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CONNECTION

ISSUE 1 - FEBRUARY 06





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Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA

177 Allenhurst Circle, Franklin, TN 37064
Tel. : (R) 615 778 3277 (O) 615 377 7718



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Public Relations

Suresh Patel 972-256-3756

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Ex-Officio

R V. Patel 214-574-7493

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the editorial, design and other members of the AMG staff involved in the magazine will appear here.

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2020 Beaver Run Road
Norcross, Atlanta
GA 30071-3710

Tel: ++ 1 770 263 7728

Fax: ++1 770 263 8617

email: usa@gg2.net

www.amg.biz

www.gg2.net

Dear fellow Leuva Patidars,

It gives me a great pleasure to provide you our very first edition of The Leuva Connection, a magazine dedicated to you, the members of Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA. This magazine is published by Garavi Gujarat, and carries our new name and logo which signifies our families moving forward. I hope you enjoy this first edition, as the LPS of USA board has spent countless hours negotiating the publication deal which will ultimately become a revenue stream for our organization. To bring added value to our magazine, if you have meaning content that you would like published, please contact our editors Raman D. Patel or Vinod Patel.

Within the coming weeks, we will be revamping our website and database. We aim to make our website, your source of the latest information, right at your fingertips. The website will soon allow you to update your personal profile online, so that our organization has the latest information about you and your family. Our database is being upgraded so that we can reach out to specific genders, age groups, and industries. In the coming days, you will be receiving a member profile in the mail. The profile will contain a user ID., and password where you can access your information as we have it saved. Any changes to your profile can be made directly by you to ensure accuracy. I humbly request that you help us build our member database stronger for the future.

Our board has also unanimously approved to move forward with publishing a new LPS of USA directory. With your cooperation in filling out our membership forms, or updating your information via the internet, we aim to have the directory completed, and ready for distribution at our 6th Annual LPS of USA Convention. The LPS of USA board recognizes that time is of the essence, therefore I once again, ask for your help in making sure that the information we have of you is accurate and current.

As mentioned in our previous mailer, our 6th Annual LPS of USA convention will be held in Houston, Texas on July 9th-11th 2006. We want to thank the Houston LPS members for their generous hospitality and showing a great eagerness to host our event unanimously with a great pride. The host convention facilities are brand new and also connect to a brand new Hilton hotel which will be the best place for us. I ask our fellow members to please work around these dates when planning any of their families' or gaam's events to ensure attendance by all Leuva Patidars.

In closing, I would like you to be on the lookout for many changes and announcements regarding our organization in the coming months. Everything will be published in our magazines, sent via mailers and posted on our website www.leuvapatidarsamaj.com. Please help us by continuing to pay your membership dues of \$25.00, or become a life member for \$1,001.00. With your participation and support, we will be one of the strongest Indian Associations in Northern America.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Dhansukh B. Patel

President LPS of USA.

LEUVA ACHIEVERS

SEJAL J Patel had ideas of going to university for as long as she could remember.

But when her father passed away while she was at high school, it sent her education plans into a tailspin.

Living with her mom in San Diego, California, she realized her ambition of becoming a professional would be hampered. So, it was a relief when the Leuva Patidar Samaj Foundation Inc came to her assistance with an educational scholarship.

Started in 2002 by former association president CM Patel, the program of giving committed students a lifeline to their dreams meant Sejal could overcome her trying times.

She is one of seven students, aged from 18 to 24, assisted in 2005 in "all manner of courses", explains CM.

"We help students interested in furthering their education - but we don't specify which courses they should come from.

"And awardees aren't simply those with the best academic record. We look for the most needy young people, passionate about promoting education."



One previous winner was a girl from Mississippi who wanted to study medicine when her father had passed away.

The LPS stepped in to help and offer a maximum scholarship of \$5,000 in cash, but say the total number of winners each year

depends on the interest from donations.

Applicants must be association members or relatives and write an essay on career aspirations to be considered by an LPS committee alongside a GPA average, SAT and ACT scores.

To make a donation or apply for a scholarship contact the Leuva Patidar Samaj Foundation on

615 391 4577.

The 2005 roll includes:

Nikesh Patel, Chattanooga, Tennessee

Ajay H Zariwala, Greensboro, North Carolina

Sejal J Patel, San Diego, California

Reena D Patel, Birmingham, Alabama

Bina patel



**Sejal J Patel
San Diego,
California**



**Nikesh Patel
Chattanooga,
Tennessee**

**Ajay H Zariwala
Greensboro,
North- Carolina**



Bina Patel



**Reena D Patel
Birmingham,
Alabama**





Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA

We are very pleased to announce that we are collecting information for a new L.P.S. directory, which will be distributed all over the country starting in July 2006. Please look forward to your member profile in the mail, which will contain a special user I.D. and password that will allow you to update your profile on the Internet.

We request that you update your information as soon as possible, so that the new directory can have the most accurate information possible. New member forms can be found in this magazine, or on our website www.leuavapatidarsamaj.com. Please note that our cutoff for updates and new forms for the directory will end on March 31st 2006.

• CONVENTION

The 2006 National Convention will be held on July 9, 10, & 11 at Houston, TX. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this grand event. The Convention will include:

- Adult & Youth panel
- Youth sessions
- Matrimonial
- Key note speaker
- Entertainment
- And much, much more!!

• MEMBERSHIP

We strongly encourage you to become a L.P.S. member now. The family membership fee is only \$25 per year. With this membership, you gain a sense of belonging to this association. We are proud of our culture, our heritage, and have privilege to preserve our roots.

In order to preserve our identity of Leuva Patidar Samaj of U.S.A , we must secure funds via lifetime membership. Lifetime membership funds enable us to build upon a high interest CD, where we can allocate interest received toward LPS daily operations.

• 10 BENEFITS OF BECOMING A LIFETIME MEMBER

- One time transfer to children after reaching 60 years of age.
- Recognition in the "LEUVA CONNECTION".
- Recognition in L.P.S. of U.S.A directory.
- Preferred seating at National Convention.
- Preferred registration at National Convention for the family.
- Free membership labels on children's wedding.
- 25% discount for advertising in the "LEUVA CONNECTION".
- 25% discount for advertising in the L.P.S. directory.
- Tax deduction (as L.P.S. of U.S.A. is a nonprofit organization).
- Lifetime membership certificate.

Annual Membership :	\$25
Lifetime Membership :	\$1,001
Sense of Belonging :	Priceless!

D.V. Patel

Second Vice President

સમીરા રેડી આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ફિલ્મમાં ચમકશે

‘શરમ અનુભવવી પડે તેવો કોઈ રોલ નહીં કરું’



સમીરા રેડી આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ફિલ્મમાં ચમકશે. તેની આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ફિલ્મમાં ચમકશે. તેની આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ફિલ્મમાં ચમકશે.

