

#TRENDING

New Travel Trend

The appeal of 'flying naked' lies in its simplicity. It allows for quicker airport navigation and reduced stress, ultimately transforming the way people perceive and engage with air travel.



Packing a suitcase for a flight can be a stressful experience. Many travellers find the packing process confusing and are unsure of what to include in

Bare Minimum

Travellers are increasingly sharing their experiences on social media about 'flying naked.' This movement encourages individuals to leave their luggage behind and embrace a more carefree approach to air travel. The essence of this trend revolves around the idea that passengers board flights with only the clothes on their bodies and a few vital essentials stashed away in their pockets.

This minimalist packing philosophy is gaining traction as a response to the rising, and often, unreasonable baggage fees levied by airlines. Many

carriers have adopted strict policies regarding carry-on luggage, charging hefty fees for bags that exceed size limits by just a few centimetres. In light of these soaring costs, travellers are actively seeking innovative solutions to avoid the financial burden of additional baggage fees. By choosing to travel without traditional luggage, these individuals minimise their expenses and streamline their travel experience. It allows for quicker airport navigation and reduced stress, ultimately transforming the way people perceive and engage with air travel.

The Whole Picture

While the trend of travelling with minimal belongings is gaining popularity with Gen Z, critics argue that while packing light may seem convenient, travellers may often need essentials upon arrival. This can quickly erase any savings from avoiding baggage fees. Moreover, this cycle of constantly buying and discarding items raises valid concerns regarding cost-effectiveness and environmental sustainability. It isn't just about the money spent, the environmental impact becomes significant when considering the waste generated from these disposable purchases. Despite these challenges, many resourceful travellers have ingeniously adapted to the 'flying naked' trend. For instance, individuals choose clothing with multiple pockets, allowing them to carry essential items such as toiletries, snacks, and travel documents without extra bags. Others have devised creative methods, like stuffing clothes into neck pillows or using duty-free shopping bags, to avoid incurring additional charges. By employing innovative packing strategies and thinking outside the box, travellers are making the minimalist approach practical while being mindful of their budget.

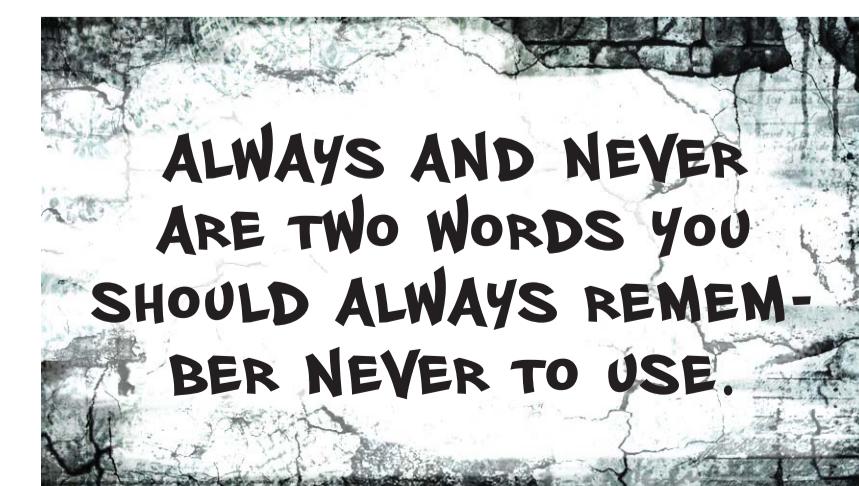
Air Travel And Gen Z

Air travel has been experiencing several new trends pioneered by Gen Z and popularised through social media. How do you pass the time on long flight? Do you read a book, watch the in-flight entertainment, listen to a podcast, or scroll through your phone? There's a new trend that abandons all of these options. Welcome to 'ravelogging,' a travel trend

that originated with young travellers who have chosen to forgo all forms of in-flight entertainment. Instead, they simply stare out the window or sit with their thoughts for the duration of the flight. This means no film, music, sleep headphones, snacks, or distractions once seated. Alternative names for this meditative experience include 'bareback' and 'flying raw.'



