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Exploring Mayoral Run

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DESI TALK

IN NEW YORK

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Gujarat Conclave
Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani headlines event on diaspora's role in his state's development

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Photo: ITV Gold

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Gujarat Conclave

Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani headlines discussion on how diaspora can contribute to his state's development

By SHRUTI DHAWAN

Home to some of India's most admired leaders, and some of the greatest business minds - Gujarat is a land where leadership and entrepreneurship live and work in harmony.

The Gujarati Association of North America (GANA) in association with Consulate General of India New York and the Federation of Indian Associations - NY NJ CT on Jan. 10, 2021, held a hybrid in-person and online Gujarat Conclave, Investment and Tourism to promote development in the state.

The conclave aimed to seek inputs from subject matter experts. Organizers told Desi Talk, the conclave was attended by 4,000 spectators globally, as well as limited groups of individuals in-person based on regulations laid down by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Another 970 people attended collectively over Facebook and YouTube live and virtually over Zoom, organizers estimated.

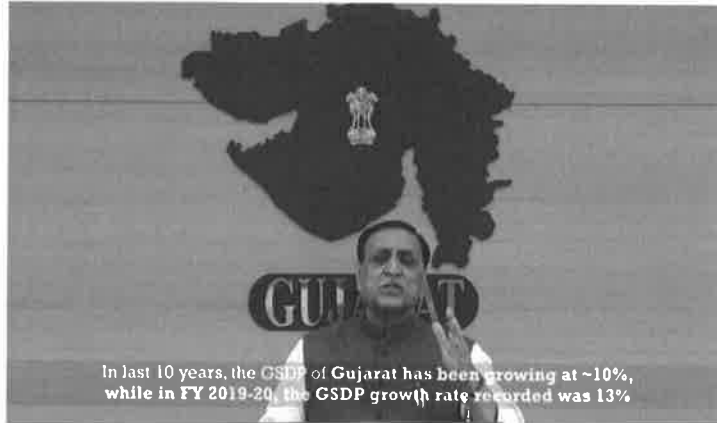
Headlining the event was Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani. Other prominent participants from India were Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat Nitin Patel, Tourism Minister of Gujarat Jawahar Chavda, President of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries Natu M. Patel.

The discussants also included distinguished tourism and media experts from the United States such as producer, TV host, and writer Darley Newman, Susan Geringer, president of Geringer Global Travel, and Sue Shapiro, president Shapiro Travel Resources.

Ohio State Senator Niraj Antani, Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal, and Amit Jani, political advisor to President-elect Joe Biden also spoke during the event.

Chief Minister Rupani said, "Gujarat, today, has become the growth engine of the country. In the last ten years, the GDP of Gujarat has been growing at ~10% while in the financial year 2019-2020, the GDP growth rate recorded was 13%. It is expected to achieve an even higher growth trajectory in the foreseeable future."

With just 5% of India's population, Gujarat contributes to about 8% of India's GDP. Gujarat also has the lowest unemployment rate in the entire country at 3.4% as per a survey report by the National Statistical Office, Government of India.



PHOTOS/VIDEOS FROM ITV GOLD

In last 10 years, the GSDP of Gujarat has been growing at ~10%, while in FY 2019-20, the GSDP growth rate recorded was 13%

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani addresses the Gujarat Conclave of Investment and Tourism organized by Gujarati Association of North America (GANA) in association with the Consulate General of India in New York and the Federation of Indian Associations - NYNJCT.



Leading members of the Federation of Indian Associations - NYNJCT, including Chairman Ankur Vaidya, attended the Gujarat Conclave of Investment and Tourism, in person and abiding by the rules laid down by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

"It is worth sharing at this platform that Gujarat has topped in the country in receiving the highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) not only in the last year but also in the last two quarters. One lakh nineteen thousand crore FDI has been received," the CM added.

Among the participants, were Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh

Worldwide Media and ITV Gold and senior advisor and past-president of FIA, and his son, Dr. Ravi Parikh, a well-known ophthalmologist in New York, a great supporter of artificial intelligence, whose goal is to combine clinical medicine, health policy, management, and better deliver care to patients in the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Sudhir Parikh, who conducted the

panel on 'Artificial Intelligence' thanked Chief Minister Rupani, CG Jaiswal, and those present, adding, "as a founding member of Gujarati Association of North America, it's my privilege and honor to host this webinar in conjunction with FIA."

"Today we are going to discuss artificial intelligence (AI) and its role in the health care industry in India. AI involves the use of the computer software that can assess, critically analyze and interpret data similar to the human being. We currently see AI in many industries to optimize efficiency and it reduces the cost," Dr. Sudhir Parikh said noting how healthcare affects everyone personally and is an industry in the U.S. equal in size to the entire French economy. "Healthcare also has unique challenges of access with the many physicians and health centers in the large cities is increasing, increasing cost and need to address a growing aging population."

Dr. Ravi Parikh, chairman, Manhattan Retina and Eye Consultants said, "How AI can help us is that right now one issue is improving access. So both in the U.S. and in India many patients are from the rural areas, or due to crowding and now with many COVID restrictions, are unable to come in and be identified to seek care when they need it."

He believes what AI can do is bring care outside of a traditional clinic. Patients could be identified easier without the need for an in person physician or nurse using smartphones or certain centers. This can help identify at-risk patients and bring them into care, both reducing costs and hopefully also improving care.

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya praised the multicultural nature of Gujarat. "Gujarat is a diverse state that consists of not only Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis and Jews, all claiming to be Gujaratis and living in the state."

He thanked fellow speakers and was excited to learn from all the distinguished leaders, on what Gujarat has to offer to the world.

"The Statue of Unity in Kevadia of Sardar Patel is attracting tourists not just from India but also from across the world," said Consul General Jaiswal. "I encourage you to visit Kevadia, it is a project born out of the vision of Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. I would also encourage you to visit Rann of Kutch. I have

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Dr. Sudhir Parikh (left) and Dr. Ravi Parikh (right) talk at the Gujarat Conclave of Investment and Tourism organized by Gujarati Association of North America (GANA) in association with the Consulate General of India New York and FIA-NYNJCT.



Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal talks at the Gujarat Conclave of Investment and Tourism organized by Gujarati Association of North America (GANA) in association with the Consulate General of India New York and FIA-NYNJCT.

Gujarat Conclave

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

been there during the Rann festival and I can tell you that it is a unique experience."

Natu Patel said, "Today India is exporting soya, rice, wheat, pulses, and various peanuts. All kinds of agricultural outputs are much higher. Similarly, horticulture by India is taking (its) place in the world. We were importing a big quantity of various types of horticulture. So, India is a consuming economy as well as provides the export platform, and Gujarat is well placed because we have 10 active ports and new six ports are coming. Due to the new labor policy, which is very friendly, you can, I think, hire people at a very competitive cost."

Deputy Consul General of India in New York Shatrughna Sinha recalled the visit of Governor of New Jersey Phil Murphy to Gujarat in September 2019, which the Consulate General of India facilitated along with the governor's office. "We can organize many more of such interactions but of course we will need your support. I am sure you are there. And we need to work together in promoting the Gujarat-US relationship as well," he added ad-



PHOTO: ITV, GOV

The Gujarat Conclave was addressed by several elected officials and experts, led by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, to discuss how to bring more investments and further build the tourism industry in the state.

ressing the conclave participants.

Ohio State Senator Antani said he believes the younger Indian-American generation who are elected are able to do

so because of the immigrant generation that came to the U.S. before them.

"Because of you, because of my parent's generation who came to the U.S. and sur-

vived and now are thriving. That is very important and now you know our community is overall doing well in the midst of the economic and health crisis. Our community is doing well and one of the things is that when a community prospers, we as the diaspora must also look to our native land India," Antani added.

Newman said, "I go into film or travel TV shows because our shows are all about putting locals on camera. They guide us through the area and share the history and the culture. Gujarat has so much of that to express and share everything from the culture, cuisine, and festivals to the Buddhist circuit and UNESCO world heritage sites. Those are the types of things that are amazing to understand. When you share that content and information with the world they want to go and travel to India; they want to travel to Gujarat; they want to experience those places. They get to experience through the power of television and through sharing of that information and content. Then so many people will go and do those things because they feel like they have learned about the place and they have experienced it through the people."

CITY VIEWS

Political Activist Harpreet Singh Toor Announces Run For New York City Council

BY A STAFF WRITER

Community leader and political activist Harpreet Singh Toor announced recently, his candidacy for New York City Council District 23 in Eastern Queens. If he wins the June Democratic primary and gets elected, Toor would become the first Indian-American on the Big Apple's City council.

Toor would be replacing Council Member Barry S. Grodenchik, who is not running for re-election.

City Council District 23 includes the neighborhoods of Bayside Hills, Bellerose, Douglaston, Floral Park, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hollis, Hollis Hills, Holliswood, Little Neck, New Hyde Park, Oakland Gardens and Queens Village.

"Our city is experiencing a crisis of leadership, and Queens is suffering as a result," Toor is quoted saying in a press release.

"It's time to restore strength and integ-



Harpreet Singh Toor, a political activist and leader, recently announced his run for the New York City Council from District 23 in Queens.

riety to our political representation."

Toor pledged to work with City Council leadership to establish an effective, science-based strategy for battling the Covid pandemic.

"I will fight for strong solutions to the alarming budget shortfalls we are facing as a result of the pandemic, and make certain the people of District 23 receive their fair share of services and funding," Toor said.

"We are seeing how the lack of an effective pandemic strategy hurts all of our essential city services, from school closings, to garbage pick-up, to crime fighting, to the shuttering of senior centers, to street maintenance, access to healthcare, the elimination of youth services, and access to meals for seniors and families," Toor said, promising a return to effective leadership and representation.

Toor is credited with building diverse coalitions among elected officials to push through "several groundbreaking initiatives" including passage of the New York Workplace Discrimination Law prohibiting New York employers from discriminating against employees due to their religious attire.

He was also engaged in the successful

campaign for co-naming of two streets in Queens, Gurdwara Street and Punjab Avenue.

Toor, a financial consultant, is a former Community Liaison for Assemblyman David Weprin, and supervised community outreach for the 2020 Census count in Queens.

He is a founder, Past Chairman, and a Past President, of the Sikh Cultural Society of Richmond Hill, which, according to the press release, is the oldest and largest organization of its kind in the tri state region. He was also a founding board member of the Annual Sikh Day Parade.

Toor was also producer, and on-air host, of the decade-long weekly public affairs television show, American Vision, the press release said.

The New York City Council Democratic Primary will be held June 22, 2021.

Toor's campaign manager is Donald Kaplan who can be reached at donald@toorforcitycouncil.com, or at 917-435-8730

Sam Joshi Announces Exploratory Run For Mayor Of Edison, NJ

BY A STAFF WRITER

Sam Joshi, currently the vice president of Edison City Council, announced he is exploring a big for Mayor of the city where he was born and raised.

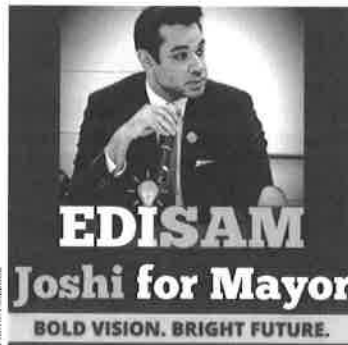
Joshi said he has "dedicated" his life to serving the community.

"It's been the greatest honor to serve as one of seven Council members, especially throughout the pandemic," Joshi said in a press release.

"My impeccable outreach, constituent advocacy, history of consistently voting against property tax increases, and bringing innovative ideas to the Council is a



Edison City Council Vice President Sam Joshi.



Sam Joshi poster on Facebook.

record that I am proud of," Joshi added.

