

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (NFIA)



Serving the Indian American Community since 1980

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VOL. 2, # 9 SEPTEMBER, 2020

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 – TERRORISTS ATTACKED AMERICA - A SURREAL EXPERIENCE:

This year the leaders and our country men and women have observed the 19th anniversary of that horrific day, 9-11, in a dignified and subdued way. Many television Network have called all related activities as "somber" due to spread of Corona virus. There are guidelines to combat the virus by observing social distancing and mouth covering as well as following the precautions regarding travel restrictions. Many will recall that we lost approximately 3,000 lives and lot of destruction and injuries happened due to buildings on fire on September 11, 2001.



This was caused by 19 extremists' – who were part of Al Qaeda group from an Islamic country. They managed to hijack four planes. It was a horrible scene to see the famous Twin Towers of World Trade Center burning and building dismantling. Both North and South towers were burning and fire fighters were engaged in saving people and property. This was a very risky operation, fire fighters, at the cost of their own lives due to inhalation of fumes from the debris burning, were doing a challenging task.

Shortly thereafter another hijacked plane was commandeered to hit the Pentagon and another plane routed by terrorists ended up crashing in fields in Pennsylvania. The American commerce center was attacked but the spirit of Americans and their resolve and faith in re-building with ingenuity was enormous.

President Trump, first lady Melania Trump, Vice President Pence, former Vice President Biden and Dr. Biden and other administrative officials visited these locations and paid homage to those victims who lost their lives during these terrorist's attacks. Speaking to the families about their

loved one's loss President Trump said, "The memory of your treasured loved ones will inspire America for all time to come. The heroes of Flight 93 are an everlasting reminder that no matter the danger, no matter the threat, no matter the odds, America will always rise up, stand tall and fight back."

It took time but Americans rebuilt the twin towers and constructed the Pentagon Memorial, located just southwest of The Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia. This monument is a permanent outdoor memorial to the 184 people who died as victims in the building and also those who unfortunately were on American Airlines Flight 77 during the unlucky day on September 11, 2001. Friends and families of Flight 93, National Memorial, and National Park Foundation gathered to paid tribute and spent time in remembering those who lost their lives due to sinister motives of Islamic terrorists.

Angela Anand, NFIA President

PRANAB MUKHERJEE – AN HONORABLE AND DISTINGUISHED FORMER PRESIDENT OF INDIA LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE IN AUGUST:

A recipient of Bharat Ratna, Pranab Mukherjee left an indelible impression of a great leader and a humble statesman who was loved by everyone including his adversaries. He was sick for some time but even people from the opposing parties felt sad to learn about his demise. He was brought in by Mrs. Indra Gandhi to work for the Congress party and later on he left and formed and served the Samaj Party.



He was the 13th president of India from 2012 until 2017. He was respected for his dedication and service to the country for almost five decades. He occupied several ministerial positions. He was born in 1935 and left for his heavenly abode on August 31, 2020. He received Bharat Ratna in 2019 and Padma Vibhushan in 2008. At the time of his death he was 87 years old and had traveled far and served on the boards of IMF and World Bank.

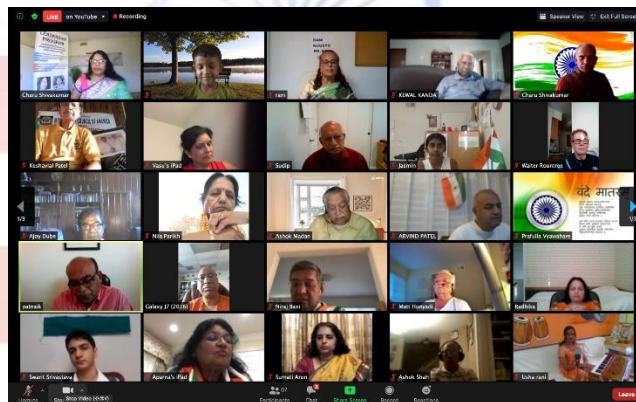
On his passing the United States, Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State, sent a message -...President Mukherjee worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of India as a parliamentarian, cabinet minister, and as President of the world's largest democracy. His visionary leadership helped drive India's rise as a global power and paved the way for a stronger U.S.-India

partnership.

A life lived well and all Indians feel proud of his accomplishments in and outside India. NFIA Members remember him and offer condolences to his family. Rest in Peace president Pranab Mukherjee.

SOTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CELEBRATES INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY VIRTUALLY :

On August 15, 2020, Excel Foundations in collaboration with Sargam LA and VHPA-Los Angeles Chapter hosted a Video Conference to celebrate 74th Indian Independence Day, Shree Krishna Janmashtami, and Shree Ganesh Chaturthi and Samvatsari. The conference participants ranged from 5 to 85 years. Charu Shivakumar and Sivakumaran Kuselaraghavan organized this conference with other members of coordinating associations. In opening remarks, Charu Shivakumar highlighted various humanitarian and educational projects undertaken by Excel Foundations and how the foundation is involved in helping the needy in India by supporting families with monetary support through their Covid-19 Relief Project. Major Gurjeet Singh, Founder of Global Initiative of Veterans (GIVE) presented the Keynote address followed by speeches on "What freedom means to India" and "Freedom fighters of India" by a few Army veterans from India.



A prayer by priest preceded the American and Indian National Anthems. The audience applauded when they saw three members dressed up as Kasturba Gandhi, Kamala Nehru, and Bhagat Singh. Other members spoke on various subjects such as Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, Poetry on "Service to India", Social Justice and

Inclusive Growth, Analysis of Gandhian v/s Nehruvian Ideology, Make in India – Boone or Bane, Effects of British Raj on India. Devotional and patriotic songs were recited by some members. Short speeches were given on Life of Mahavir, Early life of Krishna, Poetry of Krishna, Mahaganpathim, Significance of Samvatsari, and Application of Shri Krishan's teachings etc. A few teenagers spoke about Inspiring qualities of Lord Krishna. Rani Kuusto moderated the kids' discussion. Lions Club of Fullerton recognized the kids with plaques and certificates.

GOPIO and NFIA organizations were well represented in the program by their members; Angela Anand, Ashok Madan, Niraj Baxi, Kewal Kanda, Sudip Gorakshakar, Ashok Patnaik, Ajoy Dube, Rani Kuusto, Aparna Hande, Vasu Pawar, and Dr. Pandita Indrani Ramparsad.

UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER MODI JI INDIA IS ON THE PATH OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS:

Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi ji, the current Prime Minister of India turned one year older and wiser this month. He was born on September 17, 1950, and rose to power for his hard work and high ideals. Modi ji is the 14th and the current prime minister who won the election with a huge mandate. His party, the BJP got an absolute majority in 2019, and won by a higher number of Lok Sabha Seats in comparison to the victory party enjoyed in 2014. He is known to work seven days a week without taking any vacations.



Modi ji is credited for embarking on economic reforms of India. He has traveled widely and established good working and diplomatic relations abroad. He works hard for the people and is leading India to modernize its infrastructure. He wants the best for India and the Indian people.

He is highly motivated to have a cleaner and progressive India. His goals are that India should become more transparent by adopting technology and rules and regulations that help India to progress economically by having modernized industrial, agricultural and manufacturing sectors. He is advocating more efficiency by discarding the old practices that are cumbersome and does not yield positive results. He is the first prime minister of independent India.

Good intentions and hard work of the leadership provides guarantee of a place for India that has been developing really fast and leading the Asian Sub-Continent.

" CHERISHING OUR ROOTS AND EXPANDING TO OUR YOUTH" IS THE THEME OF 21ST NFIA CONVENTION SCHEDULED IN CERRITOS, CA:

The NFIA Convention spanning over three days is scheduled at prestigious Sheraton Hotel in Cerritos California on December 11 through 13, 2020. Following the protocol set up by previous conventions for this four-decade old association, the convention plans to commence on Friday evening with a welcome dinner for all the

delegates traveling from out of state as well as people from the local area. The evening program will include special invited Speakers, a cultural program followed by tasty sumptuous Dinner, said the convener of the convention, Ajoy Dube, present treasurer and a resident of Bellflower, CA.

On second day, Saturday December 12, 2020, the main event will be a full day program. The convention activities will break for lunch and then resume after Lunch. There will be few break-out sessions on various lively subjects of interest of the Indian Diaspora. Plans include a well-known lunch speaker, if available, to speak on the India-US relations as well as to celebrate the 40th anniversary of NFIA. A Reception with honored speakers, a cultural program and the Awards function will highlight the evening. Award shall be given to recognize the contributions of Indians in America and even from Indians in India who have done well in different fields – such as culture, science, engineering, space and education.