THE WALL

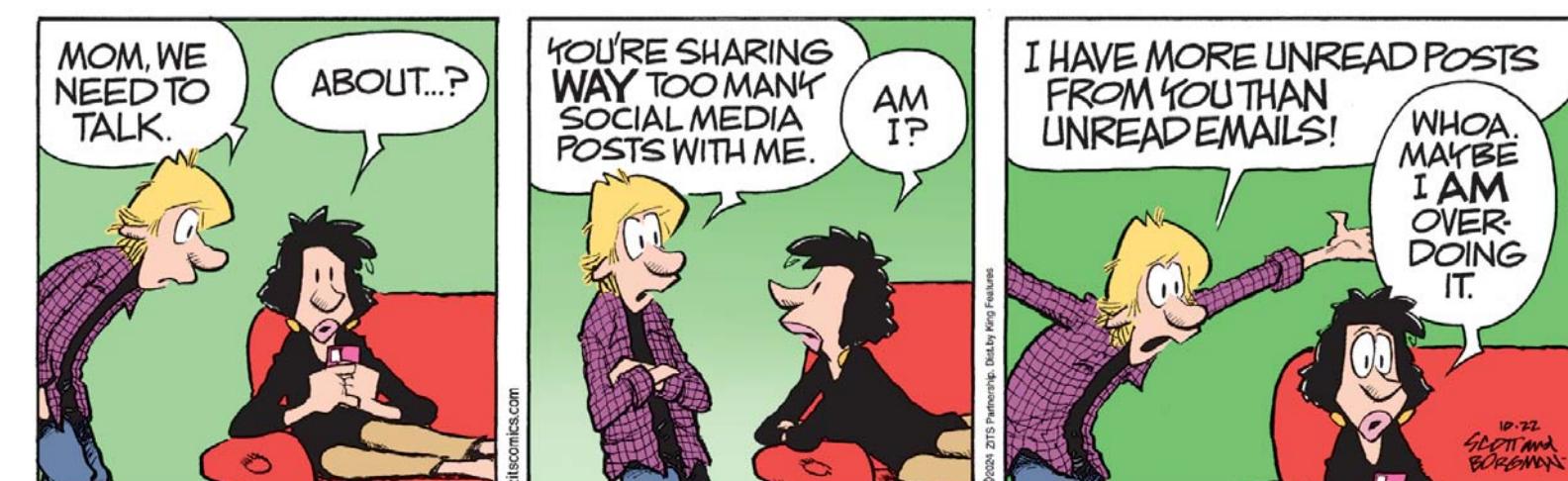


BABY BLUES



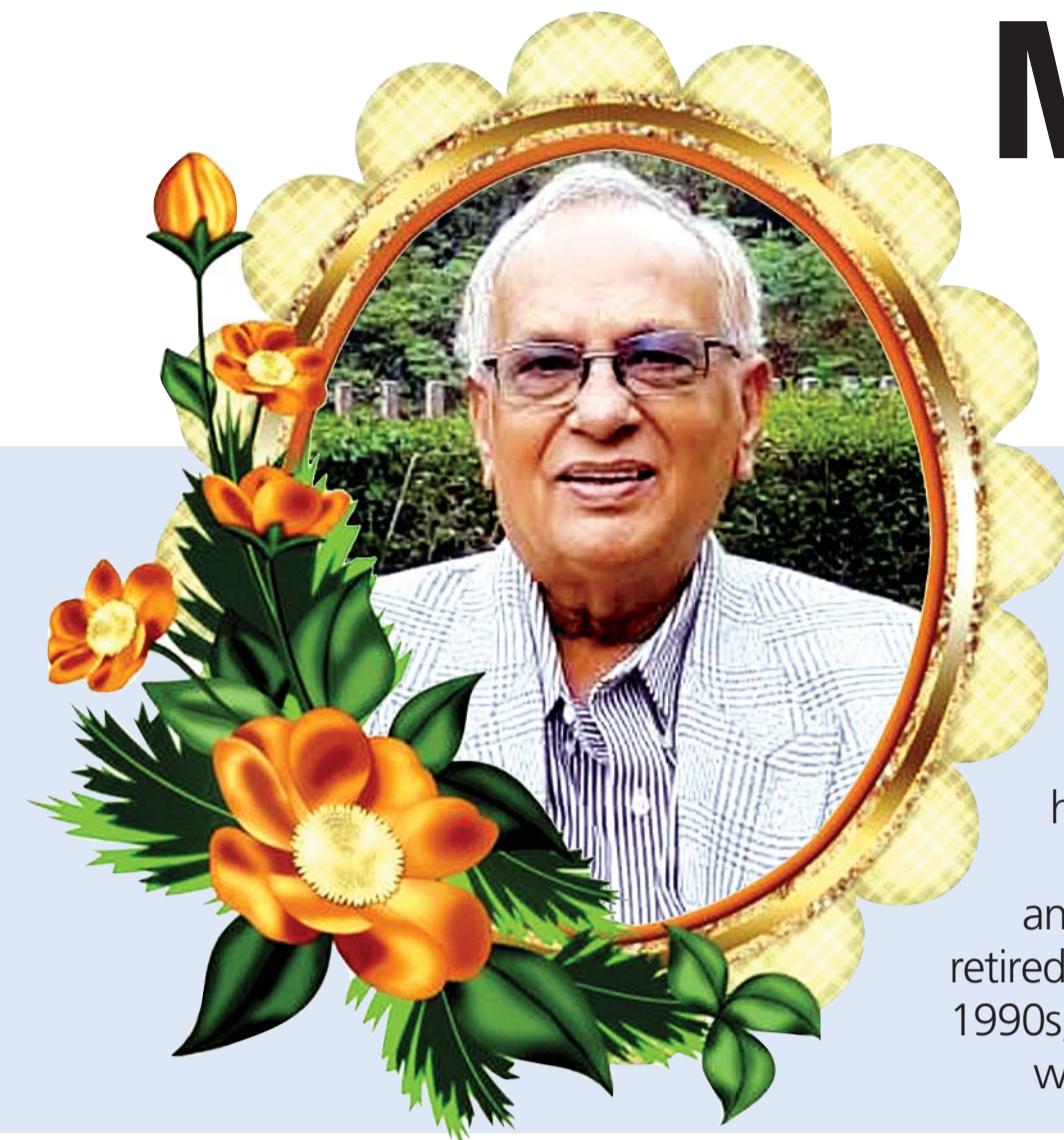
By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



Fruitcake Day

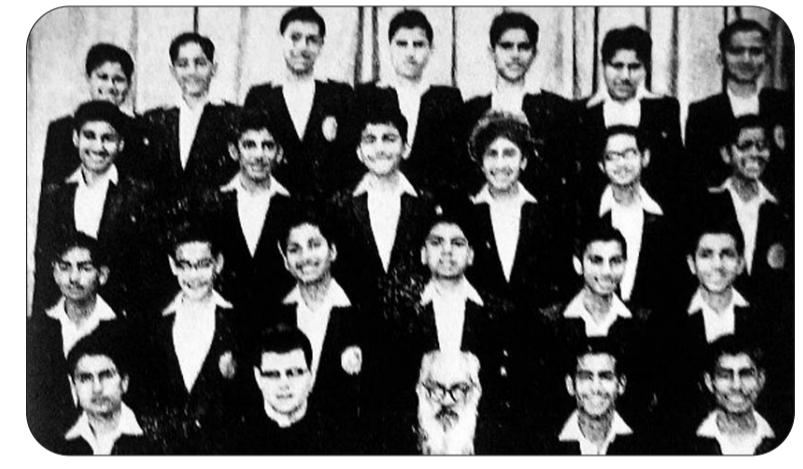
Fruitcakes, we've all seen them in the movies or grandma's kitchen. The heavy and dark cake that looks like it went through seven stages of baking and sounds like a fist thumping against a wooden table when set down on a surface. Yet, there is a day made for it. That's right, this day is called Fruitcake Day and it's made for the celebration of the cake that we all seem to find synonymous with a brick. Indulge in variations of a classic cake from all over the world or compete to see who can fling this fruit-packed favourite the furthest.

