India has a large cheap and expanding domestic labor supply. Additionally, as

India becomes more developed, wages and purchasing power increase, and discretionary incoming India's consumer marketing will expand rapidly. Finally, the innovative tech companies that are so frequently immersing have potential for a long future of growth. Tech and internet based companies are already thriving in India, and although India has the second largest internet market after China with 460 million users, as a percentage of the whole population it is still relatively small, and is projected to grow quickly to about 635.8 million users by 2021 in India. As India becomes more urbanized, and the government keeps pushing internet penetration to the non-urban population, the opportunities in e-commerce and internet based companies will only increase.

Opportunity in Fintech

Emerging Fintech could be a key driver of India's economic future. India currently has a very informal economy with mainly driven by cash. According to Indian government policy think tank, Niti Aayog, the number of non-cash transactions per-capita in India per year is about 11. Main reasons for this are a lack of awareness, high cost of investing in POS systems, and the desire to keep business informal and off books. The government has been pushing both for a formalized economy and an electronic payment infrastructure, and since the government's push, awareness has been increasing since 2016. A survey of over 1,500 business by AlphaWise, Morgan Stanley, revealed that the top reason for the preference of cash use was habit and ease of use. As stated earlier, India will soon have the youngest working population, and younger people who are less attached to older ways of doing business will be increasingly making business decisions in India. The UN estimates that by 2027, millennials will make up 680 million people in India's work force, about 70% of the total population. Younger people more open to change, a Fintech's primary barrier to convert more to new POS systems is proving it can provide added value of convenience; moreover, India's Fintech companies have government support in converting customers. The Indian government has developed an infrastructure for digital payments to thrive, called the

JAM initiative. The JAM initiative combines the Indian governments initiatives over the last decade: Jan Dhan, an initiative to allow every Indian citizen to have access to a bank account; Aadhaar, a biometric database and social identity system for Indian citizens; and mobile penetration, which the Indian government pushed by modifying tariff laws and reducing data charges, strong mobile penetration today. Many APIs have been developed to utilize this infrastructure such as e-KYC (allowing electronic KYC to make customer acquisition quick and low cost); UPI (allowing mobile real-time mobile payments between individuals and businesses); the Bharat QR code (an interoperable QR code system with all the key payment gateways and banks on board); the Bharat Bill Pay System (moving all of India's bill payments to one platform); and the Aadhaar Enabled Pay System (which enables people to carry out transactions using an Aadhaar Card and fingerprints for biometric authentication). In addition to the government laying infrastructure foundation, the government is doing the following to incentive cashless payments—reducing circulation of cash in India, stricture tax laws and GST Network (GSTN) which maintains data on tax paid by the entire value chain, which will reduce incentives for tax fraud, thereby reducing incentives for the informal cashless economy; and Lower Merchant Discount Rates (MDR), because MDR rates have traditionally incentivized cash use, being relatively high compared to the low margins of Indian companies. With the innovation thriving and the government pushing adoption, the digital economy is in a position to take off in a big way in India. Research by Morgan Stanley expects the value of digital transactions to increase over 10 years by 12x in their base case and 18x in their bull case (24, 2017). Bill Gates after visiting India this year said he believed the technological growth in India can leapfrog the countries development (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/technology-can-help-india-leapfrog-into-inclusive-growth-bill-gates/articleshow/64025904.cms>).

Emerging Fintech companies have an opportunity to capitalize on India's late adoption because most companies are not yet heavily invested in older established POS system. Whereas some other countries are slower to adopt new technology, such as mobile POS systems, adoption in India should be

realized more quickly. New Fintech companies have a huge opportunity to capitalize on the market need and become a part of India's digital economy that will soon be a foundation of the financial sector.

Major Risks Investing in India

While the future for India shows vast opportunity, investing in emerging markets is always high risk, and India's market is not an exception. The Indian market is very volatile especially in the short term, the following are some of the potential problems that would stunt India's economic growth. Despite the similarities that India's current development has with China's recent history, there are some fundamental difference between the structure of India and China's economy. The fractured government structure could hinder infrastructure development. Though India's government has made effective steps in moving towards its goals such as digitization and attractive investment in startups, instability or shifts away from

these policies digitization would present risks to the growth of the digital sector.

However, for now the Indian government seems to be set on making these goals materialize for the foreseeable future. In additionally the government's plan for digitalization of India's economy depends on smooth transition to GST, the Indian tax reform government. The initial rollout has started out well but it is still in progress. It could cause a disruption in the short run that would impact smaller business and cause job losses and a slowdown of the economy. However, this is a mostly a short

term concern, and the results from the GST in the long run should provide a foundation for India to prosper further in the future.

On a macro level a global crisis such as the 2008 recession would undoubtedly result in a huge blow to India's growth, as it would to any emerging economy, and would deeply impact any predictions for India's future. Another macro risk that could influence predictions for economic growth is that India cannot execute infrastructure development effective or quick enough to keep up with the demographics to provide sufficient healthcare, education, Additionally, India is de-industrializing at a lower per-capita income than emerging economies historically have. and jobs. India is a unique economy because unlike the normal pattern of developing economies, India's development was driven more by service sector than manufacturing. India's often discussed macro risks: India's demographic dividend could become a problem if the country is unable to execute on infrastructure, generate enough jobs, and educate the



people and keep them healthy. For this reason For this reason, there is an unpredictable aspect to India's future, and it is important for India to continue to attract FDI in projects that will aid infrastructure development. Additionally, successful start-up companies should look to expand their reach outside of India to partially insulate from India's short term market disruptions. This is where Chinese investors have an opportunity to work with Indian companies to guide them to the proper channels for expansion offshore.

Chinese Investors Role

Currently brands cater mainly to the top 50 million families in India, but iSPIRIT think software think tank co-founder Sharad Sharma believes that the country is on the cusp of another 100 million families joining this market segment. This puts these startup companies in a position for major growth potential. A key factor determining which companies will be successful long term is the speed at which these companies can scale to meet not only the demand of India's rapid growing market, but with the ability to move outside India and operate on a global scale. Many Chinese companies have just experienced this kind of growth with China experiencing the rapid growth of China's middle class and purchasing parity while also growing through a rapid globalization period. Investors are familiar with the challenges of scaling quickly have an opportunity to guide these new newer startups in scaling. Angel Investors and Venture Capital have the ability to provide and guide new capital into the right channels for growth, especially for growing globally. Rishi Kapal from VCCircle asserts that, "in the absence of structured guidance, they [Indian Startups] constantly require considerable reworking and modification in order to keep up with the advancements in international technology products," and insists that is important for investors to provide this support (2017). Further he believes that Indian companies inability to scale globally is a factor that is keeping some investors away, when in fact, many of these startups may be vastly undervalued if their global potential can be realized.

The Indian Start Up Journal asserts "Indian startups aren't welcoming Chinese investors only because they have deep pockets. It's also because they bring knowledge and expertise that helps young startups save time and effort in building something from scratch." Chinese investors working with Indian companies is a huge opportunity to unlock the growth potential of young start-up companies. Not many investors can understand India's economic shifts as Chinese investors, who just experienced very similar growth in scale and manner; moreover, Chinese investors are able to see and appreciate the growth potential of these younger companies in a rapidly growing economy. Inexperience and lack of guidance is a problem for many startups with

potential, in addition to attracting the right team and affiliates. This is where Chinese investors can provide value. Some investors are reluctant to invest in Indian companies, given the volatility of the market and cash flow struggles and difficulties startups have generating revenues in early stages of development. However, investors willing to do due diligence and find companies with potential and guide this companies in the investment and R&D stages to the right channels of production and distribution have potential to reap great returns. With India's GDP growth projected to stay above 7% and be the world's fastest growing economy, the potential for returns on investment is great. With investment opportunities in China slowing down, and investments in the US market become more difficult with new tariffs and regulations, Investors ought to turn their focus to India, where the climate for entrepreneurship is thriving, with companies with growth opportunity rapidly appearing, where the government is seeking to attract FDI and companies are seeking investors that can aid their development and scalability. The government is working hard to bring the bring India into the digital age, and the infrastructure the government is developing combined with India's growth is providing huge opportunities in digital sectors such as fin-tech and e-commerce, already being the fifth largest e-commerce economy, and the government looking to make India's digital economy worth \$1 trillion over the next few years, and with the projections on India's economy such as from Morgan Stanley Research, the goals are not unrealistic. As the Indian economy continues to progress and start-ups continue to flourish, India will only attract more investors which will provide exits for the earlier investors; Walmart's recent purchase of Flipcart is a strong validation for this prediction of the future.

