

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (NFIA)



Serving the Indian American Community since 1980

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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY AMERICA:

As we approach 4th of July weekend, we reflect on American values – the founding principles of unity, equality, freedom, and justice for all. The guiding principles of those 13 founding colonies of the United States became the foundational basic values for the administration of the country. It became historical when the Congress declared Independence from Great Britain in 1776.

The declaration of independence was authored by Thomas Jefferson. July 4th is the anniversary of the publication of the declaration of **independence**. Our country of adoption has so many museums of American history and the declaration of independence is also documented in many including in Library of Congress records in Washington DC. For all those who immigrated from other parts of the world and want to learn the history, one of the good places to start is from Pennsylvania - the famous liberty bell center in Philadelphia.



The Liberty Bell, previously called the State House Bell or Old State House Bell, is an iconic symbol of American Independence. Once placed in the steeple of the Pennsylvania State House (now renamed Independence Hall), the bell today is located in the Liberty Bell Center in Independence National Historical Park.

Upon adopting the Declaration, John Adams, a Founder and later a President of the USA, wrote to his wife Abigail that the day – July 2 – should be celebrated with 'Pomp and Parade, Games, Sports, Bells, Bonfires, and illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.' The next year the day had moved to July 4, for, although adopted 2 days earlier, Congress only approved the finalized version on the 4th. The date became the 4th July and became a national holiday in 1941.



The national emblem of the United States is the bald eagle and it was chosen on June 20, 1782 because of its strength, good looks, and also it was believed to be residing only on this continent.

According to the White House, this year there won't be tanks at the Lincoln Memorial like last year and it will be a scaled-down July 4 "Salute to America" sequel on Friday. Other events will take place on the White House's South Lawn and on the Ellipse and will include "music, military demonstrations, and flyovers" and President Trump will deliver remarks. And there will be fireworks over the Mall. (The eagle photo is attributed to Andy Morffew.)

Angela Anand, President of National Federation of Indian American Association (NFIA)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OF NFIA VICE PRESIDENT FROM LOS ANGELES, CA:

Ashok (Pat) Patnaik, currently the Vice President of NFIA has been re-appointed by the Cerritos City Council as the Parks and Recreation Commissioner for the City of Cerritos, CA, according to a press release. Prior to this appointment, Patnaik served 10 years combined as a commissioner in the Economic Development and Community Safety department for the city of Cerritos.



The City has 24 parks and a whole slew of recreational facilities and his task is to act in an advisory capacity in matters pertaining to public recreation, making budget recommendations and assist in planning a recreation program to stimulate public interest.

Patnaik, a long-term Cerritos resident, holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering degree as well as an MBA from Pepperdine University, CA. Currently, he assists small business owners in SBA lending and works for Wallis Bank as the Vice President, Small Business Lending and recently helped several small businesses in the Paycheck Protection Loan Program loan program. He has been active in community organizations for several years including NFIA as well as UFICA and maintains a positive relationship with area organizations. NFIA Board congratulates him for his appointment and

wish him success in his tenure as commissioner. A well-deserved position. NFIA is proud of your leadership.

FORMER PRESIDENT OF NFIA AND MEMBER OF GOPIO HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS GOPIO AREA COORDINATOR IN LOS ANGELES IN CA:

Ashok Madan is a well-known individual in Greater Los Angeles Area in Indian-American community. He is a businessman, philanthropist with good heart and is always willing and ready to uplift his community. GOPIO-International (a non-profit organization of Indian Diaspora, where he is a life member) noticed his superb credentials and its Executive Council recently, in a unanimous decision, appointed him GOPIO Area Coordinator for Southern California. In his new role he will be the focal point for all GOPIO activities in Southern California.