My Brother is No More
So also the Family Base

Subhash loved life and enjoyed it fully. But family came first. When Subodh was admitted in the early 1970s to a university in the US, he did not have a blazer or a coat. When Subodh was about to leave Jaipur, Subhash gave his stylish, precious Tweed coat to Subodh, so that he would have something warm. Later, when our mother passed away in 1980, Subhash asked for and got a transfer to Jaipur so that our father, who retired in 1969, would have good support. Later, in the 1990s, he organized a major family reunion in Gwalior, where he was posted in the Narcotics department.



#OBITUARY



St. Xavier's School, Jaipur, Batch 1964, Std. X-B.

● Subodh Mathur

Subodh Mathur was one of my elder brothers. He passed away in Jaipur on 21 December 2024. What an older brother to have! He was born in Alwar, just a few days before India became independent in 1947.

He grew up in Alwar, Bharatpur, Jhalawar, Bikaner, and Ajmer, where our father was posted as the Collector. When we came to Jaipur in 1958, he had already been studying in Hindi-medium schools.

A few years ago, he wrote, "I remember attending Rampuria High School in Bikaner and was passed around an abandoned cinema hall. I recall that I played the lead role in a one-act play called *Jhitiya*, loosely based on the story of Red Riding Hood going to meet her Grandmother in a remote cot-

tage through the jungle. And obviously, running into the disguised Big Bad Wolf."

In Jaipur, our parents wanted Subhash and his two younger brothers to attend St. Xavier's School. While those two got in easily, Subhash failed the English test as he was switching from Hindi medium to English. But our mother, though born in 1918, was fluent in English. She and he did not give in!

Ultimately, there were three of us in St. Xavier's Jaipur: Subhash who finished in 1964, Ashok in 1965, and Subodh in 1966. We were the only three real brothers in the school at the same time. And we were real brothers. And, the youngest, Satish, joined Xavier's in 1967. So, there were four of us again. When Subhash graduated from Xavier's with flying colours, our mother uncharacteristically hugged him. She said, "Ab mera beta bhi sahib ban gaya." (Now, my son too has become a Sahib.)

Our father, Khem Chandji, was a senior IAS officer with a large family and no corruption. So, we were always a high-status family on a tight budget. On my father's first posting to Jaipur, he got a house in Civil Lines, which is now allocated to ministers. High status. But, between us three brothers, we had only one bicycle. Every evening, after we had come back from school by school bus, Subhash would lug his two younger brothers back to school, for swimming and sports. It was quite uphill for our home to reach the railway crossing.

He excelled in swimming and cricket, which he played for the school and Rajasthan University.

After his MA from Jaipur, he gave the UPSC exam, and got into the Indian Revenue Service. By the time he left Jaipur to join the government, he had worked hard to woo Tilak Bhattacharya, a hostel student. They married in 1974, and had two sons, Gaurav and Tushar.

Subhash loved life and enjoyed it fully. But family came first. When Subodh was admitted in the early 1970s to a university in the US, he did not have a blazer or a coat. When Subodh was about to leave Jaipur, Subhash gave his stylish, precious Tweed coat to Subodh, so that he would have something warm. Later, when our mother passed away in 1980, Subhash asked for and got a transfer to Jaipur so that our father,

who retired in 1969, would have good support. Later, in the 1990s, he organized a major family reunion in Gwalior, where he was posted in the Narcotics department. Subhash died in 2000, his name vanished from the list that went to the PMO. No explanation from anyone. The PMO made it clear that it had not deleted Subhash's name, they had approved the list as it came to them. Even the Union Finance Secretary, who was close to our oldest brother, PC Mathur and had spent endless hours in our Jaipur home before he became an IAS officer, could or would say nothing. Subhash, the family base in Jaipur, has crumbled.