Edison has one of the largest concentration of people of Indian origin in the nation.

Joshi said a Mayor who has a vision for the future of the community was the need of the hour in this time of immense and multiple challenges.

There are already two promising candidates in the run for this office, Thomas Lankey, the current Mayor, and Mahesh Bhagia, who is Municipal Chairman.

Joshi's Facebook page plays on the name of the city with the hashtag #EdiSAM for Mayor with the description "Bold Vision. Bright Future." He also includes a link urging supporters to volunteer for his campaign on his Facebook page.

Indian-American Physicians Launch Campaign To Help India Combat Covid-19

By A Staff Writer

The largest organization representing Indian-American physicians has begun a campaign to help combat the devastating Covid-19 crisis in India.

"In the past week, we have been receiving nothing but mind-numbing news from many countries around the world, particularly in India, the land of our birth," Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, president of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) is quoted saying in an April 27, 2021 press release, pointing to the chilling statistics of the pandemic's daily disastrous toll in India.

Members of AAPI, the largest ethnic medical organization in the country, have been taking proactive steps relating to the pandemic in both U.S. and India, the organization said the press release.

Dr. Jonnalagadda said AAPI has located a source manufacturer that supplies Oxygen concentrators that cost around \$500.00 for each unit. The Indian Embassy and Consulates around the country will assist in the rapid shipping and customs regulations of these lifesaving units, the press release said. So far some numerous members/Chapters of AAPI have placed orders for securing and delivering oxygen concentrators for 200 units to be delivered direct to hospitals in India with the help of SEWA International, a non-profit organization.

Some other non-profits that has swung into action along with AAPI is Life Global, as well as Tarsadia Foundation, to name just a few.

Longtime AAPI member and Secretary General of the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO), Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, noted the "horrifying and scary" situation in India.

Dr. Parikh is global chairman of Life Global USA. He noted that Bikhu U. Patel, founder of Tarsadia Foundation and chairman of Life Global California chapter, has



Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda



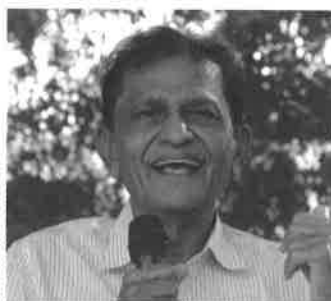
Dr. Anupama Gotimukula



Dr. Sudhir Parikh



Dr. Sajani Shah



B.U. Patel

managed to ship large amount of oxygen concentrate and is sending many PPEs and masks and other Covid infection-related medicines to the India.

Currently, Indian-American physicians, "are using all their contacts and resources at the hospital administrative and government levels to facilitate treatment protocols to be in place at the various hospitals in the US and in India," the AAPI press release said urging AAPI members and the general public to step up and donate generously toward alleviating the "serious health crisis" in India.

"We are appealing through our media

for everyone to support India and its people," Dr. Parikh said. The U.S. government is moving forward fast not least because of the activism and at the urging of all these Indian-American organizations and individuals, he added.

"This is a far cry from the picture a few months ago about our motherland India, which depicted the virus to be on the decline," said Dr. Sajani Shah, chair of AAPI Board of Trustees, describing the current situation as "the worst nightmare," in the AAPI press release.

Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, president-elect, held a brain storming session with

hundreds of AAPI members and thanked those participating for their efforts to help alleviate the situation in India. Dr. Gotimukula is leading the AAPI Initiative to help India.

She outlined some of the steps that the organization will take –

1. Groups of physicians will form smaller groups with Indian physicians in their own state/region, using the model already in place for Tele-Consult. The Google sheet prepared by AAPI has the list of volunteers and we will update it regularly.

2. AAPI has 3 Telehealth platforms that have been identified and it is a free service to physicians from India/US and patients; 1. EglobalDoctors.com; 2. http://Mdotk.com; and, 3. Click2clinic.com. Apps are available on iOS and Android.

Apart from smaller educational webinars with doctors, Dr. Gotimukula urged the physician fraternity of the need to educate their communities on the need to double mask and to get vaccinated so that the intensity of disease is reduced. Daily early morning (U.S. time) sessions are held with physicians in India.

Other Executive Committee members of AAPI also urged physicians to do their utmost to help India in the crisis.

U.S. "Working Around The Clock" To Collect Resources For India's Covid Surge

By A Staff Writer

United States National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in a phone call to his Indian counterpart April 25, 2021, said Washington was working overtime to collect resources to help India fight the coronavirus rampage in India.

Sullivan spoke to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, expressing deep sympathy for the people of India following the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, according to a readout sent by the White House.

Sullivan affirmed America's solidarity with India, the two countries with the greatest number of COVID-19 cases in the world.

Building on the seven-decade health partnership between the United States and India — including battles against smallpox, polio, and HIV — they resolved that India and the United States will continue to fight the global COVID-19 pandemic together.

"Just as India sent assistance to the United States as our hospitals were strained early in the pandemic, the United States is determined to help India in its time of need," the readout said.

"To this end, the United States is working around the



A doctor tends to a patient with a breathing problem inside an ambulance waiting to enter a COVID-19 hospital for treatment, amidst the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Ahmedabad, India, April 25, 2021.

clock to deploy available resources and supplies," the White House said.

Washington has identified sources of specific raw material urgently required for Indian manufacture of the Covishield vaccine that will immediately be made available for India.

And to help treat COVID-19 patients and protect front-line health workers in India, the United States has identified supplies of therapeutics, rapid diagnostic test kits, ventilators, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that will immediately be made available for India.

The United States also is pursuing options to provide oxygen generation and related supplies on an urgent basis, the readout said.

In line with that effort, the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is funding a substantial expansion of manufacturing capability for BioE, the vaccine manufacturer in India, enabling BioE to ramp up to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022.

Additionally, the United States is deploying an expert team of public health advisors from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to work in close collaboration with the U.S. Embassy, India's health ministries, and India's Epidemic Intelligence Service staff, the readout said.

