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“Brainrot” | Girls4Chess | “Kesari”
California | ACoM Awards & Expo |
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The South Asian Gen-Z Dialogue

Volume XXVI • Issue 11-12 • Nov-Dec 2025

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The South Asian Gen-Z Dialogue

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W aymo, Optimus robot, Gemini, ChatGPT, Claude, auto-

mation, LLMs, UBI... these were some of the buzzwords of 2025. It's like wherever one goes, it's all about AI. There is no question that we are living through another Industrial Revolution. One that is revolutionizing every aspect of human life.

We are making apps and websites in hours. We can crunch thousands of different data points in mere minutes, seconds even. In fact, **Siliconeer** has been able to smash its creativity boundaries using AI.

But with increased productivity at a lower cost comes the invisible price of employment opportunities. A trend we are now seeing.

Amidst all the advancements in AI, there is this vision where work will be optional for humans. Sounds good, doesn't it? After all, humans are inherently lazy. But seriously! What will the role of humans be in 10-20 years? Are we going to follow the techno-optimist vision of Elon Musk and Sam Altman? Do we start listening to the techno-realists, Geoffrey Hinton and Howard Marks? It is very tough to say. How much control do humans surrender to machines and AI? Should we be celebrating the "Architects" of AI as they line up their pockets with billions of dollars? Who dares to answer these questions? We do!

One thing is for sure. The resilient South Asian community will always be ahead of the curve, and we will prosper despite the forthcoming adversity. The proof? **Siliconeer** Verse has it all documented.

We start with an eye-opening piece on the rising AI aristocracy. **Vansh Gupta** talks about the path forward as we enter a new era of AI tech, poised to disrupt the job market.

Stepping away from tech, focusing on modern trends, **Neil Naidu** highlights a new wave of young South Asians shifting towards spirituality in response to modernism.

Continuing with current trends, **Dharani Purushotham** talks about the popular concept of "brainrot." Yep, those



A Dash of AI, Please

TikToks might be making our brains into scrambled eggs!

These takes are all from South Asian students in the Bay Area. They showcase a level of deep thinking that gives us joy and hope for the future.

The resilience of one South Asian student was showcased in a reflective piece by **Neha Sharan**. She reflects on her journey of perseverance when building Girls4Chess.

Changing tracks, **Avery Cruz** shares the story of a fourth-generation saffron farmer who is growing saffron in the community.

Speaking of which, the 2025 AcoM Expo & Awards took place at the PG&E Conference Center. **Janam Gupta** reports on the rising importance of local journalism in the age of AI.

Stepping away from Silicon Valley. We start with our beloved motherland, India.

India's leaders form strong diplomatic ties with other world leaders. The Women's Indian Cricket team brought home a historic World Cup victory. However, IndiGo managed to ensue chaos at India's airports, and our beloved publisher was there to experience it firsthand.

Coming back to CA, we head towards the LA Convention Center, featuring the shiniest works from the auto industry. Yep, it was the 2025 LA Auto Show.

Going up north to Oregon, we share

how a standard drive to Portland and back turned into a curated Pacific Northwest experience during the Thanksgiving holiday.

To complete the Christmas spirit, **Prachi Agrawal** shares how we can please Santa with an easy-to-follow recipe of the classic chocolate chip cookies with some delicious twists.

It's the time of the year when we gather with our family and friends. Non-stop partying will happen. The smallest towns will be decorated with trees and light bulbs. Hot cocoa and cider will be in free flow. We are here for it all.

As we enter 2026, we are doubling down on taking this magazine to the next level. We take on the burning questions and consider ourselves to be 'contrary to the mainstream.' Our special recognition at the 2025 AcoM Awards speaks to our commitment.

This print edition gives Silicon Valley a reality check. We are mere spectators of a changing narrative. We will continue to move fast, break things, and mold new things from broken ones. We promise to amplify the voices of the South Asian Gen-Z. We will cheer those who challenge the status quo, and we will continue to question all norms until we find the answers.

Siliconeer wishes all its readers a very Happy Holidays! We will see you in 2026! ■

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Work will become optional.” “Money will be irrelevant.” It is a seductive vision: a technological utopia where humans pursue passion projects while AI robots handle the mundane tasks at hand. Everyone will be well-off and work will become optional. It is the promise of Elon Musk, Sam Altman, and the pantheon of tech leaders recently enshrined on the cover of *Time Magazine* as the 2025 Persons of the Year.

Recreating the iconic 1932 “Lunch atop a Skyscraper” photo, the ironworkers have been replaced by the billionaires controlling the future: Musk, Altman, Jensen Huang, Lisa Su, Demis Hassabis, Dario Amodei, Fei-Fei Li, and Mark Zuckerberg.

The symbolism is stark. The rough hands of labor that built America have been swapped for geeks and nerds who are capitalizing on the promise of AI. Five of these figures alone control a combined wealth of nearly \$870 billion. While they look at the world from their steel beam with optimism, the view from the ground is far more complex.

We are told we are heading toward a life of leisure and autonomy. But to many, it feels like we are barreling toward a “Wall-E” future: a world where human agency surrenders to automation, and the gap between the billionaires and the common man widens exponentially.

For the last two years, the AI conversation focused on “Generative AI.” But 2025 has shown us that AI is no longer confined to the cyber space. It has entered the physical world, and that is where the disruption is becoming tangible.

We see it in Bay Area where Waymo robotaxis are going from San Francisco to Palo Alto during peak traffic. There

Vansh Gupta is pursuing his MBA at SJSU. He is Managing Editor and CMO at Siliconeer.



The AI Aristocracy

Utopia for the Few, Disruption for the Mass

 Tech billionaires promise a labor-free utopia, but as robots hit our streets and layoffs hit the inboxes, the next generation workforce faces a reality check. [Vansh Gupta](#) explores where we stand amidst the new “Industrial Revolution.”

is no human in the driver’s seat. We see it on our sidewalks, with food delivery robots trundling along, replacing the gig-economy delivery driver.

Now, we are seeing the dawn of the humanoid robots. Tesla’s Optimus and the 1X “Neo” home robot are no longer just prototypes. These are robots capable of folding laundry, sorting factory parts, and performing complicated physical tasks. These are capabilities once thought decades away. Jensen Huang of Nvidia

insists these machines will be “assistants,” not replacements. The math of capitalism suggests otherwise.

If a robot can deliver dinner or assemble a car door cheaper than a human, the human role inevitably diminishes. In fact, we are already witnessing mass layoffs and job displacement with the increasing integration of another form of AI/automation in the workforce. Salesforce, Amazon, Goldman Sachs, Meta have all

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ABOVE & COVER: ADOBE FIREFLY/GOOGLE GEMINI

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laid off employees throughout the year.

We can't ignore the looming reality. Where will the current and future workforce go from here? What will humans do as automation and AI take center stage in productivity? CEOs are raising billions in the AI revolution, but do they have an answer to how humanity will progress? Is the answer Universal Basic Income (UBI) or "Universal High Income"?

To bridge the gap between human obsolescence and survival, the "Architects" propose a radical solution: UBI. Elon Musk has rebranded the concept as "Universal High Income," predicting that AI-driven abundance will make goods so cheap that money itself becomes secondary. Sam Altman has floated "Universal Basic Compute," where citizens own a share of the AI's processing power.

Even the "Godfather of AI," scientist Geoffrey Hinton, concedes that some

form of UBI will be mandatory. "I advised them [Downing Street] that universal basic income was a good idea," Hinton said, warning that AI will take "lots of mundane jobs." However, he cautions that cash handouts settle the grocery bill but not the psychological void. "That won't deal with human dignity," Hinton warned, "because people get worth from their jobs."

Similar sentiments are echoed by investor Howard Marks of Oaktree Capital. In a December memo, he called the employment impact of AI "terrifying." Marks notes that jobs provide structure, community, and self-respect.

"I worry about large numbers of people receiving subsistence checks and sitting around idle all day," Marks wrote, drawing a chilling parallel to the opioid crisis that followed the hollowing out of American manufacturing. He questions the economic physics of the UBI dream: "Where will the money come from for those checks?" I ask whether the billionaire "architects" behind these ideas will fund those checks.

The data supports these worries amongst the current workforce. According to Pew Research, 52% of American workers are "worried" about AI. Deloitte's 2025 survey reveals that nearly half of Gen Z feels financially insecure, with many questioning if the corporate ladder is even worth climbing. In fact, the Gen Z workforce is more inclined towards a better work-life balance over prestige.

The IMF explicitly warns that in advanced economies like the U.S., 60% of jobs are exposed to AI disruption. While half might benefit from productivity gains, the other half faces reduced hiring and lower wages. We are already seeing this "hollow middle" form, with tech companies posting record profits while conducting mass layoffs. Goldman Sachs reports that young tech workers (aged 20-30) have seen unemployment rise nearly 3 percentage points since early 2025—a "hiring headwind" that creates a bottleneck for new graduates.

So, where does this leave the workforce? Specifically, the students currently in high school and college?

