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CONNECTION

ISSUE 19 August 2010



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Visit us at

www.leuapatidarsamaj.com

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

My dear brothers and sisters,

Jai Shree Krishna.

Leuva Patidar Samaj's new year has begun from July 12, at South Padre Island, Tx. It is time for us get to work!

LPS of USA's goal is to pass on our colorful culture and rich heritage to our next generation and future generations to come. Organizing a Samaj and running it is not an easy task. It is not just one person's work or a single group's job: it has to be team work. Along with LPS OF USA board of directors (Area Reps), the members of LPS Of USA must work together to achieve the goal. It is for our kids for god's sake!

One cannot be pessimistic about the future of our children. We must have hope, optimism and vision about the future of our children. Why do we need a Samaj if we don't have hope and a vision (a specific goal)? Again our goal is to pass on our colorful culture and rich heritage to our next generation and future generations to come.

LPS of USA is made of a bunch of families. Each family must step up to plate and help their regional director (Area Rep) to achieve this goal. The reason for all these discussions, the children, are living in our homes. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines when it comes to our children's future. LPS of USA has no other agenda important then our kids future. If you have any suggestion or ideas on to achieve this goal faster please get involved and help us work on it!

We will work and work hard towards the goal, in the process we might make some mistakes but we will correct it and move forward with determination.

As the current President of the LPS OF USA, in order to move towards achieving our goal, I have setup several committees, for the current year as well as the years to come. I have assigned our key board of directors as a team for each committee, to work on each team goal during current year. Their progress will be posted in Leuva Connection and on the LPS of USA website.

The top seven officers will be responsible for the progress of all these teams during the current term. You, as a member, must make sure your regional director (Area Rep) works on their assigned tasks and help him or her when they need help. Remember it's all about team work!

God bless you.

Bharat (Bobby) Patel (Pathron)
President
LPS OF USA 2010-2011

Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA

Executive Committee Board of Directors



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Nayana Nancy Patel CHO (Soyani)



Dear Members,

I write this letter with much disappointment. Your faith in me to allow me to serve you as president was humbling. But the failure to perform by me, the executive committee, and the area representatives, are no one's fault but my own. As a leader, I will always take responsibility for the action of those that I lead. Last year, as the transition to the new term has already happened, the performance of the LPS of USA was dismal. While I take the full blame, let me also defend the status and actions. Plans were set in place and signed up to by the entire BOD made up of area representatives. These plans were developed and assembled with goals and objectives identified for each. Teams were established and guidelines were given to those teams as to expectations and deliverables. This was also done with accuracy and communicated to each team with detail. With the exception of the magazine, which is the publications team's responsibility, none, I repeat, none, of the teams delivered anything. Worse, there were area representatives that attended no calls, meetings, or responded to any emails. Ultimately, this fault lies with all of us. As members of the LPS, you must hold accountable each and every "leader" to perform. And that performance must be with honesty and integrity. While they may not accomplish their goals, the real measure is the honesty and integrity of intent to work. I claim that in that measure you will find no fault in me. However, only you can judge.



First the accounting needs to be cleared from years past. I have recommended an outside audit agency that is not related to the LPS to be hired. The BOD is only a guardian of the monies, the accounting must be clear. While there is no wrongdoing, the presentation must be simple and accurate. The second is the by-laws. In past we have violated these and were willing to move on. As we move forward that document is the only thing that provides guidelines to make this a stronger and more successful organization. Again, here, Bobby has asked me to take lead in enhancing the document and I will work to get that done.

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. My father passed away recently and once more in my life my priorities have been adjusted. I am not one to profess to know the ways of the world, but I am one to say what I think. Listening fortunately is your burden. Life is short, much shorter than you think. And the end is only known to god. Live life to its fullest today, there may not be tomorrow to live, and fullest in all aspects that are important in life. Life is not about fame or fortune, rather about family, health, service to man, legacy, and faith. It's conflicting to say that I am happy for his passing as well as sad, the sadness clearly any loss bears, but the happiness that we as a family were never closer as at his bedside at his last breath. I can say that I reaffirmed things that are much more important to me in my life than some of the alternatives I was tending to.

Call me to discuss.
 Best regards,

Mukesh J Mowji
 Ex-Officio and President, LPS of USA 2009-2010

There are issues in the organization that need resolution.

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Nayana "Nancy" Patel
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Harshad Patel
California Chief Editor



Shailesh Patel
Oklahoma Joint
Editor



PK Patel
Texas Publications

Namaste

First and foremost, on behalf of the entire publication team we would like to thank all of our community members for their continuous support. We greatly appreciate the positive feed-back we have received on the publishing of the magazine, and many thanks to the team that has such passion and dedication for this publication.

Leuva Connection is a vital communication tool, one that lets us reach our members with the events, news, and happenings within our community; as well as engaging our youth and building cultural awareness about our culture and roots. This magazine needs your help, so please send us your articles, pictures, feedback and suggestions for taking it to the next level. This is our magazine and we want to hear from you so please email us at publications@lpsfusa.com with submission request/feedback.

With a new committee year and a new president, Bharat "Bobby" Patel, we have a very significant agenda and a busy year ahead. With many committees formed, each of your board of directors will be working hard within their regions to give back to the community and volunteer their time. Moreover, one of the most important agenda item, is the publishing of the new Directory with all the pertinent and useful information you would need to reach people within our community. However, we would like to strongly request that if you are NOT a member of LPS of USA, please become a member this year as soon as you can. You can fill out the membership application form provided on page 38 in this magazine or reach us by email at info@lpsfusa.com.

Our team is looking forward to continuing to publish the magazine with much enthusiasm. A few words to ponder over: ***"Life is too short so always realize that there are others out there less fortunate than us. Moreover, that the things we have are enough if we are happy, healthy, have enough to eat and we are not out in the streets. Remember that no matter what, we always have more important things in our lives than material things!"***

Do the people in your life know that you appreciate and value them? Do they realize how inspirational they have been, how much they have influenced your life and perhaps life choices? In moments of reflection do you realize that you rarely express to the important people of your life, just how grateful you are to know them?

Take the time and make the effort to show them.

With Many Respects

Nayana "Nancy" Patel CHO
LPS of USA Publications Team
Western Division Female Director/Joint Publications
Email: nancypatel1015@gmail.com



डि. वी. पटेल

शायरी

जो निशाने पर लग जाय, उसको कइते हैं तीर
जो दिल में उतर जाय, उसको कइते हैं तसवीर
काली जुल्फों को हम घटा कइते हैं
कत्ल करने को हम अदा कइते हैं
वो भी आशिक, और हम भी आशिक
मगर दुस्न वालों को हम भुदा कइते हैं.



वो मुस्कराते हैं तो दिवाना बना देते हैं.
और बाते करते हैं, तो अपना बना देते हैं.
दुस्न वालोंकी नजर कम नहीं क्यामत से
आग पानी में वो नजरो से लगा लेते हैं.



घटा को जूझ लिभना,
शाभ को अंगडाईया लिभना
हरेक मौसम को उसके दुस्नकी पडछाईयां लीभना.
हमें अक बार ज़ बरके पीला दे साडिया
और झीर हमारे नाम सारे शहर की दुसवाईयां लिभना
- डि. वी. पटेल (टेनेसी)



The making of Gujarat – the ‘Garden State’

In the 50th year of Gujarat’s statehood, Nancy ‘Nayana’ Patel traces the making of a state and a people that have carved a global recognition for themselves with enterprise, philanthropy and patriotism...

On May 1, 1960, with the first ray of sunlight, Gujarat began a new era. This was to be an era of self confidence, of trend setting, of proving to the world, the entrepreneurial spirit that Gujarat and Gujaratis have been known for, through the ages. It was to prove to be a watershed event in the history of Gujarat.

The years preceding May 1, 1960 - the day Gujarat won its statehood – had seen a visionary struggle. A struggle for identity, a collective charm for smaller geographical areas with the potential to turn adversities into advantages.

The ‘Maha Gujarat Andolan’ as it was called was led by visionary leaders such as Indulal Yagnik, Jivraj Mehta, Harihar Khambholja and Brahmakumar Bhatt. The movement’s roots can be traced to the difficulties faced by those in the hinterlands of Gujarat when they had to travel all the way to Mumbai (then Bombay) for administrative affairs.

Since the Government of India had already carved out separate units for administrative purposes in southern India on linguistic considerations, the desire of Gujarati masses for a separate identity was justified. After a long struggle spread over four years, the Central Government agreed to the State of Gujarat and under the leadership of Shri Jivraj Mehta, first Government of Gujarat was sworn in on May 1st, 1960. The oath of office was administered by Pt. Ravishankar Maharaj at the Gandhi Ashram and hence came into being the state called Gujarat which has a natural geographical formation that resembles the ‘jaws of a lion’.

Since time immemorial, Gujarat and Gujaratis have been known for their leadership and entrepreneurial skills, for their risk taking abilities and for their desire to reach to distant territories in search of economic opportunities. From the days of the famed silk route to the trading ports at Lothal and Dholavira, the Gujarati Diaspora has moved to different parts of the world and built their empires there. Be it the mines of Africa or businesses of America or the diamonds at Antwerp: Gujaratis have marked their stamp everywhere.

It is not just in business and

entrepreneurship that Gujarat has led the way. The land also gave birth to Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of non violence, who initiated a new lineage in the global philosophy of social reform and political struggles through his weapon of ‘Non Violence’. Gujarat has spawned political and visionary stalwarts such as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shyamji Kishan Verma, Morarji Desai, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Shri Tribhovandas, Dadabhai Naoroji, Dhirubhai Ambani, Poet Narmad, Sarla Tai, Javerchand Meghani and

Gujarat, the state has set an admirable pace of development.

The investment climate and industry friendly policies of Gujarat were affirmed when the who’s who of the Indian business community and global investors descended in droves to attend the annual Vibrant Gujarat Global Investor’s Summit in Ahmedabad on January 12-13th, 2009. Industry leaders signed Memorandum of Understandings expressing their desire to invest over Rs. 12,00,000Crores (\$240bn) through over 8500 projects.

The state has through its proactive approach established itself as a leader in setting up Special Economic Zones and has moved one step ahead with its emphasis on developing Special Investment Regions.

Gujarat has also made tremendous progress on the socio-economic front through strategic interventions in social sectors. The centers of excellence in forms of IIM, NID, NIFT, CEPT, IIT, Forensic University and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Petroleum University for higher education; as well as concerted action through ‘School Enrollment Program’ and ‘Girl Child Education Program’ has given a fillip to quality education for all – right from elementary education to higher education.

The recent recognition to Gujarat as destination for medical tourism has come after intense efforts. The state has made big strides in community health care through its ‘Janani Suraksha Yojana’ and ‘Chiranjivi Yojana’.

Truly, the state has, through its rich culture, deep rooted heritage and colorful vibrancy, compelled everyone to look at it with awe and respect. This year marks Gujarat’s 50 years of statehood, a Golden Jubilee that celebrates not only the achievements of past, but also for a vision – A vision of an even better Gujarat; a vision of a prosperous Gujarat; a vision where every Gujarati person is educated; a vision where every Gujarati person is healthy; a vision of a clean Gujarat; a vision of Green Gujarat; a vision of modern Gujarat. The Gujarat of this vision will be truly a ‘Golden Gujarat’ and that will be achieved not just by actions of the Government but through equal participation by every Gujarati.



Thakkarbapa, to name a few.

Since its statehood, Gujarat has achieved many milestones and has led the way for other states to emulate. The successes have come in many fields and through innovations - be it through two rounds of green revolutions to improve productivity in agriculture sector and make farmers and villages prosperous; or through co-operatives and white revolution to empower women and provide a strong backbone to rural Gujarat. Be it inter linking of rivers and by taking waters of Narmada to every nook and corner of Gujarat and making every village self sufficient in their drinking water needs or ensuring 24 hour electricity supply in households across

History of the Indian Flag

1



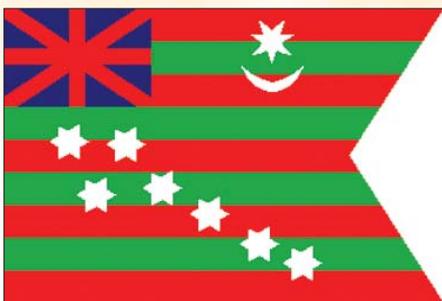
The flag that was first hoisted on August 7, 1906, at the Parsee Bagan Square in Calcutta

2



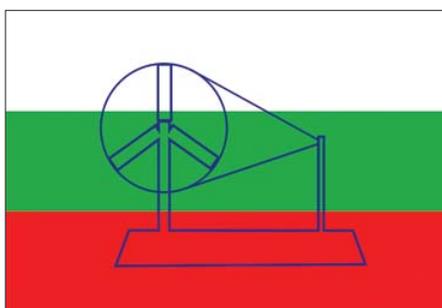
Called the Saptarishi Flag, this was hoisted in Stuttgart at the International Socialist Congress held on August 22, 1907

3



Associated with the names of Dr. Annie Besant and Lokmanya Tilak, this flag was hoisted at the Congress session in Calcutta during the Home Rule Movement

4



In the year 1921, a young man from Andhra presented this flag to Gandhiji for approval. It was only after Gandhiji's suggestion that the white strip and the charkha were added



Shri Pingali Venkayya, who designed the Indian tricolor, was a versatile genius.