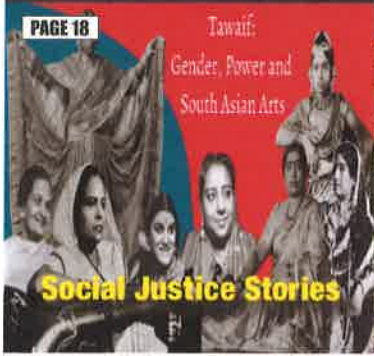
The USAID will also quickly work with CDC to support and fast-track the mobilization of emergency resources available to India through the Global Fund.

The two National Security Advisors agreed that the U.S. and India would stay in close touch in coming days.

Sikh Man Attacked With Hammer At Hotel In Brooklyn **PAGE 9**

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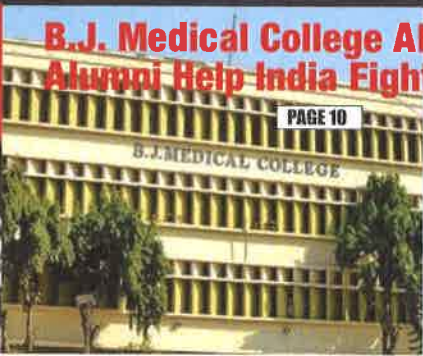
Tawaf:
Gender, Power and
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Social Justice Stories

**B.J. Medical College Ahmedabad
Alumni Help India Fight Covid-19**

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**Webseries On Man's Best
Friend**

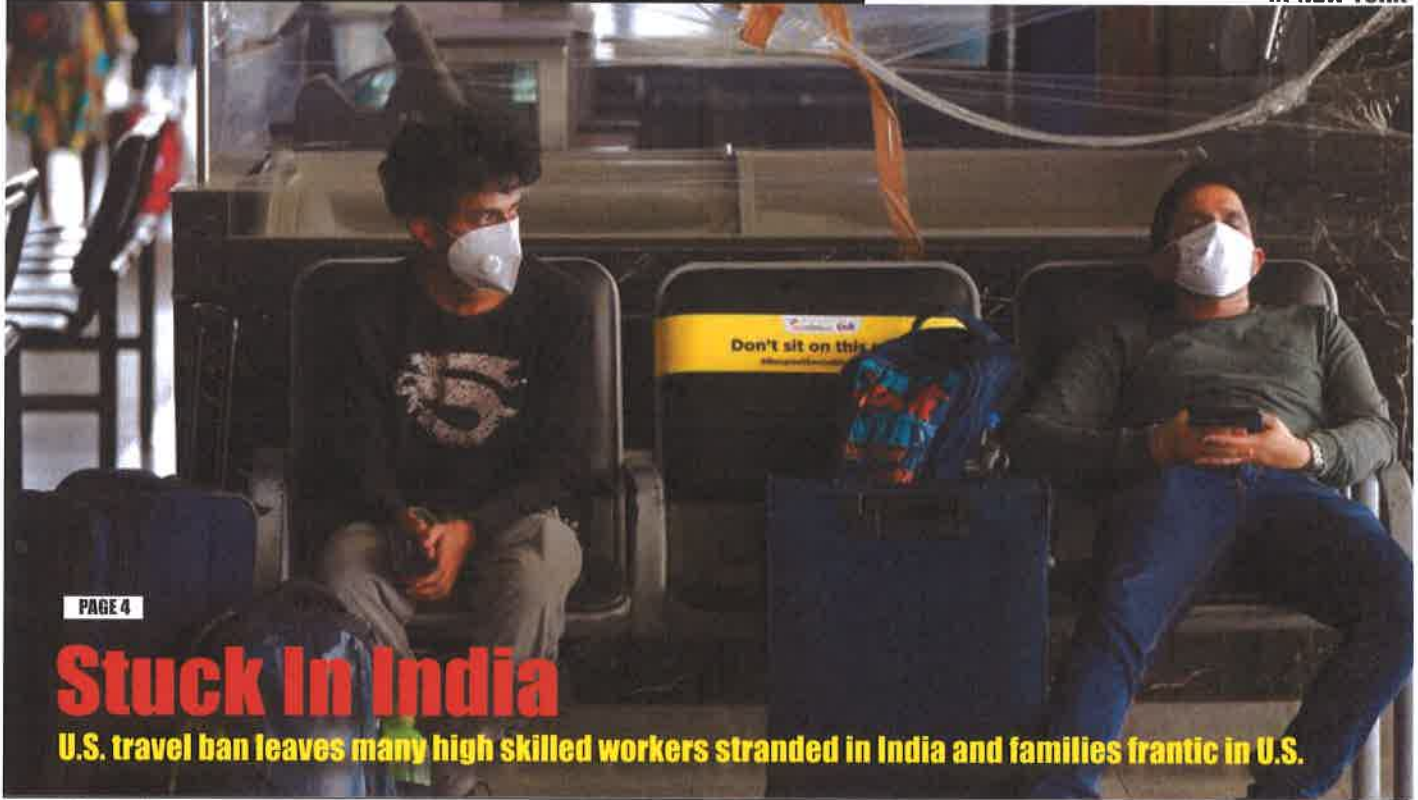
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Stuck In India

U.S. travel ban leaves many high skilled workers stranded in India and families frantic in U.S.

Photo: REUTERS/ANSA/ANSA



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અમેરિકા

અમેરિકાસ્થિત બી. જે. મેડિકલ કોલેજ, અમદાવાદ એલુમની કોવીડ-૧૯માં લોકોની વહારે આવ્યું ...!