The World Economic Forum predicts 92 million jobs will be displaced by 2030.

While they project 170 million *new* jobs from the AI revolution, there is a concerning "skills gap" brewing. A truck driver or delivery driver may not become a prompt engineer overnight.

For the next generation, the "learn to code" advice of the 2010s seems a bit outdated these days. Here is where the real opportunities lie as we barrel towards work automation.

Embrace the Physical: Paradoxically, the safest jobs might be the ones that require messy, complex physical work. Geoffrey Hinton's advice was blunt: "A good bet would be to be a plumber." Electricians, nurses, and specialized tradespeople face a physical world too chaotic for current robots to master easily. The "blue collar" roles may soon become the "gold collar" careers of the 2030s.

The Human Element: Deloitte notes that soft skills like empathy, leadership, and strategic thinking are skyrocketing in value. AI can analyze data, but humans are required to negotiate delicate deals or lead a team through a crisis. OpenAI's own chief economist, Ronnie Chatterji, says he is teaching his kids critical thinking and emotional intelligence to prepare for the future.

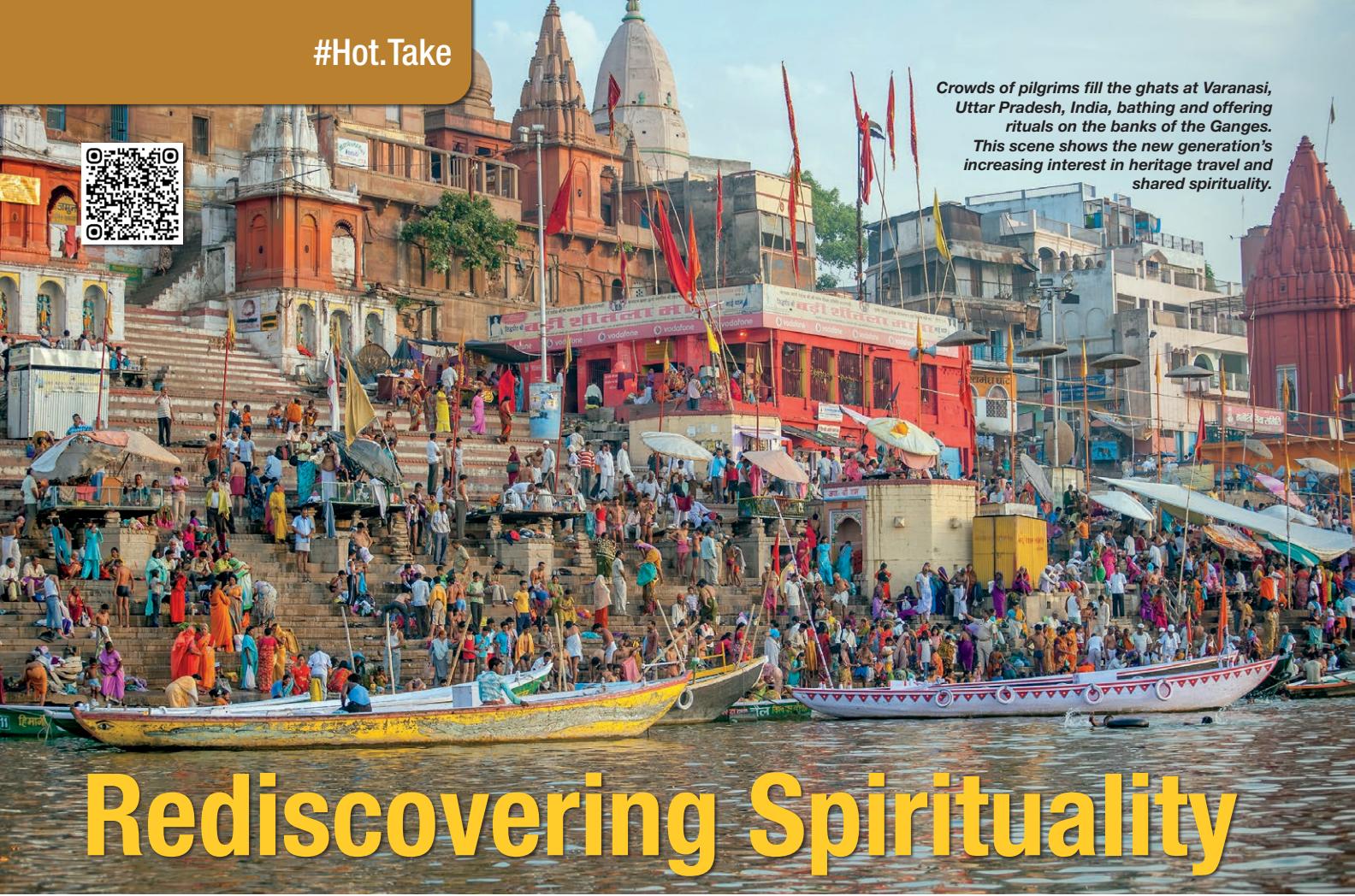
The Know-It-All: The winners will not be those who ignore AI, but those who command it. As the saying goes, "AI won't take your job, but a person using AI will." Students must become "AI-native," treating these tools as extensions of their own intellect rather than replacements for it.

We are standing at a crossroads. One path leads to the utopia Musk and Altman describe. A world of optional work and "Universal High Income." The other leads to a stratified society where the "Architects" on the steel beam own the robots, and the rest of us compete for what is left. There is another way. One where technology doesn't control us, but we control the technology. Unplug when needed. Spend time in nature. Learn skills in the physical world. Avoid trying to out-machine a machine. Be more human.

What we really have to ask is whether we are all heading for a future that distributes the benefits of AI equitably, or simply concentrates power among the few. ■



Crowds of pilgrims fill the ghats at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, bathing and offering rituals on the banks of the Ganges. This scene shows the new generation's increasing interest in heritage travel and shared spirituality.



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Rediscovering Spirituality

As India and the global South Asian diaspora face rapid change, a cultural movement has quietly started. Young adults return to temples, devotional practices, heritage travel, and spiritual content by choice, rather than obligation. This isn't just about nostalgia, but also a fresh way to express identity, comfort, and community for a generation facing global pressures.

In recent years, multiple young Indians and diaspora youth have embraced "shrine-cations," which blend spiritual travel with leisure and cultural exploration. Destinations once popular for older generations are now attracting the new generation.

Many young South Asians students



Neil Naidu is a Computer Science and Linguistics student at San José State University, based in San Ramon, Calif.

Escaping Modern Trends

A new wave of young South Asians started promoting heritage, spirituality, and temple traditions as meaningful responses to modern pressures and trends. Public figures and virtual storytellers are redefining faith as identity, wellness, and community in today's world. **Neil Naidu** writes on the shift towards spirituality amongst his community.

and working professionals are exploring temple tourism. Cities like Varanasi, Kedarnath, and Rishikesh, as well as ancient pilgrimage routes, are attracting more young visitors.

These trips offer more than rituals. They provide ways to take breaks from digital life, find mental rest, and reconnect with roots that may feel distant to the young South Asian. For many, these experiences serve as a "mental exhale," allowing for reflection and a deeper connection to their roots.

These trips are viewed as journeys of self-discovery, cultural reconnection, and

mental reset. For those living abroad or in fast-paced cities, spiritual travel provides faith, as well as nature, community, peace, and reflection.

This returning connection to spirituality is not only limited to travel or temples. The presence is also significantly growing online. Spiritual influencers and faith-tech services are rapidly making religious rituals accessible to South Asians worldwide. For tech-savvy millennials and diaspora youth, temple livestreams, online puja services, and spiritual videos have been a boon in building that.

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The reason? Young devotees are adopting personalized spirituality via sacred travel, meditation, storytelling, and devotional music opening discussions about mental health, identity, and belonging.

Tanya Mittal is one public figure representing this spiritual movement. Known for her TV and social media appearance, she posts about her devotional thoughts and visits to temples. She is a role model for many in India as she demonstrates a lifestyle that incorporates entrepreneurship and cultural pride.

Her social media presence makes spiritual living relatable to younger audiences who may see traditional practices as irrelevant or outdated. For many, seeing someone like her value tradition publicly delivers both permission and representation, reminding us that spirituality and modern ambitions can coexist today.

Another key figure in this movement is Jaya Kishori, a motivational speaker and spiritual storyteller who shares insights on Hindu mythology, personal

growth, and life lessons.

Her kathas, bhajans, and “Satsang” often reflect ancient teachings for modern



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Spiritual speaker Jaya Kishori.

issues such as mental health, relationships, and purpose. For young audiences, Jaya Kishori's message deliver spiritual grounding and emotional support.

Why this movement matters? For South Asians living outside of India, especially in places such as Silicon Valley,

New York, Dubai, or London, identity is complex. South Asians blend ancestral roots, immigrant experiences, and modern careers to build their space in the community. A new wave of spiritual content and shrine-travel creates a connection to heritage, providing a choice where faith, mental wellness, and ambition coexist. Many diaspora youth experience a sense of belonging and cultural pride amid this spiritual revival, even as they handle mixed identities.