India's flag is a tricolor standard, with bands of saffron, white, and dark green. It was designed by the late Shri Pingali Venkayya.

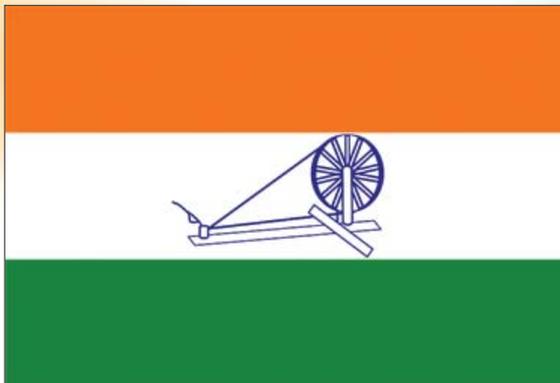
The saffron band represents courage, sacrifice, patriotism, and renunciation. It is also the color of the Hindu people.

The green stands for faith, fertility and the land; it is also the color of the Islam religion.

The white is in the center, symbolizing the hope for unity and peace. In the center of the white band is a blue wheel with 24 spokes. This is the Ashoka Chakra, also known as the 'Wheel of Law'.

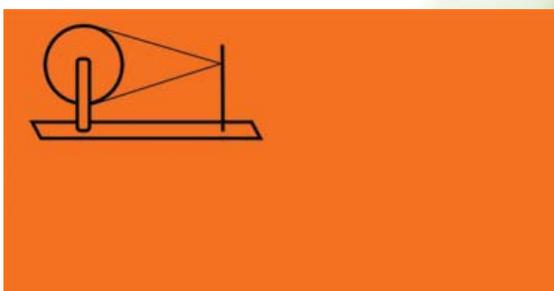
The Chakra represents the continuing progress of the nation and the importance of justice in life. It is inspired from the Chakra that appears on the Lion Capitol of Emperor Ashoka, in Sarnath.

5



On August 6, 1931, the Indian National Congress formally adopted this flag, which was first hoisted on August 31

6



This flag was suggested during the All India Congress Committee session in 1931. However, the Committee's suggestion was not approved

7



Our National Flag, which was born on July 22, 1947, with Nehruji's words, "Now I present to you not only the Resolution, but the Flag itself." This flag was first hoisted at the Council House on August 15, 1947

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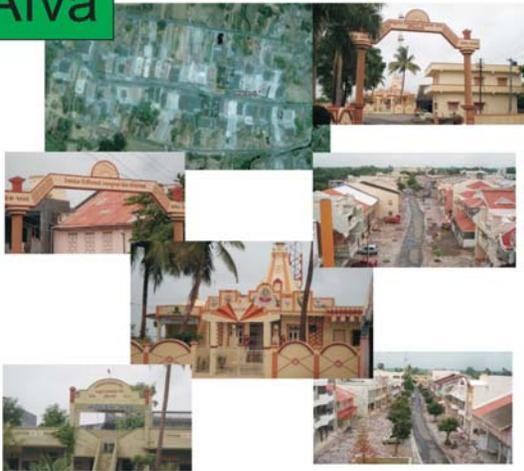
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Know your Gaam

This is the first of our series on Leuva villages where we feature some facts, cultural highlights and social norms...

Afva



Features:

- Close to Bardoli
- Paved roads
- Community hall
- Mandir
- City-wide filtered water
- Grass lawns maintained through gaam with trees

Famous For:

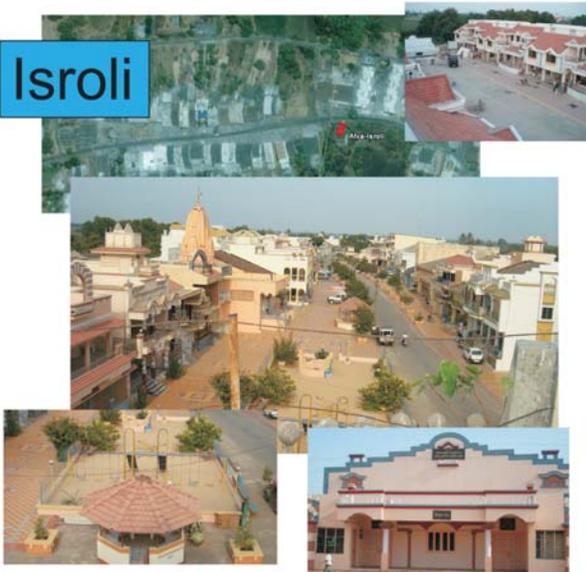
Gaam members are active both in India and USA in preserving their heritage.

Stats:

District: Surat
Taluka: Bardoli

<http://www.afvagaam.com>

Isroli



Features:

- Minutes from Bardoli
- Paved roads
- 90% new modern homes
- Park
- Community hall
- Mandir
- City-wide filtered water
- Volleyball park
- Shops
- No livestock in village rule
- Retirement program for poor
- Row-wise trees through gaam

Famous For:

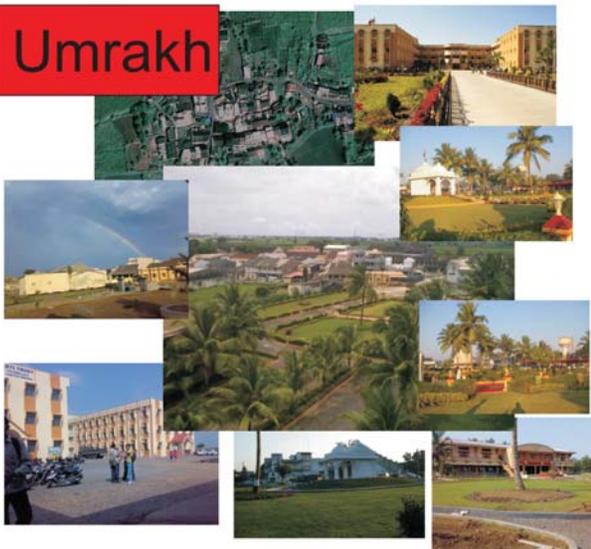
Srikhand
All-kinds of *athana*, *papad*
NDTV Televised Political Debate

Stats:

Population: 500
Land: 20Acr
District: Surat
Taluka: Bardoli
NRI population: 85%

<http://www.isroli.com>
Also coming to Facebook!

Umrakh



Features:

- Two *mandirs* - Shankar Bhagwan, Umba Maa
- Paved roads
- Filtered water for gaam
- Gaam garden & park
- Community hall
- Primary to 5th *prathmik* school

Facebook search
(Wonder Village Umrakh)

Famous For:

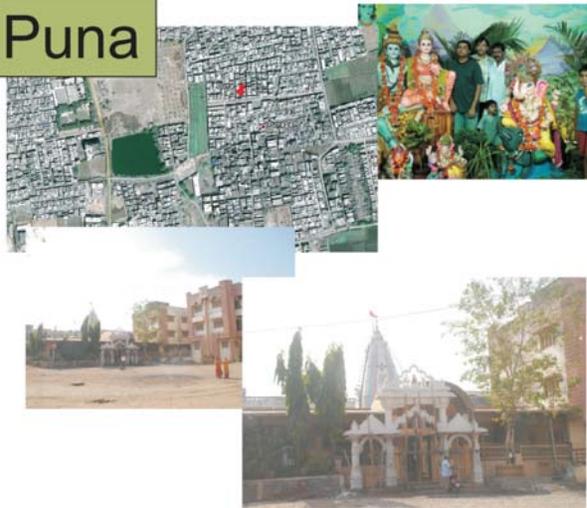
Engineering & Pharmacy Colleges

Stats:

In 1929, half the gaam emmigrated to South Africa.

30% New homes
90% Remodeled home

Puna



Features:

- 4km from Surat within Surat city limits
- Grocery Stores
- Leuva Patidar Hall
- High School managed and owned by samaj trust
- Shiv Shakti *mandir* Seva Sahkari *mandali* for vegetables & fruits

Famous For:

Producers of variety of crops such as Banana, Ratalu, Suran, Cauliflower, Rangan.

Stats:

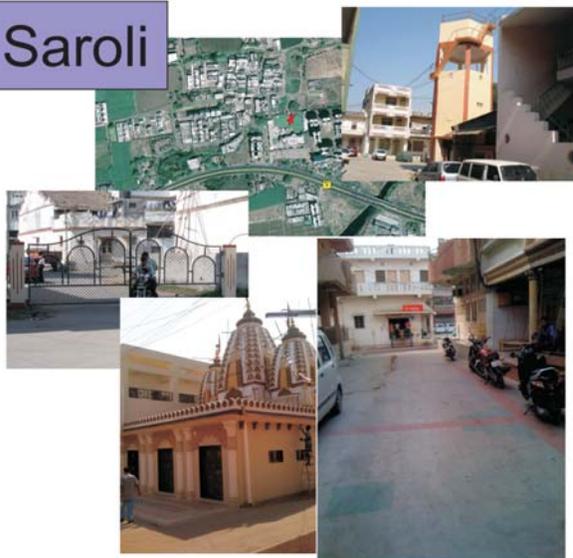
250 to 300 Leuva Families
200 NRI Families

Can't tell Gaam from City.

Now identity mostly aintained by NRI's in USA!

Facebook search (*Puna Gaam*)

Saroli



Features:

- Minutes from Surat
- Distinguished school in Surat district (1-4)
- Saroli Sanskruti Bhavan (centrally located for all four gaams) is newly built and consists of Assembly Hall, Dining Hall and Outside Party plot with plenty of parking and gardening. It is well known in our area and among our community.

Famous For:

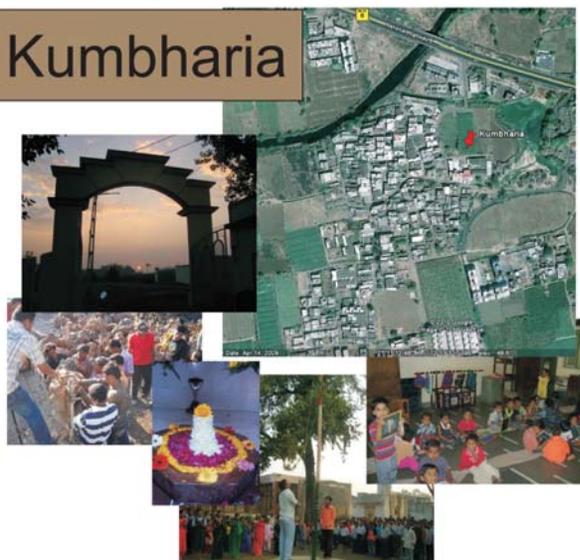
Jalaram, Khodiar Ma, Amba Ma Mandirs
Shanker Bhajiya, Saroli Bhel & Sahkari Mandri

Stats:

45 Households
District: Surat
Majority new homes
Majority NRI

<http://www.saroligaam.com>

Kumbharia



Features:

- Minutes from Surat
- Kindergarten, School (1-8).
- Contains leaders who helped form Bardoli Sugar Factory, Kela Mandali, Sardar Market, Adarsh Chemical etc.
- Highly fertile farming land and highly valued as Surat grows into it.
- Progressive (allowed girls to study out of gaam)

Famous For:

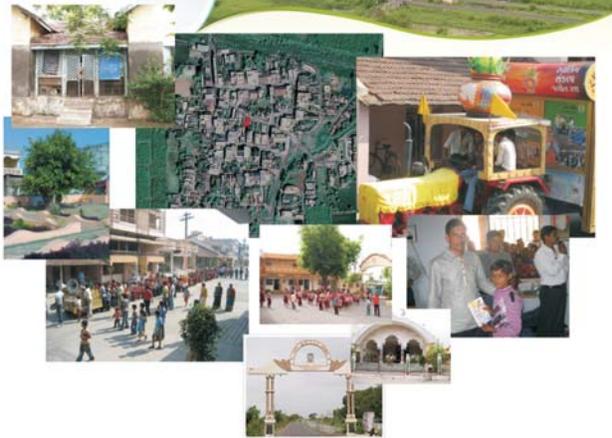
Named after Kumbeshwar Mahadev Mandir.
Started by four families about 250 years ago.

Stats:

Population: 1200 (2000s) to 2750 (current)
District: Surat
Majority houses are new with modern amenities.