Mr. Ashok Madan is a veteran Real Estate Investor who came to the US in 1970 to pursue master's degree in Systems Engineering. After graduating, he worked in the Information Technology field and joined the County of Los Angeles in 1976 where he ascended to a management position and subsequently retired in 2010 after 33 years of service. During his long career, Mr. Madan belonged to numerous professional & community organizations and has frequently taken a responsible and an active role in these organizations:

During his long career, Mr. Madan belonged to numerous professional & community organizations and has frequently taken a responsible and an active role in these organizations: Past President, NFIA – National Federation of Indian American Associations; Area Coordinator and a Life Member, GOPIO

International – Global Organization of People of Indian Origin; Member of Core Committee to organize Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2015, Los Angeles; Founding Member, COLAIAPA – County of Angeles Indian American Professionals Association. NFIA Board is delighted to see him do well in all his undertakings and also thank him for his ongoing philanthropic activities. Congratulations to Madan family.

INDIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADER OF FIA AND NFIA LOSES BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19:

By - Staff Writer of News India Times, June 7, 2020 - Courtesy: News India Times (Parikh Worldwide Media)



Ramesh Patel, Indian-American community leader, chairman of the Federation of Indian Association of Tristate, and founder of India Day Parade, died June 6, 2020 in New Jersey. Ramesh Patel, 78, a community activist and leader of long standing in the Indian-American community, lost his battle against the corona virus June 6, 2020 afternoon at approximately 4:30 pm, at Hackensack Medical Center in Hackensack, N.J. Patel struggled against the deadly infection for exactly two months, having been admitted on April 6.

For five days before his death, Sister Sheetal of the Rajkumari's of Edison, had been leading daily prayers for Patel online. On the day he died, more than 100 people, family and friends and those who knew him, joined the prayer on Zoom, a participant told News India Times.

Patel, who worked with the NYPD in a senior position in the forensics investigation department till he retired around 12 years ago, was instrumental in starting the famous India Day Parade which falls around India's Independence Day August. 15, annually, and attracts tens of thousands of people from around the tri-state area and beyond, to Madison Ave. in Manhattan. It is considered the largest parade to celebrate India's independence anywhere in the world outside India.

Born April 20, 1942, in Gamdi Anand, Gujarat, Patel dedicated his life to the advancement of Indian immigrants settled in this country. "No matter how many decades he lived here, he was quintessentially Indian at heart," said a number of those News India Times spoke to. He founded and headed some of the strongest community organizations over his lifetime, including as president of the National Federation of Indian Associations from 1992-96, and the Federation of Indian Associations -NYNJCT, the latter one of which he was the chairman when he passed away.

A measure of his standing with the community was the tributes that poured in along with condolence messages from various elected officials including Congressman Frank Pallone, D-NJ, Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, and other notable people including Parikh Worldwide Media Chairman Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh. A tweet from India's Ambassador to the U.S. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, just a few hours after Patel breathed his last, read, "Very sad to learn about the passing away of Ramesh Patel, the Founder Member and Chairperson of Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) after 2-month long fight against Covid 19. A highly respected Indian American Community leader, we will miss him very much. RIP!"

India's Consul General in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty tweeted his condolences.

"A big loss to the Indian American community of USA. A Pioneer brought together the Community & worked on many issues," Consul General Chakravorty said, adding, "I particularly value his strong support to the Consulate. Rameshbhai before you could give me farewell you bid goodbye yourself. Not fair. RIP."

Dr. Parikh, expressed his thoughts in a Shradhdhanjali on ITV Gold, calling Patel a "legendary community leader, my very good friend, my family friend," and "selfless leader."

"His love and dedication to Bharat guided him to unite the community under one umbrella," Dr. Parikh said.



Ramesh Patel, center in white kurta pajama sporting the Indian tricolor, with Bollywood personalities on a float during India Day Parade.

"He founded the India Day Parade 50 years ago," making 2020 the Golden Jubilee of the celebration. "This is another loss to the community due to the coronavirus. His spirit will guide us. Ramesh bhai you will be missed," Dr. Parikh said, ending with the words, "Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti." Anil Bansal, the current president of Ramesh Bhai's passing away leaves behind many of us FIA-NYNJCT, issued a statement upon Patel's death.