On the 3rd Day Sunday, Dec 13, 2020, this will be a half day program which will include the General Body meeting and the of Elections for the 27 Board of Directors positions, which includes the 8 Executive positions, 7 Director-at-Large positions and 12 Regional Vice President positions. Convener said, he is looking forward to having a successful convention. If due to Covid 19 spread and State and Federation guidelines make this convention to reschedule, the convener has plans to reschedule the convention in March of 2021, at the same venue. More details will follow as convener starts to work on the finer details with members of the convention committee.

For more details and specifics of the convention, reach out to Mr. Ajoy Dube. This image is from the last convention held in 2018 at Sheraton hotel in VA.



VERSATILE PLAYBACK SINGER WITH NUMEROUS AWARDS – ASHA BHOSLE TURNS EIGHTY-SEVEN THIS MONTH:

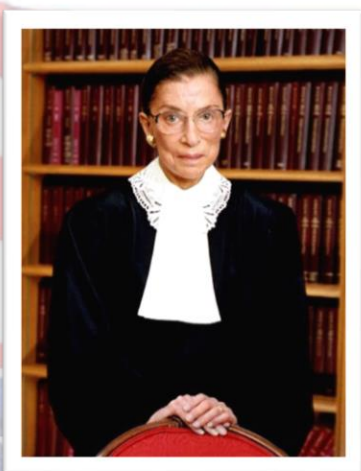


Her musical repertoire includes film songs, bhajans, ghazals, folk, Qawwali, Rabindra sangeet, and preppy cabaret type numbers for young heroines. Asha ji, the younger singer of the Indian Nightingale, Lata Mangeshkar, made her own mark in the film industry and earned status and great acclaim along with famous singers of that era consisting of Lata ji, Geeta Dutt ji and Shamshad Begum ji who did playback singing for the mighty Indian film industry. She is also credited as Indi pop singer by media.

Bhosle's career started in 1943 and she is still singing and doing guest appearances on musical shows. She has very ably done playback singing for over a thousand Bollywood movies. She has received prestigious Padma Vibhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Award. she was also nominated for the prestigious Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World-Music Album. According to her biography she has recorded over 10,000 songs for over 800 Bollywood movies. Besides Hindi songs, her list of songs includes 20 Indian and foreign languages. India is proud of such talent and we congratulate Asha Bhosle for her birthday!

SOCIETY LOST A CHAMPION OF EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FOR THE FEMALE SEX- JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG DIED FROM SPREAD OF CANCER:

Only the second woman to serve on the United States Supreme court died on September 18, 2020 from complications of metastatic pancreatic cancer. She was 87-year-old. She is the shiny reflection of women rights and gender equality in the United States. Highly educated she experienced adversity in employment. She turned that adversity to an opportunity to make a difference for women in the work arena for employment discrimination and roadblocks to upward mobility as well as women's challenges of not able to get credit in their own names.



A champion of women's rights Ginsburg served 27 years on the nation's highest court, becoming its most prominent member. She had presence and a strong voice and gave many legal opinions on variety of issues.

Ginsburg is known by her family and colleagues as a hard worker irrespective of her personal and spousal health issues she continued to perform incredibly. She had to face the challenge of five bouts of cancer – colon cancer in 1999, pancreatic cancer 10 years later, lung cancer in 2018, and then pancreatic cancer again in 2019 and liver lesions in 2020, finally her body gave in this year and she succumbed to metastatic pancreatic cancer.

A strong-willed Ginsburg endured the side effects of chemotherapy, radiation and, in the last years of her life, terrible pain from shingles that never went away completely. She was a woman of intellect and grit. It is quoted by press

that in 2009, three weeks after major cancer surgery, she surprised everyone when she attended the State of the Union address.

"Our nation has lost a justice of historic stature," Chief Justice John Roberts said. "We at the Supreme Court have lost a cherished colleague. Today we mourn but with confidence that future generations will remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg as we knew her, a tireless and resolute champion of justice."

In American history, Justice Ginsburg will remain a vital voice in several landmark legal ruling to bring about parity for female gender. A life lived well. Rest in peace.