Facebook search (*Kumbharia*)

Bagumra



Features:

- Two *mandirs* - Shri Thakorji & Mataji.
- Seva Samaj School - Primary to 5th grade
- Railroad Station and Stop
- Visited by Asaram Bapu
- Bisleri plant for gaam
- Paved roads
- Fertilizer mandali

<http://www.bagumra.com>

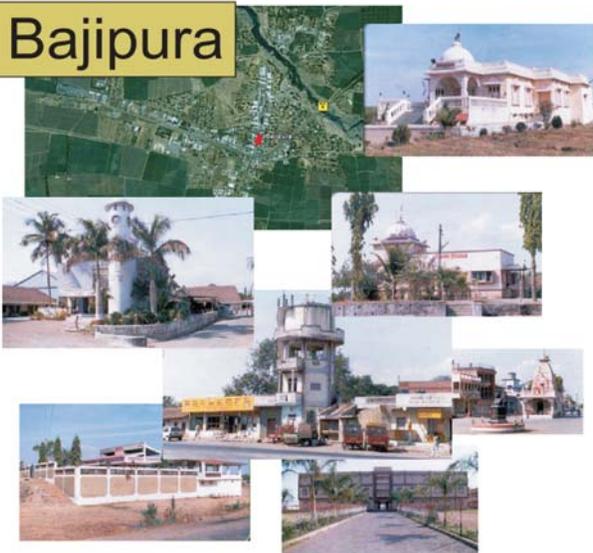
Upcoming:

Incorporation as Industrial District.
Samaj Vari for events

Stats:

Population: 3100
Taluka: Bardoli
District: Surat
Crop: Cane, Rice, Vegetables and Mango
~750 Houses
70% new homes - 40% NRI

Bajipura



Features:

- Only village in district that provides free food for poor
- 3 Primary schools
- 1 Secondary school
- 1 Higher Secondary school
- 4 Co-op societies
- 6 water works
- 1 pumping station
- 22 hand pumps
- Medical Services with exercise room for town
- Ambulance service

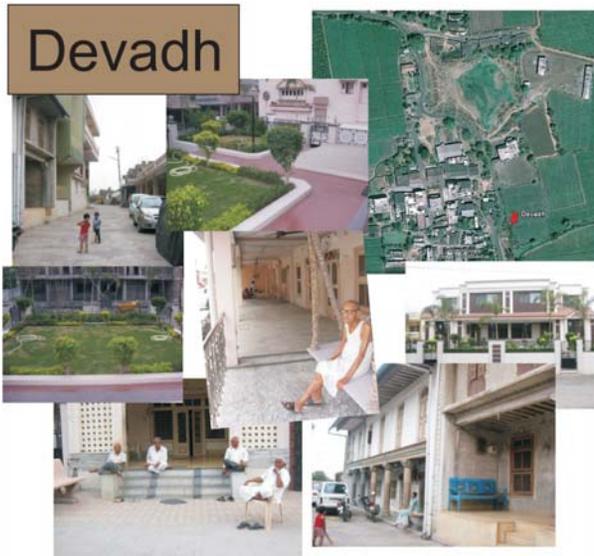
Famous For:

Freedom fighters and being a part of the independence movement.
Centrally located houses
Skills of many trades

Stats:

Population: 3077 Males - 2936 Females
973 Families
Area: 1057 Hectares

Devadh



Features:

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LEGEND

 Gaam Highlighted in Magazine.



Way to go, Bajipurians!

Some highlights of the successful Gaam Bajipura Parivar Convention in the Bay Area...



With a strong attendance of over 250 attendees at the first-ever convention in the bay area, the Gaam Bajipura Parivar Convention was a show of true unity and support, even in a troubling economic downturn.

Held at the Wyndham Hotel, San Jose, California, the four day event, beginning July 1, was hosted by committee leaders Pushpa N Patel and Nita Patel of the Bay area. The convention was a huge success thanks to great planning and excellent food from Bajipura's famous 'Tamra Bhajia's', and traditional delicacies including *rataru bhajias*, *papdi ne lot*, *vagarli khichdi*, *desserts*, etc.

Highlights at the event included a variety show, private picnic, as well as interactive games such as family feud, bingo, and *antakshri*.

A special highlight at the convention were two fantastic speakers, who left the audience inspired and motivated. Guest speaker Vijaybhai Dayabhai Patel from San Francisco, CA gave an overwhelming, heartfelt and emotional speech on the 'Pioneers who struggled to be where they are today.' The second guest speaker, Dr Jagdish Patel from Los Angeles, CA, spoke on the 'History of Bajipura'.

The convention brought a sense of bonding, and provided a platform for the sharing of memories and meeting new people from the village.

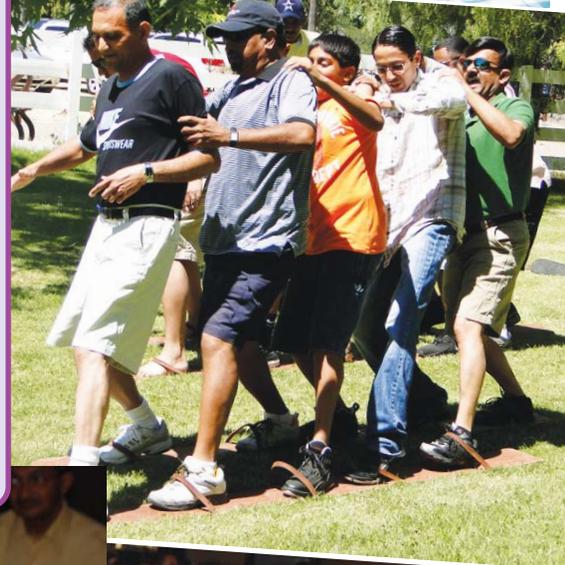
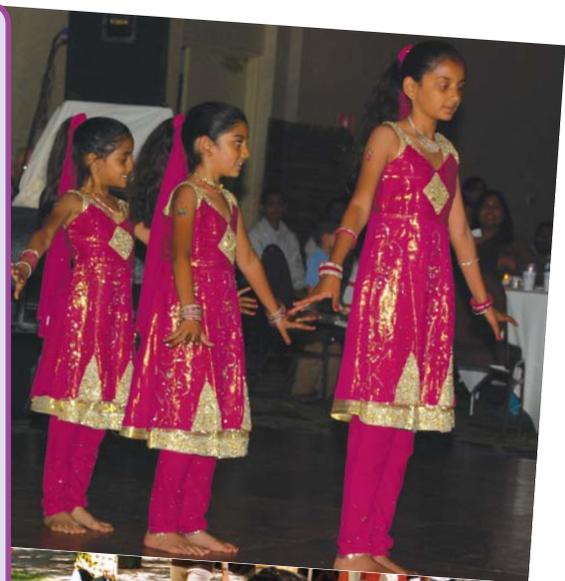
More crucially, the youth had a fantastic time at the event. Many young people expressed how the Gaam Convention made a very positive impact on their lives, and that after attending this convention they were all looking forward to the next Bajipura Convention in the future.

'Attending the convention gave the younger generation the opportunity to interact and network with other youths from Bajipura that we've never met, and we were able to share successes and life experiences with each other to take back into our own personal lives as well as cultivating new friendships,' said Pooja Patel, San Francisco, California.

'This was a very successful convention and I was happy to see that the community came together in unity and kept the identity and legacy of Bajipura alive for generations to come. It was amazing to see that each and every one who attended raved about the joy of the convention and left with a smile and memories that will never obliterate. Moreover, for those who did not attend they will never know what they missed as the moments we had become memories that cannot be recreated alike,' said convention host, Pushpa N Patel of San Francisco.

Congratulations to the 'Bajipurians' and to the entire committee, volunteers and community who worked tirelessly for the success of this convention.

By Nayana "Nancy" Patel



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Mr. Bhavish Bhuta with Mr. Roger Bloss, CHA, President & CEO, Vantage Hospitality



‘Security concerns are at the heart of this move’

Nayana ‘Nancy’ Patel goes head to head with leading newscaster and journalist Rohit Vyas about the rules and rumors surrounding the surrender of Indian passports...

1. What is the purpose behind the recent decree asking expatriates to surrender Indian Passports?

According to Government of India officials, including the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, under the Indian Citizenship Act of 1955 and the Indian Passport Act of 1967, anyone who has acquired citizenship of another country must forthwith renounce their Indian citizenship at the nearest Indian mission and surrender their Indian passports. The Indian passport would normally be cancelled with a notation that the holder has now acquired foreign citizenship and then handed back to the individual concerned. According to the Government’s own admission, these

requirements were not strictly enforced for years.

The government decided to begin enforcement retroactively because of the discovery that many old Indian passports that had not been canceled had been

misused by other individuals, posing a major national security threat. This was the reason given by the Indian Consul General in New York at a news conference on June 1, 2010, and the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Mr Vayalar Ravi in a recent exclusive interview to *Tv Asia*.

2. Does the rule apply to those who have received foreign citizenships after the decree was passed? Can it be enforced on those who have expired passports too?

That is exactly the demand of all the Indian Associations and other prominent Indians. They have said it is unfair to require Indians to surrender passports that are several years, even several decades old. A vast majority of people no longer even remember where their old



News Director Rohit Vyas



*By Nancy Patel
LPS of USA Female Director at
Large/Joint Publications*

Indian passports are. India's Foreign Ministry, Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs and Home Ministry are currently working to determine what should be the cutoff date or year. The Secretary of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had recently issued a memo saying the cutoff year would be 2005. In other words those who had become US citizens after 2005 would be required to surrender their old passports. Those who had become U.S. citizens before that would no longer have to do so. However, when I asked the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs in my recent interview with him whether that decision was final, he said there was some confusion about that cutoff date and it would soon be sorted out. We'll have to wait and see.

3. What is the procedure for surrendering the passports? Are there any fees or penalties involved?

According to the Government of India, those who became US citizens before June 1, 2010, must surrender any old Indian passports they have by mailing them to the Indian mission which oversees their particular region. The fee is \$20 to obtain the renunciation certificate and cancellation stamp on the passport, plus another \$20 for the passport to be returned to the holder by mail. After that process, the holder may apply for a visa, OCI card, PIO card etc. For those who became U.S. citizens from June 1, 2010 onwards, the fee for renunciation of Indian citizenship is \$175. This requirement, however, has also been challenged by Indian Associations who say new US citizens of Indian origin should not be penalized in this way. I too appealed to the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs on behalf of the community in my recent interview to ask all concerned to consider charging the nominal fee of \$20 even going forward, not \$175. Incidentally, going forward from June 1, 2010 onwards, once a person becomes a US citizen or citizen of any other country for that matter; they must surrender their Indian passport within ninety days and pay the \$175 fee, other penalties will be assessed. Those penalties should be listed on the Indian Embassy and Consulate websites.

4. How do we ensure safe receipt of the documents, if they are being mailed?

I brought up the complaint of many Indians in this country with the Minister for Overseas Indian

Affairs, that when they sent their passports by mail (which is now the requirement), many missions claimed they had not received them or couldn't locate them. The minister said he would talk to the Foreign Ministry to ensure all Indian missions worldwide paid greater care when handling packages containing passports. He suggested during our interview that all individuals keep copies of their passports before sending them by mail. He also suggested that they be sent in a manner that they can be tracked as received by the mission (for instance, FedEx, Certified Mail, Express Mail and so on). This issue is also being looked into and Indian Associations are also calling on the Government of India to allow people to present their documents in person once again. We are waiting to see progress on this front as well.

5. In case someone has misplaced/lost their Indian passport, what procedures do they need to follow?

The Indian Government has said that if one does not have their Indian passport any longer, they can submit an affidavit to the Indian consulate or Embassy stating the circumstances under which they do not have their passports. That should suffice and they can get a surrender certificate and then apply for whatever visas they need.

6. In case someone has not surrendered their Indian passports when/before travelling to India, will they face entry problems?

Nothing will happen as long as the individual does not attempt to travel on an unexpired Indian passport when he or she is a citizen of another country. According to the law, if anyone travels to India on an unexpired Indian passport when they are a citizen of another country, they face the most severe penalties. It is illegal to do so.

7. What is the law for revoking of Indian citizenship?

Under Indian law, you must surrender your Indian passport and renounce Indian citizenship once you have become a citizen of another country. Period.

8. Can you share some highlights of your exclusive interview with the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi?

I brought up the community's many concerns as well as the utter confusion

and fears since these rules were suddenly announced in May. I also told him I believed it was unfair to suddenly make every Indian in the world go through this process retroactive to decades thereby putting them through enormous grief and turmoil when the onus should have been on the Indian Government to ensure that the first time new citizens of other countries of Indian origin applied for Indian visas they surrendered their old passports to have them canceled right then and there. He agreed with me. In the half hour duration of the interview, he answered as many questions as possible and has promised to help minimize the inconvenience to the Indian community worldwide. He confirmed one very important point that viewers continue to ask me from around the country. Those who have already obtained OCI cards or PIO cards NEED NOT apply for renunciation certificates. Those who have visas for India that are still valid also do not have to do so right away. They would have to do so only when they apply for a new visa after their current one expires.

