

એનઆરજી ટાઈટલ્સ

પાશ્ચિમ

Gujaratis in Canada to mark Gujarat Day

- Sachin Kumar

Ahmedabad: The Gujarati Business Association (GBA), with 675 members, has taken the initiative to celebrate Gujarat Day for the first time in Canada this year. Apart from being a major occasion for networking, it will also highlight to the non-resident Gujaratis (NRGs) settled in Canada to get an update on how Gujarat has progressed on various fronts.

“While Gujaratis are the second biggest Indian community, after Punjabis, in Canada, there has been no major event to bring them together on one platform. Through the Gujarat Day celebration, which will be made an

annual event, we hope to make this the biggest event for the community in this country,” said Mukund Purohit, president of the GBA during his visit to Ahmedabad recently.

As against an estimated 4-5 lakh Punjabis, there are around 2 lakh Gujaratis in Canada and nearly half of the NRGs are based in Toronto. On Gujarat Day, the GBA will showcase the progress made by the state in both economic and social front along with entrepreneurship and spirit of Gujaratis. The association is also planning to give away four awards on this day. One award will be for a Gujarati from any part of the world who has excelled in a particular field. The other three awards will be for Gujaratis settled in Canada - one in the student category, another for social work and one more for a woman achiever.

“GBA has decided to celebrate ‘Gujarat Day’ in Canada to commemorate formation of Gujarat. However, the celebrations will not take place on the foundation day of Gujarat due to some limitations, but it will be held on the nearest date possible. This is the first time that Gujarat Day celebrations are planned in Canada and we will make it an annual feature,” said Purohit.

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Indian Talents In Demand In Denmark

To boost its economy and also to address the shortage of human resources, Denmark is all set to invite Indian skilled manpower. The country has set up a ‘Work in Denmark’ centre at the Danish Embassy in India to facilitate job applications from Indian professionals. Denmark is keen to take on a cross section of Indian professionals to “supplement” Denmark’s captive talent. In step, a 10-15% growth in bilateral trade between India and Denmark has also been noticed. There have been several new investments from Denmark as well as Indian companies such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Larsen and Toubro (L&T) have been successfully operating in Denmark for the past several years

(Source : <http://www.gopio.net>)

Welfare Fund for Indians Working Abroad

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up an Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide funding support to the Indian Missions in the 17 ECR Countries for meeting contingency expenditure incurred by the Missions for the welfare of Indian workers who are in distress. The ICWF envisages providing a host of welfare measures such as boarding and lodging for stranded overseas Indian workers, transportation of the mortal remains, emergency medical care, air passage to stranded overseas Indians, etc. (Source : <http://pib.nic.in>)

Ambani, Mittal in Forbes list of rich

Washington, March 12 Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has overtaken the London-based steel tycoon Lakshmi N. Mittal to emerge as Asia’s richest person, as per the Forbes’ list of world billionaires for 2009.

But Mukesh’s younger and estranged brother Anil Ambani, who was the biggest gainer last year, dropped out of the top 10 list, with his stake in the telecom-to-energy empire losing over \$31.9 billion over the past 12 months. The other major loser was realty baron Kushal Pal Singh, who runs the New Delhi-based DLF.

Mukesh Ambani, whose group has interests in refining, petrochemicals and retail among other areas, and Mittal, the world’s top steel maker, were ranked at 7th and 8th spot in the world respectively. As per Forbes, four Indians were among the world’s top 10 richest in 2008 with combined worth of \$160 billion. Today, that same foursome is worth just \$54 billion.

Last year, India’s wealthiest citizens were flying high, buoyed by a soaring stock market and a booming economy.

But only 24 of last year’s 53 billionaires made the cut this year, and everyone but brothers Malvinder and Shivinder Singh, who sold their generic drug firm Ranbaxy at its peak, lost money.

As a result, mainland China for the first time has more billionaires than India. Still, the Indian survivors, with a combined net worth of \$107 billion, are a lot richer than their Chinese counterparts, who are worth \$44 billion. K.P. Singh, briefly the world’s richest real estate baron, lost \$25 billion and is now ranked No. 98, worth \$5 billion. Fellow property developer Ramesh Chandra’s Unitech lost half its market capitalisation in one day last October. Now he is poorer by an estimated \$9 billion from the \$9.6 billion he was worth in 2008. Chandra was the highest-ranked billionaire from 2008 to drop off the list.

