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પાક્ષિક

New Zealand Doctor receives Service Medal from The Queen

Dr. Kanitlal Patel started as a one-man medical practice in East Tamaki, South Auckland in 1977 has grown into a 12-clinic business employing 42 doctors. Dr Patel has been awarded a Queen's Service Medal for services to community medicine and the Indian community. Satellite clinics were established so patients did not have to travel as far, hours were extended and accident and emergency facilities were added to some clinics.

East Tamaki Healthcare was the first mainstream non-ethnic Primary Health Organisation in South Auckland, and is now the largest healthcare provider for Maori and Pacific Island

people in the country. Dr Patel was made a fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners in 1998. Under his guidance, seven GPs at his clinics have also become fellows of the college.

Wife Ranjna has also been awarded a QSM in the New Year Honours, for services to the Indian community. Mrs Patel is a JP and has worked as practice manager at East Tamaki Healthcare for over 30 years. She has a very deep involvement with Indian community groups, including women's groups, healthcare concerns and cultural and language assistance.

(Source: www.gopio.net)

USCIS Announces New Requirements for Hiring H-1B Foreign Workers Changes Apply to Companies that Receive TARP Funding

WASHINGTON - U.S. : Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today announced additional requirements for employers, who receive funds through the Troubled Asset Relief Program or under section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act (covered funding), before they may hire a foreign national to work in the H-1B specialty occupation category.

The new "Employ American Workers Act," (EAWA), signed into law by President Obama as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on Feb. 17, 2009, was enacted to ensure that companies receiving covered funding do not displace U.S. workers. Under this legislation any company that has received covered funding and seeks to hire new H-1B workers is considered an "H-1B dependent employer." All H-1B dependent employers must make additional attestations to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) when filing the Labor Condition Application.

EAWA applies to any Labor Condition Application (LCA) and/or H-1B petition filed on or after Feb. 17, 2009, involving any employment by a new employer, including concurrent employment and regardless of whether the beneficiary is already in H-1B status. The EAWA also applies to new hires based on a petition approved before Feb. 17, 2009, if the H-1B employee had not actually commenced employment before that date.

EAWA does not apply to H-1B petitions seeking to change the status of a beneficiary already working for the employer in another work-authorized category. It also does not apply to H-1B petitions seeking an extension of stay for a current employee with the same employer.

USCIS is revising Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker, to include a question asking whether the petitioner has received covered funding. USCIS will post this revised form on the USCIS Web site in time for the next cap subject H-1B filing period that begins on April 1, 2009.

While USCIS encourages petitioners, whenever possible, to use the most up-to-date form, USCIS will not require use of the revised form in time for the start of the filing period for fiscal year 2010.

Contd...2

Fareed Zakaria is India Abroad Person of the year 2008

Zubin Mehta gets Lifetime Achievement Award

April 10, 2009 : The India Abroad newspaper selected as its person of the year for 2008. Fareed Zakaria has an established reputation as one of the most thoughtful, articulate, nuanced voices on American television a rare voice, what is more, that can take America out of its self-absorption and focus its attention on what is going on in the rest of the world.

The annual India Abroad Person of the Year awards gala was held on March 20 in New York City. Others honored at the banquet were, Sameer Mishra, who won the iconic Scripps National Spelling Bee; Akshay Rajagopal, the 11-year-old from Nebraska who at his very first attempt won the National Geographic Bee; and Shivani Sud, winner of the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search that recognizes the most outstanding young talents. They were named joint winners of the Young Achievers Award. Dr. Manjul Bhargava, one of the youngest tenured math professor at Princeton was honored with Face of the Future award.

The India Abroad Gopal Raju Award for Community Service was shared by Preeta Bansal, now General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Management and Budget in the Obama administration; Hrishi Karthikeyan and Dave Kumar, co-founders of South Asians for Obama; Democratic party strategist and Communications Director for Campaign for America's Future Toby Choudhuri; Founder of the Indian American Leadership Initiative Varun Nikore; newly-installed chair of the Indian American Republican Council Dino Teppara; SAFO's National Outreach Director and Director of The Office of Inter-Governmental Affairs in the Obama White House Nick Rathod.