9. In case of passport renunciation-related entry problems when travelling to India, who should visitors contact for aid/information?

The Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Mr Vayalar Ravi, told *Tv Asia* viewers they can call his ministry directly if they run into any problems at the airport concerning renunciation of Indian citizenship. He did say, however, that no immigration officer or police officer in India had any authority to demand to see a renunciation certificate from any foreign national of Indian origin.

10. There have been several rumors about expatriates being harassed and hounded at Indian airports for passport renunciation. Please shed some light on this issue.

This is one question I did not ask the minister, because I did not hear of any such complaint from anyone. If there are such cases, I would certainly like to hear about them and I am sure so would all the ministries concerned. Again, if the individuals who experience any such issues are foreigners of Indian origin, then they should immediately contact the office of the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs. The details are available on the ministry's website.

Ring in the new, wit

A few inspiring moments from the LPS of USA annual board meeting...



“Community service should not be done just to announce the completion. It should be done without looking for a reward or praise. It should not be looked at as doing something for someone, but assisting them in making life better and fulfilling.”

It is with this inspiring thought that LPS of USA held its annual board meeting at the Hilton Garden, South Padre Island, Texas, on July 12. Exiting President Mukesh Mowji started the meeting with his year-end report, treasurer’s report and committee updates during his term. Following this, elections for the new board began and with a very well-executed smooth election the new board went right into a board meeting after lunch under the leadership of the incoming President Bharat ‘Bobby’ Patel of Oakland, California.

President Bharat Patel

took the floor and presented a strategic plan of goals to accomplish which would be carried over the next several years for LPS of USA such as issuing a new updated Leuva directory, revenue sharing possibilities with multiple companies and the launch of the Leuva Youth Clubs across the country. Additionally, President Bharat Patel assigned committees, goals, and had team members brainstorm in their assigned committees to provide a plan to execute the goals he wants implemented during his term.

On behalf of the entire LPS of USA board of directors who attended, we would like to personally thank Mahendra ‘Mike’ Patel of South Padre Island, Texas for being the gracious and generous host of the annual board meeting. The event could not have been a



Thank you to all the members of the LPS of USA for your continuous support!

With hope and conviction

success without the help of Mahendra 'Mike' Patel, his supportive wife and the many other local community volunteers who donated their time and energy to the cause. Everything, from the food to the hotel stay, was exceptionally incredible and the hospitality was world-class.

Moreover, each and every board of director that

attended should be thanked as each one of them has volunteered their time, effort, and energy away from their families and business to give back to the community with passion and build a better future for the younger generation to come and keep our culture alive.

Thank you to all the members of the LPS of USA for your continuous support!

By Nayana "Nancy" Patel





Grandmaster in the making!

Vivek Keval's extraordinary achievement proves that where there's a will, success makes the way!

Name: Vivek Keval
Age: 7 Years
Parents: Amit & Swati Patel
Gaam: Tundi
Accomplishments: USCF (The United States Chess Federation) National Elementary Championship
State Rank (TX): 1st, National Rank: 25th

On July 11th, 2010, at a Pool Party on South Padre Island, Texas, Vivek was presented with a 'Proud Young Leuva Award' for his accomplishments and making the whole Leuva community proud. During the award presentation, there were two hundred plus Leuvas present which included the Board of Directors of the LPS of USA.

'We believe that chess is a game that helps to educate as well as entertain. Kids can learn to play and chess teaches them to think and analyze. Vivek's accomplishments show us that you don't have to be rich and go to private school to play chess,' Vivek's proud parents, Amit and Swati Patel, said. The Kevals live in Brownsville, a border town located in Rio Grande Valley area in

south Texas.

'Students can learn by playing a game. Maybe, just maybe, chess would be of benefit to the communities and a tool for educators as well,' they added.

'Our kids are as smart and capable as any in the world. They can do anything they set their minds to,' said Mahendra 'Mike' Patel, Public Relation/LPS of USA.

President of LPS of USA, Bobby Newman, who presented an award to Vivek, praised the young boy for his inspiring achievement. 'This "Little Leuva" from a little border town in Texas is going up against all the high-powered schools in big cities with big money. It's just a wonderful story. I am so impressed and proud of Vivek's accomplishments.'



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Life's true treasures



Make time: Our elders need us as much as we need them

Parents and Grandparents. Something all of us had, or if we are lucky, we still have. There are many differences between our elders and us, but there is one common bond, love. They love us deeply; sometimes love us to a fault. Many of us choose to live with them, some of us do not. There is no right or wrong, but our culture is one that keeps close contact with our parents and grandparents, and this has been the tradition for thousands of years.

For our parents or grandparents who are no longer here, God bless them and watch over them. If our elders are not here, we have lost the chance and the contact that we need. A lot of times we make mistakes, and they are the ones to tell us the truth. Our friends will tell us a lot of times what we want to hear. The truth, whether we like it or not, comes from our elders.

We all need to respect our elders, so one day when they are not here, we have no regrets. Sure, sometimes they make no sense, but that does not give us the right to belittle them or yell at them. If we are making a lot of money now and don't need their financial blessings, it's not a reason to tell them to be quiet. In fact, now is the time to listen to them more, because their time here is getting shorter and shorter. If we ruin our relationship with them, we will regret it once they are not here. And that will only end up hurting us.

Who was it that brought us into this world and cared for us when no one would? Yes, they did. It's common sense right? Then where is this common sense when we belittle and ignore our elders? Bring that common sense to the forefront of your thoughts.

A majority of us remember, love and care for our parents and grandparents. Even if they are no longer here, we still care for them and remember them. There is unfortunately a little voice inside us that sometimes tells us to ignore them, that our parents or grandparents have no idea what they are talking about. Tell this voice to go back to where it came from. If we do this, we will truly be happy. And by making ourselves happy, we will make our elders happy. No regrets my friends, that is how we can keep moving forward. Spend some time with your elders today. You won't regret it! God Bless you all.

By Harshad Patel (Gaam Saroli), Los Angeles, CA



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- Rangeel Gela's Matho (Pineapple, Sitaphal)
- Kishore's Faludo and Malai Ice Cream (Pani Ni Tanki)
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- Kailas's Jalebi (Timalyawad – Only on Sundays 7am to 9am)
- Jaisuria Chinese Manchurian (near New Court building)
- Tipsi Topsi's Bisleri Pani Puri (near Parle Point)
- Chole Bhathure (Textile Market)
- Masala papadi (Hira Bazar)
- Jalaram's Locho (Bhutseri na Nake)
- Makhan Bhog's Mithai
- Station ni Cha (Surat Rail Station)
- Cream & Crust ni Pastry (Parle Point)
- Cold Coco (Chowk)
- Masala Dosa (Chauta Pool)
- Kaki ni Omelet (near Amisha Hotel – after 9pm)
- Kaki ni Pau Bhaji (chaupati – after 10pm)
- Gujarati thali (Yuv Raj Hotel – near Station)
- Ishver Tulsi's Ratalu ni puri (near Station)
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- Sugar Factory's sherdi nau rus.
- Char Rasta per Pauk, PaukVada, and Pauk Samosa
- J.P. Doggy Biscuit
- Ahemdabadi Pani Puri
- Chinese & Punjabi Lari
- Masala Dosa (Kawdhar gali)
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- Khoj/Pardi's Papad
- Isroli's Sikhand & Athana (Many kinds of each)
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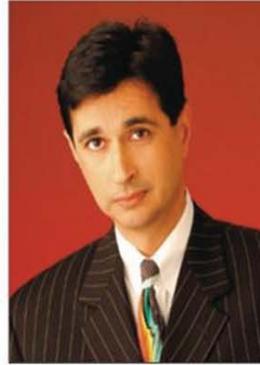
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In Your Face!

By Mayuri Mulji

Movie Theaters Fill BucketsAnd Bellies



Mayuri Mulji

Did you know that popcorn is among the healthiest and tastiest snacks around? It's a whole grain food that's low in calories and fat and it's a complex carbohydrate.

Maybe that's one reason people fork over \$4 to \$8 for a bag or tub of popcorn when they enter a movie theater. It sounds like they're munching on a stalk of broccoli, for goodness sakes.

Turns out the Popcorn Board is right...if you're talking low-fat popcorn or (fat-free) air popped. Eating a tub of movie theater popcorn is more like eating an 8oz. of potato chips, and that's assuming your theater pops in the best oil available and you get it without the "buttery" topping.

Here's what was found from two of the largest theater chains:

REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP



With 548 theaters in 39 states plus the District of Columbia, Regal is the largest chain in the United States. It pops in coconut oil, which is 90 percent saturated. (In contrast, lard is 40 percent saturated.)

Translation: A "small" popcorn (that's about 11 cups worth) with no buttery topping has 34 grams of saturated fat. So even if you split it with a friend (unlikely), you each get nearly a day's worth of artery paste. And it gets worse from there.

A "medium" (20 cups) or a "large" (also 20 cups) has 60 grams of sat fat. Of course, a large means a free refill (Yay!), so there's no limit to the damage you can do.

Suggestion: Move your cardiologist's phone number to your speed dial before the lights go down.

Just kidding. It takes years to clog those arteries...and years for your blood pressure to respond to the salt shock (550mg of sodium—a third of a day's worth—for a small and 980mg for a medium or large).

The calories, on the other hand, may show up much sooner...and where you least want them.

How can a medium and large at Regal each hold the same 20 cups of popcorn?

Simple. The taller medium comes in a bag with straight sides, while the squatter large comes in a tapered tub that's wider at the top. The tub sure looks like it holds more. Other than for the free refill (shudder), why else would moviegoers pay \$8 for a large (a medium is \$7)?

Another oopsy-daisy: According to Regal, a medium has 720 calories, while a large has 960 calories. Both are lower than the lab results. Oh well. What's an extra 200 to 500 calories when your snack hovers around the 1,000-calorie mark? They don't call them tubs for nothing.

Toppings: For customers who think plain popcorn isn't soaked in enough oil, Regal offers a "buttery" topping. According to Regal and the topping manufacturer, it adds 130 calories to a small, 200 calories to a medium, and 260 calories to a large.

The analysis was to make sure so that the topping had no trans fat. But this didn't check to see how much topping the concession staff at Regal—or any other chain—adds. Odds are, it varies. And odds are, it's more than what Regal claims.

AMC Theatres



AMC, the nation's second-largest chain (with 307 theaters in 30 states and the District of Columbia), also pops in coconut oil. The only good news: AMC's popcorns aren't as super-sized as Regal's. But they're bigger than the company acknowledges.

According to AMC, a small popcorn contains 225 calories. In fact, the small AMC popcorns that I bought weighed about 50 percent more than the company claimed. The AMC smalls contained 370 calories and 20 grams of saturated fat—about what you'd get from that classic healthy snack: eight pats of butter.

For example, the company's 430-calorie medium morphed into 590 calories and 33

Indian Spicy Kettle Corn



Ingredients

- 1 cup popping corn
- 1/4 cup light olive oil or canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon mustard seeds
- Pinch hing
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/4 cup roasted peanuts
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- 1 teaspoon finely ground garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon finely ground fresh green chillies
- 1 teaspoon red chilli powder
- 2 tablespoons sugar or soft ghor
- Salt to taste
- Pieces of papadums (optional)
- Chopped fresh cilantro to garnish (optional)

Method

Heat a large pot over medium heat. Add oil, mustard seeds, hing, sesame seeds & corn.

As the corn begins to sizzle and pop, holding the pot lid in one hand, add turmeric, garlic, peanuts, red & green chillies and sugar/ghor. Close lid. Shake the pot using pot holders carefully. When popping sound slows down, switch off stove. Give another shake to the pot. Remove pot from stove & pour into a large bowl.

The sugary coating will be melting hot at this point so do not touch the popcorn as yet.

Meanwhile sprinkle salt to taste. Add the papadums pieces & cilantro.

Mix well. This "Dhani" is a better treat than the movie popcorn! *Firkhar Fitafit Futeli Dhani!*

grams of saturated fat. And the 660-calorie large became a 1,030-calorie with 57 grams of sat fat. What's next: fun-house mirrors that make you look skinny on your way out of the theater?

Toppings: Fake-butter fans must love AMC. The chain lets patrons pump their own "buttery" topping. No skimpy tablespoon of extra fat on a small or two tablespoons on a large, like Regal claims to use. With 120 calories per tablespoon, you should be able to squeeze another 200 to 500 calories into the bucket of fat cells in your lap.

Causes of Obesity in Children

We all know the main causes of obesity in children. Think very busy parents who don't have time to prepare healthier foods, Add to that the abundance of high calorie snacks, junk food, pre-cooked, processed and fast foods, big portions in meals, and too little physical activity. Obesity leads to loss in children's self-esteem, not to mention increased risk for developing cardiovascular and other diseases.

In order to avoid childhood obesity, something must be done. The responsibility of raising healthy children lies in the hands of parents. Parents who acknowledge this problem should be committed to avoid the risk of having overweight children.