The 28 other drop-offs include a number of well-known businesspeople. Among the notables is flamboyant liquor and airlines tycoon Vijay Mallya, whose UB Group acquired Scottish distiller Whyte and Mackay for \$1.2 billion in May 2007 to become the world’s second-largest spirits group. Mallya’s various liquor companies lost between half and 90 percent of their values.

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તીર્થધામ શુકલતીર્થ

Three NRIs in top 10 of science meet

Washington, March 11 Three Indian-Americans students have made it to the top 10 in what has been described as the brainy version of American Idol, introducing America's next top scientist.

Narendra Tallapragada from Virginia was ranked fourth, Preya Shah from New York eighth and Nilesh Tripuraneni from California ninth in the Intel Science Talent Search with the top honours going to Eric Larson, 17, of Eugene, Oregon.

Larson will take home a \$100,000 scholarship from the Intel Foundation for his work exploring the mathematical concept of fusion categories. Fusion categories can have implications for string theory, quantum computation and knot theory.

Tallapragada, 17, won a \$25,000 scholarship for developing an efficient yet sophisticated method for modelling the building of

materials atom by atom.

Shah, 17, was picked up for designing and synthesizing a drug that uses a two-pronged approach to target cancer cells, while Tripuraneni, 18, formulated a set of hydrodynamic equations investigating quark-gluon plasma, a state of matter believed to have come into existence right after the Big Bang. They both get \$20,000 scholarships.

Society for Science & the Public, publisher of Science News, has administered the competition since its inception in 1942.

This year's 40 finalists, selected from more than 1,600 entrants, represented 17 states and 35 schools. Over the past 67 years, Science Talent Search finalists have gone on to win seven Nobel Prizes, Fields Medals, the National Medal of Science and MacArthur Foundation Fellowships.

(Source: <http://overseasindian.in>)

Gujaratis in Canada

Purohit has played a pivotal role in bringing Canadian government delegations to Gujarat recently. Now, he plans to bring another Canadian delegation in April, when a new Canadian trade office will be opened in Ahmedabad. The idea behind the celebration is to create awareness among the Canadian people about Gujarat's significant achievements in the recent times.

"Gujarat has made good progress on various fronts such as economy, education, research and development and other related areas and a campaign to publicise such achievements in Canada is required for enhancing trade relations between both the regions. Apart from that, the event will provide a platform

to develop linkages within the Gujarati diaspora," he added.

Purohit, had organised the first video conference-based interaction between the Gujarati community in Canada and the state's chief minister Narendra Modi in 2008. During the Gujarat Day programme short films on different aspects of Gujarat will be shown alongwith different cultural programmes.

At present, GBA has around 675 members. It works for the enhancement of relations within Gujarati community living in Canada and organises regular get-togethers. It also helps newcomers from Gujarat in launching their businesses.

(Source : <http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1234332>)

ભરૂચથી ૧૫ કિ.મી.ના અંતરે નર્મદા નદીના કિનારા ઉપર વસેલું આ ગામ હિંદુઓનું પુરાતન તીર્થધામ છે. નજીકનું રેલવે સ્ટેશન ભરૂચ છે. અહીંથી ૮ કિ.મી. દૂર મુંબઈ-અમદાવાદ રાષ્ટ્રીય ધોરી માર્ગ નં.૮ પસાર થાય છે. ગામને જોડતો ભરૂચ નિકારો પાકો રસ્તો છે. એસ.ટી. બસની બારેમાસ સગવડ છે. અહીં શુલેશ્વર મહાદેવ મંદિર છે. આ મંદિરમાં શ્રી શુકલેશ્વર, સોમેશ્વર અને પટેશ્વર મહાદેવના ભવ્ય લીંગો છે. શુકલેશ્વર મહાદેવના નામ ઉપરથી ગામનું નામ શુકલતીર્થ પડ્યું છે. આ સ્થળ નર્મદાના નીર અર્ધચંદ્રાકારમાં વહે છે અને તેનો શાંત પ્રવાહ હૃદયન અપામ શાંતિ અને પરમ આનંદ આપે છે. લોકવાયકા છે કે, કોઢવાળા, રોગવાળા દર્દીઓનો કોઢ નર્મદાજીના આ તટની રેતી ચામડી ઉપર ઘસવાથી નાશ પામે છે.