"The Next India India's Digital Leap - The MultiTrillion Dollar Opportunity," (2017, Sept. 26) Morgan Stanley – Research Blueprint

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SHAOXING INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Shaoxing International School (SIS) aims to create lifelong learners through equal emphasis on academics, co-curricular, personality development, social awareness and life skills! SIS initiates challenges to incorporate a global thought process to appreciate the differences in culture resulting into International Mindedness, International Cultural understanding, responsibility and respect.

We value the relationships and partnerships within our community. We encourage our students to be respectful of their peers, staff, and community members. Our goal is to educate our students further about our community and build meaningful relationships that provide learning experiences.

The school started its journey in year 2010 with a small step and it has marked its presence on the global map within a decade. It started under the visionary leadership of Mr. Guo Tong Chen, Chairman, when he thought of providing world class International education to the local as well as the expatriate community staying in China.

Mr. Neil Chen – Vice Chairman

Ms. Stacy Chen – Principal of SIS

Other Board of Directors, all from Indian origin, who contributed a lot in building up the school and helped the school reach greater heights, are:

Mr. Hemant Dia – Board of Director

Mr. Rajesh Sehgal – Board of Director

Mr. Sanjay Sukhnani – Board of Director

Shaoxing International School is affiliated to the Cambridge University, UK. We are a K-10 school at the moment and plan to make it a K-12 school in the coming years. Currently we are offering Pre-Primary, Cambridge Primary, Secondary 1 and IGCSE Programs to our students.

Currently the school is headed by the **Academic Principal, Mr. Ashish Bhatnagar** who is a renowned academician with a vast experience of teaching and leadership roles with several Cambridge schools across Saudi Arabia, Africa, India and now China. He has won several awards and is a regular writer for many National and international educational magazines and journals.

For any administrative/admission related queries, Ms. Lulu (Executive Principal) can be contacted on

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***We at SIS,
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an environment
in which all
students are
challenged and
have the ability
to participate in
extra-curricular
activities.***



SHAMBHAVI

Student Business Management,
Shanghai Jiaotong University



LEST WE FORGET

There was a time some years back when the word freedom had suddenly come into the news for wrong reasons, suddenly freedom meant a lot of things but what it truly held its name for. Generations before freedom simply meant Swaraj.

A tale of a country then called the golden bird or the 'sone ki chidiya' becoming a country of rags also includes a very important saga of a man who got lost somehow in the murmurs of conspiracies.

The springing tiger Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Fauj. Netaji as he was fondly called was a man who inspired stalwarts like Nelson Mandela and at the same time even had leaders such Churchill worried because of the pace with which he was rising in the eyes of the Indian crowds. This 21st October 2018 marked the 75th year anniversary of the Indian

National Army or the Azad Hind Fauj. A day in history that will echo with the martyrdom of thousands on whose sacrifices our country's threads were woven together.

Not a lot of people know that it was Netaji who brought "Look East" ideology to play. A lot of focus was brought towards the Asian continent through the efforts and contributions of the INA. While India struggled herself to break free from the shackles of the British Raj it was NETAJI who made allies along the global borders, across Japan, Singapore, China to build an army so strong that even in 10 Downing Street that time in the heart of Churchill the worry of a man named Bose lingered.

Infosys chief mentor Narayan Murthy had once even mentioned how India would have seized its opportunities better and faster than China and climbed to the second spot on the World Economic ladder by now had Netaji played a role in building the nation, Netaji was someone who was known to have dared to disagree with a lot of influential and powerful people in British India. His bold opinions and upright behavior along with views that were strikingly modern and practical were what made him one of the most powerful and popular leaders of India who is still revered in our hearts. It fills my heart with immense pride when I call myself the granddaughter of someone who had himself been part of not just the freedom struggle but also the Azad Hind Fauj.

My grandfather was an a theist who only workshopped his motherland like a deity, even though he hailed from a family of highly religiously devout men, he chose education over everything else. But when the oppressors became

a Menander in a nation he called his own, my grandfather took reigns in his hands and changed the path of his life to a more challenging one. From a lot of letters and documents that were preserved over the years, our family found out about his time that was spent in the Singapore Jail as a POW or Prisoner of War. With 5 kids back home, the future only meant to help build a nation where the air his kids breath was not of subjugation and deceit but of true Indian ethics, values. This is just my story of how Netaji has a mark in our family's life. My nanaji becoming the Netaji of the family. However there are thousands of people in modern India whose lives too were influenced and touched by Netajis contributions.

On 21st October our Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned during a scintillating speech how even after Freedom, India was viewed through English lens. While he hoisted the tricolour on the Red Fort a lot of emotions stirred across the nation. Emotions that give us a sense of belonging, especially for those living outside of the country. It also instilled in us those same values of patriotism that probably had what ultimately led to the Indian freedom struggle having a victorious end.

Perhaps these are also those moments that makes one wonder how much do leaders change the very momentum of the growth of a country.

A quote from the Chanakya neeti fits apt in the saga of Netaji.

शरीरस्य गुणानां च दूरमत्यन्तमन्तरम् ।
शरीरं क्षणिवध्वंसि कल्पान्तस्थायिनो गुणाः ॥

There is considerable metaphoric distance between the body and good qualities. The body can be over any minute but the good qualities stay for many many ages and hence people are remembered for their qualities even after death and not for their materialistic features. Netaji will always be remembered for the values and qualities he held supreme no matter where he is in the universal sense today.



Wishing you
a very Happy Diwali
SHANGHAI!



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हिंदी फ़िल्मों का चीन में प्रभाव और प्रचार



वो कहते हैं, जहाँ ना पहुँचे रवि वहाँ पहुँचे कवि। और शायद आजकल चीन में जहाँ ना पहुँचे कवि वहाँ पहुँचे हिंदी चलचित्र। दो देशों के बीच का सम्बंध आखिर होता क्या है? क्या वो सम्बंध सिर्फ़ समान के व्यापार, राजनीति या कूटनीति के कागज़ों के आदान प्रदान पर निर्भर होता है या उनसे बनता है?