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અભિષેક-ઐશ્વર્યા વચ્ચે હોટ રોમાન્સ

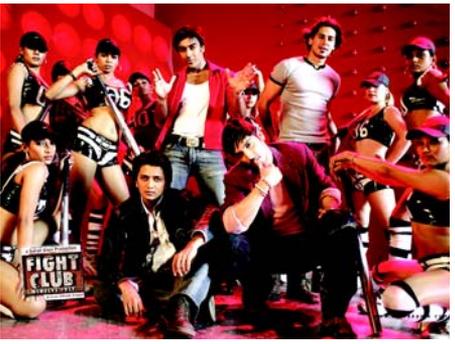
અભિષેક અને ઐશ્વર્યા વચ્ચે હોટ રોમાન્સ. તેની આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ફિલ્મમાં ચમકશે. તેની આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ફિલ્મમાં ચમકશે.

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ફાઈટ ક્લબ

ફાઈટ ક્લબ (FIGHT CLUB) એક અનુભવપૂર્ણ ફિલ્મ છે. તેની આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ફિલ્મમાં ચમકશે. તેની આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય ફિલ્મમાં ચમકશે.



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NRI women in US are trapped in abusive marriages

Wives of immigrants in the US regularly suffer domestic violence and abuse. Though the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed in 1994, it expired in September this year. The US Congress is considering reauthorizing VAWA. Leuva Women hears from Illinois democrat congresswoman Jan Schakowsky on the issue.

“My husband and his family gave me two choices: abort the baby or return to India. I was already almost six months pregnant. I couldn’t go ahead with a termination. My husband called me several days after my son was born and threatened that if I pursued child support, he would have me deported.”

These are the words of an NRI woman in America - trapped in an abusive relationship and at the mercy of her spouse. No one should be forced to decide the fate of their unborn child in this way.

Domestic violence affects all communities, but it profoundly affects immigrant communities. Many South Asian women in America face the terror of being trapped in abusive relationships, staying with their spouses to avoid being uprooted from their families and their lives.

According to a nationwide survey, 12.8 per cent of Asian and Pacific Islander women in the US reported physical assault by intimate partners at least once during their lifetime; 3.8 per cent reported being raped. For South Asians, that number is even larger: one in five South Asian immigrant families experience domestic violence at some time.

Despite some progress in recent years, there are legal barriers keeping immigrant women trapped in abusive relationships. After an abuser stalls the residency process, there follow threats of deportation or loss of social benefits if they leave the relationship.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed in 1994 to free women from the legal traps that kept them in abusive relationships. This landmark legislation was a great step forward for women around the country

and immigrant women in particular.

As Congress considers reauthorizing VAWA, which expired in September this year, new protections for immigrant women must be considered. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can still make real the threats of abusive spouses and deport victims of domestic violence. There is an urgent need to change the law, to remove the perverse incentive for immigrant women to remain with an abusive husband to prevent being ejected.

On June 30, I introduced the Immigrant Victims of Violence Protection Act. This bill would shield women who leave their abusive spouses by offering them the same protections and social services they



would have had in a healthy relationship.

My bill would create a sanctuary for these women by preventing DHS from seizing them in shelters, crisis centers and protect them from inappropriate court orders. Additionally, the bill would provide



these women a safety net by allowing them access to health insurance, food, work permits, and other social services essential to their economic well-being.

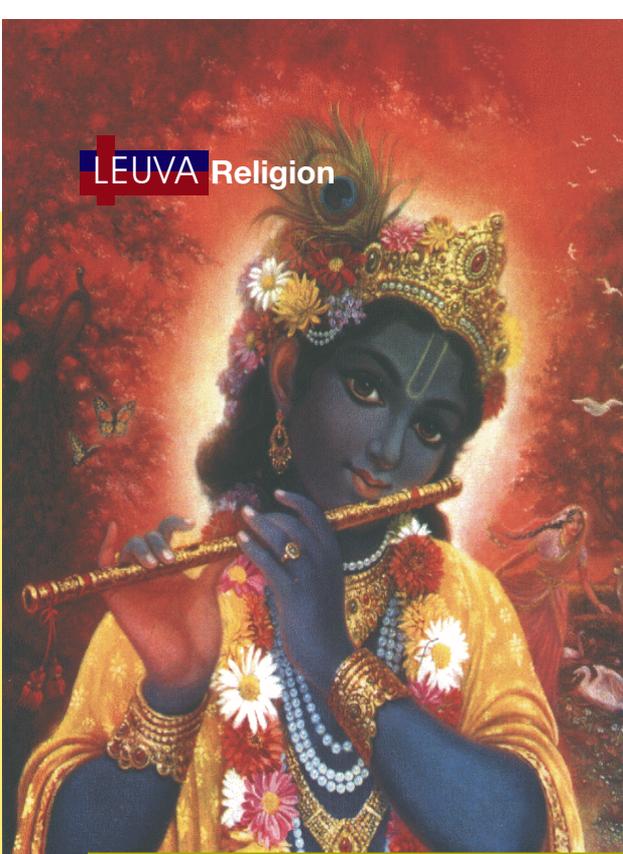
In the land of the free, too many women are being trapped in their own homes by terror. Their lives and possibly their children’s lives are endangered by an abusive spouse. These protections would give these women the keys to their freedom.

Time is quickly running out in the race to protect these victims. VAWA expired in September. As various versions of VAWA are considered in the reauthorization process, it is critical that Congress provide new protection for immigrants. Immigrant women often suffer higher rates of battering than US citizens, and there are legal barriers keeping immigrant victims with their abusive spouses. Inclusion of my bill, or any that advances this cause, in the broader VAWA legislation would go a long way toward improving our policy.

We should lift the legal barriers that keep women trapped in abusive relationships. Immigrant women should never be prisoners in their own homes. Instead, they should have legal protection and access to social services that empower them to escape abuse with their lives in America intact.

(The author, Jan Schakowsky, is a Democrat Congresswoman from Illinois. The article was made possible by the Washington-based Indian American Center for Political Awareness. Report dated September 4, 2005)

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Why Lord Krishna's skin is blue?

Swami Vivekananda, the legendary sage of India, was once on a visit to the law college of Madras. There was a wall painting of Lord Krishna in the room where he was lodged in. Law students had asked Vivekananda the significance behind the blue color of Lord Krishna's skin.

Most of the students had heard the tales of various incidents in Lord Krishna's life. One of them spoke up: 'Ever since Lord Krishna plunged into the River Yamuna to challenge *Kalinag* (a mythical snake god of King Cobras) His skin had turned blue. In His fight with *Kalinag*, in which *Kalinag* eventually licked the dust, *Kalinag* had spewed venom at Lord Krishna which made His skin turn blue.'