My Final Thoughts. What we are seeing is beyond a transient trend; it reflects a cultural transition as a generation reanalyzes identity, faith, and belonging. Through temple travel, devotional music, online storytelling, and prayer, South Asians today are formulating a new wave of spirituality that blends ancient roots with our contemporary mannerisms. Public voices, from the well-known to daily seekers, are shaping this movement, which encompasses you, me, or any individual. It narrates an evolving story about being a young South Asian in a global context. ■

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The Scrambled Egg Brain

Behind the “Brainrot” Slang

Brainrot” isn’t a medical diagnosis yet. It was the 2024 Oxford Dictionary Word of the Year. It’s internet slang that we use to justify our addictions to short-form content. This rapid consumption of content reflects something real: the cognitive overload caused by nonstop exposure to short, repetitive, and often meaningless content. This kind of stimulation can make it harder to concentrate, remember things, or even feel motivated. It’s a real issue. In fact, the APA has taken notice of this trend in a recent study.

What Science Says

From a neuroscience lens, this constant consumption of content can be related to dopamine flooding.



Dharani Purushotham
is an eighth-grader
at Sunnyvale Middle
School interested in
science, space, and
technology.

QR CODE In today’s hyper-connected world, many young people are familiar with the term “brainrot.” Behind the slang lies a real phenomenon that scientists and psychologists are beginning to understand. **Dharani Purushotham** reveals how constant digital stimulation affects the brain.

Dopamine is a chemical in the brain that’s released when we experience something exciting or rewarding. Apps like TikTok and Instagram are designed to trigger dopamine repeatedly, which can lead to compulsive scrolling and reduced attention span.

We have constantly heard of the impacts of social media. We are also seeing it to some extent. Here’s what researchers say happens when we spend too much time on fast, low-effort content:

Reduced focus: The brain gets used to constant novelty, making it harder to concentrate on slower tasks like reading or studying.

Shortened attention span: Quick videos and memes train the brain to expect instant gratification.

Mental fatigue: Too much stimulation can lead to burnout, even if the content seems fun.

Language shifts: People start speaking in memes or internet slang, which can affect communication skills in other settings.

Why We Get “Hooked”

Apps and websites use algorithms to keep us engaged. They learn what we like and serve up more of it,

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creating a feedback loop that's hard to break. This is called reinforcement learning, and it's the same principle used in video games and even gambling.

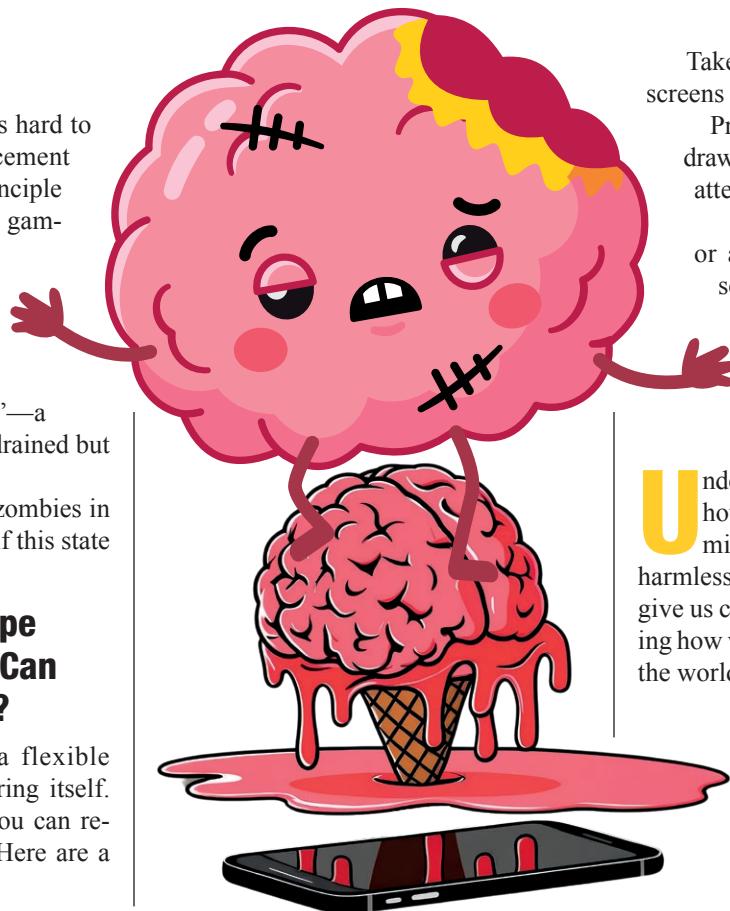
The more we scroll, the more our brains crave the next hit of dopamine.

Over time, this can lead to what some call "brainrot"—a state where we feel mentally drained but can't stop scrolling.

We legitimately become zombies in this trance state. Hence, I ask if this state of mind can be reversed.

Is there an escape from "brainrot?" Can it be reversed?

Yes! The brain is like a flexible sponge that keeps rewiring itself. With the right habits, you can recover from digital overload. Here are a few science-backed tips:



Take breaks: Even short breaks from screens can help reset your brain.

Practice deep focus: Try reading, drawing, or solving puzzles to rebuild attention span.

Limit screen time: Use timers or app blockers to avoid endless scrolling.

Get outside: Nature and physical activity are proven to reduce mental fatigue.

Why It Matters

Understanding "brainrot" helps us see how digital culture is shaping our minds. Memes—once considered harmless and stupid content that would give us comedic relief—are now impacting how we think, learn, and interact with the world.

By recognizing the signs and taking steps to stay balanced, we can enjoy the internet without letting it take over our brains. ■

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When I walked into my first Bay Area chess tournament, I had no idea how defining that moment would become. I scanned the room: 59 boys, and only one girl. Me.

It was impossible not to feel the weight of that imbalance. But instead of shrinking back, I made a choice: I stepped forward. That experience revealed just how isolating it can be to be the only girl in a competitive space.

That moment became the seed of Girls4Chess. It is a nonprofit organization I founded to ensure that every child, especially girls, has equal access to chess, regardless of background or financial circumstances. I wanted to create the kind of environment I wished existed in my first Bay Area chess tournament. One filled with confidence, inclusion, and belonging.

Launching Girls4Chess was far from simple. I had no funding, no chessboard, no clock, and no experience organizing tournaments. What I did have was a belief that meaningful change starts with a single step. I didn't want girls to walk into a room and wonder whether they belonged. I wanted them to know they belonged the moment they arrived.

My first tournament was built on determination and a lot of uncertainty. I worried that families wouldn't take a student-led initiative seriously. I worried no one would show up. But I also knew nothing could change if I didn't try. So, I moved forward by booking a venue, designing flyers, reaching out to parents, and coordinating volunteers.

The response over time took my breath away. Across the six tournaments I organized, more than 150 young players have benefited—many of them being girls stepping into a competitive chess room

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Neha Sharan is a Junior at Saratoga High School in Saratoga, Calif., and the Founder of Girls4Chess.



ALL PHOTOS, COURTESY OF NEHA SHARAN

Inclusivity through Saratoga Student Builds Girls4Chess

From a redefining moment at a Bay Area chess tournament, a high school girl persevered to build an inclusive platform where everyone felt they belonged in the world of chess. Saratoga High School junior Neha Sharan shares her journey.

(Below): A Chess tournament at Saratoga High School.





(Opp. page and left): Neha Sharan engages in a research project at UIUC looking at learning and cognition.

(Below): Glimpses of a co-ed chess tournament held at the India Community Center in Milpitas, Calif.



ALL PHOTOS, COURTESY OF NEHA SHARAN

Through Chess

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for the very first time. Every event was filled with energy, confidence, and joy. Watching these players grow, connect, and discover their own potential made it clear to me that the mission truly matters.

Since then, Girls4Chess has grown into a community movement—hosting tournaments, creating opportunities, and giving young players the space to grow, connect, and lead. What began as a simple idea has become a platform that reaches hundreds.

This journey expanded beyond the chessboard. I had the opportunity to collaborate with a professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) on a research project exploring learning, cognition, and how students respond to challenge-based environments. This work offered deeper insight into how



young minds develop confidence and patterns of resilience. It's knowledge I now bring back to Girls4Chess.

I am not a national chess master, nor the highest-rated player. My journey in chess doesn't look traditional, but I've learned that leadership isn't defined by titles or rankings. Sometimes leadership comes from seeing a problem and refusing to wait for someone else to fix it.

Girls4Chess taught me that impact isn't about age or status. One idea—no matter how small—can break barriers, shift cultures, and create opportunities where none existed. When I started, I could never have imagined that an idea

born from a moment of isolation would grow into something recognized through grants, community partnerships, and media coverage.

If there's one message I hope to share with other young people, it's this: Your idea matters. You don't have to be older, richer, or more experienced to make a difference. You just have to begin.