मुझे लगता है बात इससे कई गहरी और इससे कई ऊँची है। यह सम्बंध बनते हैं उन हज़ारों सालों की स्मृतियों से जो दोनों देशों के लोगों में पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी अपने पुरखों की यादों के सहारे संजोकर रखी होती है वरना ऐसा क्यों होता है जब भी हमारे दो देशों के बड़े नेता मिलते हैं तो अनिवारतः प्वेन जाँग, बुद्ध और कंप्यूशियस की बात ज़रूर करते हैं? इसीलिए कहते हैं क्योंकि मधुर स्मृतियों के जागरण से वर्तमान की कटुताये भी धुल जाती हैं और नए मधुरता के सोपान बनने लगते हैं। चीन में हिंदी फ़िल्मे हमारे वर्तमान और भविष्य के लिए मधुरता की स्मृतियाँ और दोस्ती का परचम लहरा रही है।



हाल ही में चीन के फ़िल्म समीक्षक चेन हाओ युआं और यांग याओंग जीयों ने चाइशीन ग्लोबल में लिखा की वांग यिफु आज अड़सठ साल के आमिज हैं और उन्होंने अपने जीवन की पहली फ़िल्म १९८९ में आवारा देखी थी। उनके ज़हन में आज भी आवारा के गाने गूँजते हैं। तसिंघुआ विश्वविद्यालय के छात्र शियाओ ओयु का उसी लेख में कहना है की भारतीय फ़िल्में उन्हें इसीलिए अच्छी लगती हैं क्योंकि वह देख उनके माता पिता अपनी पीढ़ी के गीत याद कर पाते हैं।

गीतों की तो भाषा होती है, पर संगीत सार्वभौमिक है। दुनिया के हर देश में हर भाषा का नागरिक अच्छे संगीत को समझता व गुनगुनाता है। आज अगर चीन में लोग बजरंगी भाजन ने कैसे एक छोटी लड़की को बचाया या दंगल में पिता के सपने को कैसे उनकी दो बेटियों ने पूरा किया जानते हैं तो यह सिर्फ़ ३ घंटे की फ़िल्मों का मनोरंजन या चाँदनी चौक में नूडलेस के स्वाद का अस्थायी नज़ारा नहीं है। यह दोस्तों बल्कि दो देशों और दो समाजों जबकि मैं कहूँगी दो सभ्यताओं के बीच दिल से दिल की बात के सहारे सम्बंधी के जुड़ाव और रिश्तों के उठान का एक ऐसा मंज़र दिखाता है जो मोदी शि जिंगपिंग की वुहान सम्मित से कम महत्वपूर्ण नहीं।

भारत दुनिया के सबसे बड़े फ़िल्म निर्माताओं में से एक है। एक साल में दो हज़ार फ़िल्में। वहीं चीन में भारत की तुलना में दुगुनी यानी इक्तालिस हज़ार सिनेमा हॉल हैं।

इसीलिए चीन भारतीय फ़िल्म निर्माताओं के लिए एक नया और बड़ा बाज़ार बन रहा है और हॉलीवुड की फ़िल्मी को हाँफ़ हाँफ़ कर दौड़ा रहा है। कोई वजह नहीं है की आमिर ख़ान की दंगल ने हॉलीवुड के सूपर हिट स्टार वॉर्ज़ को भी पीछे कर चीन में सतरह दिन के प्रदर्शन में ९० मिल्यन डॉलर कमाए। भरतिया फ़िल्मी में चीनी दर्शक अपने परिवार, रिश्तों के उतार चढ़ाव, गीत संगीत का एक ऐसा संसार देखते हैं जो भारतीय फ़िल्मों के सिवाय शायद ही कहीं मिले। इसमें तर्क मत देखिए। यह मनुष्य जीवन के भीतर की इच्छाओं, आकांक्षाओं को परदे पर उतारने की वह ऐम्बुश भरतिया फ़िल्मी कला है जो उदास, नीरस, हिंसा भरे जीवन में मस्ती का इंद्रधनुष उगा देती है।

यह फ़िल्में सिर्फ़ परदे की कहानी नहीं है, हिमालय के पार २ देशों के बीच दोस्ती की झप्पी और सुहाने सफ़र का एक ऐसा अन्दाज़ है जिसके आधार पर बड़ी से बड़ी आर्थिक और कूटनीति सफलताएँ हासिल की जा सकती हैं।

इस कविता को पढ़ शायद आप कुछ और समझे इस विचार को :

ईरान मिस्र रोम चीं अरब हमारा,
यह हिंदू की हैं फ़िल्में सारे जहाँ का तारा
भाषा नहीं ज़रूरी परिचय नहीं ज़रूरी
गर दिल में हो महोब्बत हिंदी दिलों में उतरी
जादू को सर पे छाया दुनिया में जिसका परचम
बाम्बे की हिंदी फ़िल्में कहते हैं उसको जानम।

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LIFE OF A NOMAD



When I moved to Shanghai 2 year ago, the vibrant culture, vast dynamics influenced me to backpack and explore the beautiful extremities around the World. Be it in Asia or Europe, the 24 countries I traveled has driven the explorer and adventure within me. This experience always motivates me to experience the rest at its best.

Traveling Bucolic lands, meeting so many different people and experiencing different cultures, made me spellbound to share my experiences and memories with the rest of the world and motivate them to travel

more. And so I decided to start my own travel blog. Through this travel Blog, I share useful travel tips, guides, amazing photography, personal experiences, and crazy adventures with people from my perpetual travels around the world, hoping to inspire other people and help them plan their next destination within Budget.

All the content in the Blog is my personal first-hand experience which I share. I want to show people how to travel the world, to seek experiences over possessions, and open your mind to new

possibilities, so one can travel “Your world, Your Way”, better and cheaper. Why Travel hasten? I have seen that balancing both the time and budget is of utmost importance whilst planning a trip, I came across the similar challenges and in order to overcome them, I did months of research to plan my travel, and really that hard work paid off and I was able to manage my trips within Budget and time. I decided to share my experiences and guide with people which could help other travelers overcome this barrier with ease. The word hasten is used for my blog, in accordance with the fact, to travel a place faster, better and cheaper.

What isolates this site from other travel websites? Unlike other travel sites, people won't discover supported substance or paid outings here. Each place, restaurant, or attractions have been personally visited by me. I sleep in dorms and budget hotels, sit tight hours for transports, attempt those street side stalls and enjoy unique walking tours. I do it simply like one would – in light of the fact that, similar to others, I'm a genuine voyager hoping to see the world and help other people do likewise. Hopefully, I can inspire people to embark on their own travel adventures and plan your next travel trip!

Having got an opportunity to go for an exchange semester to Spain, made it a lifetime memory. Having the Schengen Visa, I used this opportunity to explore more than 12 countries in 45 days. The trip began from Spain visiting Barcelona, San Sebastian, Bilbao, Valencia, Granada, Seville and the taking the bus ride to Lisbon, Portugal stayed in the hostel there for 3 days made new friends and explored the city completely. Then took a flight to Geneva, stayed there 2 days in a hostel and then took the panoramic train to go up north of Switzerland covering Interlaken, Luzern, Zurich and various other Mountains in between. Hosted by Couch surfers making it a memorable time. Then took a bus to Paris stayed with friends there for 4 days, and then a bus to Brussel, stayed for 2



days then bus to Amsterdam stayed in hostel there for 5 days, then bus to Berlin and met friends there and stayed for 3 days, then to Krakow (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic), Vienna (Austria), Budapest (Hungary), Italy (Venice, Florence, Rome), and many other countries. This trip not only helped me made new friends all around Europe but gave me knowledge and experience about different cultures and life at different places.

Other countries I have travelled are England, Ireland, Philippines, UAE, Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan.

All the places were traveled by buses to be flexible, save time and money. As a budget traveler, I slept at the hostel, did couch surfing, slept at a friends place, ate at supermarkets yet experienced the cities like a local nomad. My detailed trip to

Switzerland: Switzerland is one of the most expensive European countries to visit and is often skipped by travelers on a budget. But it's a place which is worth exploring and considered as one of the most beautiful places on earth. It has everything to give you from Picturisitc mountains, lakes, tiny walled medieval towns, endless Greenfields no matter which season you visit. since I'm a budget traveler, this guide to Switzerland will help you travel the country on a budget exploring it at the best possible and adventurous way.

Interesting facts to know about Switzerland:

1. The cheek kissing in Switzerland is basically 3 times, starting from left cheek, followed by a right and finally left again, While in most of the other European countries it's basically 2 times.
2. Don't be surprised if you find a lot of Chinese tourists, Switzerland is one of the most visited destinations for Chinese.

Visa Requirements: Switzerland is a part of Schengen countries but not a member of the European Union. It's quite confusing for people whether they require a visa or not. So, let make it clear if you have a Schengen country passport or the Schengen visa you

don't require a separate visa for Switzerland. But for other countries in specific, especially most of the Asian and African countries require a separate visa to travel to Switzerland. You can check the Swiss travel website for your countries visa requirement in specific.