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ડૉ. ગુંજન શુક્લ
(Photo Provided)



ડૉ. સુધીર પરીખ
(Photo Provided)



ડૉ. પ્રણય વૈદ
(Photo Provided)



ડૉ. ગૌતમ શાહ
(Photo Provided)

અમદાવાદની બી. જે. મેડિકલ કોલેજ ના અમેરિકામાં વસી ગયેલા એલુમનીએ હાલમાં જ ઝૂમ મિટિંગ કરી હતી અને વતનમાં કોરોનાનો હાકાકાર મચ્યો છે ત્યારે તેમને મદદ કરવા માટે દાન એકઠું કરવાનું નક્કી કર્યું હતું. બી. જે. મેડિકલ કોલેજ, અમદાવાદ એલુમની એસોસિએશન યુએસએના કારોબારી સભ્યોની ઓનલાઇન બેઠક ૩૦ માર્ચ મળી હતી અને થોડા જ દિવસોમાં એક લાખ

ડોલરનો ફાળો એકઠો થઈ ગયો, એમ એલુમનીના પ્રેસિડન્ટ ડૉ. ગુંજન શુક્લે જણાવ્યું છે. કારોબારીમાં પ્રેસિડન્ટ ઉપરાંત એક્ઝિક્યુટિવ બોર્ડ મેમ્બર પદ્મશ્રી ડૉ. સુધીર પરીખ, ડૉ. પ્રણય વૈદ, ડૉ. ગૌતમ શાહ, ડૉ. યોગેશ જોષી, ડૉ. પાર્મા કાનુગા, ડૉ. જયેશ કાનુગા, મેમ્બર-એટ-લાઈ ડૉ.

ચિરાગ વસા, ટ્રસ્ટી બોર્ડના સભ્ય ડૉ. ભૂપેન્દ્ર કાપડિયા અને ડૉ. માલતી મહેતાનો સમાવેશ થાય છે.

ડૉ. શુક્લે જણાવ્યું હતું કે હાલની કારોબારી મિટિંગમાં એલુમનીએ કોરોનાગ્રસ્તોની સહાય માટે ૮૦,૦૦૦ ડોલરનું દાન કર્યું હતું અને સભ્યોએ બાકીના ૨૦,૦૦૦ ડોલરનો ફાળો આપ્યો હતો. ઈમરજન્સી ફંડમાંથી ૨૦,૦૦૦ ડોલરની કિંમતના ઓક્સિજન કોન્સન્ટ્રેટર, ગામડાંમાં રસી માટે ૨૫,૦૦૦ ડોલર એનજીઓને મોકલાયા હતા તેમજ ૩૦,૦૦૦ ડોલર વેન્ટિલેટર્સ માટે પણ મોકલાયા હતા, એમ ડૉ. શુક્લે જણાવ્યું હતું.

પરીખ વર્લ્ડવાઈડ મીડિયા અને આઈટીવી ગોલ્ડના ચેરમેન પદ્મશ્રી ડૉ. સુધીર પરીખે ભારતની સ્થિતિને સદીની સૌથી મોટી આફત ગણાવીને જણાવ્યું કે, અમારા અમદાવાદ બી. જે. મેડિકલ એલુમનીએ તરત જ સ્રોતો ઊભા કરીને વતનમાં જરૂરી મેડિકલ સહાય મોકલી છે. આ ઉપરાંત We have sent through AAPI અને SEWA Internationalના માધ્યમથી ૨૦૦ ઓક્સિજન કોન્સન્ટ્રેટર્સ મોકલ્યા છે, એમ તેમણે ઉમેર્યું હતું.

ડૉ. પરીખ અમેરિકન એસોસિએશન ઓફ ફિઝિશિયન્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયન ઓરિજિનના (AAPI) સિનિયર એડવાઈઝર તરીકે પણ સક્રિય છે.

Life Global USAના ર્લોબલ ચેરમેન તરીકેની પણ ભૂમિકા સંભાળી રહેલા ડૉ. સુધીર પરીખે વધુમાં જણાવ્યું કે Tarsadia Foundationના સ્થાપક અને Life Global Californiaના ચેરમેન ભીમુ યુ. પટેલે ૨૫૦ ઓક્સિજન કોન્સન્ટ્રેટર મોકલ્યા હતા તે ભારત પહોંચી ગયા છે.

આપણાથી જે થઈ શકે તે કરવાની આપણી ફરજ છે. ગયા વર્ષે જરૂરિયાત હતી તેવી સ્થિતિ અત્યારે ભારતમાં છે. ત્યારે પણ આપણે કામ કરતાં રહ્યા હતા અને અત્યારે પણ આપણે સક્રિય રહેવાનું છે, એમ ડૉ. વૈદે જણાવ્યું હતું. ડૉ. પાર્મા કાનુગા અને તેમના પતિ ડૉ. જયેશ કાનુગાએ ઈમેઈલ મેસેજમાં જણાવ્યું કે એલુમની ભૂતપૂર્વ પ્રેસિડન્ટ તરીકે વતનમાં મદદ પહોંચાડવાના આ



ડૉ. માલતી મહેતા
(Photo Provided)



ડૉ. પાર્મા કાનુગા
(Photo Provided)

પ્રયાસોને અમારો સંપૂર્ણ ટેકો છે. સંસ્થાએ નક્કી કર્યું છે કે અમદાવાદ સિવિલ હોસ્પિટલમાં ઓક્સિજન પ્લાન્ટ

કરવો. તેના માટે ૪૩,૦૦૦ ડોલરનો ખર્ચ થશે તેવો અંદાજ છે. વધુ વિગતો અને દાન માટે કલાયર જોવા સંસ્થાએ વિનંતી કરી



ડૉ. યોગેશ કે જોશી
(Photo Provided)



ડૉ. ભૂપેન્દ્ર કાપડિયા
(Photo Provided)



ડૉ. જયેશ કાનુગા
(Photo Provided)



ડૉ. ચિરાગ વસા
(Photo Provided)

ઊભો કરવા માટે પણ ફાળો એકત્રિત હતો.