Girls4Chess is proof of that. It started with one girl who didn't want others to feel alone in chess. Today, it's evolving into a movement reminding young people everywhere that when we believe in ourselves, there's no limit to what we can create. ■





(Above): The red stigmas or “threads” that are used to make the saffron spice are seen at the center of this just-plucked saffron flower.

As a fourth-generation farmer from a renowned saffron-producing family in Kashmir, India, Wasim Sahibzada carries a legacy of passion and expertise in saffron cultivation. This deep-rooted connection inspired him to continue his family’s proud tradition in the Bay Area. To help Wasim embark on his saffron farming journey, the Open Space Authority leased him a one-acre plot of land in Coyote Valley, just south of San José. Wasim is bringing the rich heritage of saffron cultivation to the Santa Clara Valley.

Once called the “Valley of Heart’s Delight” for its bounty of fruit orchards, most of Santa Clara Valley’s active agricultural land is situated between San José and Morgan Hill. Within this region, farmers and ranchers work diligently to tend the land and produce fresh food.



Avery Cruz is the Communications Coordinator for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.



(Above): Saffron farmer, Wasim Sahibzada picks a saffron flower from a corm during his trial harvest season in November 2024.

“Kesari” California Growing Saffron in Silicon Valley

Wasim Sahibzada is a fourth-generation saffron farmer who is using the expertise of his family’s rich heritage to grow saffron in Silicon Valley and offer community members the opportunity to learn more about this unique spice, writes Avery Cruz.

While farming was once a sought-after industry, modern-day farmers face challenges that make it difficult to sustain a livelihood. And while saffron may not be the typical crop grown within the region, it’s people like Wasim whose passion, integrity, and commitment to his farming practice helps preserve Santa Clara Valley’s agricultural legacy.

Saffron, or *Crocus sativus*, comes from a purple-hued flower that grows out of a round, bulbous seed called a “corm.” During each harvest season, a corm will sprout one to three flowers at once. If the flower is plucked from the corm, it will then reproduce one to two additional times before it becomes dormant for the

winter. Inside each flower are three red stigmas or saffron “threads” which are carefully detached from the rest of the flower and dried to be used as fragrance, dye, medicine or a spice.

Originating in Persia, saffron was brought to the Kashmir region of India around 500 B.C. To this day, Kashmir remains the second largest producer of saffron in the world. Traditionally, saffron is used to add color and subtle flavor to dishes like rice, desserts and teas. It’s also thought to have anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and mood-enhancing properties, making saffron a highly sought-after remedy in Ayurvedic, Persian and Chi-

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nese medicinal practices and a modern cosmetic ingredient. For many cultures, saffron's golden-red color is a symbol of sacredness, vitality, and good fortune. It is often used in religious rituals, festivals, and celebrations. For Wasim, saffron also symbolizes family and tradition.

In 2024, Wasim carried on his family's tradition by planting a few saffron corms at his Bay Area home. "California has the ideal temperatures, conditions and soil that is apt for cultivation," says Wasim. Growing saffron is no easy feat and has proven to be a labor of love that Wasim is constantly trying to improve.

"Saffron is more than just a spice, it's a labor-intensive crop that carries centuries of cultural, medicinal and culinary heritage," Wasim shared. "Growing it requires patience, care and respect for the land, and its value reflects both its rarity and the dedication behind every thread."

Once his first saffron corms bloomed, Wasim set out to grow the unique crop on a larger scale. Yet, the path to finding a plot of land to farm saffron proved dif-



(Above): A saffron flower is attached to its bulb, or the "corm." Each corm produces one to three flowers at a single time and has the potential to reproduce flowers one to two additional times during the harvest season.

ficult due to the expensive nature of the agricultural market. Eventually, Wasim met Julie Morris, Santa Clara County's Agricultural Liaison, who connected him to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

"Wasim is a perfect example of how Santa Clara County continues to be a land of opportunity, not only for tech entrepreneurs, but for innovative and young farmers," Morris said.

Wasim's saffron pilot project launched in September 2024 and, despite a late start to the season, saw some success with saffron flowers blooming just a few months later in November. As his business continues to grow, Wasim is excited to produce more blooms and invite the community to his farm to pick their own saffron and take home a piece of his culture.

"Saffron has always been in my blood and the idea of cultivating saffron here came naturally," Wasim said. "California has everything – almonds, walnuts, grapes, oranges, wine. It ought to have its own saffron too." ▀

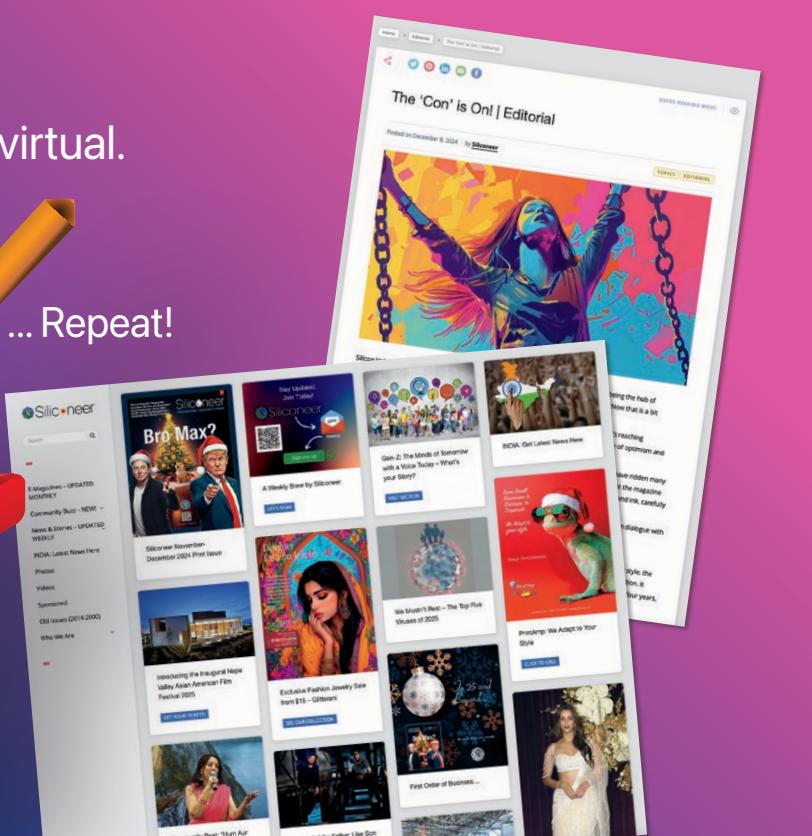
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ACOM AWARDS AND EXPO

SILICONER'S DISPLAY AT THE EXPO

The Community Amp

Resonating Your Voice

Conversations about the future of community messengers decked the halls of the PG&E Conference Center. I am talking about ethnic media, of course.

A yearly convening, it is the one event that recognizes the importance and hard work of grassroots journalism. With high energy and spirit, the celebration kicked off by the host sponsor, PG&E.

For the past few years, PG&E has taken considerable flak for escalating utility bills. The utility giant addressed the issue head-on. The company claims it is hard at work deploying resident funds toward modernizing the grid, wildfire mitigation, renewable energy infrastructure, and state-mandated programs.

There is a silver lining as the average bill is currently \$12 less than it was at the

beginning of the year. The company is rolling in Budget Billing to smooth seasonal spikes, or applying for CARE/FERA discounts which can reduce electricity costs by up to 38% for qualifying households.



Vansh Gupta accepts Siliconeer's recognition award from Oni Advincula.

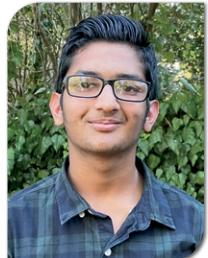
start of 2024, with another drop expected in 2026. For customers looking to lower costs now, PG&E recommends checking if you are on the lowest-cost rate plan, en-

rolling in Budget Billing to smooth seasonal spikes, or applying for CARE/FERA discounts which can reduce electricity costs by up to 38% for qualifying households.

PG&E also issued a stark warning regarding a sharp rise in scams. They were clear that PG&E never demands immediate payment, threatens rapid shutoffs, asks for gift cards or cryptocurrencies, or sends workers door-to-door to inspect bills. Customers are urged to be vigilant and report suspicious contact

► SEE NEXT PAGE

Janam Gupta is a business undergrad student at SJSU. He is Gen-Z editor at Siliconeer.





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ACOM AWARD RECIPIENT



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FIONA MA AND VANSH GUPTA

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immediately.

Finally, PG&E showcased a host of high tech equipment. The main headliner was their drones. These drones will be used for fire safety and power outage tracking.

Following the morning presentation by PG&E, the conference shifted gears and the real talk about ethnic media started.

In Silicon Valley, the obsession is usually with the “next big thing,” and recently that conversation has been dominated by AI and automation.