Currency:

Switzerland, the currency used is CHF (Swiss Franc). Euro is also accepted at some

places, but it's much better to have CHF. 1 CHF= 0.92 Euro, 1 CHF= 1.01 USD. This is the current rate but it may vary, so check accordingly.

Best time to Visit: There is nothing such as the best time for Switzerland, it has everything to offer for all different season depending on what you looking for. Although, the best time to visit Switzerland for sightseeing and to experience the scenic beauty and varying colors is the summer season (June to Mid October) as the mountain passes are open and you can see the most picturesque views at this time of the year.

Number of Days:

Depending on what you are looking for the number of days can vary accordingly. But ideally, 6 to 8 days are good to have an amazing experience in this beautiful country.

a. Accommodations:

Hostel Dorms cost from 25CHF to 40 CHF on average depending on place and location while private rooms start around 70 CHF. Hotels are quite expensive, the averaging low budget hotel would cost around 85 CHF to 150 CHF. A good alternative to the hotel can be Airbnb, where you can find private rooms at someone's house ranging from 50 CHF to 100 CHF. Major hostel



booking sites used are ostelworld.com, hostels.com, and Booking.com.

Money saving tips:

As even the hostel's dorms are around 40 CHF, you need to lower down your budget, and couch surfing is the perfect way to do it. It's a service that lets travelers stay with locals for free. As a c c o m m o d a t i o n includes the major portion of your budget, this will allow you to

you cut down your travel cost by a lot. Since a lot of travelers use this service, make your requests for hosts early. You may have to send a lot of hosting requests before being accepted by one. I sent around 40 hosting requests in Zurich before I found someone to stay with! <https://www.couchsurfing.com/>.

b. Food:

Eating out is pricey in Switzerland, (as an easy comparison McDonalds 15 CHF for a meal, Starbucks 10 CHF). Breakfast and Dinner are quite expensive, so if you want to dine out go for brunch or lunch. Bars and cafés are the cheapest food option, cost about 9-15 CHF for a lunch special. If you're dining out for all your meals but with the budget, you'll spend an average of 45 CHF a day on food. From there, the sky is the limit! Indian Restaurants are quite expensive as well, a meal will cost around 35 CHF.



Money saving tips:

As meat is quite expensive in Switzerland, it's better to go veggie and avoid buying beef especially beef. Also, as I had mentioned earlier that eating out can be quite expensive, lunch would be the best way to eat out as it is less expensive as

compared to other meals. The lunch would cost around 10-20 CHF. Stick to the ethnic restaurants like Chinese, Middle Eastern, Thai and Vietnamese for the best deals and biggest portions.

Supermarkets:

The supermarkets are great value for money. Switzerland supermarkets like Migros, COOP, and Spar are the most famous and offers a wide range of products at low costs. You can find Pizzas, Pasta and a lot of other readymade stuff for 4 To 8 CHF. You can also buy your own groceries (bread, pasta, rice, eggs, vegetables, cheese,) for very low prices. As most people may not like cooking during their traveling it's better to buy the readymade stuff from the supermarkets.

Money saving tips:

If you going to stay in swiss for more than 4 days, it's better to buy swiss travel pass, which is around 200 CHF for 4 days, but it gives you access to all rails, trams, cruise, and the Panoramic and sightseeing trains, which if you buy individually would cost much more. In Swiss, you

don't need to book tickets in advance, with the travel pass you can just get into any train, whichever suites your timetable. Also, the train journeys will be memorable for you will get to see the natural splendid beauty of swiss.

Activities:

The museums are around 10 CHF to enter. But with your student ID, you can save upto 3 CHF. You can go hiking in the mountains, as with the travel pass, you can go by free. Paragliding would cost about 150 CHF. Ski and snowboard lift tickets can cost anywhere from 30-70 CHF per day (depending on the mountain), For most of the cruises are free with your travel pass, which otherwise would be around 35 CHF.

My next travel destination are USA and Canada for which I already got 10 years Visa and is planned for the Summer next year.

Hopefully, I can inspire you to embark on your own travel adventures and plan your next travel trip!



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May the year to come be full of light, love and laughter
Best wishes from Team SKY

Avs right on Hongbaoshu Road, near 20th



The journey of Model United Nations throughout 2018 has been a wonder to experience. Spanning from my first conference of SHASMUN (Shanghai American School's MUN) held in SAS Pudong, to SHIMUN (Dulwich College Pudong's MUN) in Dulwich and all the way through my four successful ventures this year, MUN is one of my most favorite after school program, hobbies, and passion.

As a delegate I have realized that MUN first looks like a place and event where you must turn up with truckloads of research papers, formal phrases and attire to speak and wear, but it is way more than just that.

MUN is a platform that when you enter, you make your first step into the realm of understanding politics, growth, world development and problem-solving abilities. It is like one big economics, geography, and history lesson. It explores the concepts of strengthening trade, solving wars, conflicts spanning centuries and more.

It molds the brain into a shape where Math, Science, and English can connect with Global Perspectives and our conduct can enhance because of how much we actually want to resolve the issues on which we debate. It sends us into a state where we feel self-confident and aware of the world we are in, but subsequently sends us into a state of guilt and insecurity of how this world's people are growing so dangerously self-oriented.

This is stimulating the next generation to be problem solvers, compassionate humanitarian workers and a set of minds that will successfully counter world issues.

One of my friends, Gleb Tsikhanovich sums up his MUN experience as, "A platform that provides you with knowledge about the country you are representing and also how countries work together and how they make up the world that we live in. Another thing that is great about MUN is debating and problem solving."

As this quote sums up, MUN makes for a great experience when we enter the real world, and we are able to properly understand and decipher problems around the world and then thrive to improve them, quickly, and efficiently .



The journey of Model United Nations throughout 2018 has been a wonder to experience

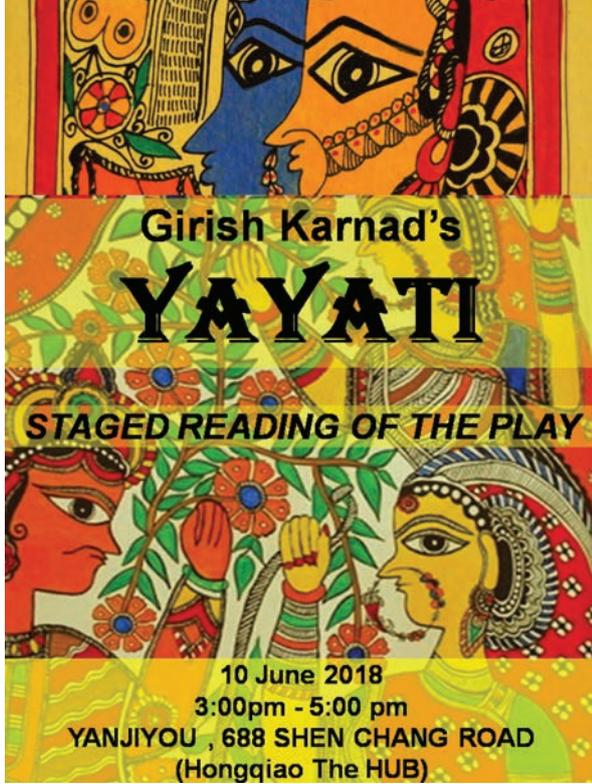


INDIAN ASSOCIATION SHANGHAI
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LIVE IN CONCERT WITH
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ON 17TH NOV 2018
7:30PM AT SHANGHAI MARIOTT HOTEL PARKVIEW

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Shanghai Rangmanch presented the play reading of Yayati on 10 June 2018. The story of Yayati is perhaps one of the most intriguing and fascinating episodes of Mahabharata. Yayati was a great scholar and one of the noblest rulers of olden times. He followed the shastras and was devoted to the welfare of his subjects. Even the King of Gods, Indra, held him in high esteem. Married to seductively beautiful Devyani, in love with her maid Sharmishtha, and father of five sons from two women, yet Yayati unabashedly declares, 'My lust for pleasure is unsatisfied...'. His quest for the carnal continued, sparing not even his youngest son, and exchanging his old age for his son's youth...Girish Karnad's writing of Yayati Play has won Jnanpith and Sahitya Akademi Awards.