"Ramesh Bhai's passing away leaves behind many of us whom he had been spending so much time with. He had been grooming us for the leadership role in carrying out the duties of FIA," Bansal said, adding, "He was kind, supportive and strong at the same time. Always staying on top of what was needed to be done. The void is too big to be filled..."

"I am personally totally devastated and heartbroken to see Ramesh Patel leave us," said Dr. Romesh Japra, a close friend of Patel said in a message to News India Times. "I have fond memories of working in National FIA under his astute stewardship when we traveled together all across America to unite Indian-Americans," Japra said.

"I could feel his unconditional love for me, Japra went on to say. "I learnt tremendously from him about dedication and devotion for community activism. Ramesh had phenomenal commitment & profound passion towards volunteerism. He touched multitude of lives and his leadership will be missed dearly by everyone. I personally lost a good friend, guide and mentor. Om."

Ankur Vaidya, trustee and two-time president of FIA, told Desi Talk, "Kaka had this 'Indian' in him. And his reach to the Indian community around the country was unmatched. You could pick any state, any town around the country and he would tell you who to contact. He would tell you to contact so-and-so in some town and tell them, 'I am coming so have some warm khichree ready'."

"If anyone was looking for a job, he would advise them. Anyone, whether richest or middle-class or poor, Rameshbhai would be the same for everyone," Vaidya said. There are so many anecdotes of Patel's life. "One he told the Consul General - 'I have not worn my shoes out, I have worn your steps out,'" Vaidya recounted. "How to enhance the image of India was his goal." Condolences began pouring in remembering Patel for his good deeds and great friendships.

"His sphere of influence was wide and very credible. He worked tirelessly to arrange conferences, seminars, and exhibitions. It is a tremendous loss for the Indian American community," said Angela Anand, president of the NFIA. Both India and the United States "lost a champion who represented India and Indian culture in its best form. The image of India he projected to all American citizens in the streets of New York will live on. We salute his love and dedication to India," Anand said.

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin credited Patel with helping to establish the organization back in 1989. The Chairman of GOPIO, Thomas Abraham said, "There are only very few community leaders in the USA who have over forty years of continuous community service and we will miss him in our community campaign and service activities."

Sharad Shah, president of Share and Care in U.S., a non-profit that works on several projects in India, told News India Times Patel was a "good dear friend and always stood with my family."

"Respected Ramesh bhai was a strong advocate, supporter and a well-wisher of Share and Care Foundation. He recognized the humanitarian force of our foundation a few decades ago and was instrumental in honoring the foundation not once but twice. He had an open offer to support our foundation for any help we required," Shah recalled.

"His vision for society and humanity was unique. He worked diligently to present India and its people with great dignity. He did it well and was a success," Shah said.

"The loss of someone dear to our foundation, to the society and to the family is never easy," Shah added and sent his prayers and "heartfelt condolences" to the family.

"I lost my friend Ramesh Patel," said Bhailal Patel of Chicago, no relation, said on Facebook, encapsulating the sadness members of the community feel. "He was my long-time friend, classmate at J J College of Science in Nadiad, and we worked together at the Federation of Indian Associations and National Federation of Indian Associations." Bhailal Patel said, adding, "I miss my dear friend." Patel is survived by his wife Sucheta, his two daughters Manisha and Kunjal, and son Suhash.

DURING UNUSUAL TIMES OF CORONA ODYSSEY SOME NOTABLE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO BRING JOY TO OTHERS:

Covid- 19 has changed the way things happen in normal times. However, many are going extra mile to bring smiles to people through thoughtful gestures. Let's not forget the teachers in many districts around the Country who are teaching the children using different platforms, visiting children at their homes, and are sending messages of encouragement. One such example is here of the student with her teachers.



Jasmin Sivakumaran, 7th grader at Jones Junior High School, BPUSD, CA was given a surprise visit in a decorated car by her teachers at home to present her some academic awards along with lot of goodies. The teachers used a megaphone to announce the awards and congratulate her. Thoughtful gestures like this to recognize students' achievements helps to motivate children. Kudos to teachers and educators for doing what they are doing!!