But in Oak-

land, the conversation shifted from automating news to the significance of human-powered journalism. The theme was loud and clear: the power of “High Touch Media” in the age of AI. For decades, mainstream outlets and tech giants have tried to crack the code of “engagement.” Yet trusted ethnic and community media, often operating on shoestring budgets, remain the original “high touch” platform. We are not just the voices of the community, but the platform people rely

on for information.

Sandy Close, Executive Director of American Community Media, set the narrative with a powerful message. “Our goal today is to showcase the enduring value of ‘high touch’ media – media born out of the very communities many of you serve, informing, engaging, connecting. In this emerging era of Artificial Intelligence, we are here to celebrate the journalists...

The “big guys” like Google struggled with authorization and red tape. It was the agile, on-the-ground ethnic media ecosystem that executed the heavy lift, ensuring communities knew their voting rights when it mattered most.

– Regina Brown Wilson

who make this unique form of journalism possible.” The narrative that ethnic media is a “niche charity case” was shattered by Regina Brown Wilson of California Black Me-

dia. She detailed a massive mobilization during the recent election cycle where a coalition deployed \$21.3 million in advertising capital to ethnic media in less than 30 days. The “big guys” like Google struggled with authorization and red tape. It was the agile, on-the-ground ethnic media ecosystem that executed the heavy lift, ensuring communities knew their voting rights when it mattered most.

As Wilson put it, she had to “build the Titanic... and make sure we didn’t hit the

The people have spoken, and community media has shown its power. As Sandy Close put it, we strive to continue “storytelling from the inside out.”

iceberg,” proving that when stakeholders need to move the needle, they cannot rely solely on programmatic ads. The community press is the need of the hour.

A similar sentiment was shared by Jon Christensen from UCLA. While AI can aggregate data, it cannot replicate the empathy required to bridge divided communities. The antidote to AI-driven polarization isn’t better code but high-touch journalism highlighting stories about our parks, our housing, and our health, told by the people who actually live there.

The event concluded with awards celebrating high-class reporting from diverse outlets. We at **Siliconeer** are honored to have received special recognition as the voice of youth in the community. We thank our readers and writers for making **Siliconeer** the go-to source for South Asian youth.

Even though this was a celebration of ethnic media, this gathering wouldn’t be possible without the matriarch of our industry, Sandy Close. As the torchbearer for the ethnic media dialogue in America, we are thankful for her endless support and applaud her ability to gather a community that is historically sidelined.

Sandy Close now moves to a senior advisory role, as we warmly welcome Jaya Padmanabhan to guide and support us as the new Executive Director of American Community Media. As we look toward 2026, the message is clear that ethnic media is “High Touch.” Whether it is advocating for inclusive advertising bills in Sacramento or debunking disinformation in our WhatsApp groups, community media is doing the work that AI simply can’t. Marketers, we hope you are listening.

The people have spoken, and community media has shown its power. As Sandy Close put it, we strive to continue “storytelling from the inside out.”

It was a travel nightmare," quipped our very own publisher. Stuck at Bangalore airport for 20 hours, she was anxious to get on her flight to reach her hometown. The country's largest domestic carrier, IndiGo, faced a massive meltdown, resulting in thousands of flights being canceled and stranding over a million passengers. Now, usually, airline companies and airport staff are helpful and accommodating in such situations. Not IndiGo. Lounge access was promised, not delivered. No accommodation. No empathy. It seems that India wants tourists on paper, but reality says otherwise.

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

India Rocks, IndiGo Shocks



It has been a whirlwind few weeks for India, swinging between historic victories, diplomatic bear hugs, and serious travel turbulence. Here is the latest roundup from **Siliconeer**.



(Above): PM Narendra Modi meets with the Prime Minister of Italy, Giorgia Meloni, at the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. (PIB Photo)



(Above): PM Narendra Modi and President of Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, travel in the same car, as they depart from the Airport, in New Delhi. India and Russia look to strengthen their ties as part of an economic cooperation program. (PIB Photo)



(Above): Amidst the chaos that ensued at Bangalore airport, the silver lining was a warm and welcoming South Indian meal amongst the many delicacies available to order at the terminal. (Left): A snapshot of people waiting at the IndiGo counter, anxious to get to their destination. Many people report waiting multiple days before ultimately making it to their destination. (Seema Gupta/Siliconeer)



(Left): The 'Women in Blue' celebrate their maiden ODI World Cup victory after defeating South Africa in Navi Mumbai. (Below): Sunidhi Chauhan electrifies the DY Patil Stadium with a dazzling mid-innings performance during the historic final. (Photos Courtesy of ICC)



(Above): Stars of "The Family Man" web series at the Red carpet of the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), in Goa, Nov. 21. (PIB Photo)



(Above): A glimpse of the closing ceremony for the 48-hour "Creative Minds of Tomorrow" (CMOT) challenge at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2025 at the Maquinze Palace, in Goa, Nov. 23. (PIB Photo)



(Above): The iconic Sholay Bike on display during the 56th International Film Festival of India, in Goa, Nov. 22. (Left): A tribute to legendary actor Dharmendra at the "IFFIESTA 2025" during the 56th International Film Festival of India, in Goa, Nov. 24. Dharmendra passed away at the age of 89 on Nov. 24, 2025. (PIB Photos)



Kia North America CEO Seungkyu (Sean) Yoon with other executives pose aside the 2027 Kia Telluride.

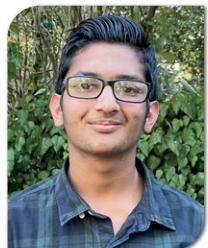
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Eyes closed, now picture a new car. A button-less minimalist dash, dominated by screens and tech. It's the Tesla formula, and carmakers, both startups and established, jumped onboard. However, is that really the case? The LA Auto Show provides a breath of fresh air.

Food trucks, test drive events, and a display of one of the most hyped vehicles, Scout, welcomed the attendees. Scout, a VW Group company, had one main task: to out-Rivian Rivian. These EV off-rovers featured a rugged styling and massive wheel arches but the interior still had all the modern niceties. They even come with a feature that puts Tesla to shame: physical controls.

Once inside, there were all sorts of extravagant displays from automotive giants like Porsche, Ford, Volkswagen, Maserati, Rivian, Subaru, Nissan, and Toyota, just to name a few. Nestled in between all this was the "Hall of SPARQ,"



Janam Gupta is a business undergrad student at SJSU. He is Gen-Z editor at Siliconeer.

Cars, SUVs, EVs Automobility 2025

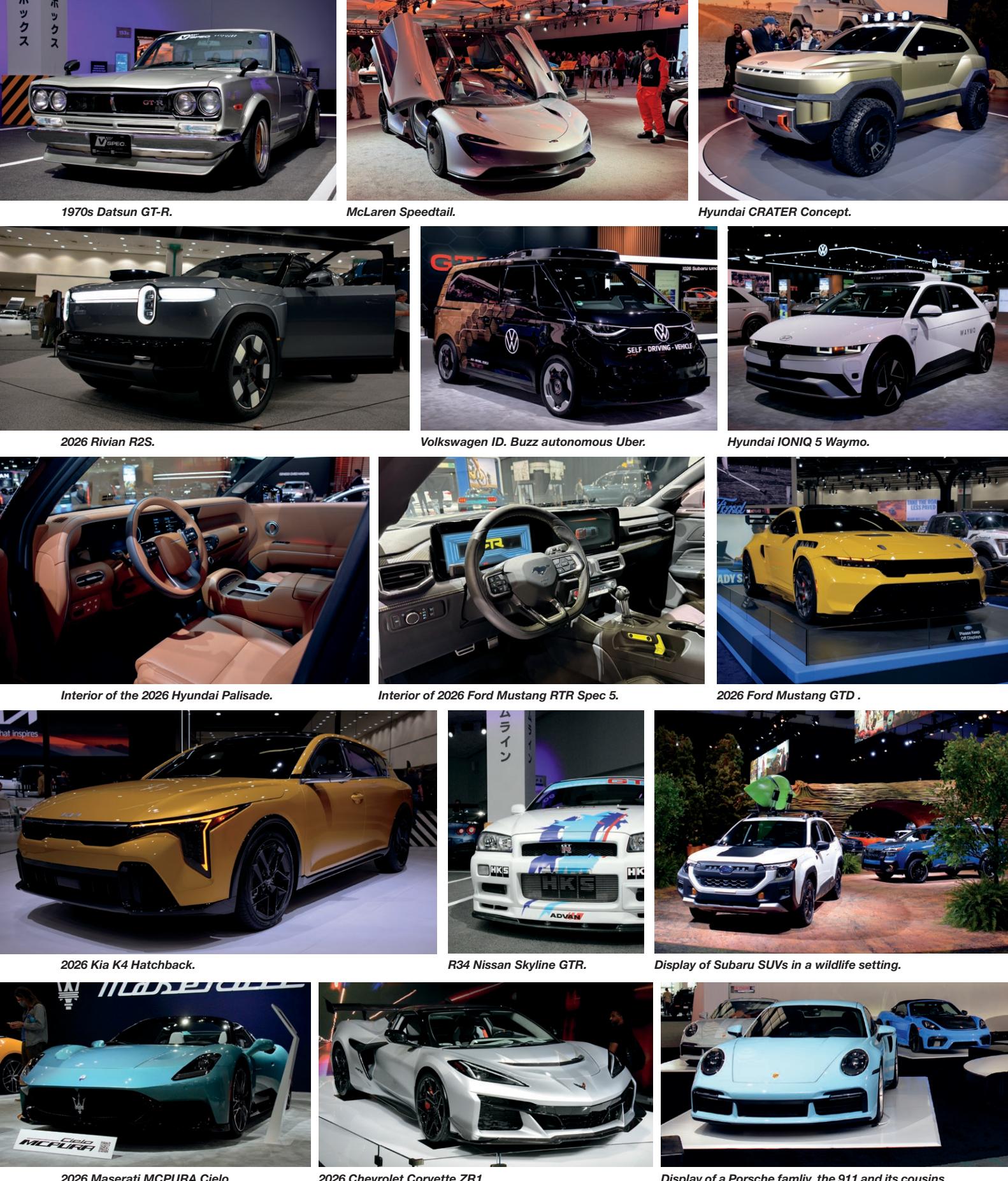
The LA Auto Show, held in the LA Convention Center, featured the shiniest from the industry, writes **Janam Gupta**.

