NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (NFIA)



Serving the Indian American Community since 1980

Washington DC Headquarters: 19300 Tattershall Dr., Germantown, MD 20874 USA

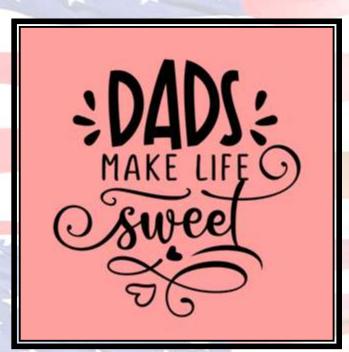
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FATHER IS SOMEONE YOU DEPEND ON FOR LOVE, SUSTENANCE, PROTECTION, AND FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS AND AS AND WHEN YOU NEED:

June is when we celebrate Father's Day and remember our fathers and their contributions to our lives. We acknowledge their unwavering love and protection as children, grown-ups, and all throughout our adult lives. Boys consider them their heroes and try to emulate their qualities in their own lives.



Historically speaking, Father's Day has been celebrated for over 100 years. It is less commercialized in comparison to Mother's Day. However, it is also a significant event in a family structure and now much celebrated just like Mother's Day in many countries around the world; however, the date may be different and countries may celebrate this at different times of the year. In North America and the United Kingdom, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. Living in states we know when we start seeing several product sales advertised for fathers. NFIA wants to wish all the fathers a happy Father's Day this month.

According to record published in History.com, a onetime event happened On July 5, 1908. This was when a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in

Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day. Like Mother's Day, Father's Day is not an official federal holiday, but it is a recognized public observance in the U.S.

"A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way." —Unknown

Angela Anand, NFIA Immediate Past President, Editor of the newsletter

A VIRTUAL INTERACTIVE SESSION-ORGANIZED BY NFIA, GOPIO, & LOCAL INDIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS WITH SAN FRANCISCO INDIAN CONSULATE:

On May 27, 2021, National Federation of Indian American Associations in coordination with FIA-SoCal, FIA-San Diego, So Cal GOPIO Chapters, and other Indian Community Association in Los Angeles & San Diego areas, organized an interactive session with Consul General of India in San Francisco Hon. Ambassador Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad. DCG Rajesh Naik, Vice Consul, and Officers of VFS Global also joined to answer any questions.



The main purpose of this session was to foster goodwill, cultivate ongoing great communications and to address the concerns of Indian Community in regards to travel restrictions to India. The session coordinators were the leadership of various organization, including: Ajoy Dube – NFIA President, Kewal Kanda – GOPIO-LA Trustee, Panna Hazarica – President FIA-SD, Ishwar Deedwania – President FIA-SoCal, Anil Yadav – FIA N. Cal, Dr. Gunvantrai Mehta President IASH and local community leaders.

NFIA president, Ajoy Dube welcomed the audience and then introduced CG Dr. Prasad. In his introductory remarks, Dr. Prasad mentioned that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called US President Joe Biden and requested help for India during this second wave of Corona Virus. CG said Indian community has good influence in California and is rising in securing important positions. CG explained that after initial delays due to Corona the consulate is issuing passports in time now. OCIs are being issued within 5-6 weeks after they have been processed by the consulate office. Consulate staff is doing its best to process everything promptly. Dr. Prasad also requested all local associations to organize 2-3 programs to celebrate India@75 as "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav". He also mentioned, in anticipation of California being opened for business on June 15, the consulate may celebrate YOGA this year.



There were many questions asked by public, mainly referring to delays in getting OCI and asking for clarifications for changes just announced by India Government to eliminate the requirement for renewing the OCI every time a person renews its passport. DCG Rajesh Naik explained, now you can just upload the image of new passport in lieu of renewing the OCI without paying any fee. However, one must renew the OCI once he/she turns 20 to capture the changed facial

outlook due transition to adulthood from childhood. The web-portal to upload the passport images will be up and running soon. Once the new passport picture is uploaded the applicant will receive a confirmation email. A clarification was requested and answer supplied for those persons who changed their name legally and provided documents, should not be required to match name to match with their Indian passports. The request by VFS staff to match is invalid and they agreed and assured to look into the matter to rectify this problem.

DCG Mr. Naik informed that currently all tourist visas are suspended until December 31st, 2021. Only emergency visas are issued based on the severity of the situation. Walk-in emergency visas can also be obtained but necessary documents must be emailed to consulate ahead of time, said Mrs. Sumati Rao, Consul for Community affairs. However, Green Card and OCI Card holders do not have travel restrictions. Dr. Prasad

and DCG Naik stressed that people must use their best judgement, keeping in mind the severity and prevalent conditions of Corona disease, before travelling to India.