PROVIDING FOOD TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CRITICAL NEED DURING CORONA PANDEMIC – CELEBRATY, MICHELIN AWARD WINNER CHEF VIKAS KHANNA:

An author of twenty-five culinary books, a television host, a film maker and former executive chef at Junoon restaurant in New York, Vikas Khanna has been getting news coverage for his humanitarian work. He is managing a huge relief effort, along with other food brand enterprises partners, to feed the slum dwellers of Mumbai, India. This he is doing from New York, thousands of miles away from India for the last two months to help the vulnerable population of India from his apartment.



The gentleman had a deformity, a club foot, and as he was growing older, this factor made him recluse and not popular with his school mates. But he had big dreams, bigger ambitions to do something larger than life. He decided to help the needy during spread of Corona virus. He used his own personal funds to feed the sick, destitute, and residents of old-age homes as well as people living in the slum areas and leprosy homes. He now has many businesses from the food enterprises who have joined with him as volunteer partners in his relief efforts.

His undertaking to feed the less fortunate during spread of Corona virus has been very successful. This joint effort of many to feed the people in-need is being recognized in India, US, and in Great Britain. It is estimated that 275,000 are able to eat each day and are not going to bed hungry. It is remarkable and inspirational. He has cooked for celebrities including presidents Bill Clinton, President Obama and Michele Obama, Prime Minister Modi, as well as Dalai Lama and Bollywood and Hollywood popular actors and has been credited with numerous prestigious culinary awards.

Khanna began developing recipes at a very young age and opened Lawrence Gardens Banquets to host weddings and family functions when he was 17. He graduated from the Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration from Manipal in 1991. He says he learnt lot of cooking just observing family's cooking.



In 2010, he opened a New York City restaurant called Junoon. Vikas Khanna is a member of chefs. He founded a charity called South Asian Kid's Infinite Vision. He has cooked for famous people and is humble. He has had many struggles to achieve success. Now, he is not looking back but forward to pay to the community that has recognized his hard work and ability to help those who are struggling to meet ends meet and he also likes to mingle with the celebrities and his fraternity for support and comradery.

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY "GARH GARH SE YOGA" – SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020 -DURING SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS – TO JOIN FROM HOME- AS PROMOTED BY THE INDIAN EMBASSY:



The Embassy of India celebrated 6th International Yoga Day on June 21st at India House (Ambassador Residence) remotely on zoom from 8:30 AM-9:45 AM Eastern Standard Time.

This was a virtual celebration and was joined by Several local community as well as by others all over the USA & India on Zoom. Prime Minister Modi on this day delivered a Message that this year celebration is "GHAR-GHAR se Yoga -Yoga from Home". Dr. Mokshraj Acharya -The Yoga Guru started the demonstration of different yoga asana and then many joined either at the ambassador's residence or they participated from their home.

Per guidelines of social distancing, as required by CDC under COVID-19, only few people were allowed to join at the India house. Live demonstration was also shown on social media – Facebook and U-tube. Close to one thousand people participated on Zoom.



Dr. Yogender Gupta was one of those who outreached to the Metropolitan DC community in repeated announcements to join. Many NFIA members, along with Gupta ji also publicized the event and disseminated the information through their respective distribution lists and few who in spite of being in different time zones for the scheduled time of the session participated and included Kewal Kanda, Subash Razdan, and Angela Anand from DC, along with many others from different regions of NFIA who helped in publicizing and doing Yoga sessions from their homes, as suggested by the Indian Embassy.

The benefits of performing Yoga are various but most frequently listed are joint flexibility, good quality sleep, loss of extra weight, increased body strength, mental stress relief, a sharper mind, can get rid of minor body aches, and helps in achieving better body balance. Many non-Indians have also learned Yoga and vouch for the benefits of Yoga who are looking for lighter exercises for good health.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SALONIA HUSSON – DAUGHTER OF NFIA ASSOCIATION INDO AMERICAN SOCIAL ASSOCIATION - PRESIDENT RAJBIR HUSSON:

All children and youth coming from Asian countries are doing well academically. It is because they learn that having good education and a desire to do well in life comes from the culture that they inherit from their parents. You learn that in order to compete in a job market, good grades and certification prepares them for those challenges. Salonia, NFIA members congratulate you for your achievement.