Girish Karnad's YAYATI Staged Reading of the play

ययाति महाभारतकालीन महान शासकों में से एक थे । उन्होंने देवयानी से विवाह किया पर प्रेम हुआ देवयानी की सखी और दासी शर्मिष्ठा से । भारतीय महाकाव्यों, नाटकों और उपन्यासों में ययाति की कथा के विविधतापूर्ण वर्णन मिलते हैं । प्रेम, वासना, कामुकता के प्रश्न तो अनेक साहित्यिक रचनाओं में मिलते हैं, पर ययाति की कथा के अनेक पुनर्पाठ आपको प्रेम के उदात्त और कामुक संघर्ष के बीच भारतीय मानस के संघर्ष के गिरह खोलता मिलेगा । भारत की संस्कृत साहित्य परंपरा के इस चरित्र को भारतीय नाट्य की आधुनिक कसौटी पर कसकर गिरीश कर्नाड ने इस चरित्र को विशेष चर्चा प्रदान की । नाट्य विमर्शकारों ने उनकी रचनादृष्टि और पालसृष्टि का लोहा माना है । कथानक चिरंतन प्रेम पर चर्चा करता है, जो गिरीश कर्नाड के समकालीन ही नहीं पूर्ववर्ती और परवर्ती रचनाकारों का प्रिय विषय है । पर नाटक के चुटीले संवाद, संघर्ष, सुगठित कथानक और वातावरण संयोजन ने लंबे समय से इस नाटक को भारत के आधुनिक नाटकों में चर्चित और प्रशंसित किया है । दुनिया के विशिष्ट आधुनिक शहर शंघाई में भारतीय नाटकों का गुलदस्ता सजाने की सफल और सार्थक कोशिश के लिए शंघाई रंगमंच को बधाईयां ।

Prof Naveen Lohani



Characters Played by:
King Yayati – Amit Waikar
Puru – Mukesh Sharma
Devyani- Aparna Waikar
Sharmistha- Nidhi Sharma
Swarnlata- Ritika Singh Kumar
Chitralekha- Madhumita Bhuyan



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FIGURING OUT CHINA: 3 MYTHS THAT GOT BUSTED IN 3 YEARS



I recently completed 3 years of living and working in this country, and I am still learning newer things, as the country itself evolves. Along the way, I've had a few realizations about the differences between "what people told me" about working in China Vs. the reality on the ground. In this article, I try to break down 3 of these misconceptions.

To ensure the arguments are structured, I want to clearly articulate this in terms of:

- **MYTH** - What I heard / read before I came to China
- **REALITY** - My experience of the actual situation on-the-ground
- **WHY** did the MYTH exist? - My attempt to demystify

So, here we go ...



MYTH #1 - "Chinese people are closed to doing business with foreigners = It is hard to do business in China"

REALITY #1

In my experience, Chinese people (as a "people") are as open as anyone else. Yes, there is an initial resistance and the

conversation might not be the most fluent ever, given the language barrier. But by and large, the Chinese are very entrepreneurial and very value-conscious. So, as long as you are able to add value to their business and to their work, they will do business with you - just like in any other country / market / culture.

In fact, if anything, I have found people from certain other cultures (which I do not wish to name here), to be way more closed towards "foreigners" than the Chinese. To put it in perspective with a statistic: China ranks 78th in the world in World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" (while India ranks 100).

To top it all, with the advent of translation apps (thanks to Google/Baidu and others), real-time document translators, and now real-time conversational translation devices to make conversations seamless, living and working in China is getting easier and easier. It is a matter of debate that the process of getting work permits seems to be getting harder, but that is more a regulatory / governmental / economic action. Personally, I haven't found Chinese people to be closed to doing business with outsiders.

Why this myth existed? The Economy is closed doesn't mean the Culture is closed, or that the people are closed to doing business with foreigners!

MYTH #2 - "Chinese Tech companies copy US Tech companies. Baidu is a Copy of Google, and Alibaba is a copy of Amazon!"

REALITY #2

When I came to China in 2015, this seemed to be the dominant theme I heard from China-experts. The reality (at least now) is that China is LEADING innovation globally now. Yes, it might still have traces of being a 'copycat' economy (largely due to loosely enforced IP protection), but that is (by far) not the only perception you get of China if you're living / working here currently. Innovation is everywhere!

As far as Alibaba and Tencent are concerned, there are a lot of innovations that have come in



uniquely from them. While Baidu invests in projects very similar to Google, Alibaba does that and a lot more vis-a-vis Amazon. In fact, to cite 2 simple examples Alibaba goes beyond just "copying" Amazon, these would be:

1. Mobile Payments / Launching Alipay: which has become the de-facto mode of payment across the country, and revolutionized how money is exchanged in the country
2. Spurring Taobao-prenuers and driving rural development: encouraging villagers to turn entrepreneurs, manufacturers and and change fortunes for themselves and their communities. Just google for "Taobao Villages", and you will find lots of articles. In terms of numbers, it is alarming. As of 2016, there were 800+ Taobao Villages (each having annual Ecomm transaction volume of at least 10 Mn RMB (1.6 Mn USD). And there were 200,000+ active online shops from such "Taobao Villages" all across China!

Why this myth existed? This one is kinda obvious. China being a "copycat" was probably true till a decade or so back. But this is changing. And changing FAST!

关系

MYTH #3 - "Relationship" is the most important aspect of doing business in China. No "Guanxi" = No business."

REALITY #3: -

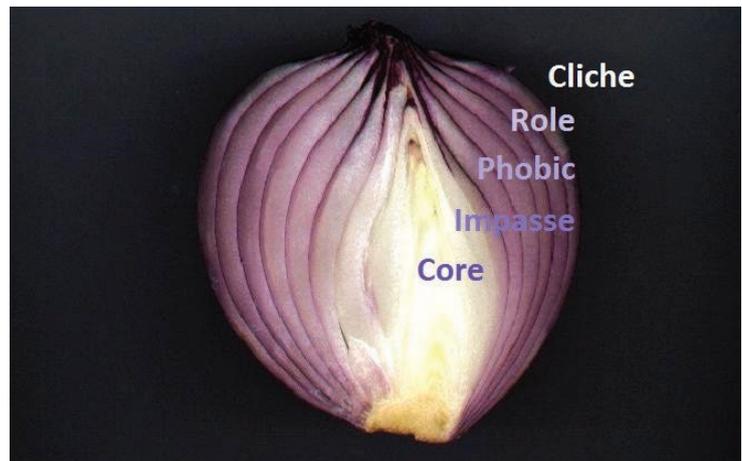
So, this is not a direct blasting, because "Yes", relationships matter in China, just as they matter anywhere else. So, it is a "myth" that relationships (while doing business) matter MORE in China than anywhere else in the world. The reality is that it is the subtlety of managing these relationships that sometimes become key. - and this has more to do with cultural sensitivity of "how" relationships are nurtured rather than the importance of "relationship" to achieve a business outcome.