Healthy Foods for Your Children



Parents should particularly pay attention to what they feed their children. There are no special foods that can help avoid obesity in kids.

The trick here is to change their own eating habits and lifestyle and pass on the

same to their children. Being conscious about your children's diet is just like being conscious about your own.

If your daily food intake consists of drive through windows and fast food, chances are your children are bound to have the same. However, if you take a few minutes off each day to prepare a healthy meal and healthy snacks, you will be feeding your children with the right nutrition as well.

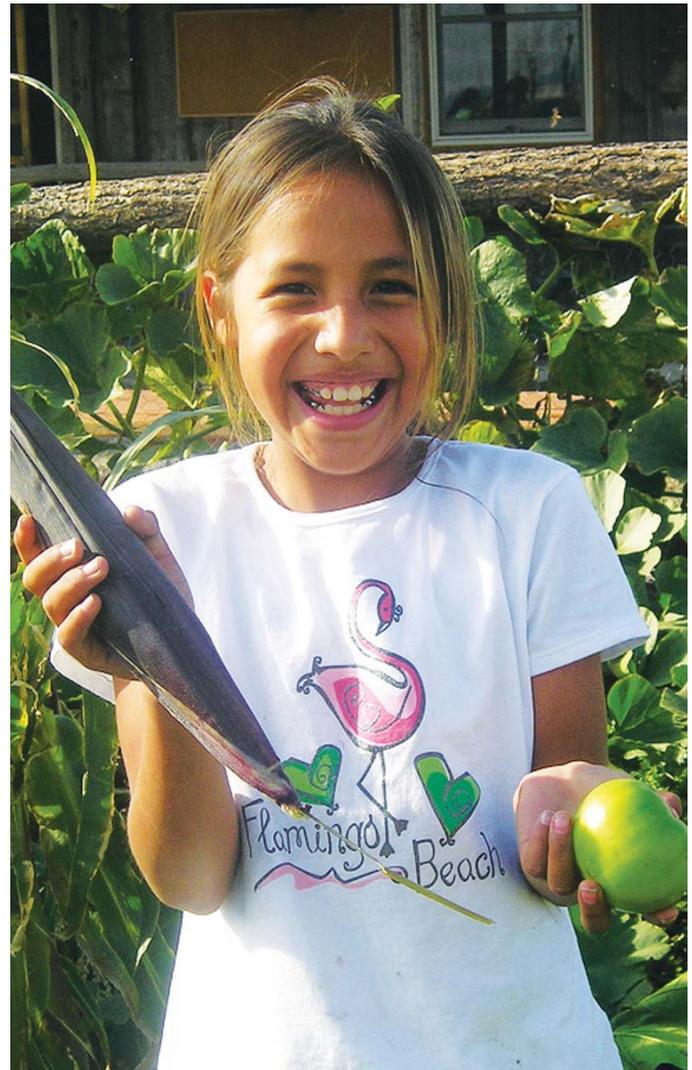
Physical Activity

In addition to proper nutrition in children, parents must also reinforce physical activity. They should limit the children's time for watching television, and make opportunities that will allow the kids to spend as much time outdoors where they can burn out their energies and be fit and healthy.

Some favorite activities include swimming, biking, hiking, dancing and martial arts, along with team-oriented activities such as baseball, soccer and basketball.

Obesity in children can be avoided if parents and guardians are up to the challenge. With the proper choice of foods (more vegetables and fruits rather than meat, as in the Mediterranean diet), proper portion control, and physical activity, you can guide your children back to being normal, healthy kids.

This might take some minor lifestyle changes, but this little sacrifice will not only benefit your kids, but yourself and the rest of the family as well.



Here are some strategies to create a family that's active and fun:

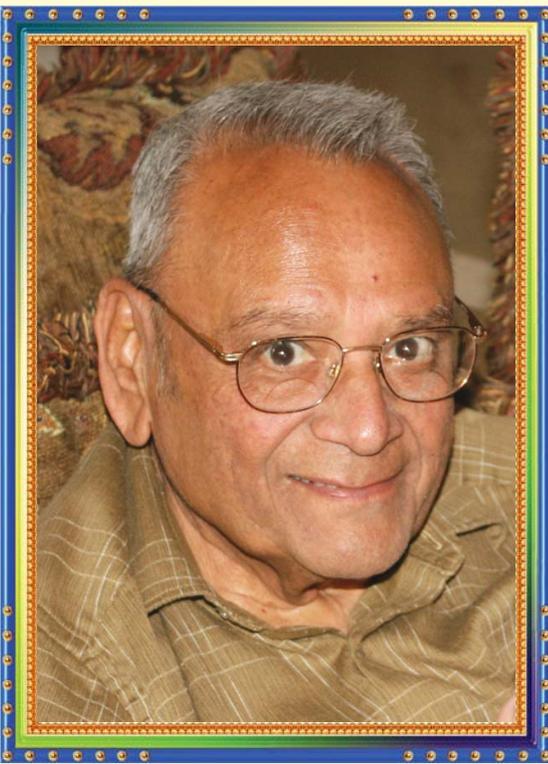
- Make time for the entire family to participate in regular physical activities that everyone enjoys. Try walking, bicycling or rollerblading.
- Plan special active family outings, such as a hiking or ski trip.
- Assign active chores to every family member, such as vacuuming, washing the car or mowing the lawn.
- Limit the amount of TV watching and other activities that require sitting for long periods of time.

To get your family eating healthy:

- Implement the same healthy diet (rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains) for the entire family, not just for select individuals.
- Plan times when you prepare foods together. Children enjoy participating and can learn about healthy cooking and food preparation.
- Limit the frequency of fast-food eating to no more than once per week.
- Avoid using food as a reward or the lack of food as punishment.

If a child is overweight, parents also may not realize how difficult it can be to maintain behavioral changes associated with obesity treatment and prevention.

Change takes both time and attention. Parents can establish a lifetime of healthful habits for themselves and their children through a focus on increasing daily activity and improving food choices.



'In Loving Memory'

Jairam Mowji, also known as Bhula Mowji, was born on September 9, 1930 in Bajipura, in what is today known as the Tapi district of Gujarat, India, to parents Mowji Kana and Maniben Mowji. Bajipura was his maternal home and Bhulabhai's paternal village was UmraKh, Surat district, Gujarat, India. His grandchildren always wondered how their Dada was nicknamed Bhulabhai. As he was the first son after three older sisters, it became a loving family joke that he was lost, hence Bhula. Bhulabhai's primary education was in Bajipura and secondary schooling was at Gangadhra. After schooling Bhulabhai moved to South Africa where he was in the wholesale grocery business. During this era, his business, Patel Brothers, was a leading supplier of achar to the African continent. During his stay in South Africa, Bhulabhai was very active in the community serving in many capacities. In the late 60s, Bhulabhai moved to the US from South Africa and embarked upon a career in the hospitality industry. He settled in, providing for and educating his children. He was very active in community affairs including the establishing of a permanent Gadar Memorial in San Francisco and establishing the first hall in the community, the Bharatiya Mandal Hall for which he served as Secretary for many years. His love for the community was far reaching and it is said that he helped many become the millionaires they are today. He was a soft-spoken individual who treated children and elders with love and care whenever he met them.

JAIRAM 'BHULA' MOWJI

DOB: 9-9-1930 DOD: 19-06-2010

Bhulabhai departed peacefully on June 19, 2010. At 79 years of age, he has left behind a family who loved him very much, and a circle of friends who respected him greatly. He was one in a million. His 12 grandchildren believe they will never meet anyone as kind, sincere and generous as him. All of his family, including four great grand children, was at his bedside at passing. He will be greatly missed and will remain in our hearts forever.

FRANCHISE LITIGATION

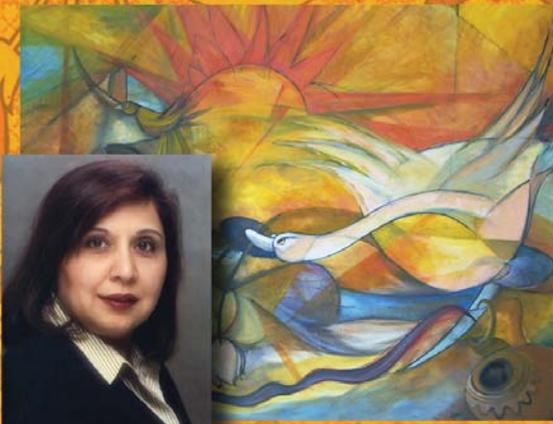


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એલપીએસ - પ્રેસિડેન્ટનો પત્ર

મારા પ્રિય ભાઈઓ અને બહેનો,
જય શ્રી કૃષ્ણ!

લેઉવા પાટીદાર સમાજનું નવું વર્ષ ૧૨મી જુલાઈ ૨૦૧૦ના રોજ સાઉથ પેટ્રે આઈલેન્ડ ટેક્સાસ ખાતે શરૂ થયું છે. ચાલો આપણે કામે વળગીએ!

એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએનું લક્ષ્ય છે કે, આપણી બહુરંગી સંસ્કૃતિ તથા સમૃદ્ધ પરંપરાનો વારસો આપણે આપણી નવી પેઢીના સંતાનોને સોંપી શકીએ. આ સમાજનું સંગઠન કરીને તેને સતત કાર્યરત રાખવું એ સહેલું કાર્ય નથી. કોઈ વ્યક્તિ કે વ્યક્તિઓનું જૂથ એકલે હાથે આ કામ ન કરી શકે. માત્ર કોઈ એક ટીમ જ કામ પાર પાડી શકે. એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ બોર્ડ ઓફ ડાયરેક્ટર્સના સભ્યો અને એરિયા રિપ્રેઝન્ટેટીવ્ઝ ઉપરાંત એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના સભ્યોએ ભેગાં મળીને કામ કરીને આ લક્ષ્ય હાંસલ કરવું જોઈશે. ઈશ્વરને ખાતર આ બાળકોના ભાવિ માટે કોઈ પણ વ્યક્તિ નિરાશાવાદી રહી શકે નહીં. આપણી પાસે આપણા બાળકોના ભાવિ માટે આશા, આશાવાદ અને દૃષ્ટિ હોવાં જરૂરી છે. જો કોઈ લક્ષ્ય માટે આપણી પાસે આશા દૃષ્ટિ ન હોય તો આપણને સમાજની શી જરૂર રહેશે? આપણા પછીની આપણી પેઢી તથા ભવિષ્યની પેઢીઓને આપણી બહુરંગી સંસ્કૃતિ તથા સમૃદ્ધ પરંપરાનો વારસો સોંપવાનું આપણું લક્ષ્ય છે.

પરિવારોના સહયોગથી એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએની રચના થઈ છે. લક્ષ્યની પ્રાપ્તિ થાય તે માટે દરેક પરિવારે પોતાના રિજનલ ડાયરેક્ટર (એરિયા રિપ્રેઝન્ટેટિવ)ને મદદ કરવી જોઈએ. આ લક્ષ્ય સિદ્ધ કરવા માટે ઘરમાં રહેતાં તમારાં બાળકો સાથે વાર્તાલાપ કરવો જોઈએ. બાળકોનાં ભાવિનો મામલો ઉપસ્થિત હોય ત્યારે આપણે તેમની ઉપેક્ષા કરી શકીએ નહીં. આપણાં બાળકોનું ભાવિ સૌથી વધુ મહત્વનું છે. એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ પાસે એથી વિશેષ મહત્વનો એજન્ડા બીજો કોઈ જ નથી. આ લક્ષ્ય વધુ ઝડપથી સિદ્ધ થઈ શકે તે માટે આપની પાસે જો કોઈ સૂચન કે વિચાર હોય તો તે દ્વારા અમને જરૂર મદદ કરો અને ધ્યેયપ્રાપ્તિ માટેના કાર્યમાં સામેલ થાઓ!

આ ધ્યેય સિદ્ધ કરવા માટે આપણે સૌ મળીને ખૂબ કઠોર પરિશ્રમ કરીશું. આ પ્રક્રિયા દરમિયાન એવું પણ બને કે આપણાથી કોઈ ભૂલ થાય. પરંતુ આપણે તે સુધારી લઈ મક્કમતાથી આગળ ધપીશું.

આપણા ધ્યેયને સિદ્ધ કરવા માટેની પ્રક્રિયા અને કાર્યવાહી દરમિયાન એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના હાલના પ્રેસિડેન્ટ તરીકે મેં ચાલુ વર્ષ માટે તેમજ હવે પછીના વર્ષો માટે ઘણી કમિટીઓની રચના કરી છે. દરેક કમિટી સાથે કામ કરવા માટે મેં બોર્ડ ઓફ ડાયરેક્ટર્સના સભ્યોને જવાબદારી સોંપી છે. તેઓ ભેગાં મળીને ટીમ રચીને ચાલુ વર્ષ દરમિયાન ધ્યેય સિદ્ધ થાય તે દિશામાં કામ કરશે. આ કામ કેટલું આગળ વધ્યું તેનો રિપોર્ટ એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના વેબસાઈટ ઉપર તેમજ 'લેઉવા કનેક્શન'માં જોવા.