This is the celebration event of Mr. Rajbir Husson's daughter who graduated with a masters in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University, CA. Salonia Husson is happy that mom and dad are very proud of her accomplishments. During Corona virus spread the graduating students are not able to have face to face, in-person celebrations as according to regulatory guidelines during spread of Corona Virus, but nevertheless, their achievements are well received by their families. Dad posted proudly on social media and said he is very proud of her and encourages her to keep going. We wish you good luck!

HONORING THE MEDICAL DOCTORS OF NFIA FAMILY – ON NATIONAL DOCTORS DAY, JULY FIRST:

Our community has many medical doctors working in the profession and NFIA family has spouses, children and nephew nieces who need to be recognized on this day for working in this ethical and much needed profession for the welfare of the population. In reality, due to spread of Corona Virus every day that they are rendering services to the patients in hospitals, they deserve to be honored and thanked for their services.

July 1 is celebrated in India as National Doctors Day. The background of this day is that this was chosen as a day to pay tribute to a legendary doctor, **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**, who was also the second Chief Minister of West **Bengal**. Dr. Roy was born on July 1, 1882 and died on the same date in 1962, at the age of 80, who is one of the few people in his profession to have obtained FRCS and MRCP simultaneously. He is also a **recipient of the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, on February 4, 1961.**

Our NFIA family has Dr. Thomas Abraham, Ketan Shah, and Dr. Radha Krishnan's spouses who need to be mentioned during the National Doctors Day for their service and the family of Subash and Raj Razdan, Dr. Joy Deb Roy and Dr. Rajen and Angela Anand's family of several doctors who have been working during these unprecedented difficult times. Many of Anand family doctors worked tirelessly in emergency crisis unit of many hospitals for long hours in cardiology, pulmonology, emergency medicine as hospitalists, along with in other fields of pediatrics, general medicine, dermatology and hospital administration as key people in day-to-day care of less daunting care of the patients. There may be many other family members of NFIA not identified here but need to be congratulated in whatever fields of medicine they may have been working, not known at the time of publication of this newsletter.

A shout out goes to all families who have family members doctors and others who have been working during these challenging times and may be working in nursing and other allied fields. Also, according to NPR news, more than 4, 000 foreign born doctors officially began their residences at hospitals across the United states on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. According to communication from the White House, the restrictive policy of immigration during spread of Corona Virus does not impact these professionals –all incoming residents as long as they are needed for Corona Virus response.

It is very likely there may be doctors in these numbers who are India born and trained. NFIA wishes them good luck and warm welcome and thank you to those who are already rendering services in the hospitals.

NFIA HELD A VIRTUAL MEETING TO SHARE FOND MEMORIES OF FATHERS AND SOME GAVE FOOD AND DRINK DEMONSTRATIONS:

A virtual meeting of NFIA family was held on Sunday, June 14, 2020. The purpose was to shake hands, give virtual hugs and toast fathers and grandfathers. The participants learned about each other's family and shared some memories of their fathers and of course made new memories. Dr. Thomas Abraham, former president and chairman, most importantly the founder of NFIA joined along with former two more presidents, Mr. Sohan Joshi and Mr. Ashok Madan. There were several members from different organization who joined and made the hour-long meeting very memorable and pleasing. Yogender Gupta ji proposed a toast to all fathers.

Others shared their recipes – there were few live demonstrations through videos. All those recipes will be shared with everyone and a few are shared now in this newsletter. Thanks goes to those who shared kokum drink, Hyderbadi Shahi Lassi, Okra, Chana Buture, Dahi Bhalla and milk cake food digitally.

The participants decided to continue with such meetings and six topics have been identified. You will be receiving information and they include, Stress - mental health, Yoga and meditation, Healthy Life and Life Journey, Soothing Sangat with Music, Showcase of Indian Dance and Dream House and Home Office. Keep everyone in our prayers for good health. These are no stress short meetings to be together peacefully. Only agenda is to feel good and safe in a mutual caring environment.