India Abroad honored Zubin Mehta with its Lifetime Achievement Award -- presented to the maestro by previous winners Salman Rushdie, Professor Jagdish Bhagwati and Professor Padma Desai. Also honored was Jhumpa Lahiri -- born Nilanjana Sudeshna -- with the Publisher's Special Award for Excellence. (Source: <http://www.nriol.com>)

Introduction : Gujarati Association of Queensland, Australia

The Gujarati Community in Queensland has come along way since the early days of 1950's and 60's when Gujarati students came to study here and went back to their home countries. Referring to the article in the GAQ booklet 1994 about our history in Queensland, it is clear that now we have three strong associations which are interlinked. We have regular annual activities like Navratri and New Year. Our school is running well. Attempts are made regularly to get the members interested in other activities like picnics, dinners, trips for the seniors and activities for the youth.

All this is no mean achievement when we consider that we have come from various parts

of the world like India, England, Fiji, South Africa and East Africa (to name a few places) where we practiced our culture in the local environment with varying conditions and paradigms. Our common heritage and the belief that we are all of one cultural background have united us together here.

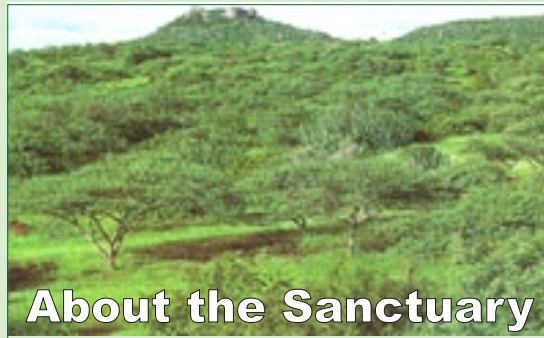
The questions raised are "Are we happy with the progress we are making?" "Is there more which can be done for us to put our heritage on firmer foundation?" The first generation of Gujarats is who arrived here thirty to forty years ago are still making economic contribution to our adopted country - some have retired from active work force. **Contd...2**

Hingolghadh

Nature Education Sanctuary

Surrounded by rainfed, dry, low fertility, shallow revenue land from all sides and no other forest in the vicinity, Hingolghadh Nature Education Protected Area is the Sanctuary with a unique significance. The Sanctuary is the only of its kind (i.e. specially meant for nature education) in the entire country. The area is surrounded by six revenue villages. An area of 654 ha was declared as a Sanctuary in August 1980. The Sanctuary is managed for the purpose of organising nature education camps.

Acacia senegal dominates the Vegetation of the forest. The forest mainly has stereo typed vegetation having very low height. The sparse woody vegetation at places has given way to profuse growth of grass, which is the main contributor of fodder for the herbivorous animals like Chinkara and Nilgai. 'Kasedo' and 'Sishoti' are the dominant shrubs having edible fruits and they attract variety of birds. From the year 1984, this Sanctuary is under the administrative control of Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, Gandhinagar.



About the Sanctuary

The Sanctuary is situated in Jasdan taluka of Rajkot district. The state highway passes through the middle of the Sanctuary and divides it into almost two equal halves. The Sanctuary is at a distance of 180 km from Ahmedabad, on Ahmedabad-Jasdan state highway. Botad is the nearest railway station and is about 45 km away from the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is 17 km away from Jasdan in south and about 8 km away from Vinchhiya in the north.

The forest area has tremendous ecological impact on the surrounding villages. The surrounding area is semi-arid, where acute water shortage is experienced in the summer months. However, it is due to this tiny patch of forest that the villages on the periphery of this forest get sufficient drinking water and do not require any external support. The villagers too, have realised this fact and therefore they co-operate in protection of the forest.

The Sanctuary is the only of its kind in the country, since it has been declared for specific objective of conducting nature education camps. Nature education is imparted to the students and people with a view of spreading environmental awareness.

Acacia senegal dominates the growth. The presence of 'Kasedo', 'Sishoti' and 'Ber' in good number with profuse fruiting in different seasons supports variety of birds. Ample fodder, in the form of palatable grasses and leaves of trees, is available for the herbivorous animals. This in turn, has led to steady increase of this fauna.