ચાલુ ટર્મ દરમિયાન આ તમામ ટીમોના વિકાસ માટે ટોચના સાત ઓફિસરો જવાબદાર રહેશે. આપના રિજનલ ડાયરેક્ટર (એરિયા રિપ્રેઝન્ટેટિવ) પોતાને સોંપાયેલું કામ બરાબર કરે છે તે બાબતની તમે એક સભ્ય તરીકે કાળજી લેશો, તથા તેમને જરૂર પડ્યે તમે તેમને મદદ કરશો. યાદ રાખશો કે, ટીમ વર્કથી જ સિદ્ધિ મળે છે.!!!

ઈશ્વર તમારું કલ્યાણ કરે.

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• Calender Committee • Finance

Hasu Patel

• Convention Committee

Jay Patel

• Bylaw Committee
• Directory Committee

Kirit Patidar

• Regional-Town Hall

Sanjay Patel

• Finance Committee

Steve Hari

• Finance Committee/Youth Committee

Sunil Patel

• Website Committee

Harshad Patel

• LC committee Directory Committee



પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડરનું પગલું સુરક્ષાની ચિંતાને કારણે લેવાયું છે

પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરવા જેવા ભારતીય કમ્યુનિટી માટેના સૌથી મહત્વના મુદ્દા પર ચર્ચા કરવા માટે એશિયાના ટોચના ન્યુઝકાસ્ટર અને ન્યુઝ ડાયરેક્ટર રોહિત શાહ અત્રે કેટલાક મહત્વના પ્રશ્નોનું નિવારણ કરે છે:

૧) શા કારણથી ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરાવવો જોઈએ?

ભારત સરકારના અધિકારીઓ, મિનિસ્ટ્રી ઓફ ઓવરસીઝ ઇન્ડિયન એફેર(ભારતની વિદેશ બાબતોનું મંત્રાલય) કહેવા મુજબ ઇન્ડિયન સિટિઝનશીપ એક્ટ ૧૯૫૫ અને ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ એક્ટ ૧૯૬૭ મુજબ જો કોઈ ભારતીય વ્યક્તિ બીજા દેશની નાગરિકતાનો સ્વીકાર કરે તો તેમની ભારતીય નાગરિકતા રદ થઈ જશે અને તેમણે નજીકના ઇન્ડિયન મિશનમાં પોતાનો ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરાવવો પડશે. ભારત સરકારના કહેવા મુજબ પહેલા આ કાયદો ફરજિયાત ન હતો. પણ ભારત સરકારને જાણવા મળ્યું કે આ જૂના ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટનો દૂરુપોયગ થઈ રહ્યો છે અને આ કારણે દેશની સુરક્ષા જોખમાઈ છે તેથી તેમને આ કાયદો હવે વધારે કડક

બનાવ્યો છે તેવું કારણ ઇન્ડિયન કોનસુલે ન્યુયોર્ક ખાતે ૧ જુને એક ન્યુઝ કોન્ફરન્સમાં અને મિનિસ્ટર ઓફ ઓવરસીઝ ઇન્ડિયન અફેર્સ મીસ્ટર વ્યાલાર રવિએ ટીવી એશિયા સાથેના એક્સલુઝીવ

ઇન્ટરવ્યૂમાં જણાવ્યું હતું.

૨) જો તેઓ આ કાયદાને અમલમાં મૂકે તો તમામ ભારતીયોને હાલના આ નવા કાયદાના અમલ થતાં પહેલાના પાસપોર્ટો જમા કરવામાંથી તેઓ કેમ મુક્તિ આપતા નથી?

ભારતીય એસોસિએશન અને બીજા નામાંકિત ભારતીયોનું એ જ કહેવું છે. તેઓ કહે છે કે જે લોકો વર્ષોથી અહીં રહે છે તેમને પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરવા કહેવું તે ગેરવાજબી છે. મોટાભાગના લોકોને તો યાદ પણ નથી કે તેમના પાસપોર્ટ ક્યાં છે. હાલમાં ભારતીય ફોરેન મિનિસ્ટ્રી, મિનિસ્ટ્રી ફોર ઓવરસીઝ ઇન્ડિયન અફેર અને હોમ મિનિસ્ટ્રી આની કટઓફ ડેટ કે ઈયર વિશે ચર્ચા કરી રહ્યા છે. બીજા શબ્દોમાં કહીએ તો જે લોકો ૨૦૦૫ પછી અમેરિકાના નાગરિકો બન્યા છે તેમણે પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરાવવાનો રહેશે અને જેઓ



News Director Rohit Vyas



By Nancy Patel
LPS of USA Female Director at
Large/Joint Publications

૨૦૦૫ પહેલા જ અમેરિકાના નાગરિક બન્યા છે તેમણે તેમના પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરાવવાની જરૂર નથી. મેં એક ઈન્ટરવ્યૂમાં મિનિસ્ટર ફોર ઓવરસીઝ ઈન્ડિયન અફેર્સને આ મુદ્દાના અંતિમ નિર્ણય વિશે પૂછ્યું તો તેમણે જણાવ્યું કે હજુ કટઓફ ડેટ વિશે ચર્ચા ચાલી રહી છે અને તેના વિશે ટૂંક સમયમાં નિર્ણય લેવાશે.

૩) ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ કેવી રીતે સરેન્ડર કરવો? તેની ફી અને પેનલ્ટી કેટલી છે?

ભારત સરકાર મુજબ, જેઓ ૧ જૂન ૨૦૧૦ પહેલા અમેરિકાના નાગરિક બન્યા છે તેમણે તેમના ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ તેમના પ્રદેશના ઈન્ડિયન મિશનમાં મેઈલ કરાવીને સરેન્ડર કરવાનો રહેશે. તેમણે રિનન્સિએશન સર્ટિફિકેટ મેળવવા અને પાસપોર્ટ પર કેન્સલેશન સ્ટેમ્પ લગાવડાવા માટે ૨૦ ડોલર ભરવા પડશે અને મેઈલ દ્વારા પાસપોર્ટ પાછો મેળવવા માટે વધારાના ૨૦ ડોલર ભરવાના રહેશે. આ પ્રક્રિયા પછી જૂના પાસપોર્ટ ધારક વીસા, ઓસીઆઈ કાર્ડ, પીઆઈઓ કાર્ડ વગેરે માટે અરજી કરી શકશે. જેઓ ૧ જૂન, ૨૦૧૦ પછી અમેરિકાના નાગરિક બન્યા છે તેમણે રિનન્સિએશન સર્ટિફિકેટ મેળવવા મેળવવા માટે ૧૭૫ ડોલર ભરવાના રહેશે. આ નિયમને ઈન્ડિયન અસોસિએશને પડકાર્યો છે, તેનું કહેવું છે કે આ રીતે નવા નાગરિકોને પેનેલાઈઝ ન કરવા જોઈએ. મેં પણ કમ્યુનિટી વતી મિનિસ્ટર ઓફ ઓવરસીઝ ઈન્ડિયન અફેર્સ સાથેના મારા એક ઈન્ટરવ્યૂ દરમિયાન અપીલ કરી હતી કે પહેલાની જેમ જ ૨૦ ડોલર જેટલી રકમ રાખે. ૧ જૂન, ૨૦૧૦ પછીથી કોઈ નાગરિક યુએસ કે બીજા દેશનો નાગરિક બને તો તેણે તેનો ૮૦ દિવસની અંદર તેનો પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરાવવો પડશે અને ૧૭૫ ડોલર ફી પણ ભરવી પડશે અને તેમના પર કેટલીક બીજી પણ પેનલ્ટી પણ ચૂકવવી પડશે. ઈન્ડિયન એમ્બેસી અને કોન્સુલેટ વેબસાઈટ પર તે પેનલ્ટીઝનું લિસ્ટ મુકાવું જોઈએ.

૪) જો પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરાવવાના હોય તો અમે ક્યાં સરેન્ડર કરાવીએ? મેઈલ દ્વારા સરેન્ડર કરીએ તો સેફ છે?

આ દેશમાં રહેતા ઘણા ભારતીયોની ફરીયાદો મિનિસ્ટર ફોર ઓવરસીઝ અફેર પાસે મેં રજૂ કરી છે. ઘણા લોકોએ મેઈલ દ્વારા તેમના પાસપોર્ટ મોકલ્યા હતા પણ મિશન એવો દાવો કરે છે કે તેમને મળ્યા જ નથી. મિનિસ્ટરે કહ્યું છે કે તેઓ ફોરેન મિનિસ્ટ્રી સાથે આ બાબતે વાત કરશે કે ભારતીયોના પાસપોર્ટ ધરાવતા પેકેજ પર ખાસ ધ્યાન આપે. તેમણે અમારા ઈન્ટરવ્યૂ દરમિયાન તેમણે સલાહ આપી કે પાસપોર્ટની એક કોપી મોકલતા પહેલા તેની એક કોપી પોતાની પાસે રાખવી અને એવી રીતે મેઈલ કરવું કે જેથી તે પાર્સલને ટ્રેક કરી શકાય(દાખલા તરીકે, ફેડએક્સ,

એક્સપ્રેસ મેઈલ, સર્ટીફાઈડ મેઈલ વગેરે). આ ઈશ્યુ બાબતે ચર્ચા થઈ રહી છે. ઈન્ડિયન એસોસિએશન હાલમાં ભારતીય સરકાર પાસે અપીલ કરવાનું વિચારી રહ્યા છે કે લોકો તેમના ડોક્યુમેન્ટ્સ સાથે વ્યક્તિગત રીતે ત્યાં હાજર રહેવાની અનુમતી આપે. પણ હાલમાં તેના નિર્ણયની રાહ જોવાઈ રહી છે.

૫) જો કોઈ વ્યક્તિ અમેરિકાની નાગરિક બની ગઈ હોય અને તેની પાસે તેનો ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ ન હોય તો?

ભારત સરકારે કહ્યું છે તે જે લોકોનો ઈન્ડિયન પાસપોર્ટ ખોવાઈ ગયો હોય તેમણે ઈન્ડિયન કોન્સુલેટ અથવા તો એમ્બેસીમાં તેમની પાસે પાસપોર્ટ નથી તેવું જણાવતું એક એફિડેવિટ સબમિટ કરાવવી પડશે. તેઓ આ શરતોનું પાલન કર્યા પછી સરેન્ડર સર્ટિફિકેટ મેળવી શકશે ત્યાર બાદ તેઓ ઈચ્છે તેવા તેઓ વીસા માટે એપ્લાય કરી શકશે.

૬) જો કોઈ વ્યક્તિએ ભારત ભ્રમણ વખતે પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર નહીં કરાવ્યો હોય તો ભારતીય એરપોર્ટ પર શું થશે?

જ્યાં સુધી તેઓ બીજા દેશના નાગરિક હોવા છતાં ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ પર ટ્રાવેલ કરવાની કોશિશ નહીં કરતાં હોય ત્યાં સુધી કંઈ જ નહીં થાય. કાયદા પ્રમાણે જો કોઈ વ્યક્તિ બીજા દેશનો નાગરિક હોય અને તે મુસાફરી કરવા માટે ભારત દેશના અનએક્સપાયર્ડ પાસપોર્ટનો ઉપયોગ કરે તો તેને સિવિયર પેનલ્ટીઝનો ભોગ બનવું પડશે. અને આ ગેરકાયદેસર પણ છે.

૭) ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ ધરાવનાર કોઈ વ્યક્તિ જો દાયકાઓથી વિદેશમાં રહેતી હોય, અને તેણે એ દેશનું નાગરિકત્વ સ્વીકાર્યું હોય તો શું કરવું જોઈએ?

ભારતીય કાયદા અનુસાર જ્યારે કોઈ નાગરિક વિદેશની નાગરિક બને તો તેણે તરત ભારતીય પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરાવી ભારતીય નાગરિકતાનો ત્યાગ કરવો પડે છે.

૮) 'ટીવી એશિયા' ઉપર પ્રસારિત થયેલા આપના શોમાં તાજેતરમાં જ ભારતના વડા પ્રધાનોનો ઈન્ટરવ્યૂ લીધો હતો. અમારી લેઉવા કમ્યુનિટીને લાભાર્થે તેમાંથી કેટલીક વાતચીત અમને જણાવશો?

પાસપોર્ટ અને નાગરિકતા અંગેના આ નિયમો અચાનક જ તેમાં ઘોષિત થયા. પરિણામે કમ્યુનિટીમાં સર્જાયેલી ગૂંચવણ અને ભય તથા ચિંતા અંગે મેં વડાપ્રધાનને જણાવ્યું હતું. દરેક ભારતીય માટે અચાનક જ દસકાઓ જૂની પ્રક્રિયા શરૂ કરવાથી ભારતીયો અત્યંત દુઃખી અને ડામાડોળ પરિસ્થિતિમાં મુકાયા છે. બીજા દેશોના ભારતીય મૂળના નાગરિકો પોતાના ભારતીય

પાસપોર્ટ સરેન્ડર કરે તો તે તરત કેન્સલ થવા જોઈએ અને તેમને ભારતીય વીસા મળવા જોઈએ. આ પ્રક્રિયા કરવાની જવાબદારી ભારતીય સરકારની હોવી જોઈએ અને વડાપ્રધાન મારી સાથે સંમત થયા. તેમની સાથે મારો ઈન્ટરવ્યૂ અડધો કલાક ચાલ્યો; એ દરમિયાન તેમણે મારા પ્રશ્નના શક્ય હોય તે તમામ જવાબ આપ્યા. વિશ્વભરમાં પથરાયેલી ભારતીય કમ્યુનિટીને પડી રહેલી અગવડ દૂર કરવા માટે તેમણે મને વચન આપ્યું છે. દેશભરના દર્શકો મને જે પ્રશ્નો પૂછે છે તે પ્રશ્નોના મુદ્દાનો પણ ઉકેલ તેમણે આપ્યો અને એ આ પ્રમાણે છે. જે લોકોએ ઓસીઆઈ કાર્ડ મેળવી લીધા હોય અથવા પીઓઆઈ કાર્ડ મેળવી લીધા હોય તેમણે રિનન્સિએશન સર્ટિફિકેટ માટે એપ્લાય કરવાની જરૂર રહેતી નથી. જે લોકો ઈન્ડિયન વીસા ધરાવે છે તે હવે પછી પણ વેલિડ (કાયદેસર) જ ગણાશે.

વળી આ પ્રમાણે તાબડતોબ કશું પણ કરવાની જરૂર નથી. હાલના ચાલુ વીસા એક્સપાયર થાય તે પછી નવા વીસા માટે એપ્લાય કરવાનું રહેશે.

૯) જો કોઈ ભારતીય એરપોર્ટ પર પહોંચ્યા પછી કોઈપણ પ્રકારનો એન્ટ્રી પ્રોબ્લેમ થાય તો તેણે તરત કોનો સંપર્ક કરવો જોઈએ ?

ટીવી એશિયાને ભારતના વિદેશી બાબતોના પ્રધાન વ્યાલાર રવિએ જણાવ્યું કે કોઈ ભારતીય એરપોર્ટ પર પહોંચેલી આવી વ્યક્તિને ભારતીય નાગરિકતાના ત્યાગ બાબતે તકલીફ ઊભી થાય તો તેમણે સીધો જ વિદેશી બાબતોના મંત્રાલયનો સંપર્ક સાધવો જોઈએ. જોકે તેમણે એમ પણ કહ્યું કે, કોઈ પણ ભારતીય ઈમિગ્રેશન ઓફિસર કે ભારતીય પોલીસ ઓફિસર ભારતીય મૂળ ધરાવતા કોઈ પણ વિદેશી નાગરિક પાસેથી તેનું રિનન્સિએશન સર્ટિફિકેટ (ત્યાગપત્ર) જોવા માંગી શકે નહીં.

૧૦) લોકો જ્યારે ભારતીય એરપોર્ટો ઉપર ઊતરે ત્યારે તેમના પાસપોર્ટના પાનાં ફાડી લેવાય છે, તથા આ ભારતીય લોકોને પૂછપરછ માટે અલગ પાડી દેવાય છે, તેમની પાસેથી લાંચ પડાવાય છે, એવા કિસ્સા બન્યા હોવાના મજબૂત પુરાવા હાલમાં સાંપડ્યા છે?

આ કિસ્સામાં વ્યક્તિ શું કરે અથવા કોની મદદ મેળવી શકે? મેં આ પ્રશ્ન વડાપ્રધાનને પૂછ્યો નહીં, કારણ કે મેં આવી કોઈ ફરિયાદ સાંભળી નથી. જો આવા કોઈ કિસ્સા બન્યા હોય, તો મને એ વિશે જાણકારી મેળવવી ગમશે; તથા આ મામલા સાથે સંબંધ ધરાવતા તમામ મંત્રાલયો પણ આ મામલે ઉકેલ મેળવવા માટે મદદ કરશે. ભારતીય મૂળ ધરાવતા જે વિદેશી નાગરિકો આવી અડચણ અનુભવે તેમણે તરત જ ભારતના મિનિસ્ટર ઓફ ઓવરસીઝ ઈન્ડિયન અફેર્સનો તરત જ સંપર્ક કરવો જોઈએ. આ મંત્રાલયની વેબસાઈટ પર વધુ વિગતો જાણવા મળશે.

માતાપિતા અને દાદા-દાદી



માતાપિતા અને દાદા-દાદી. આપણે સૌ કોઈને માતાપિતા કે દાદા-દાદી હતાં, અથવા જો આપણે ભાગ્યશાળી છીએ તો હજુ પણ તેઓ આપણી સાથે છે. મોટેરાં અને આપણી વચ્ચે ઘણા તફાવતો છે. પરંતુ બંને વચ્ચે એક પાકો સંબંધ પ્રેમનો છે. તેઓ

આપણને એટલો બધો ઊંડો પ્રેમ કરે છે કે, તે પ્રેમથી આપણે વંદી જઈએ છીએ. આપણામાંથી કેટલાક તેમની સાથે રહેવું પસંદ કરે છે, પરંતુ કેટલાક તેની સાથે રહેતા નથી. એ સારું કે ખોટું કહેવાય એવું નથી. પરંતુ આપણી સંસ્કૃતિને કારણે આપણે આપના માતાપિતાઓ અને પરમાતપિતાઓ સાથે સંપર્કમાં રહીએ છીએ તથા આ પરંપરા હજારો વર્ષોથી ચાલી આવી છે.

આપણામાંથી જેમના પરમાતપિતાઓ આ ધરતી પર સદેહે ઉપસ્થિત નથી. તેમને ઈશ્વર ખમ્મા કરે, અને શાંતિ આપે. જો આપણા વડવાઓ હયાત ન હોય તો, આપણે તેમની સાથેના સંપર્કની તક ગુમાવી ગણાય. આપણે ઘણી વાર ભૂલો કરીએ છીએ. અને એ મારફતે આપણને સત્ય સમજાતું હોય છે. આપણા મિત્રો તો આપણને એ બાબતો કહે છે, જે આપણને સાંભળવી ગમતી હોય. સત્ય તો આપણને આપણા વડીલો સત્ય સમજાવતા હોય છે, પછી ભલેને આપણને એ સાંભળવું ગમે કે ના પણ ગમે!

આપણા વડીલોને આપણે માન આપવું જોઈએ, જેથી જ્યારે તેઓ હયાત ન હોય ત્યારે આપણને કોઈ વસવસો રહે નહીં. એ બાબત ચોક્કસ છે કે, ક્યારેક તો તેઓ ઢંગધડા વિનાનું અર્થહીન વર્તન કરે છે. પરંતુ તેથી તેમનું અપમાન કરવાનો કે તેમની ઉપર ચીસો-ભૂમો પાડવાનો અધિકાર આપણને મળતો નથી.

ધારો કે આપણે અઢળક નાણાં કમાતા હોઈએ, આપણને તેમનાં નાણાંકીય વારસાની કોઈ જરૂરિયાત ન હોય તો, એનો અર્થ એવો તો નથી જ થતો કે આપણે તેમને ચૂપ રહેવા માટે કહી શકીએ. ખરેખર તો, આ સમયે આપણે એમને વધુ સાંભળવા જોઈએ, કારણ કે તેઓ તો હવે આ ધરતી પર ટૂંક સમય માટે જ હયાત છે. તેમની સાથેના આપમા સંબંધમાં જો કડવાશ સર્જાશે, તો તેમના ગયા પછી આપણે પસ્તાઈશું! અને પરિણામે આપણે દુઃખી થઈશું.

આ દુનિયામાં આપણને કોણે જન્મ આપ્યો? બીજા કોઈએ નહીં, પણ એમણે જ કોણે આપણને ઉછેરી મોટા કર્યાં? હા, એમણેસતો.

આટલી હકીકત તો સામાન્ય બુદ્ધિથી સમજાય તેમ છે. તો પછી, જ્યારે આપણે આપણા વડીલોની અવહેલના કરીએ કે તેમનું અપમાન કરીએ ત્યારે આ સામાન્ય બુદ્ધિ ક્યાં ગાયબ થઈ જાય છે? આ સામાન્ય બુદ્ધિને આપણા દિમાગમાં સતત સતેજ અને જાગ્રત રાખવી પડશે.

આપણા માતાપિતા તેમજ પરમાતપિતા પ્રત્યેના પ્રેમ અને સંભાળની સ્મૃતિ આપણા મોટા ભાગના લોકોને હોય છે. પરંતુ દુર્ભાગ્યવશાત આપણી અંદર એક ધીમો અવાજ હોય છે, જે તેમની અવગણના કરવા માટે આપણને કહે છે, તે એમ પણ કહે છે કે, આપણા માતાપિતા અને પરમાતપિતા શેના વિશે બોલે છે તેની ખબર ખુદ માતાપિતા તથા પરમાતપિતાને પણ હોતી નથી. આ અવાજને તે પોતે જ્યાંથી આવ્યો ત્યાં પાછા જવા તમે તેને આદેશ કરો. જો આપણે આમ કરીશું તો આપણે ખરેખર ખુશ થઈશું. આપણે આપણી જાતને ખુશ કરી શકીશું તો આપણા વડીલો પણ ખુશ થશે. મિત્રો, પસ્તાવો કરવાની જરૂર નથી, આ રીતે જ આપણે આગળ વધી શકીશું. આજે આપના વડીલો સાથે થોડો સમય વીતાવો, એ બદલ તમને પસ્તાવો થશે નહીં! ઈશ્વર તમારું ભલું કરે!

By Harshad Patel (Gaam Saroli), Los Angeles, CA

મોરારીબાપુની રામકથા

ગુજરાત રાજ્યના ૫૦મા વર્ષની ઉજવણી મે ૨૦૧૦ના રોજ “સ્વર્ણિમ ગુજરાત”થી શરૂ થઈ. આ ઉજવણીના ભાગ રૂપે પ.પૂ. મોરારી બાપુની રામકથાનું આયોજન પણ કરવામાં આવ્યું. આ ઉજવણી સમારોહમાં માનનીય લોકચાહક ગુજરાતના મુખ્ય પ્રધાન શ્રી નરેન્દ્ર મોદીના નિમંત્રણોને માની આપી અમો બળવંતભાઈ પટેલ (Bill Patel) આફવા તથા ભીખુભાઈ પટેલ (Bob Patel) વીહાણ આ સમારોહમાં અમદાવાદ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા.

આ પ્રસંગે મુખ્ય પ્રધાન શ્રી નરેન્દ્રભાઈ મોદીના હસ્તે હમોએ “કળશ” ગ્રહણ કરેલો. આ પ્રસંગ એટલો ઉત્તેજક અને આહ્વાદક હતો કે અમે ભાવવિભોર બની ગયા. લાખો માણસોની હાજરીમાં આ લાભ લેવો એ ખરેખર ભાગ્યની વાત છે. વિદેશમાં વસતાં ગુજરાતી ભાઈઓનું આવું સન્માન થાય તે અમેરિકામાં વસતા ગુજરાતીભાઈઓ માટે ગર્વ લેવા જેવી વાત છે સર્વગુજરાત ઉજવણી નિમિત્તે પૂ. પૂ. બાપુની કથાનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું. પૂ. બાપુની રામકથામાં આ સર્વ જાણો છો કે મોટા પ્રમાણમાં શ્રોતાઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહે છે. આશરે ૫૦,૦૦૦ ભાવિકો શ્રવણ કરવા પધારેલા, સમગ્ર સભાખંડ ખીચોખીચ હતો કથાની શરૂઆત કરતા પહેલા મંગલદીપ પ્રગટાવી શરૂઆત કરવામાં આવે છે. આ દીપ પ્રાગટ્ય પ.પૂ. રમેશભાઈ ઓઝા, બળવંતભાઈ પટેલ તથા ભીખુભાઈ પટેલના વરદ હસ્તે કરવામાં આવેલું જે અવિસ્મરણીય છે.



ગુજરાત રાજ્યની સ્થાપના ૫૦મા વર્ષની ઉજવણી નિમિત્તે “સ્વર્ણિમ ગુજરાત”ની ઉજવણીનો કળશ મુ. પ્રધાન નરેન્દ્ર મોદીના હસ્તે ગ્રહણ કરતા શ્રી બળવંતભાઈ (Bill Patel) તથા શ્રી ભીખુભાઈ પટેલ (Bob Patel)



શ્રી રામકથાનું દીપપ્રગટાવી ઉદ્ઘાટન કરતા પ.પૂ. સંતશ્રી રમેશભાઈ ઓઝા, બળવંતભાઈ પટેલ તથા ભીખુભાઈ પટેલ



શ્રી રામકથાનું શ્રવણ મુખ્ય મંત્રીશ્રી નરેન્દ્રભાઈ મોદીની સાથે બેસી શ્રવણ કરતા શ્રી બળવંતભાઈ પટેલ તથા શ્રી ભીખુભાઈ પટેલ

By: Balvant Patel, Gaam: Afva, Duluth Georgia

બાજુપુરીઅન્સનો જલસો!!



આવી ખરાબ ઈકોનોમી અને મંદી હોવા છતાં ગામ બાજુપુરા પરિવાર કન્વેન્શનમાં ૨૫૦થી પણ વધારે લોકોએ હાજરી આપી હતી. તે સાચી એકતા અને સપોર્ટનું ખરું પ્રતિક છે.

વિન્યામ હોટેલ, સાન હોટે, કોલિફોર્નિયામાં યોજાયેલી આ ચાર દિવસની ઈવેન્ટ ૧ જુલાઈએ શરૂ થઈ હતી. આ ઈવેન્ટને બે એરીયામાં રહેતા કમિટીના લિડર્સ પુષ્પા એન પટેલ અને નીતા પટેલએ આયોજીત કર્યું હતું. કન્વેન્શન ખૂબ સફળ રહ્યું હતું અને તેનું સમગ્ર શ્રેય યોગ્ય પ્લાનીંગ અને ઉત્તમ ખાણીપીણીની વ્યવસ્થાને જાય છે. તેમાં પણ બાજુપુરાના પ્રખ્યાત 'તમરા ભજયા', રતાળુના ભજયા, પાપડી ને લોટ, વધારેલી ખીચડી, અને મીઠાઈઓ જેવા પરંપરાગત ભોજનની વ્યવસ્થા સુંદર હતી.

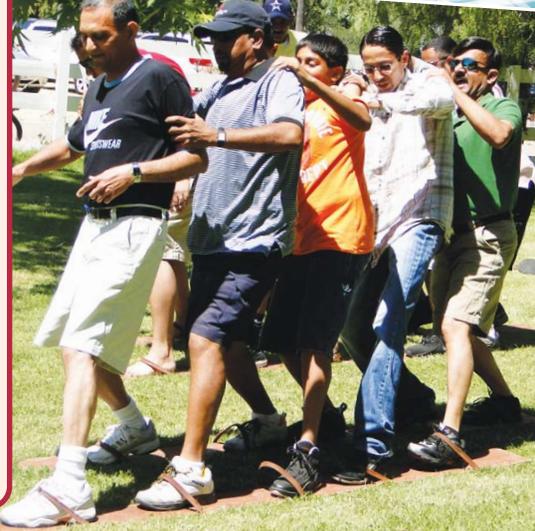
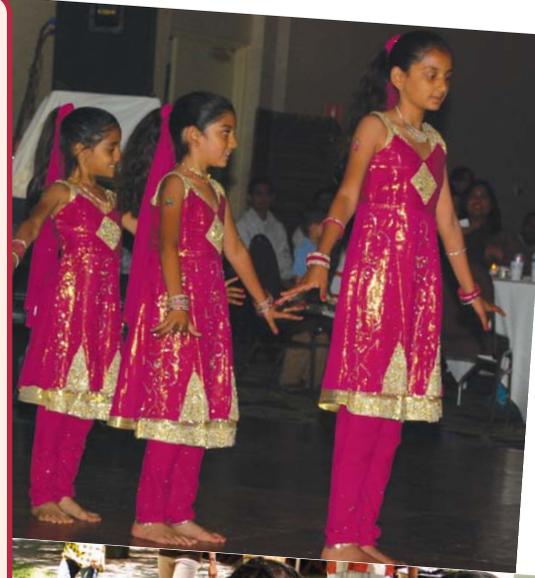
આ કન્વેન્શનમાં બે સ્પિકર્સ સ્પેશિયલ હાઈલાઈટ રૂપ હતા. તેમણે શ્રોતાઓને પ્રેરણાત્મક અને મોટિવેટીંગ ભાષણ આપ્યું હતું. ગેસ્ટ સ્પિકર વિજયભાઈ ડાયાભાઈ પટેલ સાન ફાન્સીસ્કો, કેલિફોર્નિયાથી આવ્યા હતા અને તેમણે શ્રોતાઓને 'પાયાનું કામ કરનારા કેવો સંઘર્ષ કરીને આજે જે સ્થાને છે ત્યાં પહોંચ્યા છે' તે વિષય પર પ્રભાવક, લાગણીસભર અને હૃદયસ્પર્શી ભાષણ આપ્યું હતું. બીજા ગેસ્ટ સ્પિકર ડો. જગદીશ લોસ એંજલીસ, કેલિફોર્નિયાના રહેવાસી છે અને તેમણે 'બાજુપુરાના ઈતિહાસ' પર ભાષણ આપ્યું હતું.

આ કન્વેન્શનને કારણે ગામડાંથી આવેલા લોકોને મળવાનો અને પોતાની સ્મૃતિઓની આપલે કરવાનો અનેરો અવસર મળ્યો અને તે કારણે એકબંધુત્વની લાગણી ઉત્પન્ન થઈ. ખાસ કરીને યુવાનોએ આ ઈવેન્ટમાં અદ્ભુત સમય ગાળ્યો. કેટલાકે તો એવું પણ જણાવ્યું કે આ ગામ કન્વેન્શનને કારણે તેમના જીવનમાં હકારાત્મક ફેરફારો થયા છે અને આ કન્વેન્શન પછી તેઓ હવે બીજા ગામ કન્વેન્શનની રાહ જોઈ રહ્યા છે. સાન ફાન્સીસ્કો, કેલિફોર્નિયાથી આવેલા પૂજા પટેલ જણાવે છે કે, 'આ કન્વેન્શનમાં હાજર રહેવાથી એક જ ગામના હોવા છતાં ન મળ્યા હોય તેવા લોકોને મળવાનો મોકો મળ્યો છે.'

કન્વેન્શનના હોસ્ટ સાન ફાન્સીસ્કોના રહેવાસી પુષ્પા એન પટેલ જણાવે છે કે, 'આ બહુ જ સફળ રહ્યો હતો. મને આનંદ થયો હતો કે બાજુપુરા કમ્યુનિટી ભેગી થઈ અને તેમણે આવનારી પેઢીઓ સુધી આ બાજુપુરાના વારસા અને ઓળખાણને અકબંધ રાખી. બહુ આશ્ચર્યની વાત છે કે, આ કન્વેન્શનમાં હાજર રહેલા લોકો બહુ જ ઉત્સાહમાં હતા અને જ્યારે આ કન્વેન્શનમાંથી પાછા જતા હતા ત્યારે તેમના ચહેરા પર સ્માઈલ હતું અને એવી યાદો હતી જે તેઓ ક્યારેય ભૂલી નહીં શકે.'

બાજુપુરીઅન્સને, સમગ્ર કમિટી, સ્વયંસેવકો અને થાક્યા વગર કામ કરનારી કમ્યુનિટીને આ કન્વેન્શન સફળ રહ્યો તે બદલ અભિનંદન!

- નયના 'નેન્સી' પટેલ



કોમ્યુનિટી સર્વિસ - કંઈક



યાદ રાખો કે કોમ્યુનિટી સર્વિસ ફક્ત કામ પૂરું થયાનું જણાવવા માટે નથી કરવામાં આવતી. તે તો કોઈપણ પ્રકારના રીવોર્ડ કે પ્રસંશાની આશા રાખ્યા વગર કરવી જોઈએ. તે કરતી વેળા કોઈને માટે કામ કરીએ છીએ તેવો ભાવ નહીં પણ તેમનું જીવન વધારે સારું બનાવવામાં મદદ કરીએ છીએ તેવો ભાવ રાખવો જોઈએ.

હાજર રહેલા એલપીએસ યુએસએ બોર્ડના તમામ ડાયરેક્ટર્સના વતી હું વ્યક્તિગત રીતે સાઉથ પેરે આઈલેન્ડના મહેન્દ્ર માઈક પટેલનો એન્યુઅલ બોર્ડ મીટિંગનું આયોજન કરવા બદલ આભાર માનું છું. આ કાર્યક્રમ મહેન્દ્ર માઈક પટેલ અને તેમના પત્ની અને બીજા લોકલ કોમ્યુનિટી મેમ્બરની મદદ વગર સફળ થઈ શક્યો ન હોત. જમણથી લઈને હોટેલ સ્ટે સુધીની બધી સગવડ અભૂતપૂર્વ હતી અને

હોસ્પિટાલિટી તો વર્ડ્સ ક્લાસ હતી.

૧૨ જુલાઈ ૨૦૧૦ના દિવસે મીટિંગ શરૂ થઈ હતી. મીટિંગના પહેલા ભાગમાં નિવૃત્ત થતા પ્રેસિડેન્ટ મૂકેશ મોવજીએ ઈયરએન્ડ રીપોર્ટ, ટ્રેઝરર રીપોર્ટ અને તેમના ટર્મ દરમિયાનના કમિટીના રીપોર્ટ આપ્યા. મૂકેશ મોવજીએ પોતાની વાત પૂરી કરી તે પછી મીટિંગ ઈલેક્શન શરૂ થયા અને તે ખૂબ સારી રીતે એક્ઝિક્યુટ થયા અને જમ્યા બાદ નવા બોર્ડે ઓકલેન્ડ, કેલીફોર્નિયાના નિવાસી પ્રેસિડેન્ટ ભરત 'બોબી' પટેલના નેતૃત્વ હેઠળ નવી બોર્ડ મીટિંગ થઈ. પ્રેસિડેન્ટ નિમાયા બાદ ભરત પટેલે આવતા કેટલાક વર્ષોના પોતાના સ્ટ્રેટેજીક પ્લાન જણાવ્યા. તેઓ એ પીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના લેઉવાની ડાયરેક્ટરી અપડેટ કરશે, આખા દેશમાં લેઉવા ક્લબ શરૂ કરશે. પ્રેસિડેન્ટ ભરત પટેલે કમિટીને



Thank you to all the members of the LPS of USA for your continuous support!

નવું કરી દેખાડવાનો જુસ્સો

કેટલાક ધ્યેય આપ્યા અને તેમની સોંપવામાં આવેલા કામ વિશે વિસ્તૃત ચર્ચા કરી.

તદુપરાંત, હાજર રહેલા દરેક બોર્ડ ઓફ ડાયરેક્ટરનો આભાર માનું છું કે તેમણે પોતાનો સમય, પ્રયાસ અને એનર્જી અહીં આપી. પોતાના પરિવાર અને બિઝનેસથી દૂર રહીને આ કોમ્યુનિટી પોતાના જુસ્સાથી આગળ વધારવાની અને યંગ જનરેશન માટે

એક સારું ભવિષ્ય બનાવવા અને સંસ્કૃતિને જાળવવાના તેમના પ્રયાસને હું એપ્રિશિએટ કરું છું.

એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના દરેક સભ્ય તરફથી સતત મળેલા આ ટેકા માટે હું તેમનો આભાર માનું છું.

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Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA

(Surat, Navsari & Valsad District)

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Membership Application Form

Each Married child needs to fill out separate form

- ï Change of Address
- ï Print your old Address
- ï New Member
- ï Life Member
- ï Membership Renewal

Make check payable to LPS of USA
Enclose \$60 for one year and \$100 for two years
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Web: www.leuvapatidarsamaj.com

(Ph) 615-739-5088 Fax: 615-739-5266

APPLICANT INFORMATION

SPOUSE INFORMATION

Full Name _____	Full Name _____
Village _____	Village _____
Father and Grandfather`s full name _____	Father and Grandfather`s full name _____
Mother`s name _____	Mother`s name _____
Father and Grandfather`s name _____	Father and Grandfather`s name _____
Village _____	Village _____
Name of Business _____	Name of Business _____

Home Address/ Street Name _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone :() _____ Work Phone:() _____ Fax: () _____

Email: _____

Old Address: (For change of address only) Street Name: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unmarried Children First name only	Date of birth Month/Year	Unmarried Children First name only	Date of birth Month/Year
Married Children First name only			
3.		5.	7.
4.		6.	8.

Payment Option: Check # _____ Dt: _____ Credit Card Type Visa Master Amex Discover

Credit Card # _____ Exp.Date _____ Three digit CVV (Four digit for Amex) # _____ Amt Authorized \$ _____

Name on the Credit Card _____

Signature _____ Date: _____



AAHOA



AAHOA Chairman ChandraKant (C.K.) Patel, CHO; Vice Chairman Hemant D. (Henry) Patel; Treasurer Alkesh (Al) Patel, CHO; Secretary Mehul (Mike) Patel, CHO; and President Fred Schwartz with the 2010-2011 AAHOA Board of Directors

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