Here is the recipe of a great drink, demonstrated by **Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee**:



Hyderabad Charminar Lassi Recipe

Ingredients:

1. Yogurt - 500gm,
2. Sugar - 200 gm
3. Khoa Kheer - 100 gm,
4. Ice Cubes
5. Rose Water,
6. Cashews,
7. Resins
8. Tutti Frutti,
9. Vanilla ice creams - 2 Scoop
10. Maraschino Cherry - 2

Preparation:

1. Add 500 gm of Yogurt into a blender along with 200 gm of sugar and 3/4 of the Khoa Kheer. Also add some ice cubes and a few drops of Rose water into the blender.
2. Now blend everything using the blender for 15 seconds.
3. The Lassi is ready.
4. To serve the Lassi, garnish the inside surfaces of two glasses with Rose Water and add cashews, rest of the Khoa Kheer, Resins and Tutti Frutti into the Glasses.
5. Pour the prepared Lassi into the Glasses.
6. On top of the Lassi, add one scoop of vanilla ice cream along with Maraschino Cherry and some more Tutti Frutti.
7. Enjoy the Hyderabad Charminar Lassi.

NFIA WELCOMES FIA OHIO AND APPRECIATES THE COMMUNITY WORK THE ASSOCIATION IS DOING VIRTUALLY:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
- Martin Luther King Jr'

The Federation of Indian Associations – Ohio is an active umbrella organization. The Association became part of NFIA member organization few months back but their activities are notable and make them very desirable member of NFIA for serving the community.



After the death of George Floyd, they planned "Run for Justice" a campaign to raise awareness and funds to help the cause by setting a goal of \$1 donation by sponsors per every mile run by runners. Their participant runners have run more than 1000 miles for this cause. Their team has successfully raised over \$2,000 and these funds will be contributed to organizations working for social justice.

Another event they planned on June 20, 2020 was to honor Dr Rattan Lal who was awarded the prestigious World Food Prize, considered to be equivalent to a Nobel Prize in agriculture, in recognition of his contribution to increase the global food supply by helping small farmers improve their soil's health.

Dr Rattan Lal took inspiration from Shastras, Puranas to help 500 million farmers. Indian-American soil scientist Dr Rattan Lal, 76, was born in India and studied soils

from his earliest days at Punjab Agricultural University. His pursuit of higher education led him to Ohio State University for a doctorate. His career has taken him to posts in Australia and Nigeria. He has led soil restoration projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America, integrating no-till farming and use of cover crops, and mulching to restore the ground for healthy crops.

FIA Ohio also planned West Bengal Super Cyclone (Amphan) Relief Fund, a farewell virtual meeting for Consul General Sandeep Chakraborty, and also had a successful celebration of 100th birth anniversary of Ex-PM Late Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao on June 28, 2020. NFIA welcomes them and congratulates them for doing lot of community service.

EXCEL FOUNDATION AND OTHERS ORGANIZED SIGNIFICANCE OF WHOLISTIC HEALTH UNDER THE CORONA CONTEXT:



A virtual meeting was organized by Mrs. Charu Shivkumar and others from several other organizations to discuss the significance of wholistic health during spread of Corona virus. Many speakers were scheduled including Angela Anand along with Aparna Hande from NFIA. A keynote address was given by Anand.

She considered it to be a great joy to speak and meet others, especially the youth from Southern CA, who are being mentored by Ms. Shivkumar. Anand felt that the event had had all the components to make it a successful event and was well organized.

Framing the concept of Whole + istic, a verb, she said, when all the components, body, mind, and soul are combined then the whole becomes bigger than the components all separately. Indian immigrants brought spirituality with them from the culture of their birth country and the last couple of decades has provided everyone with the physical goals but the

mental health was stuck in the closet.