This forest classified, as 6B/C1- desert thorn forest (as per Champion and Seth classification) is an open scrub forest interspersed with patches of grasslands. It is dominated by Acacia senegal and therefore classified as 6/E2- Acacia senegal or 'gorad' forest. 'Gorad' constitutes about 69% of total trees in the Sanctuary. As per remote sensing study carried out by GEER Foundation, the vegetation cover increased in the Sanctuary in 1996 and 1998. (Source: Gujarat tourism)

Introduction : Gujarati Association of Queensland, Australia...

The second generation of Gujarati Queenslanders have finished their schooling and tertiary education and joined the work force on equal terms with the established communities and are contributing well. Some of them are married or getting married with partners from other parts of the world or local Gujarati Queenslanders.

Can the first generation Gujarati Queenslanders sit back and rest and proudly boast that they have made enough of a contribution that our Gujarati culture and traditions will be firmly entrenched in Queensland with our successors? After all it was the foresight of our forefathers in the countries they migrated to that made certain that we inherited all traditions of Gujarat. Our forefathers worked hard to retain our traditions and heritage while settling down in difficult environment and passed the heritage and traditions on to us to bring the riches here. Are we

comfortable that we have instilled enough of our rich history and community values in our children for them to be proud to be Gujarati Queenslanders and pass the values onto future generations? Will our future generations feel lost without proper education of their roots?

If the answer by the members is that they have done enough then we can sit on our laurels. If the answer is that we do more then this gives us an ideal opportunity to review and work out a strategy for future planning.

Our numbers are strong enough for us to have influence in the politics of this state and share our traditions with Non-Gujarat is. We are big enough to lobby the Indian High Commission in Canberra. We can be a force in the Indian Community here in participating in various activities-social, cultural, economic, religious and spiritual. We can determine our own destiny. The choice is ours and the hard work is for us to perform to achieve the goals we set. (Source: <http://www.gaq.org.au>)



SHRIKHAND

- To prepare 12 kg Shrikhand take double quantity of milk, i.e. 2 liters of milk. Warm the milk and allow it to cool. Take 2 tbsp. of curd (it should not be sour). Start it through a sieve and mix well with the milk. If the milk is set for curds in the night, it will set by morning (if warm milk is set the curd will be watery and therefore for Shrikhand the milk should be cool). Whole milk gives good result.
- Take a large thali and spread a thick cloth and carefully take the curd from its vessel with a large spoon and place the chunks of dahi on the cloth. Put the thali at a slope so that all the water drains out, cover it with another cloth and leave for 1-1/2 hours. After the water is drained out gather all the curd on the cloth and put some weight a wooden board on a thali and leave for another hour or so, so that all the extra water is drained out. This is called Maska.
- Take 350 grams of sugar and mix it to the Maska and leave aside so that all the sugar will get dissolved and then strain it through a fine stainless steel sieve or a thin muslin cloth.
- Sprinkle elaichi, jaiphal powder and mix well for dressing put charoli and rose petals. If coloured shrikhand is to be served you can mix saffron. Saffron should be pre-dissolved in 1 tbsp. of hot milk and mix well. Serve it with hot puris. By adding fresh fruit pieces it can be served as fruit shrikhand-fruits like, pineapple, apple, mango, grapes, etc.

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However, USCIS urges H-1B petitioners who have already prepared packages for mailing using the previous Form I-129 (January 2009 version) to complete only the page in the revised version of the Form I-129 (March 2009) which has the new question on EAWA attestation requirements and to file this single page with the prepared package. The single page referenced is the first page on the H-1B Data Collection and Filing Fee Exemption Supplement.

USCIS reminds petitioners that a valid LCA must be on file with DOL at the time the H-1B petition is filed with USCIS. This means that if the petitioner indicates on its petition that it is subject to the EAWA, but the Labor Condition Application does not contain the proper attestations relating to H-1B dependent employers, USCIS will deny the H-1B petition.

For more information, please see the accompanying Questions and Answers document about the Employ American Workers Act and its effect on H-1B petitions. (Source: www.uscis.gov)