THE LATEST NUMBERS (AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2020) OF CORONA VIRUS CASES AND DEATHS WORLDWIDE – AND SYMPTOMS OF FLU AND COVID:

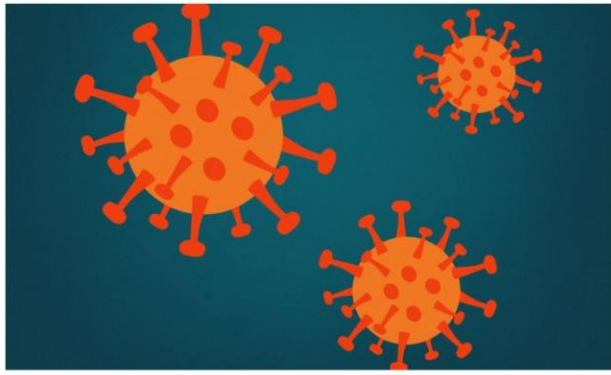
The Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center maintains an ongoing count of the COVID-19 cases and deaths in the United States and worldwide. As of September 21, 2020, the tally is:

Total deaths worldwide: 962,232 (up from 950,520 Friday)

Total cases in the United States: 6,830,209 (up from 6,723,933 Friday)

Total deaths in the United States: 199,756 (up from 198,570 Friday)

Total recovered worldwide: 21,299,110 (up from 20,683,110 Friday)



According to statistic reported On September 19 by the National Geographic, the United States recorded 41,844 new cases. Media has been reporting that the numbers of people affected are rising in 15 states. The New York Times reported numbers are rising sharply in North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, and in Wisconsin.

CHILDREN AND CORONA VIRUS:

As some schools and colleges have opened and are following hybrid teaching method, parents of young children are finding it highly stressful to cope with school

opening guidelines. Partially, due to young age of the children and young ones not able to comprehend information regarding their safety and the reasons why they only need to go to school on certain days of the week and not every day. Partially, parents feel challenged due to the need to teach them on days-off from the school at home. Children feel good to see other children but the demand of the working parents are increasing and they are feeling challenged due to extra responsibilities in helping with homework. Also, some parents are dealing with unemployment or possibility of lay-off. Most states are letting districts decide on the best approach for their communities, however, the stress experienced by children and parents is real.

Healthcare Agencies are inferring from the data reviewed so far that school employees and healthcare workers are at higher risk of getting Covid 19 and must follow safety protection guidelines. Parents need to explain children not to touch their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands because germs may more easily enter the body that way. Frequent hand-washing or sanitizing is highly recommended to kill these germs, also need to wear masks.

By practicing safety habits at home and setting an example, parents can help train their children to take health precautions seriously even without supervision of teachers and parents. Elementary school children can grasp that germs like the coronavirus are invisible, tiny microorganisms that can spread from one kid to another, from teacher to kid, and from kid to the teacher. "One of the hardest things for children is social distancing," says Cindy Lehnhoff, director of the National Child Care Association. The media reported that Dr. Husain, who is a spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics, says there are plenty of activities that parents can allow their children to do with friends that permit social distancing, such as skateboarding, playing hopscotch, running an obstacle course, or bike riding. It is a challenge but possible to overcome by following the safety guidelines provided by healthcare agencies.

MEMORIES OF SEPTEMBER 2019 CAPTURED BY NFIA MEMBERS:

Last year there was no Corona virus and NFIA officers and stalwarts attended congressional lunch held at Rayburn building, a briefing at the White House, and a women's conference at Sheraton in VA. Some of those photos are shared here.

At Rayburn building four former presidents of NFIA were recognized for the long service to the association. The luncheon received congressman Raja Krishnamurthy, and former Assistant Secretary of US Commerce Department for trade development, and also White House representative at the Department of Agriculture, Raymond Vickery, along with Congressman Gregory Meek, all of them addressed the group. Mr. Vickery is a senior adviser at Albright Stonebridge Group, where he brings decades of experience promoting U.S.-India economic cooperation in the public and private sectors to his work with clients. During the Clinton administration, he was responsible for India in the department's Big Emerging Markets initiative.



Congressman Gregory Meeks honored the four NFIA former presidents and the image was captured at the Raymond building during the luncheon. Posted here are some of the images from the white House briefing as well as from the Women's Conference which was held at Sheraton hotel in VA.





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: Administrative Director, Kewal Kanda; President of Excel and Jasmin, Charu Shivkumar; NFIA Treasurer, Ajoy Dube; NFIA Director, Kamlesh Munshi for the photograph and President NFIA, Angela Anand. Also credited for information here are NIH, New York Times, John Hopkins data base, CNN and National Geographic and Ms. Shashi Agarwal for photos.