



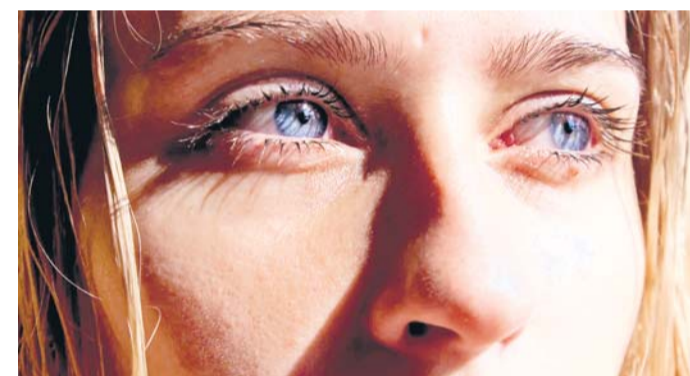
World Arabic Language Day

Like a melody from a distant land, this language dances with intricate calligraphy, inviting exploration into its rich tapestry. With an estimated 350 million speakers, Arabic is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. It is also one of the six official languages of the United Nations. Being one of the only modern languages to be written and read in a right-to-left form, Arabic is a fascinating language with a long history. For all of these reasons and many more, we can all agree that Arabic is more than deserving of its very own day.

#RESEARCH

Ear Squeaks Reveal Where Your Eyes Are Looking

Scientists can now pinpoint where someone's eyes are looking, just by listening to their ears



You can actually estimate the movement of the eyes, the position of the target that the eyes are going to look at, just from recordings made with a microphone in the ear canal," says senior study author Jennifer Groh, a professor in the departments of Psychology and Neuroscience and Neurobiology at Duke University.

In 2018, Groh's team discovered that the ears make a subtle, imperceptible noise when the eyes move.

It also works the other way around. Just by knowing where someone is looking, Groh and her team were able to predict what the waveform of the subtle ear sound would look like.

These sounds, Groh believes, may be caused when eye movements stimulate the brain to contract either middle ear muscles, which typically help dampen loud sounds, or the hair cells that help amplify quiet sounds.