Subhash became a part of a group that offered free coaching to UPSC aspirants. In commercial establishments, one coach/teacher would have several students. Not in Subhash's group. They would form a panel of 3-5 senior people, who would do mock interviews with one young aspirant at a time, all free. One of the persons they coached topped the All-India list!

Subhash and Tilak took part in several charity/development activities. One of them was to help develop the village of Bachu Singh, who has served the family for decades. After his oldest brother, PC Mathur, known in the family as Titi and Bhan Sahab, passed away in 2015, Subhash was left as the oldest of his siblings in Jaipur, which remained the family base to which everyone returned from wherever in the world they were. Without Subhash, the family base in Jaipur has crumbled.

He leaves behind his wife Tilak and two sons, Gaurav, his wife Poonam and their son, and Tushar, his wife Shweta and their two sons. And his siblings and their families. We are united in our sorrow.

The Government offered him the Chief Commissioner job in Jaipur, which was not quite comparable to his job in Ahmedabad. They offered Jaipur because they knew Subhash wanted to eventually retire in Jaipur.

Subhash accepted the Jaipur job with grace. He ran that office with pride, ignoring the appalling events that had brought him there. He retired in 2007. Years later, the people in that office, and the Ahmedabad office, remember him fondly as a man they could talk to easily and freely, notwithstanding his rank. He followed the family tradition of not retiring. He joined Quora.com, which is a Q&A website, in 2017. He wrote nearly 18,000 answers on civil service issues. Quora shows that his answers have been read over 3 crore times in total, with more

than 4 lakh reads in December 2024 alone.



Calcutta Customs House.

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Though he had grown up without computers, he set up and became the editor-cum-organizer of a website <https://inourdays.org/>, which records personal memories. In his college days, Subhash and his friends had put together a prime magazine named the *Oasis*. All the material was in English. Quite a step for someone who had failed an English test in his school days. After he retired, he came back to writing short stories in English. Some of them were published in Rajasthan Patrika, one of them even made it to a national publication.

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Feb 1972, LBS Mussoorie.



Feb 1972, LBS Mussoorie.

#INDIAN ARTIST

Tabla Vadak Amrit Hussain



When Amrit Hussain's fingers touch the surface of the tabla, a sound comes out that touches millions of hearts.

● Zakir Hussain

Zakir Hussain, little did I know that performing tabla in the hearts of the listeners. He is not only a tabla player, but also a famous personality of writer and musician. He has won the applause of the audience through his many compositions in foreign forums. Along with this, the flags are raised

Made on the basis of Struggle

through music in solo music and group bands. Starting from Jaipur about 10 years ago his musical journey has so far reached 60 countries. His music will change my destiny in such a way that I would get a chance to travel to around 60 countries and my favorite instrumental tabla would resonate in these places. But all this was made possible by my hard work and blessings of the masters and I had the privilege of playing tabla in more than 60 countries. This is to say of International Artist Amrit Hussain. About 18 years ago today in 2003, in the city of Napoli, Italy, he represented India in the Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio di 11 countries and left a mark by presenting the art of our country very well. Artist Amrit Hussain's fortunes have shone in harmony with artists from 11 countries in a musical concert held at the National Theatre, Italy, and today, he is leading a campaign to integrate classical music with western music on foreign soil.

Tabla Nazar Amrit Hussain says that during the Europe tour in 2003, there was a performance with artists from 11 countries in a multinational orchestra. Since then, artists from these 11 countries became friends and due to this friendship, classical music started getting western music. When Amrit Hussain's fingers touch the surface of the tabla, a sound comes out that touches millions of hearts. The magic of these fingers rises on the head of the listeners. Amrit Hussain is fast recovering as a household name in western countries. Amrit Hussain, who has been instrumental in establishing tabla playing on the art scene, is a great tabla player and also a great music director and writer.