**B. J. Medical College
Alumni Association, USA**



Urgent Request for COVID Relief Donations to India

Hello all BJets,

India is facing once in a lifetime calamity. The situation in India is very critical and fragile at this time - our motherland is in a crisis. A recent explosion of COVID cases is flooding the hospital system and there is a great unmet need for oxygen, medicines, and personal protective supply. Our brothers and sisters are dying while gasping for air.



As a committed organization, we must help our country in whatever capacity we can.

BJMC Ahmedabad ALUMNI USA is committed to providing a much needed supply of oxygen concentrators, vaccines, and other equipment to Civil hospital Ahmedabad and the nearby poor areas. Each Oxygen concentrator costs \$600 to \$1100.00 depending upon the capacity. Moreover, we are trying to raise money to build an oxygen plant at Civil Hospital and other area hospitals for a more permanent solution - "Atma Nirbhar". This oxygen plant will cost around 30 Lakh Ruppes (\$43000.00 USD), so they will need all the financial support that they can get.

We recently had an emergency meeting of the BJMC alumni Executive committee and have already authorized \$50,000.00 worth of emergency funds to be designated to funding O2 concentrators and Vaccine support. Another \$30,000.00 will be donated for emergency use equipment like ventilators to area hospitals in impoverished communities. Currently, there is an immediate need for medicines, O2, ventilators, BIPAPs and vaccines. We are working with established nonprofits to ensure that our donated money goes promptly and directly to the people in need.

Donation can go to
B J Medical College Ahmedabad alumni

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It is 501c3 organization and the contributions are tax deductible. We will also accept the direct asset transfer (appreciated stocks, mutual funds and securities) to our organization for COVID relief donation.

With the help of the strong values, foundation and education instilled in us from our "MatruBhumi", we have all made incredible progress in our personal and professional lives in our "KarmaBhoomi". Now it is our time to reciprocate and give back to our motherland.

On behalf of the whole executive team, I humbly urge you all to donate generously now to help this noble cause and save lives. We will assure that these donations will only go to the neediest population.

Thanks a lot for your help in advance. ☐

Gunjan Shukla, MD, FHS, President, B J Medical College Ahmedabad Alumni Association USA

બી. જે. મેડિકલ કોલેજ એલુમની એસોસિએશન, યુએસએ દ્વારા મોકલવામાં આવેલા આ ફંડાયરમાં સભ્યોને ભારતમાં કોરોના સંકટને સામનો કરવા માટે નાણાકીય ફાળો આપવાની ખાસ અપીલ કરવામાં આવી છે.



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પાનું ૬૨૧

સપ્તક

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GUJARAT TIMES

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૧૨ મે સુધી
મિનિ-લોકડાઉન
પાનું ૧૦



અમેરિકાસ્થિત
બી.જે. મેડિકલ કોલેજ,
અમદાવાદ એલુમની:
કોરોનાગ્રસ્તોની મદદે!
પાનું ૪



કોરોના-સંકટ:
અનેક દેશ, કંપનીઓ, સામાજિક સંસ્થાઓ ને વ્યક્તિઓ..
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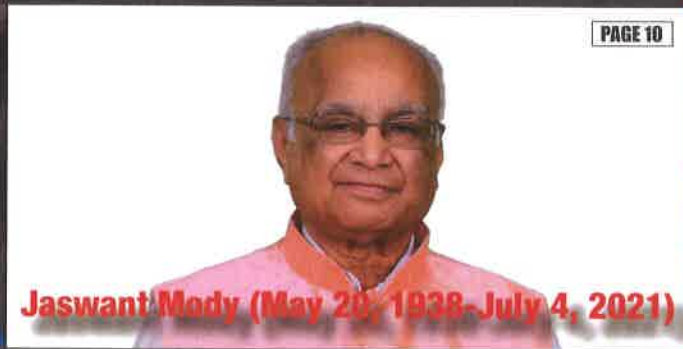
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Astronaut On Virgin Atlantic



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Jaswant Mody (May 20, 1938-July 4, 2021)



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TIMES

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39th AAPI Convention A Grand Success. Governor Anandiben Patel Praises Indian-American Physicians

Outgoing President of AAPI
Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda

Incoming President of AAPI
Dr. Anupama Gotimukula

Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, Convention Chair

Photos: ITV Gold

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39th AAPI Convention A Grand Success. Governor Anandiben Patel Praises Indian-American Physicians

BY A STAFF WRITER

In an atmosphere full of joy tempered with moments of solemnity, hundreds of Indian-American physicians, experts, medical students, celebrities and high-profile politicians, attended the 39th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) in Atlanta July 2-5, 2021.

The Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel gave the keynote address in a live videoconference call, praising the work of Indian-American physicians, not just during the pandemic, but also through the years, both in the United States and India (See Box for excerpts).

Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold, introduced Governor Patel, the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, the first woman to occupy that position.

Education seminars, forums for women, youth, and CEOs, as well as recreational activities and entertainment filled the July Fourth weekend, culminating in the passing of the baton from the outgoing to the incoming President and new leadership.

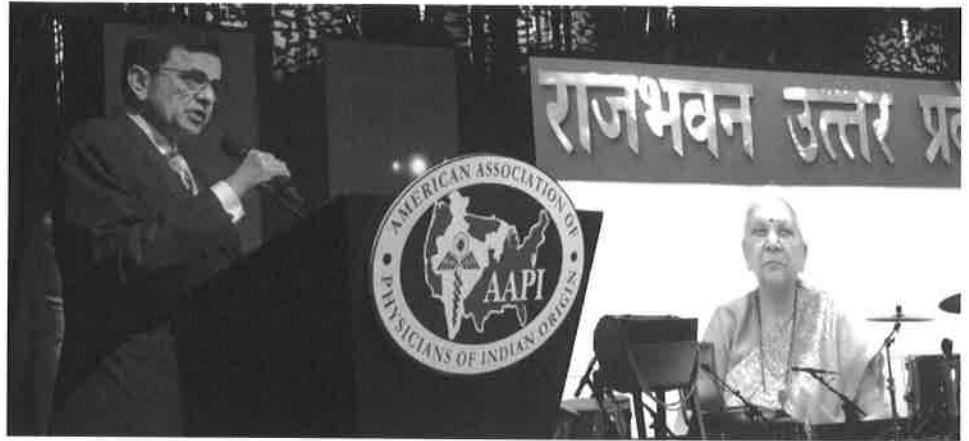
Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, the outgoing president of AAPI, in his farewell address, said, "I am happy to declare that, AAPI is stronger and is going to be in safe hands, as I pass on the traditional gavel to Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, the new President of AAPI."