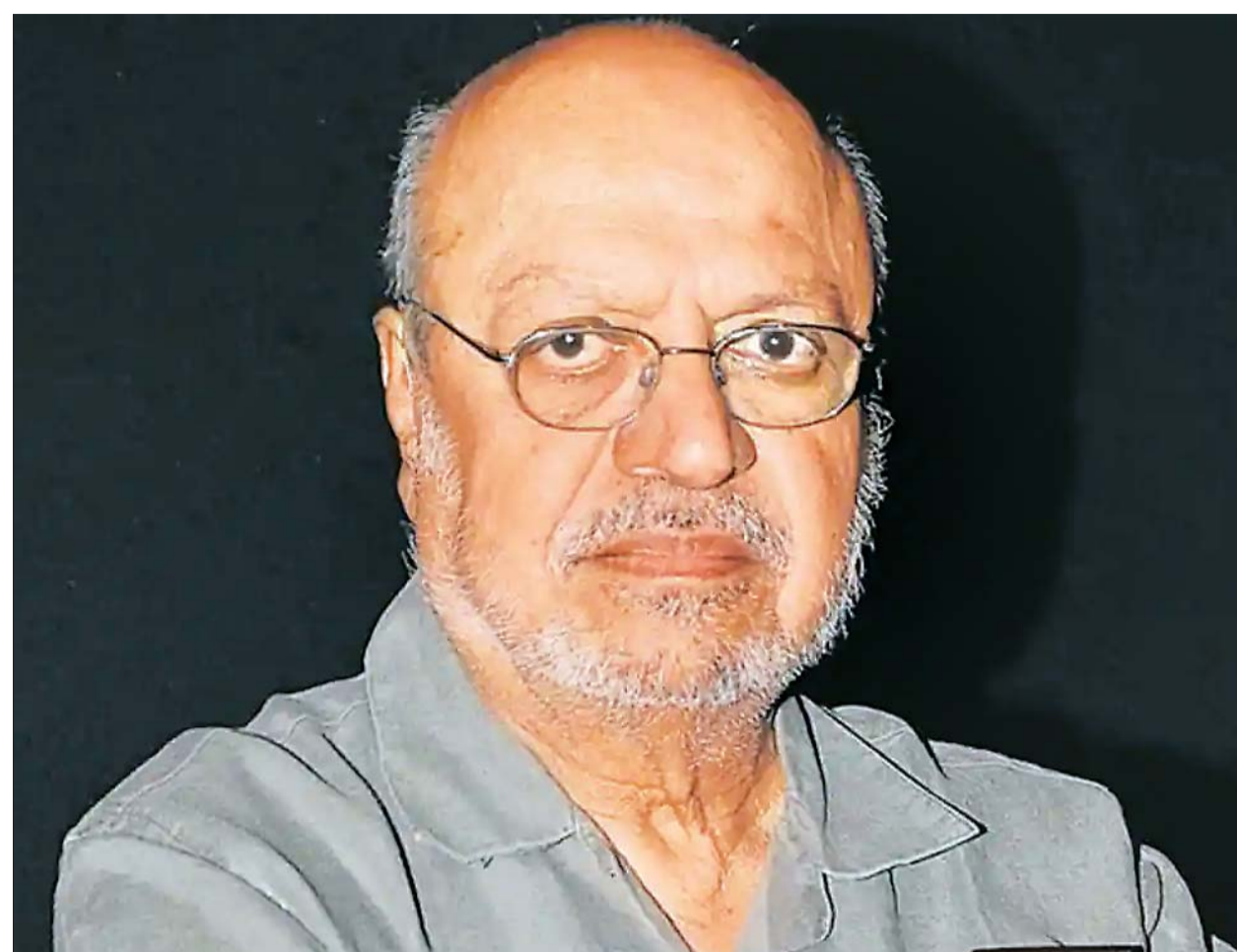
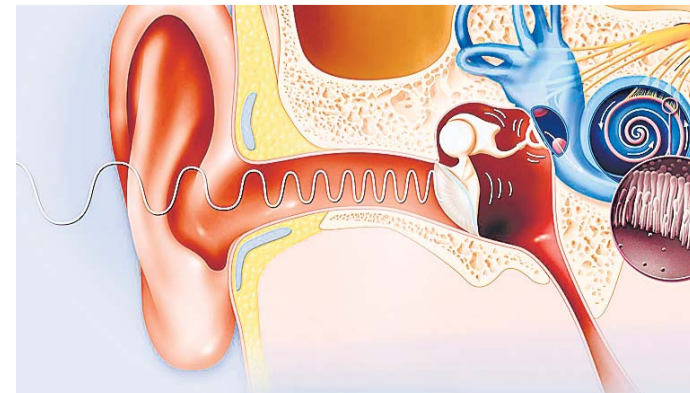
The exact purpose of these ear squeaks is unclear, but Groh's initial hunch is that it might help sharpen people's perception.

"We think that this is part of a system for allowing the brain to match up where sights and sounds are located, even though our eyes can move when our head and ears do not," Groh says.

"If each part of the ear contributes individual rules for the eardrum signal, then they could be used as a type of clinical tool to assess which part of the anatomy in the ear is malfunctioning," says lead author Stephanie Lovich, a graduate student in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Just as the eye's pupils constrict or dilate like a camera's aperture to adjust how much light gets in, the ears too have their own way to regulate hearing.

In 2018, Groh and her team discovered that these same sound-regulating mechanisms were also activated by eye movements, suggesting that



SHYAM BENEAL

The Explorer Of Arts

When asked what triggered him to make 'The last hero', Benegal said, "My uncle, Ramesh was a member of Netaji's Tokyo Cadet. As a young boy growing up in Hyderabad, he would regale me with stories of thrills and adventure, picked directly out of the experiences of the Azad Hind Fauj. One day soon after World War II had ended, my uncle and I stood on the shores of a Mumbai beach, waiting for the return of Netaji, after his release as a prisoner of the British. The seeds for this film might have been sown then, I do not know. During the eighties, I had come to Calcutta for some research on my film on Nehru. I met Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose, the head of the Netaji Research Bureau and took a close look at the historical documents and objects within the bureau, representing episodes in the life of a great man. I had wished to make a film on the Indian National Army for a long time. For one reason or another, these ideas never took concrete shape."