ઓમકારનાથ ભગવાનની પ્રભાવશાળી ભવ્ય મંદિર શુકલતીર્થ ગામની મધ્યમાં આવેલું છે. જે દર્શનીય છે. આ મંદિરની નીચેના ભાગમાં જે ભોંયરાઓ ખોદવામાં આવ્યા છે તે આજે પણ મોજૂદ છે. વિષ્ણુ ભગવાનની આ મંદિરમાંથી આખી મૂર્તિ રેતીની બનેલી છે. આરસના પથ્થરની બનાવેલી છાપ આજે પણ પડે છે. આ મંદિરના થોડે દૂર ઉત્તર-પૂર્વ રવિતીર્થ અને અવીતેશ્વર મહાદેવનું મંદિર પણ આવેલું છે. આ ભગવાનની શ્રદ્ધાપૂર્વક પૂજા કરવાથી મૂંગા બાળકો બોલતા થાય છે. એવી માન્યતા છે. મધ્યભાગમાં શ્રી અંબાજી માતાનું મંદિર છે. આ મંદિરના બીજા ભાગમાં શ્રી દત્ત પાડુકા મંદિર તથા સત્સંગ સભાગૃહ છે. આ મંદિરની માતાજીની મૂર્તિ સાથે જ દર્શનીય છે. બાજુમાં શ્રી નર્મદાજીનું મંદિર છે. ત્યાં પણ ભાવીકા દર્શનાર્થે આવે છે. ગંગાનાથ-ગોપેશ્વર નામે મહાદેવ શંભુનું એક પુરાણ પ્રસિદ્ધ મંદિર પણ શુકલતીર્થ ગામે નર્મદાના કિનારે આવેલું છે. શુકલતીર્થ ગામમાં અગ્નિહોત્રી તથા સમાવેતી વિદ્વાન બ્રાહ્મણોના વારસો અનેકવિધ ધંધાકીય પ્રવૃત્તિઓ સાથે સંકળાયેલા છે. ગંગાનાથ મહાદેવની બાજુમાં શ્રી નર્મદા વિદ્યામંદિર આવેલું છે. જે ગુજરાતભરમાં પોતાનું વિશિષ્ટ સ્થાન ધરાવે છે. આ વિદ્યામંદિરની માસને ૧૯૧૫માં સ્થાપના કરવામાં આવી હતી. અહીં ગુજરાત રાજ્યના પ્રવાસન વિભાગ દ્વારા સંચાલિત વિહારધામ આવેલું છે. જેમાં રહેવા માટેની સગવડ, અગીયો તથા બાળકોની મનોરંજનની સુવિધા છે. લોકો ઉનાળામાં હવા ખાવા માટે આવે છે. ગામમાં પંચાયત કચેરી, વારિગૃહ, પુસ્તકાલય, પ્રવાસન નિગમનો હોલી-ડે કેમ્પ, બે ગેસ્ટહાઉસ, પોલીસ સ્ટેશન વગેરેની સગવડ છે. આ ગામમાં કાર્તિકી પૂર્ણિમાનો મેળો ભરાય છે. જેમાં મોટી સંખ્યામાં લોકો દૂરથી આવે છે અને નર્મદા નદીમાં સ્નાન કરે છે.

(Source: <http://collectorbharuch.gujarat.gov.in/>)



Ambani, Mittal in Forbes

Also out of the billionaires' club are Jignesh Shah, whose listed financial software firm Financial Technologies dropped by 75 percent, and Sameer Gehlaut, who was India's youngest billionaire briefly before the stock price of his Indiabulls Financial Services

and Indiabulls Real Estate both tanked 80 percent in the bear market. India's wind-power man, Tulsi Tanti, and his brothers lost an estimated 90 percent of their combined fortunes amid reports of poor quality of Suzlon's wind turbine blades.

(Source : <http://overseasindian.in>)