So, in my humble submission, there are 2 aspects that need to be considered here:

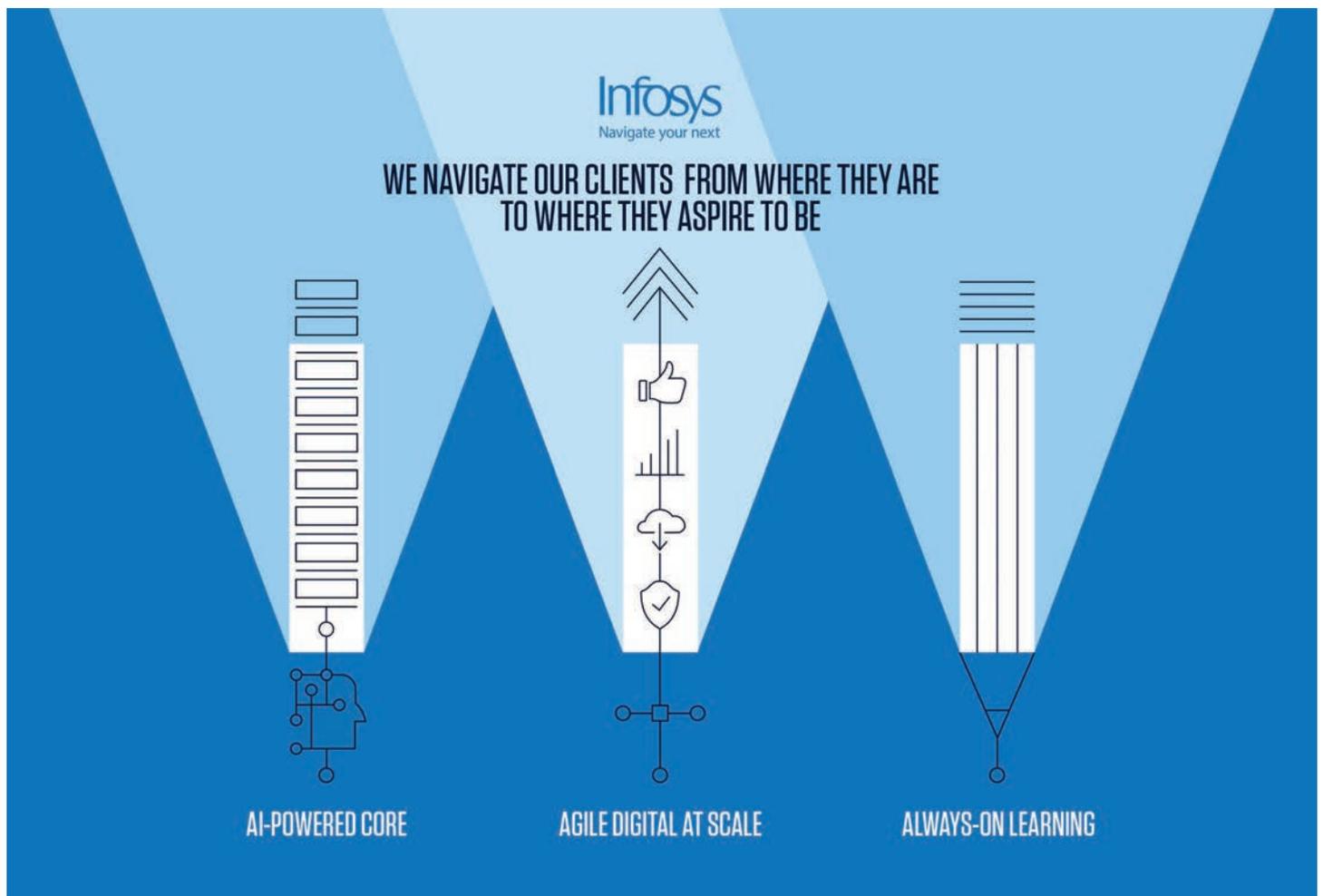
1. The Chinese love "value". So, offering a clear and core value proposition (relevant to your Industry) is important. If one has that, relationships can definitely complement / accelerate.
2. Learning "how" to build relationships in China is a "hard skill". And that comes with experience. For starters, I recommend reading this Business Insider article: [The Most Misunderstood Business Concept In China](#)

Why this myth existed? - Language is a big barrier, and that more than anything else creates a perception that relationship is "MORE important" than anywhere else in the world.

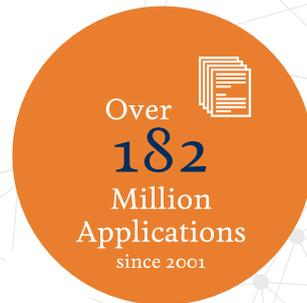
These are some of the learnings I've had. By no stretch of imagination do I claim to all of them to be true or instructive. On the contrary, I sometimes feel figuring out China is like peeling an onion - and I am learning more and more everyday, just like thousands of other foreigners, entrepreneurs, diplomats and travelers who are also on a similar journey. The journey always starts with Cliches ("myths") and then you demystify them as you go deeper and learn!, until you reach the "Core."



Amit Haralalka is China GM at Capillary Tech , a Retail CRM SaaS provider, and is based in Shanghai. He works with CMOs, CIOs and Digital teams of the world's favourite retail brands to drive Customer Engagement, CRM and Loyalty. You can connect with him on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn



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Figures as on 30 September 2018



Vitamin D basic Facts

Vitamin D is unique because it functions as hormone and is also produced in the body. It has crucial role in calcium, Bone mineral density, cellular growth and immunomodulation. Nowadays Vitamin D deficiency its clearly evident with al non communicable disease like hypertension, diabetes, cancer , kidney disease , high cholesterol .

There are natural source of vitamin D : 1. Skin 2. Diet Ultraviolet light Mediated cutaneous biosynthesis can occur in only on direct exposure of the skin to sunlight. but higher content of Melamine and use of obstructive clothing could be interfering with adequate exposure .

When it come to diet for vegetarian- Pulse (Dhal) & and for non vegetarian diet egg , fish , and meal

Generally accepted normal value is 30-60-ng/mL , when level is between 20-30 ng/mL its is consider deficiency of vitamin D What is good life style and what is wrong with life style Good life style include several habits like regular intake of balance diet , drinking adequate water , ensuring safety of food and water , cleaning teeth in the morning and

before bedtime , washing hand before eating or after visiting toilet , avoid alcohol ,smoking , overeating , fried food , fast food , and all kind of junk food , good life style also include regular exercise – avoiding undue mental stress , or managing stress through relaxation techniques adopting the light posture while working , sitting , travelling or using computer and even the practice of good waste disposal habit all are good habit life style . thus become obvious that absence of good life style practices lead to weight gain or obesity , hypertension ,diabetes , fatty liver , heart attack , strokes and cancers.



Vitamin D Therapy: Hypo or Hype

1. Lack of regular consumption of balanced diet is the most common cause of Vitamin D deficiency so remember

- **Any one cereal +any one of the pulse +vegetable +fruits**
- **Food is the primary medicine**

2. Second larger issue behind vitamin D Deficiency is defective 25 hydroxylation of dietary or Cutaneously synthesized Vitamin D due clinical Liver disease or sub clinical liver disease – overeating develop fatty liver – most common I think 90 % Indian having this problem 2nd problem growing acceptance alcohol consumption its cause liver damaged which also responsible for Vitamin D deficiency

3. In my clinical practice patient taking many pain killers which damaged the kidney that other factors like diabetes , hypertension also affect Vitamin D deficiency.

4. Decrease sunlight exposure with obstructing clothing

Recommendation

- There is urgent need to

provide the basic health needs and improve the dietary habit

- 1000IU /day helps to recover from deficiency
- Sunlight exposure: can be taken in play ground , cycle path , parks , etc

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What does my LIFESTYLE have to do with my BLOOD PRESSURE

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Lose weight (if you are overweight)
- Choose a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy products, and low in meats, sweets, and refined grains
- Eat less salt (sodium)
- Do something active for at least 30 minutes a day on most days of the week
- Limit the amount of alcohol you drink

If you have high blood pressure, it's also very important to quit smoking (if you smoke). Quitting smoking might not bring your blood pressure down. But it will lower the chances that you'll have a heart attack or stroke, and it will help you feel better and live longer.