with SPARQ showing off their portable OBD Scanner and software, where you can essentially talk to your car. If that didn't float your boat, they had blasts from the past with old GTRs and SLR McLarens posing aside modern hypercars and racing vehicles.

Kia and Hyundai dominated the real estate in the convention center, with good reason. Both automakers have been killing it. The brand-new Hyundai Palisade interior resembles that of a 6-figure Land Rover and their CRATER Concept looked nothing short of something made for Mars. Kia's unveiling of the all-new Telluride was the highlight of the show. A vehicle with an extremely versatile lineup, from a luxurious, two-tone, leather-trimmed people carrier to an off-roading beast in the X-Pro variant. If that wasn't exciting enough, Kia also unveiled a K4 hatchback. Stylish, powerful, and practical, Kia had me on my toes. And yes, all these cars had physical buttons, thank goodness.



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The Zero-Tax Detox

Living in the Bay Area, we are often guilty of thinking the world revolves around the tech bubble. We are spoiled with beaches, mountains, and downtowns, but sometimes, you just need to hit the road and go somewhere where the wallet feels at ease.

Recently, I traded the 880 and 101 for the I-5 to see if it's as boring as people make it out to be. The verdict? If you know where to stop, the drive is the destination.

The Ascent. Our first major pitstop was Redding. Craving stomach fuel, we struck gold at The Brunch House. Since we traveled on Thanksgiving to beat traffic, options were scarce, but this spot delivered a hearty Californian brunch that powered us up for the first main character: Mt. Shasta. Even without snow at the base, the volcanic peak stood in all its white-coated glory.

We made our base in Beaverton at the Tru Hotel by Hilton Aloha. Just 15 minutes outside Portland, it's a welcome

Shop, Dine, Unwind, North of the Border

From snow-capped peaks of the Shasta to tax-free shopping, to guilt free wining and dining, here is how a standard drive to Portland and back turned into a curated Pacific Northwest experience, writes [Vansh Gupta](#).

ing suburb with plenty to do. Famished from the cold, we found Lanna Thai nearby. A no-frills spot, it served one of the best Thai meals I've had. Back at the hotel, we almost didn't make it to bed, distracted by the lobby filled with coffee, a pool table, and games.

The “War Zone” (That Wasn’t). The next morning, we headed for the “War Ravaged” Portland. Clutching our

water bottles and protecting our wallets, we stepped out at Pioneer Place near the Apple Store and Louis Vuitton. We didn't know what to expect in this supposed «anarchy hellscape.» Sorry Trump. Clearly you haven't visited Portland recently.

Amidst the rain and clouds, the city gleamed with Christmas spirit. We saw locals holding mountains of shopping bags

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(Above): View of Mt. Shasta on I-5 S. (Below): Protestors at Apple Store - Pioneer Place, Portland, Or.



Vansh Gupta is pursuing his MBA at SJSU. He is Managing Editor and CMO at *Siliconer*.



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and a tree lighting ceremony at the town square. It felt like Downtown San Jose, but cleaner and more affordable. The only sign of “anarchy” were protests situated amidst the luxury stores.

Shopping done, we grabbed sandwiches at Potbelly (the PNW equivalent of Mr. Pickles). Fresh ingredients and delicious dressings made this spot an instant hit. The Toasted Smores Bar for dessert is a must visit, as well. Next stop? More shopping. Oops.

Tax-Free Therapy. A trip to Oregon isn't complete without a pilgrimage to the Woodburn Premium Outlets. It's massive and, best of all: NO SALES TAX. For a Bay Area resident accustomed to seeing over 10% tacked onto every bill, this feels like an automatic discount. The place was buzzing like a fair during Black Friday, and I celebrated the savings with croissants from Le Macaron. I was also beaming at the gas prices throughout Oregon.

The Detox. After the urban rush and shopping spree, we headed south to Grants Pass for «the detox.» We checked into The Lodge at Riverside late, welcomed by freshly baked cookies. The next morning revealed the surprise: a serene landscape right on the Rogue River. The air felt cleaner. Even I—usually the laziest person—went for a morning walk.

After a breakfast of fresh waffles, potatoes, toast, and coffee, we crossed the bridge next to our stay into Applegate Valley.



(Left, from top): A view of Applegate Valley – Oregon's wine country on Hwy 238; Photos of our Insta-worthy meals throughout the trip; ALL IMAGES: VASHI GUPTA/SILICONER

(Below, left): Views of the Schmidt Family Winery in Applegate Valley, Or.

(Below, right): A view of Rogue River in Grants Pass, Or., and Pioneer Place, Portland, Oregon.

squeezed in a drive through historic Jacksonville, a town that feels like a Gold Rush movie set.

The Home Stretch. The drive home gave us one last clear view of Shasta before a burger stop at Drizzle and a walk across Redding's festively illuminated Sundial Bridge.

So, is the I-5 boring? Only if you



(Clockwise from left): Lobby of The Lodge at Riverside in Grants Pass, Or.; Views of Sundial Bridge in Redding, Calif.; A creative ad at the Woodburn Outlets; and best of all, Oregon's low gas prices with higher octane.

gate Valley, Oregon's answer to Napa. We spent the afternoon at Schmidt Family Vineyards. Between the wood-fired pizza and manicured gardens, it rivals any California vineyard experience—just with a refreshing chill in the air. We even

don't venture around. We returned to the Bay Area with a full trunk and clarity in our heads. In a world of volatile markets, a tax-free, stress-free road trip is a guaranteed return I'll take any day. Oregon, I hope to see you again, soon! ■

NEW!
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The classic chocolate chip cookie is a classic holiday treat. This recipe elevates the cookie with two simple twists presented by our dessert specialist, **Prachi Agrawal**. The rich, nutty crunch of **pecans** and a hint of **whole wheat flour** create an unforgettable dance of flavors: crispy on the edges, soft in the center, and bursting with buttery, deep chocolate decadence.

Santa Approved ;)

Brown Butter Pecan & Chocolate Chip Cookies

(Above): Brown Butter Pecan and Chocolate Chip Cookies. (Prep time: 1 hour. Serving size: 24 cookies)

PHOTO: VANSH GUPTA/SILICONEER

Ingredients:

- 1.5 cups Gold Medal all purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 Tsp salt
- 1 cup butter, softened
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 Tsp vanilla
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecan

Prachi Agrawal is a home-based baker, and an accountant. She lives in Cupertino, Calif. She runs a custom cake business, *The Wonder Cakes* (<https://www.facebook.com/thewondercakes/>).



Method:

Prep the Cookie Dough

In a medium bowl, whisk together all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.

In a separate large mixing bowl, beat the softened butter, granulated sugar, and packed brown sugar using an electric mixer on medium speed. Beat until the mixture is **light and fluffy**, typically 2 to 3 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl occasionally.

Next, add the egg and vanilla extract to the creamy mixture. Continue to beat until the ingredients are fully incorporated and the batter is smooth.

Gradually add the flour mixture set aside in the medium bowl earlier, to the creamy mix in the large bowl. Mix on low speed, or stir with a spoon, until blended well. Add the chocolate chips and chopped pecans until evenly distributed.

Scoop and Bake: Preheat your oven to **375°F (190°C)**.

Use a heaping tablespoon of dough onto an ungreased or parchment-lined baking sheet, ensuring they are spaced at least 2 inches apart. This recipe will make approximately 24 cookies. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the edges are light golden brown and the centers still appear soft.

Cool and Store: Let the cookies cool on the baking sheet for **2 minutes** before carefully transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely for about 30 minutes. Store the cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 4 days.