Dr. Jonnalagadda, who had assumed office a year ago during a virtual convention, told the AAPI delegates, "Despite the Covid pandemic and the many challenges AAPI had to face, "I am proud of the many accomplishments under my leadership. I am grateful for the immense and life changing moments, probably the best of my life ever, that came with my association with and leading AAPI."

Warmly received by the audience, Dr. Gotimukula, who will be holding office for the year 2021-2022, reminded those gathered about their journey to this country to pursue the American Dream.

"Through hard work and a bit of luck, most of us achieved that dream and have become successful and caring doctors who play a crucial role in the American healthcare system. We serve patients. Raise money for local causes. Contribute to our education system and improve the lives of millions of Americans," Dr. Gotimukula said.

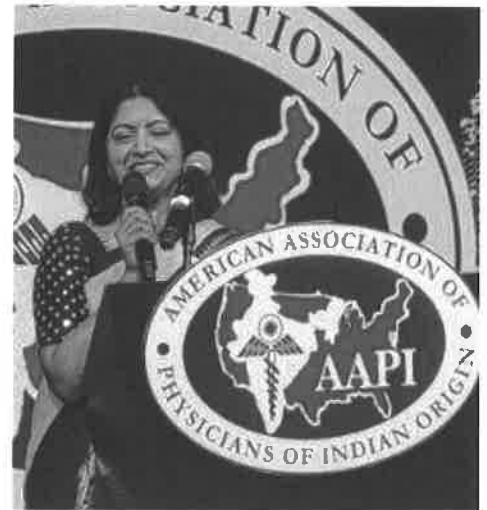
The outgoing executive committee members were thanked for their cooperation, collaboration and leader-



Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, introducing Governor of Gujarat Anandiben Patel who was the keynote speaker July 4, 2021, at the AAPI 39th Annual Convention held in Atlanta, GA.



Incoming President of AAPI Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, speaking after being handed the gavel from outgoing president, at the 39th AAPI Convention in Atlanta, GA July 2-5, 2021.



-CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Extracts From Keynote Address By Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel At 39th AAPI Convention In Atlanta July 4, 2021

BY A STAFF WRITER

We all are proud of doctors of Indian origin who were at the forefront of the fight against Covid.

I derive extreme pleasure in speaking to such a prestigious medical fraternity. We are all aware that AAPI has completed historical and glorious journey for serving humanity across the world by medical fraternities.

It is a forum to facilitate and enable Indian American physicians to excel in patient care, teaching and research and to pursue their aspirations in professional and community affairs.

In view of Covid-19, we acknowledge AAPI's notable contribution of supplying oxygen concentrators across India, and for making strategy on how to deal with the current pandemic and save lives of people during the pandemic.

When you or your near and dear ones are in trouble

due to medical reasons, you always remember a doctor. In such times, it is only a doctor who can bring back life to you. They are like gods in tough times.

Unfortunately, we have lost so many medical talents during this pandemic in recent past. I bow my head in their respect and convey my consolations to the grief-stricken families.

I would like to mention the contribution of Dr. Sudhir Parikh, veteran trustee AAPI Charitable Foundation and senior advisor to AAPI, and chairman of Life Global and Project Life Mr. Chandrakant Kotecha, and Mr. Amar Shah, founder of Life Global USA, for their service under Project Life, a charity serving humanity since last four decades through various social and humanitarian interventions in the field of education, health, environment, women's empowerment and housing.

I am sure that a mature partnership between AAPI and Life Global will go on and on for benefit of society in years to come.

Some members of AAPI had always supported Thalassemia prevention programs with an aim to make

Gujarat a Thalassemia-free state and the reason for Gujarat state to take a lead to make a Thalassemia-free society in India.

We are sure that your organization will go on serving humanity in future.

.... I would like to mention the work done by many native Indians who came together in USA to form Share & Care Foundation, and I have been associated with this Foundation since 1998. This Foundation is supporting various socio-economic causes in India. They have supported value-based education for school-going children from slums and villages.

.... During recent pandemic times, in association with Environment Sanitation Institute, they are also supporting Lok Mitra initiatives providing relief, groceries, medicines, oxymeters ... in 16 villages.

I am an educationist first, prior to my political career. As a Minister of Education, I was associated with educational field for several years.

I strongly believe in promotion of education as well as women empowerment in rural India.

39th AAPI Convention A Grand Success. Governor Anandiben Patel Praises Indian-American Physicians

-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ship in helping AAPI meet its goals: Dr. Gotimukula, president-Elect; Dr. Ravi Kollu, vice president, Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, secretary; Dr. Satish Kathula, treasurer, Dr. Sajani Shah, chair of AAPI's BOT; Young Physicians Section President Dr. Ami Baxi; Dr. Kinjal Solanki, Medical Students Residents & Fellows section president; and Dr. Surendra Purohit, chair of AAPI Charitable Foundation.

Dr. Gotimukula ushered in the new Executive Committee comprised of Vice President Dr. Anjana Samadder; Dr. Sathesh Kathula, secretary; Dr. Krishan Kumar, treasurer; Dr. Kusum Punjabi, chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Soumya Neravela- president, Young Physicians Section; and, Dr. Ayesha Singh, president, Medical Student/Residents & Fellows Section.

Among last year's several programs, Dr. Jonnalagadda highlight initiatives like obesity-prevention, weekly webinars and creating awareness through media, plus projects in India through the AAPI Charitable Foundation, as well as launching the Clinical Observership Program, the medical Journal of AAPI (JAAPI), and an AAPI Endowment Fund.