Start low and go slow — The changes listed above might sound like a lot, but don't worry. You don't have to change everything all at once. The key to improving your lifestyle is to "start low and go slow." Choose 1 small, specific thing to change and try doing it for a while. If it works for you, keep doing it until it becomes a habit. If it doesn't, don't give up. Choose something else to change and see how that goes.

Let's say, for example, that you would like to

improve your diet. If you're the type of person who eats cheeseburgers and French fries all the time, you can't switch to eating just salads from 1 day to the next. When people try to make changes like that, they often fail. Then they feel frustrated and tend to give up. So instead of trying to change everything about your diet in 1 day, change 1 or 2 small things about your diet and give yourself time to get used to those changes. For instance, keep the cheeseburger but give up the French fries. Or eat the same things but cut your portions in half.

As you find things that you are able to change and stick with, keep adding new changes. In time, you will see that you can actually change a lot. You just have to get used to the changes slowly.

Lose weight — When people think about losing weight, they sometimes make it more complicated than it really is. To lose weight, you have to either eat less or move more. If you do both of those things, it's even better. But there is no single weight-loss diet or activity that's better than any other. When it comes to weight loss, the most effective plan is the one that you'll stick with.

Improve your diet — There is no single diet that is right for everyone. But in general, a healthy diet can include:

- Lots of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains
- Some beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas, and similar foods
- Some nuts, such as walnuts, almonds, and peanuts
- Fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products
- Some fish

To have a healthy diet, it's also important to limit or avoid sugar, sweets, meats, and refined grains. (Refined grains are found in white bread, white rice, most forms of pasta, and most packaged "snack" foods.)

Reduce salt — Many people think that eating a

low-sodium diet means avoiding the salt shaker and not adding salt when cooking. The truth is, not adding salt at the table or when you cook will only help a little. Almost all of the sodium you eat is already in the food you buy at the grocery store or at restaurants .

The most important thing you can do to cut down on sodium is to eat less processed food. That means that you should avoid most foods that are sold in cans, boxes, jars, and bags. You should also eat in restaurants less often. To reduce the amount of sodium you get, buy fresh or fresh-frozen fruits, vegetables, and meats. (Fresh-frozen foods have had nothing added to them before freezing.) Then you can make meals at home, from scratch, with these ingredients.

As with the other changes, don't try to cut out salt all at once. Instead, choose 1 or 2 foods that have a lot of sodium and try to replace them with low-sodium choices. When you get used to those low-sodium options, find another food or 2 to

change. Then keep going, until all the foods you eat are sodium-free or low in sodium.

Become more active — If you want to be more active, you don't have to go to the gym or get all sweaty. It is possible to increase your activity level while doing everyday things you enjoy. Walking, gardening, and dancing are just a few of the things that you might try. As with all the other changes, the key is not to do too much too fast. If you don't do any activity now, start by walking for just a few minutes every other day. Do that for a few weeks. If you stick with it, try doing it for longer. But if you find that you don't like walking, try a different activity.

Drink less alcohol — If you are a woman, do not have more than 1 "standard drink" of alcohol a day. If you are a man, do not have more than 2. A "standard drink" is:

- A can or bottle that has 12 ounces of beer
- A glass that has 5 ounces of wine
- A shot that has 1.5 ounces of whiskey

Where should I start? — If you want to improve your lifestyle, start by making the changes that you think would be easiest for you. If you used to exercise and just got out of the habit, maybe it would be easy for you to start exercising again. Or if you actually like cooking meals from scratch, maybe the first thing you should focus on is eating home-cooked meals that are low in sodium.

Whatever you tackle first, choose specific, realistic goals, and give yourself a deadline.

For example, do not decide that you are going to "exercise more." Instead, decide that you are

going to walk for 10

minutes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and that you are going to do this for the next 2 weeks.

When lifestyle changes are too general, people have a hard time following through.

Now go. You can do it!

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HALLOWEEN

Hairy witches flying in the sky
Angry vampires waiting for children's blood
Lazy monsters very hungry,
Lovely children sharing candies,
Old trolls starving for food,
Wicked ghosts disappearing within seconds,
Excited children waiting to scream Halloween!
Enormous aliens scaring people,
Nasty zombies peaking from underground!

Happy Halloween everyone,
Let's celebrate Halloween,

Wooooooo **H**oooooo!



A FASCINATION CALLED BHAGWAT GITA

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवती भारत ।
अभ्युत्थानमर्धमस्य तदाऽऽत्मनं सृजाम्यहम् ॥



It was in 2009, I was persuaded by my wife to attend “family Gita class” which was started by then Dr Amita Sinha whom we lovingly call Auntyji or Didi. I am sceptic by nature and reasonably scientifically inclined having grown intellectually on that fodder. My exploration of Gita was initially based on these two traits in me viz skepticism and science. Both these traits are absolutely incongruent with efforts to explore or understand religious scripture like Bhagwat Gita!

But that’s what fascinates me about Bhagwat Gita!

Chinmayanand intriguingly said that to understand Gita one must understand it’s context. It was not clear to me what that really meant. I initially thought, the context is Mahabharat story. But later I realized that the context has much bigger canvass.

This is another fascinating part of Gita – you learn more as you learn!

Simon Sidek is one speaker I really like, and his mantra is to focus on WHY rather than only What and How. Many times, we get into action in terms of

what (what is to be done?) and how (how it is to be done) without understanding “Why it is to be done”. If “Why” is properly defined, may that be about job, life, relationship, business, strategy, vision, then defining what and how is relatively easy. Why is the foundation of that action which is not visible, like a tall building’s foundation, but without that the façade (the Hows and Whats) will be unstable.

So, let us try to understand why Lord Krishna told Gita.

Its answer remains in one basic tenet of Hindu philosophy which is change and evolution. Religion is defined as philosophy in motion by S w a m i Chinmayanand. He says, “As h u m a n ’ s understanding of world changes with Bhautic quest, desires change and so must the concept of order. Rules have, therefore, to adapt constantly. Social stability must not be compromised yet new ideas must be respected and accepted”.

The new equilibrium must be redefined; what was applicable in the past is not applicable today. This is unquestionably established in reincarnation of Lord Vishnu in Purana and also the four Yuga concept defined in Vedas. Every Yuga needs new order, new set of values. What was applicable in Satya Yuga cannot be applicable in Treta. What was right in Ramayana is not necessarily right in Mahabharat.

Whereas, Ramayana espouses ideals - most of the things are starkly black or white (good or

bad); in Mahabharat, mostly it is grey. Unlike Ramayana which clings to all ideals and defines everything in black and white, Mahabharat dwells completely in gray shade. Ramayana is all about restraints and constraints epitomized by Maryada Purush Lord Rama. Conventional wisdom, even championed today, is challenged, defied. From that sense Mahabharat is too much ahead of time! It’d not for no reason Peter Brooke, when he selected Mahabharat as his magnum opus, said that Mahabharat is not a Hindu story but story for the mankind and timeless in its inevitability!

From the very beginning of Mahabharata, there is conflict on a c c e p t e d morality and social norms. There is e t e r n a l conflict in the story between a c c e p t e d social Dharma and actual events.