Baker's Tip: Freeze for later: To save time, this dough can be frozen. Scoop the dough balls onto a baking sheet, freeze until solid, and then transfer the frozen dough balls to a labeled, freezer-safe zip-top bag. **Bake straight from the freezer** (no need to thaw), adding 2 to 4 minutes to the original baking time. ■



The memorable tree stands tall and bright this Christmas. Union Square was buzzing with an eager crowd taking photos and engaging in ice skating. It's good to see the comeback of SF.



The "World Famous" Hot Cocoa in Downtown San Jose's "Christmas in the Parks."



Christmas decor lights up the streets of Santana Row.

ALL IMAGES: SILICONER

Jingling Lights Cocoa Delight

It's that time of the year again. Armed with Hot Cocoa, Apple Cider, and coffee, we stroll the streets of San Jose, San Francisco, and Santana Row to rekindle the child within. San Francisco felt extra special with its dramatic comeback. Siliconer presents glimpses of Christmas in Bay Area, Silicon Valley style. This time there was more to see than just the traditional 'Christmas in the Park.'



Decor at Westfield Valley Fair



A unique display of Santa on a dragon Christmas decor at the annual "Christmas in The Parks" setup in Downtown San Jose.



The annual "Christmas in The Parks" setup in Downtown San Jose.



A truly Silicon Valley Christmas decor with "Free Bitcoin" blaring over a Christmas tree at the annual "Christmas in The Parks."

B.Crush



Latest in Bollywood and Hollywood



Midlife Chaos Returns

We can't get enough of **Seth Rogen** and **Rose Byrne**'s chaotic chemistry. Apple TV+ has officially renewed the hit comedy "Platonic" for a third season, promising more hilarious midlife hurdles from our favorite platonic pair.

Holding a 100% Certified Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes, the show is hailed as one of TV's best half-hour comedies. Critics consistently praise the "wildly funny banter" and the undeniable spark between the leads.

"'Platonic' is proof there is no duo better at making us belly laugh at midlife crises than Seth and Rose," said Matt Cherniss, head of programming for Apple TV.

Co-created by Nicholas Stoller and Francesca Delbanco, the series follows former best friends who reconnect, only to have their all-consuming friendship destabilize their lives. Season two navigated

work, weddings, and partners in crisis, and with this renewal, fans can look forward to seeing what new disasters the duo cooks up next.

Ranveer's "Dhurandar" Rocks

Who says audiences have short attention spans? **Ranveer Singh** and director Aditya Dhar (*Uri: The Surgical Strike*) have proven everyone wrong. Their espionage thriller "Dhurandhar" is a cinematic marathon clocking in at a staggering 3 hours and



34 minutes runtime. Audiences are loving every second.

While Ranveer leads the mission as an undercover spy, Akshaye Khanna is being called the "ultimate show-stealer" as the antagonist. The massive ensemble also features heavyweights Sanjay Dutt, R. Madhavan, and Arjun Rampal.

Despite being banned in Gulf countries for its political themes, the film has become a box-office juggernaut in India and globally. The success is so undeniable that the makers have officially confirmed "Dhurandhar: Part 2" is already in the works.

Kartik, Ananya Again

Yes, the title is quite the tongue twister, but we will see one of our favorite on-screen chemistries back in theaters with the upcoming romantic comedy, "Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri."

The sparkling duo of **Kartik Aaryan** and **Ananya Panday** are back together to light up the big screen this Christmas. Directed by Samir Vidwans (*Satyaprem Ki Katha*), the film promises a modern love story wrapped in old-school Bollywood charm. Buzz from the recently released teaser suggests a fun, glamorous ride, with their crackling chemistry—first seen in "Pati Patni Aur Woh." The soundtrack by Vishal-Shekhar is already making waves as chart-toppers.

AP/IMAGES



Anticipation is building for this holiday entertainer. Will this be the blockbuster *Ananya Panday* has been manifesting? We'll find out when it clashes with other giants at the box office on December 25, 2025.

"Pyaar vs Parivaar" Clash

If you missed the theatrical laughter riot of "De De Pyaar De 2," don't worry—it's coming home soon. Released Nov. 14, the sequel brought back the beloved and chaotic couple Ashish (Ajay Devgn) and Ayesha (Rakul Preet Singh), but this time with a twist: meeting the parents.

In this "Pyaar vs Parivaar" clash, Rakul shines as she introduces her older boyfriend to her family, with R. Madhavan stealing the show as her disapproving father. While the film is currently in its final theatrical leg, reports suggest that the movie will stream on Netflix. Fans can expect the digital premiere in early January 2026, making it the perfect New Year binge. 

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722 MAIN STREET, MILPITAS, CA 95035
CHANDRA KANT SHAH, CARETAKER (408) 262-6242
NAVIN DEDHIA, POOJA MATERIAL (408) 629-1723

RADHA KRISHNA MANDIR

12634 PIONEER BLVD. NORWALK, CA 90650
562-868-9059 • INFO@RADHAKRISHNA.ORG
WWW.RADHAKRISHNA.ORG

MANDIR HOURS:

MON-FRI 7:30 TO 12 NOON, 5 PM TO 8:30 PM
SAT & SUN 7:30 TO 12 NOON, 5 PM TO 8:30 PM

MANGLA AARTI 7:30 AM
RAJBHOG AARTI 12 NOON
MAHA AARTI 7 PM
SHAYAN AARTI 8:30 PM
HEALTH FAIR AT THE MANDIR EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH : 12 NOON TO 4 PM

BADRIKASHRAMA

15602 MAUBERT AVE. SAN LEANDRO CA 94578
TEL: 510-278-2444 • WWW.BADRIKASHRAMA.COM

SCHEDULE (PUJAS ARE DONE 3 TIMES DAILY)
SUN SUNDAY SERVICES 11 AM
MON RUDRABHISHEKA 6:30 PM
TUE SRI DURGA PUJA, AARTI 6:30 PM
WED MEDITATION AND SATSANGA 7:30 PM
FRI KIRTAN & MAHALAKSHMI PUJA 7:30 PM
MONTHLY FULL MOON SRI SATYANARAYANA PUJA AND KATHA.
SPECIAL PUJAS AND HOMAS CAN BE CONDUCTED UPON REQUEST.

LAKSHMI NARAYAN TEMPLE

7495 ELDER CREEK RD SACRAMENTO, CA 95824
TEL: 916-383-4206 • LAKSHMINARAYANTEMPLE.ORG

TUE RAMAYAN & BHAJAN 7 PM - 9 PM
SUN GITA PATH & KIRTAN 11 AM - 1 PM
AARTI TIMINGS: 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM
HOURS: MON: 7:30AM-8PM • TUE: 7:30AM-9PM
WED: 7:30AM-8PM • THU: 7:30AM-8PM
FRI: 7:30AM-8PM • SAT & SUN: 7:30AM-8PM

BALAJI TEMPLE 5004 N FIRST ST, SAN JOSE, CA 95002 • (408) 203-1036 | (408) 956-9050 | BALAJITEMPLE.NET | BALAJIMATHA.ORG • MON: RUDRABHISHEKAM 7-8PM • TUES: HANUMAN, DURGA, SUBRAMANYA PUJA 7-8PM • WED: VISHNU SAHASRANAMA STOTRAM 7:30-8PM • THUR: SAI BHAJANS 7:30-8PM • FRI: DURGA, LALITHA STOTRAM, SANTOSHI, SARASWATI PUJA 7-8PM • SAT: SRI VENKATESHWARA SUPRABHATAM SEVA & VISHNU STOTRAM 8AM • SUN: CHILDRENS CLASS BHAJANS, PUJA & AARTI 11AM & 7PM

SOCIETY OF ABIDANCE IN TRUTH (SAT)

1834 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060 | WWW.SATRAMANA.ORG

SUNDAYS: SATSANG AT 10AM • FRIDAYS: SATSANG AT 8PM



TEMPLE SCHEDULES

SRI KRISHNA BALARAM MANDIR

680 EAST CALAVERAS BLVD., MILPITAS, CA 95035 | KBMANDIR.ORG

INFO@KBMANDIR.ORG | (408) 657-8485 | TIMINGS: MON-SAT: 7:30AM-1PM, 5PM-8:30PM • SUNDAY: 7:30AM-8:30PM

HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

1600, LAS VIRGINES CANYON RD, CALABAZAS, CA 91302 • TEL: 818-880-5552

HOURS: WEEKDAYS: 9 AM - 12 NOON • 5 PM TO 8 PM • WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS: 9 AM - 8 PM

SUPRABHATA SEVA:	LORD VENKATESHWARA/LORD GANESHA	DAILY 9 AM
ABHISHEKAM/THIRUMANJANAM	LORD SHIVA ABHISHEKAM	DAILY 9.20 AM
LORD SUBRAMANYA	SUKLA SHASTI DAY	10.00 AM
LORD GANESHA	FRIDAYS & SANKATAHARA CHATHURTHI	
GODDESS ANDAL	POORVAPHALGUNI DAY	10 AM
GODDESS LAKSHMI	UTTHARAPHALGUNI DAY	10 AM
LORD VENKATESHWARA	EVERY SATURDAY	10 AM
NAVAGRAHA ABHISHEKAM	EVERY SUNDAY	11 AM