Several officers of NFIA, former president and present director Sudip Gorakshakar, Regional VP Kamini Khare, Treasurer Puja Thomre, Ishwar Deedwania and others associations officers also participated. The session ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee, a Director of NFIA.

ALL LIVES MATTER - HELP IS GOING TO NATIONS IN THE GRIP OF CORONA VIRUS:



The White House has made plans to give out 80 million doses of Corona-19 doses internationally in June, 2021. The Administration has also announced that all effort is going out to vaccinate 70% of the population by July 4, 2021 in the U.S. Achieving herd immunity will lift the economy up and schools, businesses, and travel industry related entities will be able to quick start for the summer and fall season in the United States. It is certain that the commitment to vaccinate all those who are interested in getting vaccinated will have the opportunity to do so.

President Joe Biden was clear that the vaccines he is pledging to share internationally will be given without expectation of political favor in return. He elaborated

by saying that the Administration also plans to lift some restrictions for countries wanting to purchase US made raw materials to enhance their own production capabilities.

His proposed distribution of 20 plus million doses internationally will include 6 million to Latin America and Caribbean, about 7 million to Southeast Asia, 5 million to Africa. The remaining doses, amounting to just over 6 million, would go directly from the United States to countries including Canada, Mexico, India and South Korea, he said.

INDIAN DIASPORA ENGAGED IN VARIED WAYS TO HELP INDIA TO COMBAT VIRSU:

India continues to have hundreds of thousands of new cases every day. India was able to manage first wave of the spread of virus effectively. The second wave has crippled India's healthcare infrastructure. Due to large population and the need for increase healthcare needs, hospitals are running out of oxygen, beds, and PPE. India is only the third country to surpass 250,000 official deaths and media has released crematoriums which are still continue to burn through the night. Many countries have come to India's aid and there is repeated request for help for America to lead the way in this time of healthcare crisis.

NFIA president Ajoy Dube shared his efforts to raise funds for Covid 19 and said so far \$3600 is raised and commitments to that effect are ongoing. NFIA and its member associations are also independently helping India. Programs are planned for generating help for India. To name a few, an area has been identified in South India needing help by in Portland, Oregon, as well as by Seattle, Washington, and similar fund-raising efforts are planned in Atlanta, Georgia to help India, similar efforts are ongoing in Los Angeles, CA. Some smaller associations have joined hands with bigger entities to help India with equipment and other supplies.

GOPIO through its chapters is also engaged in fund-raising efforts for India. They are arranging funds through musical and also medical items. NCAIA in Washington DC has sent oxygen generators with help from its National Chairman Harish Kolasani from Chicago. They are working with hospitals and airlines along with Indian consulate.

ON MAY 19-20, 2021- MANY STALWARTS MET REV. JESSE JACKSON, FOUNDER OF RAINBOW PUSH COALITION TO PUSH FOR THE 60 MILLION UNITS OF VACCINE TO BE RELEASED TO INDIA FROM U.S.A. IN WASHINGTON DC:

Amongst the activists from the community were many including Dr. Barat Barai, a life time member of NFIA, Indrani Davaluri, cultural chair of South Asian Women's Network, a member organization of NFIA under the leadership of Angela Anand and senior community leaders from Washington DC representing NCAIA, Chairman Sunil Singh, Dr. Banik, Senior Advisor, and association President, Naina Patel, and Executive vice president Sashi Agarwal. Indian media was covering the two-day events. The purpose was to convince president Biden to release vaccine doses for India where people are dying due to spread of the second wave of Covid. Several law makers were in attendance including congressman Raja Krishnamurthy from Chicago at Capitol Hill.





The meet was spearheaded by a well-known physician Vijay Prabhakar and others. Dr. Prabhakar, is well known for his numerous accomplishments and served with distinction as Health Commissioner & Director, Wisconsin Winnebago Nation, a federally recognized Native American tribe in the State of Wisconsin from 1986 to 1993. His outstanding work and innovative accomplishments were recognized by the U.S. Public Health Service by awarding him the Country's highest award: "Surgeon General/IHS Director's Award of Excellence' in 1993 during President Clinton's administration. He was the first colored person and the first Asian to receive this honor.

Several notables were Dr. Ma Santosh Kumar who provided over 200,000 masks sanitizers free of cost to Indian American elderly population and their households. As the Midwest chairperson of national Council of American Indian associations incorporation with the consulate general of India in Chicago and she has organized many non- profit fund raisers. She wrote a book, "Covid 19 Heroes" which was released by Rev. Jesse Jackson and was presented by Indrani Davaluri at this event.