To this story another student objected and said, 'no this was not so.' When Vivekananda encouraged the student to speak out his mind, the student said, 'Blue denotes ocean, sky and universe. Therefore, in order to symbolize the fact that He represented the supreme power of the Universe Lord Krishna's skin color was blue.'

Religion means noble conduct

Leading a self-indulgent life is diametrically opposite to religious life.

Maharshi Vyasji, creator of the epic *Mahabharata*, has said, 'your noble act is the only religion. It means all misdeeds, corruption and self-indulgence are irreligious.'

Kalpataru offers a simple definition of religion: 'Listen to the philosophy of religion and then understand that what you don't like others to do to you, you don't do it to others. According to *Upanishads*: 'Follow religion, but don't bring self-indulgence in it.'

A wide-spread myth is prevalent in the society that religious people are rendered devoid of money and materialism. And thus it is said that only irreligious people enjoy wealth and materialism.

Sadness-happiness and joy-sorrow are results of one's past lives, and they have nothing to do with one's present life. All states of one's life are results of one's past lives. The roots of one's present state of life lie in his immediate past life. Therefore, *Vyasji* has said: 'That which one follows is religion. Religion is the element that protects the mankind.'

In this context, somebody, probably *Vyasji* himself had issued a warning: 'If you kill religion it will kill you, if you follow religion it will protect you. Thus, don't betray your religious duties.'

It is the nature of man that he will cry hoarse about his sorrows but will never abandon his habit of self-indulgence, even if it is the only root cause of all his miseries.

This world is the breeding ground of sins and greed.

Greed is everywhere on the earth which is always ready to throw the man into the hellfire. Religion is the only protection against sins and greed.

Maharshi Vyas writes about ancient India in *Bhavisyapurana*: 'Every village had temples. Every region would perform *Yagna*. Every man used to follow religion.'

In today's India, though temples are there in almost every village, poverty is as omnipresent as God Himself. Apart from a few people noble conduct and piety are hard to be found. This is a blot on India's very culture.

'Follow religion, but don't bring self-indulgence in it.'

India is a proud birthplace of saints and sages like *Shankaracharya*, *Tulsidas*, *Swami Ramdas*, *Ramkrishna Parmahans*, *Swami Vivekananda*. It also boasts of historical figures like warriors *Chhatrapati Shivaji*, *Maharana Pratap*, *Guru Teg Bahadur* and *Guru*

Govind Singh. 'Live and let live' is the main *mantra* of all Indian religions.

Salvation is the ultimate goal of human's life. Religion is the only means of spiritualism. Noble conduct is borne only out of purity and stillness of mind. Mind's purity, noble thoughts and noble conduct are interconnected with each other.

On the battlefield of *Kurukshetra* in the epic of *Mahabharata*, when *Arjun* was facing the dilemma, his *Guru Lord Krishna* explained these truths to him which were later condensed into the epic of *Geeta*.

The philosophy of *Geeta* leads one straight into a meditative state of mind, devoid of the baggage of past and worry for the future, but living for every moment.

An ayurvedic diet

Every food has a unique taste – and affect on your body. Astanga Hridayam, a seminal text on Ayurveda, describes the six taste characters of what we eat and the problems with eating too much of them. But as most foods have multiple personalities eating a perfect diet can be a complex balance...

■ Sour

Comprised of the elements earth and fire, sour increases *pitta* (acidity) and *kapha* (cough) and is good for your heart and digestion. It stimulates *agni* (acidity), moves inactive *vaata*



(gastric juice) energy down the pelvic cavity, sets the teeth on edge and increases salivation. When present in excess they may cause flabbiness, loss of strength, giddiness, itching, irritation, a whitish yellow pallor, herpetiform lesions, swelling, thirst, fever and diseases that arise from excess *pitta* and *kapha*.

■ Sweet

Related to earth and water, sweet mitigates *pitta* and *vaata*, producing greater strength in the tissues and is of value



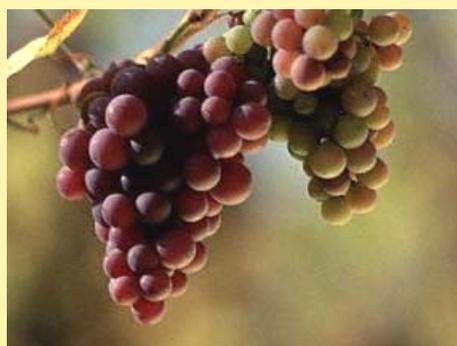
to the aged, wounded, emaciated and children. Universally liked, it often sticks to the inside of the mouth and gives a feeling of pleasure, contentment and comfort. Good for the complexion, hair, senses and *ojas* (glow), sweet also increases breast milk and helps broken bones heal. It prolongs life and helps life activities. In excess, however, it may cause diseases arising from fat and excess *kapha* such as obesity, dyspepsia, unconsciousness, diabetes and enlargement of the neck glands or malignant tumors.

■ Salt

The water and fire in a salty taste increases *pitta* and *kapha*. It clears obstruction of channels and pores and



increases digestive activity and salivation. It is responsible for keeping natural oils in the skin and helps regulates sweating. An excess of it may cause baldness and graying of hair, wrinkles, thirst, skin diseases, blood disorders, herpetiform lesions and loss of muscle strength.



■ Pungent

Fire and air in pungent foods increases *vaata* and *pitta* while mitigating *kapha*. It increases hunger, is digestive, causes irritation, makes the eyes, nose & mouth water and produces a burning sensation in the mouth. An excess of it may cause thirst, loss of strength, fainting, contracture, tremors, pain in the waist and back, and other disorders related to excess of *pitta* and *kapha*.

■ Bitter

Air and space being its elements, bitter mitigates *pitta* and *kapha*. It will dry up moisture from fat, muscles, faeces and urine. It cleans the mouth and destroys the perception of taste. It is said to cure anorexia, worms, bacteria, parasites, thirst, skin diseases, fever, nausea, burning in the stomach and restore consciousness. In excess, it increases *vaata*, causing diseases of *vaata* origin.



■ Astringent

Air and earth increase *vaata* and mitigate increased *pitta* and *kapha*. It cleans the blood and heals ulcers. Like bitter, it too dries up moisture from fat. It absorbs water, causing constipation and hinders digestion. In excess it causes stasis of food in the digestive tract, flatulence, pain in the cardiac region, emaciation, loss of virility, obstruction of channels in the bowel and constipation.



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Vallabhbhai had started his career as a barrister in Ahmedabad. His elder brother Viththalbhai Patel was too a barrister, practicing in Mumbai. While Viththalbhai's most of the time was devoted to serving the nation, the responsibility to financially support the family was on Vallabhbhai's shoulders. As Vallabhbhai had rightly said, 'If the nation has to attain freedom, we have to devote ourselves to its service. We both the brothers have divided our work: he (Viththalbhai) would devote himself to the nation's service, while I would earn money for the family. While he would earn merit through his service to the nation, the same is not with me. However, whatever he does for the nation, at least I too have a share in that.' But this system between the two brothers could not last for long.