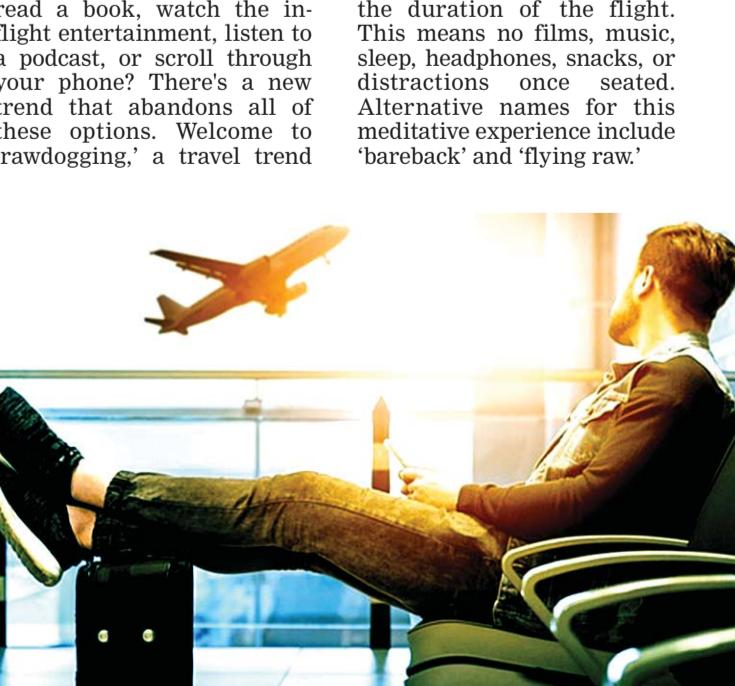
He has mastered in tabla playing Ek Taal, Teen Taal, Qaida, Tibaiya, Peshkar, Qaida, Tukda and some special restrictions as well as lessons from elders. Amrit Hussain is seen blooming on the stage. When he plays the tabla, there is a similarity in his playing, but also different techniques and the sentiments. What it is this unique talent that sets him apart from others in the music world. Like his music, his thoughts act as a bridge between the past and the present and a beautiful picture of his creative journey.

Amrit Hussain says that he is a soul. If you want to become a good artist, then you have to take permission from that instrument so that the instrument accepts it. This is a very important thing. If that instrument accepts, then understand that the door has opened. When I was 5 years old, my journey of playing tabla started. I spent my childhood in Jaipur only. Studied from Jaipur's Khandelwal School. From an early age, Abba started teaching Tabla."

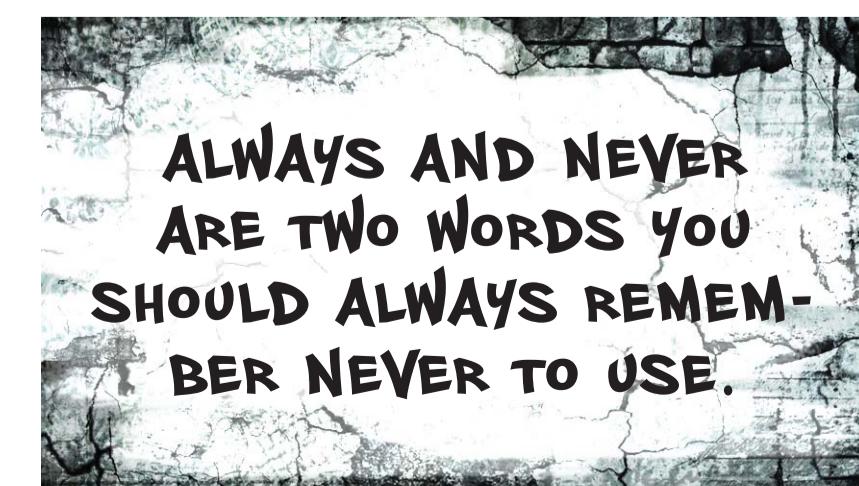
Amrit Hussain says that he is an heirloom music. Music is being served in his gharana for 7 generations. "Our" Abba, Ustad Rafiq Mohammad Saheb and Dasta, Ustad Rasheed Khan Samdewala said that tabla is worshipped like Saraswati. Respect it. Don't think of it as a roadblock. Never keep a shoe near the tabla. Treat it as an object of worship. There is a soul in every instrument. There



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



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