Many other committed personalities who joined this event included Parthiban Shanmugam, a writer and director experienced in theater, video and film projects, who has been helping relentlessly covid suffering people in India. Vasavi Chakka, founder and President of ARAALA Inc. professional consulting services. Nag Jaiswal, a Technologist and Entrepreneur, who has raised awareness, funding and volunteers for several social causes that include No Kid Hungry, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Equal Justice Initiative, Save-A-Mother Foundation, Salesforce.org and Hesed House. Shree Gurusamy, an Experienced Case Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital & health care industry. Skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Crisis Intervention, Care Coordination, Case Management, and Health Education. Mustafa Ajmeri ji for reaching out to leaders from the community.

TV Asia by SS Manco streamlined short klips live for this event for public participation on facebook. The activists networked and made an appeal for India in a convincing way. Speaking with one voice for India did get the attention of lawmakers.

SOME NOTE-WORTHY COLLECTION OF ITEMS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES OF SOCIAL MEDIA RELATED TO DIASPORA'S HUMANITARIAN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS:

NFIA officers got involved in a humanitarian community effort to help individuals of a fatal accident that took lives of three young men and the fourth, only survivor of accident air lifted by police and admitted in ICU suffering from multiple injuries. These individuals had no family members to claim their bodies locally. and to



Working together many NFIA officers have come forward with some possible solutions. It happened in Portland, Oregon on the Memorial Day weekend. Under the leadership of Prashanti Harathi, regional VP and Lalvania Reddy, Executive VP along with many more officers from NFIA, representing the key leadership of Chicago, Atlanta, CA, New York, offered help and ideas to take care of insurance and legal situations to assist family members overseas to get the bodies of three dead to transport to India. NFIA is so proud of its community leaders for its humane efforts to help the families including a brother of the lone survivor from Germany to get emergency visa to come to the USA. It is taking timely actions with the help of consulate and law makers to look after the one hospitalized.

Leadership of NFIA has circulated Fund Me and other related information widely. Each and everyone involved in this effort deserves acknowledgement in showing such courage and empathy for those who lost their lives and the one from Germany trying to come to USA but needs help in getting travel assistance.

WASHINGTON DC COMMUNITIES FROM MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA WERE ALSO ENGAGED IN ARRANGING A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR A VETERAN'S REPORTER AND EDITOR OF A NEWSPAPER COVERING COMMUNITY AND THE WHITE HOUSE:



Tejinder Singh, the editor, reporter, and considered by many a good charitable human being was all alone and discovered by the cleaning personnel dead in his home. He had no known family members in the country. He has been eulogized in Sikh gatherings and at the Gurudwara and paid last respect by the White House media members, National Press Club members, Indian community, and former Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

In a message sent to Poonam Sharma, the Managing Editor of India America, Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla condoled the passing of Founder and Editor, Tejinder Singh: I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the untimely demise of my good friend, Tejinder Singh, Editor of the India America Today and White House Correspondent. (This photo is an old photo from an event held at Capitol Hill and was posted in social media as well as in IndiaAmerica Today newspaper portal-photo credit goes to IndiaAmerica).

A brilliant writer and a wonderful human being, Tejinder worked tirelessly to bring to the readers the nuances and dynamics of the strategic India-US partnership and further strengthen bonds at the people-to-people level. I had many opportunities to interact with him and benefit from his keen intellect and encyclopedic knowledge during my tenure as India's Ambassador to the US.

He Had worked in several countries before settling down in the States. He lived and worked in Switzerland, Germany and Greece before becoming editor-in-chief of The European Weekly in Brussels, Belgium. Prior to that he worked for APM News, a business reporting service, and as a broadcast journalist with BBC, South African Broadcasting Corp., and Flemish-English and Indian networks, as reported by several media agencies.