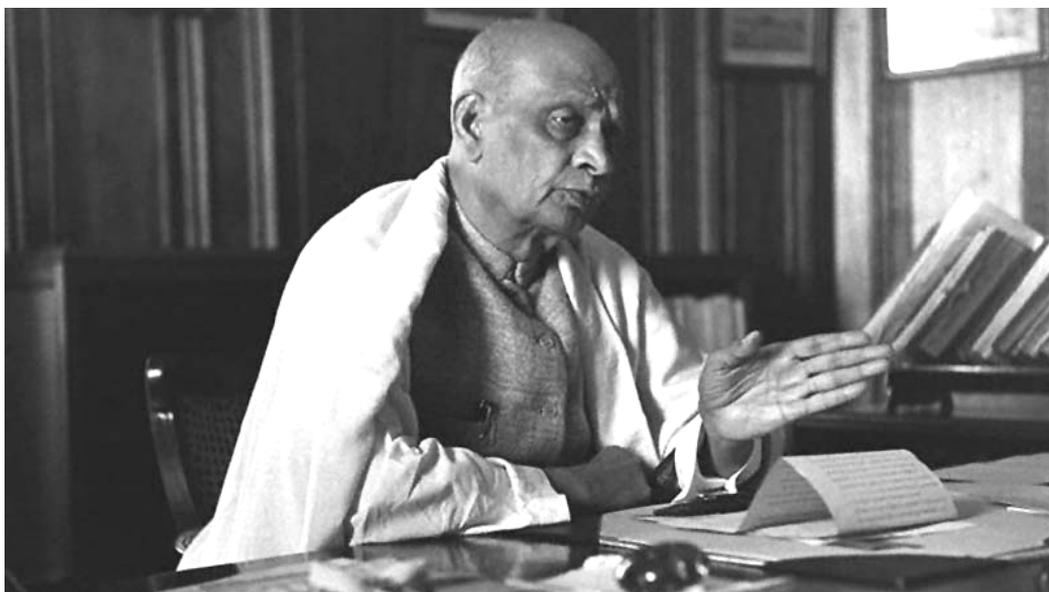
In 1915, Gandhiji had come back to India from South Africa and had set up his Kochrab Ashram in Ahmedabad. The presence of Mahatma and his tales of Satyagraha (non-cooperation movement for truth) in South Africa had generated a great deal of curiosity in the minds of scores of barristers and bureaucrats in Ahmedabad who made frequent visits to Gandhiji's Ashram. In the evenings, they would gather at Gujarat Club and chit-chat about Gandhiji and his Ashram's activities. Vallabhbhai would always ridicule Gandhiji. He would say: 'How come celibacy, sanitation work, cooking, etc. can produce patriots? Instead of going to Gandhiji if you had stayed in the club and played Bridge with me, it would have been more productive for your mental growth.'

Initially, Vallabhbhai's reluctance for Gandhiji was so much that whenever Gandhiji visited Gujarat Club and all the barristers went up to surround him to listen to him, Vallabhbhai would stop them and say, 'What is there in listening to him (Gandhiji)? He would only talk of liberating the country through chafing the grains.'

Vallabhbhai's reluctance was borne out of politicians' role in India at that point of time, which appeared preposterous to him. He sought a new ideology.

When Mahatma Gandhi had set up his ashram in Ahmedabad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a barrister in the same city. Vallabhbhai used to ridicule those who went to Gandhiji. But something happened that stirred his soul and Vallabhbhai became the ardent follower of Mahatma. Most of us are not aware of what had transpired in Vallabhbhai's heart, when he decided to join hands with Mahatma. **Leuva History chronicles different phases of Vallabhbhai's life**, popularly known as the Iron Man of India for his iron like strong will.

HOW THE IRON MAN OF INDIA became Mahatma's follower?



However, later, Gandhiji's approach to countrymen brought about a drastic change in Vallabhbhai's perception. Gandhiji had exhorted to Gujarat Sabha (committee of elected representatives in Gujarat) that people of Gujarat must not beg for their rights before the British government. They should be empowered enough to fight for their rights.

Gandhiji's statement changed Vallabhbhai's heart. He realized that Gandhiji was trying his best to evoke the true spirit of the people of the nation for freedom and that he did not belong to the category of run-of-the-mill politicians.

The turning point in Vallabhbhai's life came with the holding of political council of Gujarat in Godhra in 1917. The most attractive feature of the

council that appealed to Vallabhbhai was its resolution to incorporate *Harijans* (untouchables) into the mainstream. Also, decided by the council was to set up a *Harijan Ashram* wedded to the betterment of untouchables under the aegis of Mamasahab Fadke.

Another resolution passed by the council was to oppose the practice of bonded laboring forced upon the poor farmers by government officials of the *British Raj*. The officials would take the poor farmers as bonded laborers and make them toil for their personal gains, which was unethical and illegal.

Vallabhbhai appreciated the bold resolutions passed by the council. Having been witness to the hardships and sufferings borne by the poor farmers in Kheda region, which was his birth place, Vallabhbhai decided to take on the unethical practice of bonded laboring.

He sent copies of Godhra council's resolution opposing bonded laboring to the commissioner of north Gujarat and asked whether bonded laboring existed in the law or not. At that time, one Mr. Pret was appointed as the commissioner of north Gujarat. Mr. Pret was aware of Vallabhbhai's clout as a barrister, and thus he started evading him. Vallabhbhai knew that there was no provision for bonded laboring existed in the law, and therefore, he gave an ultimatum to Mr. Pret that if he does not reply to the council's resolution opposing bonded laboring in a stipulated period, there would be an announcement among the people of north Gujarat declaring bonded laboring as illegal.

As Mr. Pret failed to reply within the given timeframe, Vallabhbhai made the announcement throughout the north Gujarat. This was the first victory of Vallabhbhai and a tight slap on the face of the *British Raj*.

Meanwhile, a condition approaching famine had arisen in the Kheda district owing to a widespread failure of crops, and the *Patidars* (farmers) of Kheda were considering the question of getting the revenue assessment for the year suspended.

The farmers' demand was as clear as daylight, and so moderate as to make out a strong case for its acceptance. Under the Land Revenue Rules, if the crop was four *Annas* or under, the cultivators could claim full suspension of the revenue assessment for the year. According to the official figures the crop was said to be over four *Annas*. The contention of the farmers, on the other hand, was that it was less than four *Annas*. But the Government was in no mood to listen, and regarded the popular demand for arbitration as illegal. At last, all petitioning and prayer having failed, after taking counsel with co-workers, Gandhiji advised the *Patidars* to resort to *Satyagraha*. And being the sun of a *Patidar* farmer, Vallabhbhai was placed at the helm of affairs to lead the *Kheda Satyagraha*.