BAPS SHREE SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR (HINDU TEMPLE)

15100 FAIRFIELD RANCH RD. CHINO HILLS, CA 91709-8856 • TEL: (909) 614-5000 • WWW.SWAMINARAYAN.ORG

AARTI	DAILY	7:00 AM & 7:00 PM
DARSHAN TIMINGS	MONDAY-FRIDAY	8 AM - 11:30 AM & 4 PM - 6:15 PM
NILKANTH VARNI ABHISHEK	MORNING	7:30 AM - 10:30 AM
NILKANTH VARNI ABHISHEK	EVENING	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
BAL/BALIKA SABHA	SUNDAY	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
KISHORI SABHA	SUNDAY	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
YUVAK SABHA	SUNDAY	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
YUVATI SABHA	SUNDAY	2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
SATSAM SABHA	SUNDAY(A) 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM & (B) 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	
BAL GUJARATI CLASSES	SUNDAY	3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
BALIKA GUJARATI CLASSES	SUNDAY	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

HINDU TEMPLE & COMMUNITY CENTER SOUTH BAY

420-450 PERSIAN DR, SUNNYVALE, CA 94089 • TEL: (408) 734-4554 & (408) 734-0775

AARTI	DAILY	12:30 PM & 8:30 PM
AMRIT VANI: VALLABH VASANJI	SUNDAY	11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM
PRAVACHAN & BHAJANS	SUNDAY	12:30 PM TO 1:30 PM
PREETIBHOJ	SUNDAY	1:30 PM TO 2:30 PM
BHAJANS: VALLABH VASANJI	POORANMASHI	8 PM TO 10 PM
HANUMAN POOJA	TUESDAY	8 PM
LORD PARTHNAATH POOJA	THURSDAY	7:30 PM
SANTOSHI MA POOJA	FRIDAY	7 PM TO 8 PM
MATA KA JAGRAN	1ST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH	9 PM TO 12 AM
(FOR INFORMATION, CALL KAMAL CHANANA AT 415-638-1288)		
GAYATRI PARIWAR SATSANG	3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH	4:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

SHIV DURGA TEMPLE, SANTA CLARA

3550 FLORA VISTA AVE, SANTA CLARA, CA 95051

SHIVDURGATEMPLE.ORG | SHIVDURGATEMPLE9@GMAIL.COM | (408) 438-8273

ISKCON OF SILICON VALLEY

1965 LATHAM STREET, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040

ISKCONSV.COM | INFO@ISKCONSV.COM | (650) 336-7993

BAY AREA YOUTH VAISHNAV PARIVAR

175 NORTECH PARKWAY, SAN JOSE, CA 95134

BAYVP.ORG | (408) 586-0006 | M-F: 2PM-8PM | S-S: 10A-8P

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR (BAPS)

1430 CALIFORNIA CIRCLE, MILPITAS, CA 95035 | TEL: (408) 262-0707

AARTI	DAILY	7 AM & 6:30 PM
DARSHAN	MON-FRI	7 AM TO 12 NOON, 4 PM TO 8 PM
DARSHAN	SAT-SUN	7 AM TO 8 PM
SATSANG SABHA	SUNDAY	4 PM TO 6 PM
BAL SABHA (6-14 YRS)	SUNDAY	5 PM TO 6 PM
KISHORE SABHA (15-25YRS)	SUNDAY	1:30 PM TO 3 PM
BALIKA SABHA	SUNDAY	4 PM TO 6 PM
AARTI	SUNDAY	6:00 PM

HINDU COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER

1232 ARROWHEAD WAY, LIVERMORE, CA 94550 • 925-449-6255

WWW.LIVERMORETEMPLE.ORG

WEEDAYS: 9 AM TO 12 NOON & 6 PM TO 8 PM • WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS: 9 AM TO 8 PM

KANAKADURGA DEVI TEMPLE: OPEN DAILY 9 AM TO 8 PM

SRI SIDDHI VINAYAKA TEMPLE, FREMONT

40155 BLACOW ROAD, FREMONT, CA 94538

SVCCTEMPLE.ORG | MAILINGLISTFREMONT@SVCCTEMPLE.ORG | (510) 403-4256

SANKAT MOCHAN HANUMAN TEMPLE, NEWARK

35463 DUMBARTON COURT, NEWARK CA 94560 | BAYAREAHUMANTEMPLE.COM | (510) 378-1770

ATTENTION

PLEASE SEND UPDATED INFORMATION ON TEMPLE ACTIVITIES TO
INFO@SILICONEER.COM

MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS

What is the real meaning of Christmas? Is Christmas all about packing & sharing Gifts? Is it a custom which we follow once a year? Is it about decorating trees with lights or the hanging of stockings? Is it about exchanging Christmas cards? Is it about Holidays? Is it about Corporate Parties? Is it about Church Get-togethers and Celebrations? Is it about Special family Get-togethers? Is it about having drinks and dances? Is it about Shopping? Is it about attending Special events? Is it about listening to or singing Carols? Is it about having Special meals with various deserts? Is it about decorations in our houses? Is it about Advent calendars and candles? Is it about wearing new dresses?

As we approach the season of Christmas, it is always good to understand the true meaning before we celebrate it. It is not about parties, traditions, shopping or decorations. God sent HIS only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into this world to save every man from sin to give them eternal life (the life to be with HIM in Heaven forever after death). Celebrating Christmas without accepting Jesus Christ in our hearts is meaningless...

What is a person profited, if they shall gain the whole world, and lose their own soul? What shall a person give in exchange for their own soul? Is there anyone in this world who can truly love me? Many times when we are lost, we finally end up asking these questions. There is no one in this world who can truly love us, except God.

Initially, God created mankind (both man and woman) in HIS own image. The purpose of creating mankind was to be with God. But mankind sinned against God and lost the greatest gift of all: being with HIM. God is Holy. Anything we do that separates us from God's presence is called SIN. A person with sin cannot dwell or exist with God. With sin, mankind earned curses from God. The result of sin was death & curses. We cannot hide anything from God. God knows everything, including our troubles and problems.

The Bible says, when we were born, we were born with sin, because our parents brought us into this world with a sinful nature. For all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. The wages of sin is death.

No one in this world including our parents, spouse, kids, friends, or relatives can love us more than God. The Bible says, "God is Love and HE manifested HIS love by sending God's only SON, Jesus Christ, into this world to save us from all our sins and redeem us from this sinful world. For God so loved the world, that HE gave HIS only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believeth in Jesus should not perish, but have everlasting life. (The life after death with God in Heaven)"

Jesus came to this earth to die for us and shed HIS blood so that we can be saved by HIS grace and then receive HIS gift of Salvation. Without HIS shedding of blood, there is no redemption from sins. God sent Jesus to this world to die for you and me. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sins. If we confess our sins to Jesus, HE is faithful and just to forgive us from our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Jesus said "Come unto ME, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

For every sin we commit, we need to pay the penalty. However, Jesus took all of our sins upon himself when HE died for us. By receiving HIS every drop of blood, we are saved and free from the penalty of sin & death. Jesus died for our sins, and on the third day, HE rose again from death and became victorious over death, hell, and sins. Jesus is a living God. HE is the same yesterday, today, & forever. In the Name of Jesus, there is Victory, Deliverance from sins & curses, and Healing from sickness.

Our family or friends, our caste or creed, our education or position, our money or status, or by doing charity, yoga, fasting will not take us to God or to Heaven. When we accept & ask Jesus Christ to come into our hearts & cleanse our sins with HIS precious blood, Jesus comes into our heart and makes us a new creature by giving us HIS Love, Joy, Peace, Hope, & eternal Life. This is the TRUTH and the truth shall set you free.

All we have to do is believe Jesus, accept HIM into your heart, & ask him to cleanse your sins through HIS blood by repeating this simple prayer. (Prayer means talking to God in your heart)

Lord Jesus Christ, Thank you for coming into this world for me and my sins. I truly accept you just as I am. Come into my heart; cleanse me and my sins with your precious Blood. Be in my heart forever and help me to live and lead a Holy life like you. I also invite YOU & Your Holy Spirit to come into my heart and give me the Joy, Peace, Happiness, & Deliverance forever from sins, bondages, and sickness. Thank you for giving me the assurance of being with me forever. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

If you truly mean this prayer, then you have accepted Jesus Christ into your heart. HE will be with you forever. HE will not leave you nor forsake you. Celebrating Christmas without accepting Christ into our hearts is meaningless. May this Christmas be a meaningful one to every one of us. May God bless you.

This is the true & real meaning of Christmas... We wish everyone a Christ centered Christmas & a Blessed New Year.

If you need prayers or would like to know more about Jesus, then you can visit nearby Christian Churches who believe in Trinity (The Father God, Lord Jesus Christ & The Holy Spirit) or email us at: info@christforworld.org

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