Raising more than \$5 million, AAPI members sent medical supplies for fighting Covid, to India.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

During the BOT Luncheon on July 4th, Dr. Sajani Shah, the outgoing BOT Chair detailed the initiatives taken in the past one year, and honored all past BOT chairs.

Several physicians were recognized, prominent among them, Dr. Radhu Agrawal-AAPI Lifetime Achievement Award; Dr. Dhanireddy Ramasubbareddy-AAPI Most Distinguished Physician Award; Dr. Suresh Gupta - AAPI Most Distinguished Service Award; Dr. Purvi Parikh -- AAPI Most Distinguished YPS Award; Dr. Sujatha Reddy -- AAPI Most Distinguished Community Service; and Dr. Sudhir Parikh received the Major Media Sponsor and Service to AAPI award.

Research & Poster Contest Winners were recognized with \$2500 cash award.



Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, 2nd from left, receiving the AAPI Major Media Sponsor and Service to AAPI Award from Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, left, outgoing President of AAPI, at the 39th Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA, held July Fourth weekend.



Dr. Purvi Parikh, 3rd from left, receiving the AAPI Most Distinguished Young Physicians Section (YPS) Award at the 39th Annual Convention held in Atlanta, GA, July 2-5, 2021.



Dr. Radheshyam Agrawal receiving the AAPI Lifetime Achievement Award at the 39th Annual Convention held in Atlanta, GA, July 2-5, 2021.



Dr. Suresh Gupta, left, receiving the AAPI Most Distinguished Service Award at the 39th Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA, held over the July Fourth weekend.

Delivering a spiritual discourse at the Convention, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, author of "Hollywood to the Himalayas" led the AAPI delegates into an experience of peace and serenity.

Chair of the American Medical Association (AMA) Board of Trustees Dr. Bobby Mulkamala, shared his memories of AAPI over the years.

Aishwariya A Gulani, valedictorian from The International Bolles School and recognized by the United Nations for community service as the reigning Miss India USA participated in the Fashion Show.

The concluding day was one full of pomp and show with music and dance by the local organizing committee of the

Convention headed by Dr. Gangasani. "For the first time ever, we had to stop registration as we had reached the required number of participants for the convention, disappointing many who wanted to come and join the annual meet," Dr. Gangasani said.



A dance performance (top), Bollywood actress Pooja Batra (bottom left), Bollywood actress and celebrity Mallika Sherawat (bottom right) at the 39th AAPI Annual Convention held in Atlanta, GA, July 2-5, 2021.



Fashion show held at the 39th AAPI Annual Convention held in Atlanta, GA., July 2-5, 2021.

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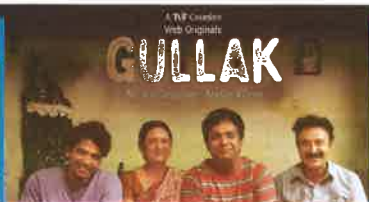
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Photo: ITV Gold

Still from politics program hosted by Ashok Vyas, right, featuring then Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, second from right, Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of ITV Gold and Parikh Worldwide Media, second from left, and India's Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal, left.



Photo: ITV Gold



Photo: ITV Gold

Still from an ITV Gold program showing host Vibhuti Jha, left, with Sheshadri Chari, member, Bharatiya Janata Party National Executive Committee.



Photo: ITV Gold

Still from an ITV Gold program showing host Aditi Lamba with Bollywood star Manisha Koirala.

BY A STAFF WRITER

India's public service broadcaster Doordarshan (DD), a part of Prasar Bharati, has chosen U.S.-based ITV Gold (International Television Broadcasting LLC) in its bid to go global and engage international audiences across continents and to create a global voice for India. In a significant breakthrough, an Agreement was signed and exchanged Jan. 25, 2021 between the two entities.

ITV Gold has a presence in North America, South America and the Caribbean (namely, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname, Jamaica, Barbados and French Guiana) for distribution and launch of DD India in these territories starting January 26, 2021.

DD India, the global news and current affairs channel of Doordarshan, will provide an Indian perspective on global events leveraging its network of bureaus and correspondents in India and all over the world.

Television audiences in the Americas will now have the opportunity to see and experience the emergence of a new self-reliant India through the DD India, the press release said. In addition, the Indian diaspora in the Americas will also have a window into the latest news and events in India.

"Dissemination of the Indian view on world affairs among Asian diaspora and Caribbean communities has been minimal," Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman

of ITV Gold and Parikh Worldwide Media, is quoted saying in the press release. "With our plans to distribute DD India thru ITV Gold in whole of USA and parts of Caribbean, this gap will be filled," Dr. Parikh added.

"DD India will be immediately available in the Tristate area (NY, NJ and Connecticut). We are also available in parts of California, Texas and the Midwest," he said.

Additional Director General of Prasar Bharati, Sunil said "We were always keen to expand DD India in all geographies around the world. USA is among the initial steps and the Indian diplomatic presence in whole of North America could help ramp up the viewership. Visiting Indian dignitaries would be happy to see DD India. We wish to see DD grow with this MOU."

Dr. Parikh went on to say, "I strongly believe that we must inform the Indian-Americans and South Asian-Americans about the growth trajectory of India toward becoming the 3rd largest economy in the world."

"And we must raise awareness about that growth in the Western world. In addition, this new partnership will connect the 2nd generation to their ancestral homeland and promote further strengthening of U.S.-India relations," Dr. Parikh said.

Chief India Correspondent of ITV Gold, C Anand Velayudhan said "Epistemic trespassing by individuals on social media had left Indian origin people in a quandary. We have now overcome that dilemma by bringing DD to USA",



Photo: ITV Gold

Still from ITV Gold Caribbean program showing Lakshmeesha with West Indian cricketer Shivnarine Chanderpaul.



Photo: courtesy Doordarshan

Still of a program on Doordarshan India.



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