The beginning of the *Kheda Satyagraha* also meant the end of Vallabhbhai's career as a professional lawyer which for all practical purposes he was never able to resume. For *Kheda Satyagraha* Vallabhbhai had set up his headquarters

at the Nadiad Anathashram, since no other place was available which would have been large enough to accommodate all of the *Satyagrahis* (volunteers).

The campaign came to an unexpected end. It was clear that the people were exhausted. The *Mamlatdar* (sub-district development officer) of the Nadiad *Taluka* (sub-district) sent a word to Gandhiji that, if well-to-do *Patidars* paid up, the poorer ones would be granted suspension. Gandhiji asked for a written undertaking to that effect, which was given. But as a *Mamlatdar* could be responsible only for his *Taluka*, Gandhiji inquired of the Collector, who alone could give an undertaking in respect of the whole district, whether the



Members of India's Interim Government

Government officials outside the Council Room in the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, shortly before their swearing-in ceremony. (L to r) Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose; Mr. Jagjivan Ram; Dr. Rajendra Prasad; Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel; Mr. Asaf Ali; Pandit

Mamlatdar's undertaking was true for the whole district. He replied that orders declaring suspension in terms of the *Mamlatdar's* letter had been already issued. Gandhiji was not aware of it, but if it was a fact, the people's pledge had been fulfilled. And the victory was hailed as *Satyagraha*.

'The end of a *Satyagraha* campaign can be described as worthy, only when, it leaves the *Satyagrahis* stronger and more spirited than they are in the beginning.'

The *Kheda Satyagraha* was also the making of Vallabhbhai as the leader of the mass. Vallabhbhai took to spinning the charkha, boycotted foreign goods and clothes and burned his foreign

possessions on public bonfires. He even discarded the western dresses he once so coveted. He participated in the Nagpur flag *Satyagraha* from May to August in 1923 in protest against the stopping of a procession which carried the national flag.

Later in 1928, there was a similar movement of farmers against the *British Raj*, this time in Bardoli in south Gujarat. The government had increased the tax on the land which farmers were not in position to suffer. Like *Kheda Satyagraha*, Vallabhbhai once again came to the rescue of the farmers. It was a mass non-violent movement of non-cooperation which lasted for six months in which many agitating farmers were arrested with their properties attached.

However, the government had to relent eventually to the mass movement of *Satyagraha*. The government agreed to set up an inquiry into the alleged tax hike, released the *Satyagrahis* and returned all confiscated items back to the farmers.

Bardoli Satyagraha was a feather in Vallabhbhai's cap. So pleased was Gandhiji with him that he bestowed the title of *Sardar* (leader) upon him.

Vallabhbhai Patel's most important contributions came in the period between 1946 and 1948, when the Congress negotiated India's independence; when the Partition of India took place, and India's independence was greeted by intensive communal violence, an exodus of 10 million people and war over Kashmir.

Later 1948, when a year had passed after India was liberated from the shackles of the *British Raj*, the country was facing a Herculean task of integrating 565 princely states which had refused to be part of the united India. Vallabhbhai was then the country's first Deputy Prime Minister. He had successfully integrated all the princely states into India. His role in national integration and strong will for it won him the title of *Iron Man of India*.

Sardar Patel formed the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and other Central Services to assist in the process of nation building. The *Iron Man of India* died in Mumbai in December 1950. He left behind a united India.



Message from Convention Chairman

Leuva Patidar Samaj National Convention , 2006

As your convention chairman, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome everyone to the 6th Leuva Patidar Samaj National Convention during July 9-11, 2006 in Houston, TX at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

With Co-Chairmen Dipak Patel of Houston, TX, Suresh Patel of Dallas, TX, & Samir Patel of Houston, TX, we are diligently working to ensure this convention appeals to all ages. Therefore, it is imperative that all Leuva Patidar's in the USA are cordially invited to attend the convention. The focus of this convention as the theme portrays, "Strengthening Family, Reviving Heritage"

is to have the youth intensively involved in organized all phases of various committee, and especially focusing on maintaining our heritage and cultural values.

I would like to request the support of our members from the various Samajs' across the USA to encourage their members to attend this exciting convention. I would like to thank the Houston Samaj for their tremendous support and their gratitude for hosting this convention.

I humbly request that our members do not make any other plans (i.e. weddings, family or gaam events, tournaments, etc.) during these convention dates.

Registration forms will be available on the LPS website (www.leuvapatidarsamaj.com) and will be mailed out soon.

Please direct all the inquiries, comments, ideas, or concerns to our attention.

Thank you,

Hasmukh Patel
Convention Chairman

12 FEB 2006

2006 LPS National Convention

Venue: George R. Brown Convention Centre Houston, Texas

Date: Sunday- July 9, Monday-July 10 and Tuesday- July 11, 2006

(Please do not plan any events during this dates)

Visit us at www.leuvapatidarsamaj.com
www.houstonconventionctr.com

▪ Convention Chairman

Hasmukh D. Patel:

Tel: 281-236-6200 ▪ Fax: 281-870-0066

Email: hasudpatel@aol.com

▪ Convention Co- Chairs

Dipak N. Patel ▪ Tel: 713-504-2748

Suresh N. Patel ▪ Tel: 972-365-6073

Samir T. Patel ▪ Tel: 832-567-8484

▪ Convention Registration

Raman M. Patel

Tel: 713-861-1660 ▪ Fax: 713-861-6461

Email: rrama48@yahoo.com

6319 Washington Avenue
Houston, TX 77007



Strengthening Family, Reviving Heritage

Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA

(Surat, Navsari & Valsad District)

6th National Convention Vendor Registration Form

July 9th, 10th & 11th, 2006 (Sunday, Monday & Tuesday)

George R. Brown Convention Centre, Houston, TX

Visit us at www.leuvapatidarsamaj.com

Make Check Payable to: **Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA**

For More Information Contact :

Ramesh Surati - (615) 481-1954 • Bharat Patel - (281) 701-6000

A.V. Patel -(912) 333-4797 • Suresh Patel - (972) 365-6073

Company Name:		
Representative:	Arrival Date:	
Address:		
Tel. (Office):	Cell #:	Fax #:

Information for additional badges

Arrival Date	First	Company Name

In addition to my registration fee : I would like to donate \$ _____ towards the convention expense.

Your contribution is tax dedeductible. Our tax I. D. #62-1478593

Registration Cost : **\$795.00** per booth/per day
 \$1495.00 per booth for Monday & Tuesday

Booth Size : Exhibits booth size 10' X 10' with 4' or 6' skirted table and two chairs

The booth includes two complimentary passes. \$90.00 extra for each additional pass .

Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA reserves the right or refuse or give exclusive booth

Payment by Check : Check # _____

If paying by **Credit Card**, please complete following information. Fax or mail this completed form.

Payment Option : Credit Card **MC** **Visa** **Amex** **Discover** **DC**

Credit Card # _____ Name on the CC _____

Exp : _____ Amount Authorize : \$ _____ Signature : _____

Mail or Fax this Form to :
Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA
Raman M. Patel

6319 Washington Ave. / Houston, TX 77007-2108

Fax : (713) 861-6461

Fax : (281) 452-5787

<p>Hilton Americas - Houston Phone : (713) 739-8000 Toll Free : 1-800-236-2905 Single or Double \$139.00+Tax Reservation Code : LPS USA</p>
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LPS strives to bridge cultural gaps

Never before non-resident Gujaratis (NRGs) have suffered from so much of identity crises as they do today. The first generation of NRGs can trace their roots back to their motherland Gujarat. However, when it comes to their GenNext, NRGs are bit disappointed.

The GenNext of Gujaratis living in the United States seem far removed from their cultural roots. It's not just generation gap with their young ones that causes concern to NRGs, but also the cultural gap which has become very wide today.

Taking up the challenge of bridging these gaps, the Leuva Patidar Samaj (LPS) has decided to launch a socio-cultural movement among its community residing in US.

"Today, we're faced with identity crises. When we come to India we're known as NRIs; not as Indians but as foreigners. However, when we're in US, there too we're known as foreigners. It's an identity crises of sorts for the third generation of our community. Where do we belong? The third generation of LPS does not have that sense of belonging," said Dhansukhbhai "Dan" B. Patel, President, LPS of USA.

The history of LPS is deeply rooted in Surat, Navsari and Valsad districts of south Gujarat, India. It takes pride in its cultural values old for several centuries. Patidars of LPS community are fondly remembered for their compassion and hard work.

Patidars residing in US are involved in various enterprises ranging from lodging, engineering, medicine, and science to service related industries in major metropolitan cities as well as small towns of US.

The first generation of LPS anchored to San Francisco's shore some 50 years ago. The first arrivals of LPS also included Dhansukhbhai's father in law, who ventured into fruits and vegetable business.

As the destiny would have it, Patidars forayed into hospitality sector. Today there are proud owners of chains of hotels and motels. They have carved a niche for themselves in hospitality sector of US. Their surname "Patel" has become synonymous with "Motel."

"Most of the next generation LPS members preferred hotel business to any other business. Since the entire LPS community was involved in it, there was a sense of community support to it. And hence, the increased confidence level," said Dhansukhbhai.

"However, the next generation of our community has got to be brought back to its cultural roots," said Dhansukhbhai.

Determined to bring about renaissance among the LPS

youth, he said, "Our aim is to instill the sense of belonging in our next generation. We want to bridge the cultural gap between the older and new LPS generations. For this, we need a strong organization. In order to increase our membership, I'm launching a drive. At present, I'm aiming at 1000 life time members. So far, I've made 105 members."

"In this maiden issue of our in-house magazine, we have attached various forms for membership application, directory, convention registration and convention vendor registration. I request all of you to fill these forms and become the part of our family. The LPS, as an organization, is stretching its arms wide open to embrace you all," Dhansukhbhai exhorted.

"Also invited are your suggestions to improve the content quality of this magazine," he added.

Magazine apart, the LPS also wants to go ahead with the publication of community directory. "Since there has not been much increase in the membership, we came up with this idea of having directory exclusively meant for our community members. The directory featured names and numbers and contact addresses of our 4000 community members. This year, we aim to feature 12000 to 15000 families in the diary. We want to reach out to all community members by featuring them in the directory," said Dhansukhbhai.

PICS OF LPS ACTIVITIES

LPS committed to Gujarat's development

"Once seven seas away from homeland, you never look back." It's a common refrain for non-resident Indians (NRIs). However for non-resident Gujaratis (NRGs), and especially with members of Leuva Patidar Samaj (LPS), this doesn't hold true.

LPS members carry a piece of their mother land Gujarat always in their hearts. On their recent visit to Gujarat to attend Vibrant Gujarat Uttarayan (kite festival) 12-14 January, 2006, they told Gujarat Chief Minister Mr. Narendra Modi that entire global Gujarati community is keen on investing in Gujarat.

Showering praises on Mr. Modi for placing Gujarat on the map of international investment, a LPS delegation led by Dhansukhbhai "Dan" B. Patel (Nashville, Tennessee) said that non-resident Gujaratis (NRGs) expected support from the government of Gujarat.

"We're looking forward to receiving a greater support for the investment in various areas including business ventures," said Dhansukhbhai.

In an official meeting with Mr. Modi, which eventually turned out to be an emotional one filled with the sense of nostalgia and home coming for the LPS members, the delegation appreciated Mr. Modi's initiatives and expressed satisfaction over the challenging responsibility taken up by him after taking over as the chief minister.

Assuring the LPS members that Gujarat was all open for their investment, Mr. Modi said, "Gujarat is stretching its arms wide open to embrace its sons-of-the-soil Gujarati Diaspora to come and invest in their mother land. All government agencies are ready to cooperate with them (investors) in every way for their investments and business ventures."

Calling upon the Gujarati Diaspora to do its bit for its mother land, Mr. Modi insisted on Global investors' participation in the betterment of the poor in Gujarat. He said he would expect the Global Gujarati investors to invest in village infrastructure of Gujarat.

The delegation unanimously promised Mr. Modi for its whole hearted support for his Vibrant Gujarat initiatives and other development projects.

The delegation consisted of hoteliers Dilipkumar R 'Danny' Patel (Kathleen, Georgia), Amritbhai Patel (Dallas, Texas), Manharbhai P Rama (Greenville, South Carolina), Hasubhai Patel, (Houston, Texas), Hargovindbhai Desai (Los Angeles, California), Chandrakant (CK) Patel (Atlanta, Georgia), Rameshbhai B Patel (Nashville, Tennessee), Naranbhai Patel (Nashville, Tennessee), Mahendrabhai Patel (Dallas, Texas), Hitesh Patel (Medford, Oregon), Shailendra Devendra (San Francisco, California), Dinesh Lala (Gallatin, Tennessee) and Anil Patel (San Francisco, California).

The LPS comprises of Leuva Patidar community of Surat, Navsari, and Valsad districts of southern part of Gujarat. The LPS has a history, which goes back to several centuries. The LPS and their descendents residing all over the world and especially in US are compassionate, hard working and very resourceful people.