ANKUR

Dr. Shoma A. Chatterji
Film scholar, journalist & author

also by his thorough groundedness which stripped away the awe one felt when listening to such great scholarship.

He made his first amateur film at the age of 12 with his father's 16 mm camera. He studied Economics at the Osmania University and got involved in student theatre. He was deeply influenced by the ideology and work of

Shyam Benegal was born in Trimulgherry, Andhra Pradesh, on December 19, 1934. He will be celebrating his 89th birthday this year and he is still active as his recent film 'Mujib: The Making of a Nation' is a proof of this belief.

Many years before, I interviewed him for the first time. I went to listen to an informal talk he was giving to a group of very young film students at some film festival. I knew him as a filmmaker and was not familiar with his power of oratory and his scholarship in cinema, literature, politics, et al. I was mesmerized, entirely,

He made his first amateur film at the age of 12 with his father's 16 mm camera. He studied Economics at the Osmania University and got involved in student theatre. He was deeply influenced by the ideology and work of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose during India's struggle for freedom. His uncle fought in the Indian National Army founded by Bose and Netaji's controversial life has been a constant source of fascination and inspiration.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose during India's struggle for freedom. His uncle fought in the Indian National Army founded by Bose and Netaji's controversial life has been a constant source of fascina-



ZUREDA

#BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE



Research Bureau and took a close look at the historical documents and objects within the bureau, representing episodes in the life of a great man. I had wished to make a film on the Indian National Army for a long time. For one reason or another, these ideas never took concrete shape."

I happened to interview him at his Tardeo office one day, soon after he was bestowed the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his rich contribution to cinema in 2005. The office was neat and clean, simply furnished without any decorative frills, an expression of a man who believes in simplicity. He went on and on without bothering about the questions and held me in thrall with his knowledge and his beliefs. When asked what his reaction was, to the biggest award, he simply said, "Winning an award is one aspect of filmmaking. But you don't make films only to win awards. Rather you want it to be seen and enjoyed by the people and the sense you can provide them through your film. This award is a lifetime achievement award. The award overwhelms me and also, I feel slightly saddened because it is like saying that this is the end of the line. But the show must go on."

As a student, he formed the

In response to my question on what is it about cinema as a medium of expression that attracted him, Benegal said, "Cinema uses elements practically from all the different arts – literature, painting, music, photography, dance, mime, movement and poetry. This is what attracts me to cinema. It allows you to explore all the arts while you are actually making a film, or, while you are working towards making a film."

Hyderabad Film Society, which screened Ray's Pather Panchali as its inaugural film. During his journey through advertising, he made more than 900 advertising shorts and 11 corporate films. He also made documentaries. His first feature film in Hindi, Ankur (The Seedling, 1973), tells the story of an arrogant urban youth who returns to his ancestral home in feudal Andhra Pradesh. His subsequent affair with the wife of one of his labourers (played powerfully by Shabana Azmi in her debut) and her eventual call to arms against the feudal system brought him criticism for using a purportedly "anti-Indian" approach and for "victimizing" women. The film brought the problem of feudal and patriarchal structures to the fore.

He shifted to Mumbai in 1959 to join Lintas, one of the foremost advertising agencies in the country and worked there till 1963. He



SURAJ KA SAATVA GHODA

was soon making commercials, shorts, documentaries and corporate films. He left to join Advertising & Sales Promotion Co., where he worked for the next ten years. During his journey through advertising, he made more than 900 advertising shorts and 11 corporate films. He also made documentaries.

He taught at Bhawan's College

for Boston WGBH TV and with the Children's Television Workshop in New York. He played an active part in shaping film education as the Chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India during 1980-83 and 1989-92. As a person deeply committed to social integration in India, Shyam Benegal was a part of the National Integration Council (1986-89) and the National Council of Arts. He has taught at the Northwestern University in Chicago in 2002 and in Austria several years ago.