His Antim Ardas will be performed at

Gurdwara Guru Nanak Foundation

12917 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20854

As per given program: Saturday 12th June 2021

Sukhmani Sahib Path: 10.00am to 11.00am Kirtan: 11 00 to 11 45 a m Shardhanjali: 11.45 to 12.10 pm Ardaas: 12.10 to 12.30 pm Langar: 12.30 to 1.00 pm

Event will be broadcast on GNFA Gurudwara FB COVID-19 instructions be followed

In remembrance:

Family overseas: Titos Father - Late Patwant Singh

Titos Mother - Late Raminder Kaur

Brother - Vicky

Cousin (massi's daughter) - Menaka Giri

Wife - Laurie, Three Step-Daughters - Sarah Brewer, Mary Jamieson-Orr, and Nicole Jamieson

Contact ;- +1 (609) 651-1300 (Romi Singh) and +1 (443)454-9702 (Dr. Gill)

This information is posted on facebook for all the community with some basic covid related instructions.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT PRASHANTHI HARATHI IS AN ACCOMPLISHED DANCE TEACHER WITH INTEREST IN PERFORMING AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY:

Prashanthi was elected as the Pacific North West Regional Vice President (RVP) for National Federation of Indian-American Associations (NFIA), and she represents the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. She has already organized an event and plans to do more community work through her organization's membership in NFIA.



She is an extremely passionate dance Professional with over 30 years of experience in Performing and 20 years of teaching the great Indian traditional dance form of Kuchipudi. Prashanthi post graduated in Performing Arts (Indian Classical Dance -Kuchipudi) from Hyderabad Central University and was the topper in the University. She has been giving major performances in various cultural organizations across the globe. Her academic qualifications include Masters in Performing Arts (Kuchipudi). She has Bachelors in Hindi (Praveena Utharadha), Masters in Public Administration, and Masters in Computers.

Prashanthi has received many awards and titles for her unselfish service to the Indian Traditional Art form of Kuchipudi. Her prominent titles are "Natya Moutika" awarded

by Abhinetri Arts Academy and "Natya Seva Ratna" awarded by Surya Chandra Cultural & Social Services Organization. Her prominent recognitions and awards are Mother Teresa Award, Veenapaani Kalaapeetham Nritya Lahari, Rathasaptami Awards, and Vyshnavi Arts Award. Besides being a teacher and performer, she has other achievments and work experience of working under many prestigious South Indian Film productions and channels like Balaji Telefilms, E-TV and Maa-TV. NFIA welcomes you to the association and wishes you great success in your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS GOES OUT TO CLASS OF 2021:









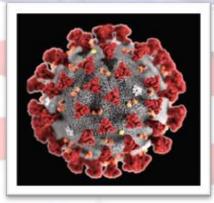
NFIA family sends Congratulatory Wishes to Young Peoples, and to their Parents, and Grand Parents. Every young person is commended for their hard work and this is due to all the challenges they faced last year and again some uncertainties they are going to face this year. Photos are of Jasmine Shivkumar, Suraj Kulkarni, Laura Sizemore, and Jake Sizemore and his friend. Once again best of luck and good wishes for success in life.

CORONA VIRUS STATISTICS AND LATEST NEWS ABOUT VACCINATIONS REGARDING YOUNGER CHILDREN:

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 7:45 p.m. on June 4, 2021, the tally is:

Total cases worldwide: 172,327,312 (up from 171,832,061 Thursday) Total deaths worldwide: 3,705,399 (up from 3,694,753 Thursday)

Total cases in the United States: 33,340,762 (up from 33,320,062 Thursday) Total deaths in the United States: 596,969 (up from 592,312 Thursday)



Biden Administration has said that in the United States everyone who wants to be vaccinated will have received a shot by **July 4, 2021.** This is related to adults but there are children who are underage and the

questions are now being raised about the health of the younger children. There are public service announcements are being planned and Elmo, Big Bird, and the Sesame Street gang will be promoting vaccinations. **Pfizer aims to file for authorization of vaccine for young children by September.** On Tuesday, Pfizer announced that it intends to submit for authorization for its COVID-19 vaccine for use in toddlers and younger children (ages 2 through 11) in September and in infants by November,

according to CNBC.

EXCEL FOUNDATION- A MEMBER OF NFIA HELD AN EVENT FOR PEACE OF MIND AND HEALING FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM CORONA VIRUS:

Excel Foundation USA and other community leaders gathered in Los Angeles to send peaceful messages to all those who have family members, friends and community compatriots affected by the spread of virus here in the United States and now badly in India. The event organized on May 30, 2021, under the leadership of Charu Shivkumar, Radhika, and Rani Kuusto was an attempt to teach young ones and all ages that there is comfort in being in each other's company. Together they send loving messages of comfort, mutual support for everyone's peace of mind, good health, and tranquility all over the planet.

RAMESH PATEL, A FORMER PRESIDENT OF NFIA REMEMBERED BY HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY:

Covid took the life of a great community leader, Ramesh Patel, on June 6, 2020. It is from the daughter's writing about her dad. Ms. Kunjal Patel says, "our world was shattered. It was the toughest loss for our family to date as we continue to heal the best way we know how."