The LPS are involved in various enterprises including but not limited to lodging, engineering, medicine, science and service related industries in major metropolitan cities as well as small towns of US. In spite of being relocated in the foreign land, they have not forgotten their roots, culture and the rich heritage, hence they have been actively involved in local and national organizations which promotes cultural, religious, sports important festivals and other functions. In other words, they have brought their Gujarati culture to US and are determined to pass this heritage to their future generation.

Many members of the LPS, which is a community association, also share membership with the AAHOA.

The Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) is the fastest-growing hospitality organization in US. Founded in 1989, AAHOA has grown from 100 to more than 8,700 members including a 45 percent increase in membership since April 2003. The largest member-based Indian business organization in the United States, AAHOA is one of the most powerful Asian American advocacy groups.

Enjoying Mr Modi's sense of Hospitality: Hargovind Desai, Hasu Patel (LPS 2006 Convention Chairman), Chief Minister Narendra Modi, LPS President Dhansukhbhai Patel, and Amratbhai Patel.





Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA

(Surat, Navsari & Valsad District)

2006 Membership Application Form

- Change of Address
Print Your old Address
- New Member
- Life Member
- Membership Renewal

- Each married child needs to fill out a separate form.
 - Make Check Payable to: **LPS of USA**
 - Enclose \$25.00 per form for membership fee for year 2006
 - **OR \$1001.00 for Life Time Membership**
(You can add this amount with Convention Registration)
- Mail to: Pravinbhai (P.K.) Patel**
Palace Motel ■ 4054 W. Davis ■ Dallas Texas 75211
Tel: 214-207-3093 ■ Fax: 214-467-4948

Please print clearly in capital letters.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

SPOUSE INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

 Village: _____
 Father and Grandfather's Full Name: _____

Full Name: _____

 Village: _____
 Father and Grandfather's Full Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____
 Father and Grandfather's Full Name: _____

 Village: _____

Mother's Name: _____
 Father and Grandfather's Full Name: _____

 Village: _____

Name of Business: _____ Profession: _____
 Home Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____
 Fax () _____ Email: _____
 Old Address (For Change of Address Applicant Only)
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Unmarried Children First Name Only	Date of Birth Month/Year	Unmarried Children First Name Only	Date of Birth Month/Year
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	

Married Children's First Name Only			
1	3	5	
2	4	6	

Payment Option: Credit Card: Check # _____ OR MC VISA AMEX
 DS _____
 Credit Card # _____ Name on the CC _____
 EXP: _____ Amount Authorize: \$ _____ Signature _____



Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA

(Surat, Navsari & Valsad District)

2006 LPS of USA Directory Form

Please fill out this form if you have not previously filled one out. If you are in our database, we will be mailing you a profile form that will require you to verify the information that we currently have. This form will contain a user I.D. and password which will enable you to make your changes directly via the internet. Kindly send this form by February, 2006.

Mail to : Pravinbhai (P.K.) Patel

Palace Motel •4054 W. Davis •Dallas Texas 75211 •Tel: 214-207-3093 •Fax: 214-467-4948

Please print clearly in capital letters.

Full Name:		Village in India:			
Father's Full Name:		Village in India:			
Mother's Full Name:		Village in India:			
Spouse Name:		Village in India:			
Father's Full Name:		Village in India:			
Mother's Full Name:		Village in India:			
Resident Address:					
City:	State:	Zip:			
Res Phone:	Business Phone:	Cell Phone:			
Fax:	Email:				
Business Address:					
City:	State:	Zip:			
Unmarried Children :(Please check & mark clearly....Gender..Male or Female)					
Name:	DOB:	M	F	Email:	Qualification:
Name:	DOB:	M	F	Email:	Qualification:
Name:	DOB:	M	F	Email:	Qualification:
Name:	DOB:	M	F	Email:	Qualification:
Name:	DOB:	M	F	Email:	Qualification:
Name:	DOB:	M	F	Email:	Qualification:
Married Child:		Email:		Qualification:	
Married Child:		Email:		Qualification:	
Married Child:		Email:		Qualification:	
Married Child:		Email:		Qualification:	
Married Child:		Email:		Qualification:	

Enclose \$25.00 per form for membership fee for year 2006 OR \$1001.00 for Life Time Membership

Make Payable to: LPS of USA

Mail to : Pravinbhai (P.K.) Patel

Palace Motel: 4054 W. Davis •Dallas Texas 75211 •Tel: 214-207-3093 •Fax: 214-467-4948

Payment Option: Credit Card: Check #	OR	MC	VISA	AMEX	DS
Credit Card #	Name on the CC				
EXP:	Amount Authorize: \$	Signature			

visit us at www.leuvapatidarsamaj.com

Tiffin bites

Plans for a day out inevitably include lunch. The problem is, picnic food can be such a drag. So fire up the home cooker and inspire your tastebuds with our recipes from the homeland...

Chana Dal Paratha



Preparation Time : 10 min

Cooking Time : 30 min

Serves / Makes : 12 parathas

Ingredients

2 cups water
225gms/1 1/8 cup *chana dal* soaked in 2 cups of water for 15 min. then drain.
salt to taste
1/4 tsp turmeric powder
1 medium onion finely chopped
1/2 inch fresh ginger finely chopped

4 green chillies finely chopped
1/4 cup coriander leaves finely chopped
1/4 tsp *garam masala*
1 tsp *amchoor powder*

for the dough:

4 cups wheat flour
1 tbsp ghee
salt to taste
water for kneading

Method for filling:

Boil water in a pan on high heat. Add *chana dal* salt and turmeric. Stir. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat. Cover and cook for about 35 mins. until *dal* is tender but not mushy. Drain off excess water if any. Allow to cool. Add all the remaining ingredients.

For dough:

Mix flour, salt, ghee and water to make a soft dough. Knead until the dough is smooth. Keep covered with a damp cloth for 30 min. Make into 12 equal size pieces. On a floured board roll out each ball of dough and push in the filling. Now roll into a *paratha*. Heat the *tava* (pan) into medium flame put the *parathas* on the *tava* and cook on both sides applying ghee. Cook the remaining balls in the same way. Serve hot *parathas* accompanied with curd or tomato chutney or *aachar* (pickle).

User Comments & Tips

Use lukewarm water for the dough as it will help in making the *parathas* soft. For best results you can use half milk and half water.

Farali Bhakharwadi

Preparation Time : 15 mins

Cooking Time : 20 mins

Serves / Makes : 2

Ingredients

500 gm potatoes
50 gm coconut *khaman*
1 tsp each of
ginger
green chilies
lemon juice
sugar
salt
coriander leaves
sesame seeds
100 gm *Rajagrano lot* (dough)

For the chutney.

50gm groundnuts	2 tsp <i>khus khus</i>
1 tsp ginger	1 tsp green chilies
1 stick of cinnamon	2-3 cloves (lavang)
1 tsp jeera	3-4 <i>elaychi</i>
salt to taste	oil for frying

Method:

Boil the potatoes. Mash them. Then add salt, lemon juice, ginger and green chillies paste. Mix it well. Then make a small ball of the potato mixture and dip it the *rajagra* flour and make a *roti*. Then grind all the ingredients of the *chutney*.