When leaders, celebrities and film personalities added mental health through yoga and meditation, it brought the issue of mental health out of the closet. Bollywood actress Deepika Padkone had everything going good in life and her movies were grossing big monies but she said that she was so depressed that it was hard for her to get out of the bed. Anand also related a story of her childhood friend who was well educated and was a teacher but life situation made her sad and she got so withdrawn that it was hard for the family to convince her to get some treatment for depression. Anand emphasized the needed support during these pressing times.

Some speakers stressed community engagement. Others mentioned going to events and socializing. Some said to focus on good health through proper nutrition. Each and every speaker added to the content and spoke eloquently, youth speeches, delivered very confidently made it a very pleasant evening. Ms. Shivkumar had music, spiritual prayer, healthcare worker and respectable community workers – all added to the content and made it a one pleasant and wholistic evening.

A TALLY OF CORONA RELATED CASES REPORTED AS OF JULY 1, 2020:

The Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center maintains an ongoing count of the COVID-19 cases and deaths in the United States and worldwide. As of July 1, the tally is:

1. Total cases worldwide: 10,577,263 (up from 10,389,818 Tuesday)

2. Total deaths worldwide: 512,689 (up from 508,392 Tuesday)
3. Total recoveries: 5,406,703 (up from 5,292,901 Tuesday)
4. Total cases in the United States: 2,677,168 (up from 2,623,217 Tuesday)
5. Total deaths in the United States: 127,930 (up from 127,258 Tuesday)
6. Total test results in the United States: 32,206,245 (up from 31,557,407 Tuesday)

Dr. Fauci has testified at a congression session and has warned that without mouth covering and social distancing the numbers are likely to increase and flue season can become very challenging. Media has been interviewing him for the next six months of this year that started with this pandemic. CNN has reported that he would "settle" for a coronavirus vaccine that is 70-75 % - but warned that the United States may not achieve herd immunity to the contagion if too many people refuse to be vaccinated.

Most healthcare agencies are providing frequent updates and useful information for general public. One can benefit from local, state, and federal agencies that are regularly disseminating information.

A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND A LEADER IN THE 'LITTLE INDIA' PROMOTER FROM LOS ANGELES, CA DIED OF A HEART ATTACK – NFIA SENDS CONDOLENCES TO RAMESH MAHAJAN'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

A personality who has been instrumental in getting popularity of Pioneer Boulevard as the hub of Indian businesses - named "Little India", Ramesh Mahajan, the owner of the popular place for tea and samosa - Standard Sweets died of a heart attack on June 1, 2020 at the La Palma Community Hospital. He was 73-year-old and worked hard for the Indian community welfare.



After he sold this restaurant, he wanted to help his clients and others looking for help on issues pertaining to immigration, health insurance, and employment and worked for them as an owner providing these services.

He wanted to have a community hall for Indians and also helped many Indians to establish businesses on this busy street. He was friendly and known to help people who needed help by finding resources and also offering food free-of-charge who needed this help the most. He will be remembered for his open-door policy, and desire to get Indian community. Indian community and his family and friends lost a worker who left lot of memories and events he participated enthusiastically. So long Mr. Mahajan. Rest in peace.

NFIA is a 501c (3) association. NFIA's newsletter aims to inform and to mobilize the Indian American community nationally. It was founded four decades ago and has been continuing to work with the community organizations in large metropolitan areas of the United States. Your suggestions on topics of interest and NFIA's member organizations activities and projects can be featured here and circulated with the help of this communication tool. Please let us know if you like to receive the newsletter by giving us your best email address.

Editor: Angela Anand, angela_anand@yahoo.com Contributions to this issue were made by the following individuals. Contributing editors- Past President Ashok Madan; Jasmin Association President, Sharumati Shivkumar; Administrative Director, Kewal Kanda; Vice President, Yogender Gupta; Systems Director, Sukrit Mukherjee; Mr. Rajbir Husson, President, Angela Anand, photos/video credits goes to Ashok Madan, Yogender Gupta, Sukrit Mukherjee, and Andy Morffew and credit to FIA Ohio and story on Mr. Patel to News India Times.