"Very few can relate to the gravity of our loss, particularly during and consequently of the Covid-19 pandemic. The inability to touch your loved one, skin to skin, let alone visit them to show we are right there beside them every step of the way. To be fortunate enough to have all the resources in the world, none of which saved him. To be robbed of a conventional treatment paradigm since Covid-19 was an unmarked territory, doctors and nurses were learning ways to tackle it on the fly." What this year has shown us was the ability for us to grow around our own grief. This past year, we grew even closer as a family as we all lived together for the first two months, followed by mom transitioning to FL with me & Dipesh for 6 months, then back to transitioning at her home-base in NJ/PA/CT with Manisha & Suhash.



This past year, we were able to reflect back on the legacy our Pappa had left behind. We were able to honor him in many ways through special tributes in the The New York Times and NJ.com, add a rock in his name to Covid-19 Memorial Belmar, NJ amongst many others NJ residents, add his name to Yellow Heart Memorial, and many others memorials globally. We pray we can continue to honor his name & keep his legacy alive through philanthropic work and community service that he was most known for."

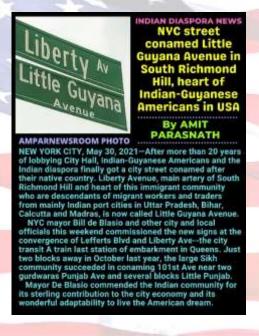
One thing our Pappa was most passionate about was the importance of a higher education. He came to USA in the mid-60's on H1B Scholars Visa, which he later came to realize he was going to embed his roots and raise a family here living the American Dream. Us three were fortunate enough to experience even a higher level of education than he did. It is now our turn to give back to the next

generation, our Pappa would be proud to know what we have planned next to keep his legacy going. Many believe that the afterlife is even more grandiose than life here on Earth. If that is true, then we look forward to the day we meet again Pappa! Please continue to send us your heavenly blessings and guidance through your own spiritual signs just like you have been.

Ms. Kunjal and the rest of the Patel family, we from the community feel your pain and loss. May the family keep remembering his many contributions to New Jersey in organizing India Day parade and help to the Indian communities in getting recognition here and in India. Community associations recognize his many contributions to the well-being of the diaspora community.

INDIAN AMERICAN DIASPORA HAS BEEN MAKING CONCERTED EFFORTS TO GAIN RECOGNITION OF THEIR PRESENCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ALSO ELSEWHERE:

We congratulate the efforts and leadership of the GAYANESE COMMUNITY as reported by Amit Parasanth and credit goes to the Guyanese community. Photo credit to Amparnews Room and thanks to NYC mayor Bill de Blasio.





On 2 November 2020, Radhakrishnan was appointed as Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, Minister for Youth and Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment, [15] making her New Zealand's first Minister of Indian origin.

Honors and Awards

In January 2021, Radhakrishnan was conferred a <u>Pravasi Bharatiya Samman</u> award for public service, by the Indian president in a virtual ceremony.

We, from NFIA family congratulate Ms. Priyanka Krishnamurthy for her leadership in becoming Member of the Parliament in New Zealand. Photo credit goes to Wikipedia. Both news items taken from the social media are credited here. Congratulations are in order.

A GREAT SHOUT OUT GOES TO ALL THE EFFORTS OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP INDIA IN ITS US OF NEED AS IT TRIES TO GET OVER THE SECOND WAVE OF CORONA VIRUS:

A few notables are American India Foundation, Indianspora, Sewa International and numerous regional language-based associations throughout the country as well as American Corporations from the Pharma, IT, and medical supplies related industries. Numerous fund-raisers and musical concerts are happening in many cities and those efforts are commendable. Thank you.

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 Members: NFIA President Ajoy Dube; NFIA Director, Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee; Kewal Kanda, GOPIO former treasurer and NFIA's Administrative Director II, Prashanti Harathi, Reg. VP; Charu Shiv Kumar, President of Excel Foundation; and Indrani Davaluri, Cultural Chair of Women's Network in NFIA, Niraj Baxi, former NFIA president and current chairman of Indian American Chamber of Commerce, Sikh Community Gurudwara at Silver Spring and VA, and Immediate Past President of NFIA, Angela Anand. Also credited for information here are Everyday Health, John Hopkins data base, CNBC, Washington Post, NPR, the White House, and special acknowledgement of India America Today, and Amit Parasanth and Amparnews Room for photo, wiki web site, and Getty images as well as India America Today for their photos.