In response to my question on what is it about cinema as a medium of expression that attracted him, Benegal said, "Cinema uses elements practically from all the different arts – literature, painting, music, photography, dance, mime, movement and poetry. This is what attracts me to cinema. It allows you to explore all the arts while you are actually making a film, or, while you are working towards making a film."

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



BHUMIKA

#J'ADORE

A Swish, Snazzy & Desi Twist!

It's time to get over the quintessential Western-wear outfit code and give in to the irreplaceable charm of Indian ethnicity

Christmas is sassy. New Year is fun, the holiday season is all set to bring you that much-awaited cheer! With a swift change in the weather and the rising bonhomie, everything is stunning and dazzling about December. And well, the thrill of stepping into the New Year is the cherry on top!

Are you too all primed up to party hard and enjoy this time of the year to the hilt? After all, dressing up is so much fun, especially when it's time to mark your calendars with a new beginning (resolutions included).

The party vibe, at this time of the year, may have high-octane gowns, cocktail skirts, and sparkling dresses at the epicentre, but how about giving your sartorial choices, a swish, snazzy, Desi twist?

With cross-cultural meets and fusion styles enhancing the festive spirit, it's time to get over the quintessential Western-wear outfit code and give in to the irreplaceable charm of Indian ethnicity.



Indo-Western Fusion Wear

A long flared Anarkali gown in Christmas colours- red, pink, golden, pearl white, or green and Indian-style embroidery is also worth a trial. Alternatively, pairing a plain dress with a designer dupatta-style jacket, draped like a wrap can be a perfect amalgamation of Indo-Western sensibilities.

The Suave Factor



There are a few colours that represent the Christmas spirit like nothing else. Wear reds and whites for a real-Santa feel, or say yes to vibrant greens and plush golds. With the right colours, you can smoothly carry off a complete Indian garment that speaks elegance and have an uber-chic feel.

Keeping Ostentation in Check



This one is much like the Simplicity Rule we spoke of earlier. You can conveniently leave home your embroidered dupatta when you choose a party-wear lehenga choli to give it a crop top and skirt combo look! Choose dresses or Indian outfits that are either plain or subtle with details.

The Layering Trend



Oh well, layers are very much in trend, this season too! And if you're in the northern hemisphere, the winter season makes a perfect match for pulling out and flaunting your best layers. Jacket suits, jacket lehenga cholis, kurtis layered with a frilly cape, and ruffled ponchos go with the party vibe.



Keep it Simple

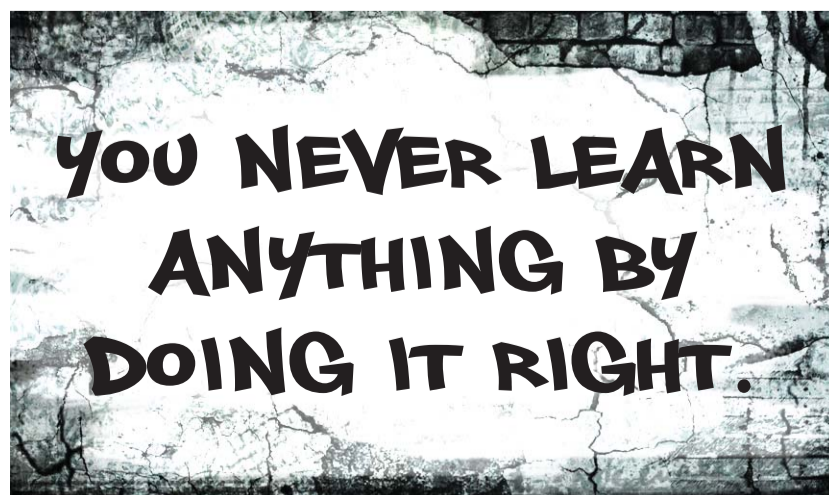
You can opt for an imposing party-wear saree and play low key with the accessories, or a plain saree with a designer blouse and statement earrings. You can also experiment with gorgeous designer blouse designs, which are the toast of the season!

Sequined Charm

Sequins look spectacular in Indian ensembles like floor-length gowns and kurtis, giving them a chic, glamorous, and youthful appearance.



THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman