

એનઆરજી ટાઈમ્સ

પાશ્ચિમ

પ્રકાશક: એનઆરજી ફાઉન્ડેશન, ગાંધીનગર

તા. ૧૫ ફેબ્રુઆરી, ૨૦૦૮ • મહા સુદ નોમ, સંવત ૨૦૬૪

Gujarati NRI neurosurgeon donates \$1 million to medical college

An NRI neurosurgeon Harish Rawal, 59, who practises in Jackson, Michigan, USA has announced the donation of USD one million to Jackson Community College (JCC) here to establish an endowed scholarship for supporting financially backward students. According to local media reports, the donation, one of the largest in the college's history, will rename the new

facility as the Rawal Centre for Health Professions.

"I hope it stimulates people to understand the importance of education and stimulates those with the ability to donate to do so," Rawal told Jackson Citizen Patriot recently. The local paper has named him a Distinguished Citizen for 2008.

A graduate from the B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, Rawal studied surgery in Chicago before moving to

Jackson 28 years ago. He founded the Great Lakes Brain & Spine Institute soon after.

Rawal, whose father died when he was only nine, said he might have been born into poverty but his family in India was rich with the spirit of giving, grace and charity. "Sharing what you have should be a priority when you're blessed," he said. (www.nriol.com)

AIR INDIA LAUNCHES NEW YORK TO NEW DELHI DIRECT FLIGHT

Air India's launches its non stop flight AI-101/AI-102 on the Delhi-New York sector, effective February 8, 2008. With the introduction of this new flight, Air India will become the first carrier to offer non stop services between Delhi and JFK, New York.

The passengers traveling in premium classes - First and Executive - on the Boeing 777-200LR (Longer Range aircraft) will get a free limousine pick up and drop service to/from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and JFK airport at the time of departure/arrival. Additionally, they will receive a gift voucher of USD75 and USD50 respectively for each sector of travel for onboard duty free shopping. On August 2007, Air India introduced a daily Non-Stop flight between Mumbai and New York.

Those who purchase tickets in India for travel by the Non-Stop flight from Delhi/Mumbai in the Economy Class on full published IATA fares can avail of Air India's Companion Free Scheme. The scheme is valid till March 31, 2008. (www.gopio.net)

K. MOHAN DAS APPOINTED NEW SECRETARY OF MOIA

The Indian cabinet has appointed K. Mohandas as the new secretary in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.. He was earlier special secretary in the revenue department.

(www.moia.gov.in)

Government will provide financial assistance for legal services to women deserted by Overseas Indian Spouses

In its bid to assist Indian women who have either been deserted or divorced by their overseas Indian spouses within two years of marriage, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has finalized a scheme to provide them financial assistance for obtaining legal and counseling services through Indian Missions abroad.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian affairs (MOIA) proposes to introduce this scheme to start with in USA,

UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain, the places from where such cases are being mostly reported. The assistance will be provided to Indian women who are victims of fraudulent marriages and deserted by their Overseas Indian husbands or are facing divorce proceedings in a foreign country.

The concerned Indian Missions will involve credible Indian women's organizations and NGOs working in these countries and give them financial assistance to the tune of US \$1,000 per case. The organizations will be expected to provide documentation and initial support for legal proceedings and counseling for the deserted women.

The objective of the scheme is to provide advisory and legal services to women of Indian origin in distress as a welfare measure. Legal services would be provided by a panel of community

Contd.... page no. 2

NRG Rajesh Bhagat gets Sardar Patel Award

Rajesh Bhagat, a New Jersey based NRI and President of Indian Diamonds & Colorstone Association, USA has been conferred Sardar Patel Award 2007 for rendering excellent services as NRI. The award is given by Sardar Patel Foundation, New Delhi.

Rajesh Bhagat, a multifaceted philanthropist settled in the USA from 1984. Besides his business, he and his group has been actively involved to help elder immigrants coming from India. Rajesh Bhagat is active board member of Jewellery for Charity (JFC) in which recently JFC has committed US\$1 million to Make a Wish Foundation in India. JFC established in 1999 till date donated more than US\$28 million globally.

Rajesh Bhagat is also a trustee of famous Vraj temple and served as Vice President for more than 10 years in

Contd.... page no. 2

વતનની વાટે...



અમેરિકા નિવાસી મૂળ વતન થામણ(તા. ઉમરેઠ, જિ. આણંદ)ના શ્રી ચંદુભાઈ સાન્તાભાઈ પટેલ તરફથી તેમના વતનમાં કોમ્પ્યુટર રૂમ માટે રૂ. ૧૨ લાખનું દાન કરેલ છે.

RUNN UTSAV 2008

Gujarat Tourism Corporation will organize a three-day Runn Utsav from 20th February to 22nd February. Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the Runn Utsav in Bhuj at Hamirsar Talav starting with Kutch Carnival Festival. The visitors will enjoy the Camel cart *safari*. Chief Minister also visits at the Kala Dunger and present at the Datatrey Mandir Temple Arti. In the Runn Utsav craft of Bhujodi will be the main attraction.

Kutch is a large inundated section of land bearing similarities with the American Wild West. Kutch, situated in Gujarat, India, can also be equated with a Desert in some terrains.

Though Kutch, situated in Gujarat, India, is a land of few people but it is also known among some as a land of Palaces, Forts, colorful dressage, bird rich marshes along with beautiful handicrafts which are in a dire need of being marketed and propagated to the surrounding world to maintain the throng of tourists to the Rann of Kutch, situated in Gujarat, India.



Kutch, situated in Gujarat, India, gets displayed in all its potential, beauty and vigor, with a large number of connoisseurs to comment on the colorful and vibrant lifestyles of the people in Kutch, situated in India, through the Kutch Festival.

The Kutch Festival, is celebrated in Kutch, near the days when Shivratri is celebrated in Gujarat, India. During the celebration of Kutch Desert Festival, colorfully attired dancers, music concerts, Sindhi Bhajan performances, Langa Desert Music and shops selling embroideries and jewelry are too. (www.tourismofgujarat.com)

The Kutch Festival, is celebrated in Kutch, near the days when Shivratri is celebrated in Gujarat, India. During the celebration of Kutch Desert Festival, colorfully attired dancers, music concerts, Sindhi Bhajan performances, Langa Desert Music and shops selling embroideries and jewelry are too. (www.tourismofgujarat.com)

Government will provide

advocates through credible Indian associations and women's organizations.

The scheme will cover Indian women deserted in India or overseas within two years of their marriage and divorce proceedings initiated by the Overseas Indian husband within two years of marriage. Legal aid will also be provided in the cases of an ex-parte decree of divorce or annulment of the marriage obtained by the Overseas Indian husband and a case of maintenance or alimony is required to be filed.

The scheme would be circulated among Indian community associations by the Missions concerned for information and publicity and sent to women's groups and NGOs inviting them to apply

for empanelment under the scheme for providing legal services. The women's organization/NGO will make efforts to enlist community advocates to extend further legal assistance/appearance in court etc.

The applications for legal aid received by the Missions and authorizing the Missions to take up their case legally would be examined and approved by the Mission. The applications received in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs from women seeking assistance will be examined by a Committee in the Ministry. Based on the scrutiny and approval of the Ministry, the cases will be recommended to the Missions for giving assistance to women in distress. (www.moia.gov.in)

TOURIST PLACE:

Bharatiya Sanskruti Darshan, Kutch



Mr Ramsinhji K Rathod a scholar of the folk art of Kutch and winner of many state Government awards has created an excellent museum in Bhuj which is called Bharatiya Sanskruti Darshan.

The museum epitomizes the rustic life styles of the Kutchi villager containing around 4500 exhibits. Also, there are more than 1500 rare books on art and culture. This museum has five major sections. In the Ethnological section, Sahitya Chitra, in the central hall can be found rare works of literature. In other sections are interesting artifacts such as leather embroidery, wood work, wood carvings, terra cotta, wall paintings, bead work, stone carvings, musical instruments, knives and swords and silver work.

Inside one of the huts is the intricately designed "Kothala" (the treasury). In olden times, ornaments money, and other valuables of the royalty were kept in the "Kothala".

(www.panajokutch.com)

Khichu

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb Floury potatoes
- 1 tbsp Tamarind pulp
- 1/4 cup Water
- 2 tsp Brown sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp Ghee or oil
- 1/2 tsp Black mustard seeds
- 1/2 tsp Ground turmeric
- 1/2 tsp Cayenne or ground chili pdr
- 1 tsp Ground coriander
- 1 tsp Ground cumin
- 1 tsp Salt
- 2 Fresh green chilies, seeded And thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp Desiccated coconut

PREPARATION:

- Wash and soak the moong dal and rice together. Drain.
- In a bowl, mix the dal and rice with the turmeric powder, peppercorns, 4 1/2 cups of water and salt.
- Pressure cook for 3 to 4 whistles and set aside for 20 minutes till the steam has been released.

Remove from the pressure cooker, add the ghee and mix well. Serve khichu hot with kadhi and papad.

(www.indianfoodforever.com)

NRG Rajesh Bhagat...

Gujarati Literary Academy in the USA. He also runs Bhagat Charitable Trust. He had also served as trustee in Gandhimandir, New Jersey and Board member in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA.

The award was given by Dr Karan Singh in presence of Ramavtar Shastry, President, Sardar Patel Foundation, New Delhi and central minister Mr Dinsha Patel.

Rajesh Bhagat, CEO of

Kashish Diomonds, USA came out with a multicolour book on Sardar Patel. The book priced at US\$500 will be distributed by Branze & Noble in the USA. The book has been conceptualised and designed by Dr Dinesh Sharma and Mukesh Kasliwal.

Mr Rajesh Bhagat said, It's an honour for me to get the award. We want to create more awareness of Sardar Patel in the USA. We're also planning to launch Sardar Patel Award in the USA from this year. (www.gujaratglobal.com)