The king, wants to marry a fisherman’s daughter with whom he is outrageously enamored. For achieving this goal, what he does? He gets his very competent

son to agree not to marry – Brahmacharya for a man who was given a boon to choose his time of his death- throughout his life so that progenies from his fisherwoman will be able to stake claim on the sovereign. What happened to the value that father must work for the welfare of his son? When these sons are incapable of procreation, Vyasa is asked to impregnate the queens to get rightful heirs for the kingdom. What happens to celibacy of Ved Vyasa and the morality of marriages? The

This the fascination called Gita

If I should stretch this a bit, it does not tell you what you should do but imparts enough wisdom in us to make right choices in life. This is clearly articulated by Lord Krishna in summing up his discourse in Chapter 18:63 Yathechhasi tatha Kuru! Do what you think is right! It’s not my way or highway kind of scripture!

whole life of guru Dronacharya, who is only one of three trained by Lord Parshurama, is driven by his ambition to take revenge of Draupada! Dronacharya even plays trick with Eklavya to ensure his prodigy Arjuna remains the best archer as he had vowed. What happened to forgiveness, fairness, empathy? Then we have Draupadi being shared by five men. Even in today's world where society is accepting albeit grudgingly, gay and lesbians, this is unthinkable! How ahead you can get in time!! Yudhishtir, the man of wisdom, gambles away his kingdom, his brothers, his wife, not once but twice! Wisdom is about capability to discriminate what's right and wrong. What happened to this wisdom? In an assemblage of some of the greatest characters Bhishma, Dronacharya, Kripacharya, Vidhur a queen is dragged by her hair and ordered to be disrobed so that she will then sit naked on Duryodhana's lap. By any standard and any time, this is simply disgusting. And then Bhima vows that Draupadi will only tie her hair with entails of Dushhasan. How gory one could get!

Morality is blurred in whole of Mahabharat! It was time when choosing what's right and what's wrong is getting increasingly difficult. There is hardly a character which can be called as exemplary. We have shades of goodness in lot of the characters and shades of evil in them.

Crescendo of Mahabharat is at Kurukshetra where two armies are standing before each other for the epic war. The warrior par excellence Arjuna charioted by none other than Lord Krishna ask Krishna to bring his chariot between the warring armies.

The "Doer" Arjuna is standing in the middle of two alternatives. These two alternatives (represented by two armies) are neither totally right (Dharmik) or totally wrong (Adharmik). This is the genesis, the "Why" of Bhagwat Gita. Lord guides his friend, his disciple how to choose faced with difficult alternatives. In this context of changing values, adharmic behavior by leaders Lord Krishna guides us all through Gita to adopt right path to win over the conflict which is seemingly external but in reality internal

Of course, it's simplistic way of looking at Gita and that is one big fascination of Gita. It can be understood at different levels depending on how one's inclinations are

- Practical level,
- Spiritual level and at
- Religious level.

Gita is also, one could describe loosely, into three levels connected with above level of understanding Karmayoga (Practical), Bhaktiyoga (Religious) and Dnyanyoga (Spiritual). It also is divided in terms of Physical level, Emotional level and Intellectual level. Gita is told in three sextet of Karmayog, Bhaktiyog and Dnyanyog.

In it's most concise form, one could say that Gita addresses following three questions

1. How to act Freely and Unconditionally
2. How can we have Confidence in the Power of Goodness to make all things right?
3. How can we Choose between Unclear Alternatives to resolve the dilemmas we face.

I never imagined in my life that I would be learning Gita only after coming to China, a country without religion. My only regret is that I did not start earlier in my life because I realize that I would have been much better person and professional if I had understood Gita earlier and adapted it's teaching. But as they say, better late than never!!!

Someone summarized Gita as under:

Gita is a song sung in midst of battle

It's a celebration of peace and harmony in the midst of life's confusion

It's timeless assurance that we each have within ourselves the answers to all our questions and confusions

We need only call upon the inner power (Krishna consciousness) to discover who we are, what we can trust and how we should act

Isn't this fascinating ?





Prakash Menon
(1963 - 2018)

He lived like a King and went like a King. Prakash was a charismatic leader in all walks of life - be it at NIIT, in society, in business community or his personal interactions with many friends and families in Shanghai. He had a large heart, an insightful mind and an aura which only he could have. He was a friend, philosopher and a guide to many of us who benefitted from his warmth and wisdom which he abundantly shared with one and all. We are truly lucky to have him in our lives. While he is not there with us in body, he continues to be in our minds and spirit. I am sure he will be smiling from up there as he sees us celebrate this festive season

– Kamal Dhuper

Prakash Menon a true friend who became a family to us in no time. The Love and affection given by Prakash, Rekha ,Manasi, Medha is unforgettable. He was always generous in his help and sympathies. There was never a dull moment with him. He was Life of every party and the soul of every discussion. An undisputed Legend, with easily one of the biggest contributor to Indian Diaspora in China. Prakash spirit will remain intact in us. Rest in eternity Prakash.

– Chandrika Chunilal

Prakash Menon set foot in Shanghai in early 1997 and in 20 years managed to leave a foot print so large that few would manage to achieve in a life time. Prakash set up the operations for the Indian technology company NIIT and was one of the first to have brought the Indian IT Industry to the Middle Kingdom. He understood the nuances of doing business in China and was very well respected in the industry in China as he was in India. Prakash was a pillar of the Indian community in Shanghai and was one of the founding members of the Indian Association and was also a major contributor to Indian industry forums in China. He was the "go to people's person" and was a "best friend" to many. Kids too were mentored by him and felt comfortable discussing topics ranging from higher education to latest music. Prakash's passing away earlier this year has left a huge void in the community unlikely to be filled...our thoughts and prayers are with his family. We feel blessed that he walked in our midst and that we got to spend some precious moments of his young life.

– Vivek Arora

PM was a natural leader, master strategist who commanded respect from all ! His words on serving the society under IA platform with Body, Mind & Soul will always stay with us and he used to explain it so beautifully in IA annual Board meeting in the consulate hall...PM we miss u !

Sachin Sehgal

Prakash was the first person we met when we came for our look-see more than 4 years ago. And we got a taste of his hospitality and generosity when he invited us virtual strangers into his home. Rekha was the backbone and perfect enabler of his open heart and home. His love of music and eclectic and vast collection of all genres, his wide ranging interests and his extreme helpfulness were all a big part of how he lived his life – king size.

– Suki Iyer

A person like Prakash Menon does depart from this earth but never truly leaves, for he is still very much alive in our hearts and minds, through us, he lives on. Rehne ko saada iss seher mein aata nahi koi! Paar tum jaise gaye, jata nahi koi !! Prakash has been a true mentor for the Indian business fraternity here in China. He essayed so many roles with such ease, with such grace and with a style that was so unique only to himA successful Indian professional, a role model for social leadership, a mentor to business professionals, a true friend, patriot , a loving husband and a caring father, Prakash Menon was all this and much more there can and there will be no one like Shri Prakash Menon ! We will miss you ... our Brother Prakash !! On behalf of IA and the Indian community in Shanghai, with a heavy heart, let us all pray for the eternal peace of the soul for one who was a man of distinguished humanity.

- Amit Waikar

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank all the people who have made this a memorable event. Indian Association events are made possible only by the tremendous drive, selfless work, dedication and talent of all our Volunteers. IA Board extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our volunteers.

Diwali Nodal Points:

BEENA WAGHELA
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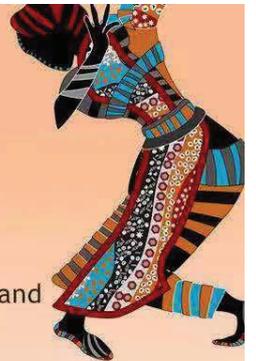
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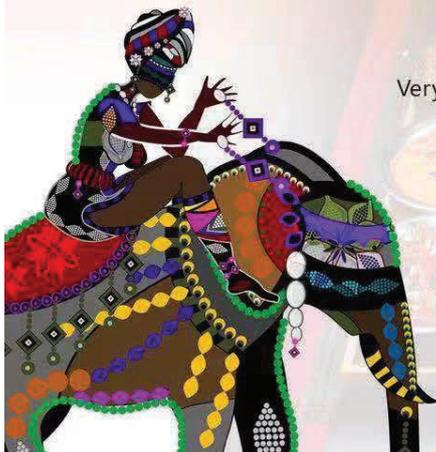
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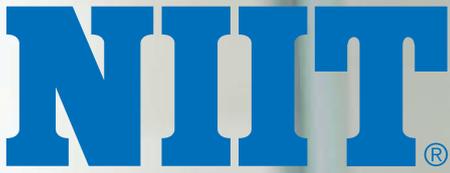
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