Apply little of the *chutney* to the potato *roti*. Sprinkle coconut gratings on top of the *chutney*. Roll the potato *roti* and put it horizontal in front of you and cut in to small pieces just like the ones in the traditional *bhakharwadi*. Dip each piece in the *rajagra* flour and fry in oil.



Chatpati Chaat

Preparation Time : 5 mins.

Cooking Time : 5 mins

Serves / Makes : 2

Ingredients

2 cups of *kurmura* (puffed rice)
2 tbsp oil.
curry leaves
coriander leaves to garnish.
salt, red chili powder and sugar according to the taste.
water to soak the *kurmura*.

Method:

Soak the *kurmura* in water for 5 mins. Heat oil in a *kadhai* (frying pan) and then add mustard seeds, *jeera*, curry leaves and *hing*. Add the *kurmura*, salt and red chili powder. Add sugar and turmeric powder according to the taste. Keep it on the *tava* (pan) for 4-5 mins. and then garnish with coriander leaves.

ગરવી ગુજરાત
GARAVI GUJARAT

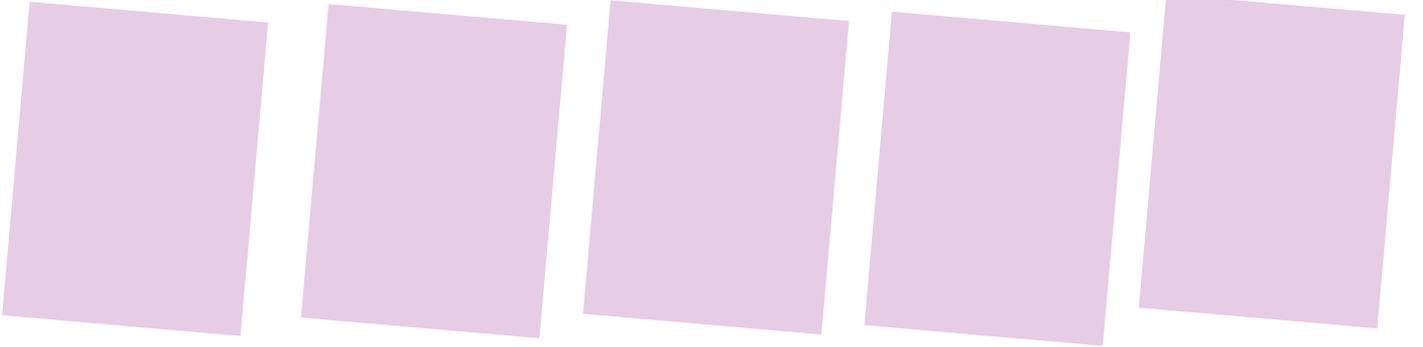
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Garavi Gujarat is proud to be associated with the Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA . Like the Samaj, Garavi Gujarat plays a crucial role in upholding our religion and rich cultural heritage. Garavi Gujarat has an unrivalled tradition of serving the Gujarati community for over 38 years, informing and entertaining its readers with its unique, award-winning, brand or journalism. Whether it's a meeting of world leaders, a religious gathering , Garavi Gujarat will be there to bring you the news that matters.

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લેઉવા પાટીદાર સમાજ સાથે એસોસિએટ થતાં ગરવી ગુજરાત ગૌરવ અનુભવે છે. સમાજની જેમ જ આપણો ધર્મ, સંસ્કૃતિ અને ભવ્ય વારસાની જાળવણી માટે ગરવી ગુજરાત મહત્વનો ફાળો આપી રહ્યું છે. છેલ્લા ૩૮ વર્ષોથી ગરવી ગુજરાત વિશ્વમાં બનતા બનાવો અને ઇંડિયનોના સમાચારો ફૂલ કલરમાં અને અનોખી પ્રણાલિકાગત શૈલીમાં રજૂ કરીને વિશ્વભરની ગુજરાતી કોમ્યુનીટીની અજોડ સેવા કરી રહ્યું છે.

વિશ્વના મહાન નેતાઓની મીટીંગ હોય, સંતમિલન હોય કે સમાજનું કન્વેન્શન હોય, એ બધાંના સમાચારો ફૂલ કલરમાં ફોટોગ્રાફ સાથે રજૂ કરવા માટે ગરવી ગુજરાત ત્યાં ઉપસ્થિત હશે જ. આપણો ધર્મ, સંસ્કૃતિ અને આપણી માતૃભાષા આપના પોતાના ઘરમાં જીવંત રાખવા ગરવી ગુજરાતનું લવાજમ આજે જ ભરો. દરેક સપ્તાહે એ આપને ઘેર બેઠાં મળશે.

ઉપરાંત લગભગ ૫૦૦ પૃષ્ઠનો દળદાર સાહિત્ય સામગ્રીથી સમૃદ્ધ દિવાળી અંક તથા પાંચેય ધર્મોની તારીખ-તિથિ ગુજરાતી અને ઇંગ્લીશમાં દર્શાવતું ફૂલ કલરમાં છપાયેલું બેનોને અતિ ઉપયોગી કેલેન્ડર પણ બેટ મળે છે.

શુભ સમાચારો : આપના સમાજના, આપના ટાઉનના, આપના કુટુંબના સમાચારો કલર ફોટા સાથે અમને મોકલી કુટુંબના લગ્ન, વેડીંગ અનીવર્સરી, જન્મતિથિ કે બીજા શુભ પ્રસંગોના સમાચારો પણ ફોટા સાથે મોકલો. એને યોગ્ય વ્યાય મળશે.

આપના સ્વજનની ચિરવિદાય વેળા ગરવી ગુજરાત આપની શોકની પળે સહભાગી બને છે. આપના સ્વજનને શ્રદ્ધાંજલિ પાઠવવામાં ગરવી ગુજરાત આપની સાથે છે.

અવસાન નોંધ : વિના મૂલ્યે પ્રગટ કરવામાં આવે છે. **આભાર દર્શન :** ચિર વિદાય પામનાર કુટુંબીજનની સ્મૃતિમાં આભાર દર્શનની જાહેરખબર ખૂબ કિંકાર્યત ભાવે પ્રગટ કરવામાં આવે છે. જેથી એમના એ દુઃખ સમાચાર સદ્ગતના મિત્રો, સ્નેહીઓ સુધી પહોંચાડી શકાય છે. અને મૃત્યુ પામનાર સ્વજનની સ્મૃતિ કાર્યમ રહે છે. એટલાંટાની અમારી ઓફિસનો આજે જ સંપર્ક સાધો.

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